

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : The Government is considering to give legal sanction for implementing the Wage Board awards but by and large it can be said that the Wage Boards have benefited the various industries—about 19—and about 40 lakhs of workers. Otherwise all this would have remained as disputes. So it is not that they have not functioned but of late this has been the difficulty and therefore the Government is considering this question.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Firstly, will legal validity be given only to the unanimous recommendations? Secondly out of the 8 industries, in how many interim relief has been granted because there is inordinate delay? When the first interim relief had been granted a long time back, is there any proposal to grant a second interim relief and, if so in what industries?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : Interim reliefs have been granted but now these reports are likely to be submitted by the end of this year or early next year and so the question of second relief would not arise.

SHRI D. THENGARI : In how many industries?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : About 7, but I have not got the information and I will let him know later.

SHRI M. H. SAMUEL : If the Government is considering giving statutory sanction to the Wage Boards, does it mean that the constitutional wage boards would also be taken into consideration?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : The whole question will be considered.

SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the unanimous recommendations only be given legal validity?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : The whole question is yet to be considered whether the unanimous recommendations or even the majority recommendations also are to be included. Wherever the Government have accepted,

whether unanimous or majority, will have to be given legal sanction but all that is being considered.

श्री राजनारायण : जो चीनी के उद्योग के लिए वेज बोर्ड है उसकी रपट 2 फरवरी 1969 को आनी है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं इसने कोई अन्तराल व्यवस्था की है? चीनी उद्योग में जो मजदूर लगे हुए हैं उनकी मजदूरी के सम्बन्ध में अन्तरिम समय में अन्तरिम रिलीफ के लिए कोई व्यवस्था बोर्ड ने की है या नहीं की है?

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI : I think that is my recollection but I will make sure. I think they have given some interim relief but I will make sure and I will check up and let him know.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

*389. **SHRI CHITTA BASU† :**

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to expand the operations of the Food Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The Food Corporation of India is already functioning in all the States except Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra and Nagaland though its precise role and the extent of its operations vary from State to State and are determined in consultation with the State Governments concerned from time to time.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU . May I know from the Minister whether he will agree with me that it is necessary to adopt a firm policy to procure at least 30 per cent. of the market arrivals of the foodgrains so that the price-line may be held and the distribution of foodgrains may be ensured through public distribution channels at prices within the reach of the weaker sections of the community? If so, why is the Government of India not considering the question of extending the operations of the Food Corporation of India so that this objective can be fulfilled?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Whether a particular percentage can be fixed or not, it is difficult to say, but the Government of India draws the plan of procurement in consultation with the State Government, and the situation differs from place to place depending upon the assessment by the State Government. I think the Food Corporation of India is doing a commendable job and, as the hon. Member may be aware, as compared to its performance in former years—the Food Corporation of India has been in operation only for the last three years—it is better now, and this year the procurement is almost four million tonnes. But the Food Corporation is not the only procuring agency, its procurement is over and above that procured by the State Government, and our intention is that the Food Corporation should continue to play an important role in procuring food from within the country.

SHRI CHITTA BASU . May I know from the hon. Minister whether it has been brought to his notice that due to the multiplicity of the agencies of procurement in different States, the programme of procurement has suffered to some extent and, in view of that, whether the Government is considering any proposal to invest more money through the Food Corporation of India and make it the only procuring agent throughout the country irrespective of the other agencies which may be liked by the State Governments?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Madam, I am not prepared to accept

the assessment of the hon. Member that multiplicity of agencies comes in the way of procurement. For instance, in the matter of procurement in Punjab this year, there were the biggest marketing federation, then the State Government and the Food Corporation were operating, and they operated very effectively in the market. So, multiplicity of agencies did not at all come in the way of effective procurement in Punjab, and even in the other States, as I have already submitted, the assessment by the State Government, the local situation and all other factors have to be taken into consideration in adopting any measures for procurement.

SHRI G. R. PATIL : May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that because of the non-co-operation from some of the States the Food Corporation of India could not fulfil the targets of procurement and, if so, what steps have been taken by the Government?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE It won't be correct to say that the Food Corporation had not been in a position to achieve its targets, though in some of the States due to political factors or political changes there were some shortfalls in procurement but, by and large, the overall procurement in the country has almost touched six million tonnes, and this is a very satisfactory performance for which all of us should really be very happy.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : When the Food Corporation was formed it was with the objective of supplementing and not supplanting the activities of the free trade channels, may I know to what extent have its operations been successful in that respect and what is the general reaction among the foodgrain dealers to the Food Corporation being such an agency?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Obviously it is not the intention to eliminate completely the private trade channels, but we want that the Food Corporation of India should have a commanding position in the market

and to the extent possible the agencies of the private trade are being employed but along with co-operatives and others

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN If many want to ask questions on this we may get stuck here now though there is a Short Notice Question also by Mr Rajnarain

श्री तारकेश्वर पांडे : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि फूड कार्पोरेशन को उत्तर प्रदेश में काम करने में इसलिये दिक्कत पड़ रही है कि उत्तर प्रदेश की गवर्नमेंट यह कह रही है कि जब तक आप हमारे कर्मचारियों को जो कि फूड कार्पोरेशन के काम करने से रिट्रेच हो जायेंगे उनको पूरा एबजार्ब नहीं करेंगे तब तक हम अपने यहाँ आपको मदद, सहूलियत, नहीं देंगे। क्या यह सच है।

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE Madam, in the beginning, the stand of the Government, even when there was a representative Government, the stand of the U P Government was that they would be in a position to handle procurement etc., they did not desire that the Food Corporation should have direct entry into the market. Then the Government of India took the initiative and persuaded the U P Government that they should allow the Food Corporation to operate in some markets. And thereafter the Food Corporation operated on a limited scale in about thirty-seven markets in U P.

SHRI J S TILAK May I know from the hon Minister whether Government is thinking of merging the Warehousing Corporation with the Food Corporation?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE Madam this is not at the moment under consideration

श्री जी० बरबोरा : क्या सरकार को यह सूचना है कि आसाम में जब ट्रेडर्स के जरिये पैडी का प्रोक्योरमेंट हुआ था तब 90 लाख टन तक सालाना प्रोक्योरमेंट हुआ था और उसके बाद जब स्टेट ट्रेडिंग के जरिये हुये तो

करीब 60 लाख टन प्रोक्योरमेंट हुआ था और अभी फूड कार्पोरेशन और स्टेट ट्रेडिंग दोनों ज्वाइंटली जब प्रोक्योरमेंट करने लगे हैं तो 30 या 35 लाख मन से ज्यादा प्रोक्योरमेंट नहीं कर पाये हैं और इसमें फूड कार्पोरेशन की बहुत बाधली वहां पर है और फूड कार्पोरेशन के अफसर लोग काफी रुपया वहां कमा रहे हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE Madam, it is true that in Assam procurement this time has not been up to satisfaction, but it is not due to the fault or weakness of the Food Corporation as such. There were many local factors and the assessment of the State Government in regard to procurement was also different.

SHRI M V BHADRAM In view of the statement made by the Minister that the Food Corporation should have a commanding position in the market, may I know if the Food Corporation of India is having a commanding position in the markets in Andhra, or whether they are directly purchasing from the ryots or whether they are getting the stocks from the millers in Andhra?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE Madam, I have already explained the position that the Food Corporation of India has to operate in consultation with the State Government. And the mode of procurement, etc., whether it should be direct, whether it should be an agent, etc. has to be determined in consultation with the State Government and we are operating in Andhra in consultation with the State Government, that is the procedure.

SHRI M V BHADRAM My specific question has not been answered. Are they getting the stocks from the millers, or direct from the peasants?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE In certain areas the procurement is through millers and in others it is directly from the farmers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question,