

implemented effectively and soon. But, as I said, these are not statutory bodies, therefore, we have to do this by persuasion, and the two most important things are the recommendations of the Labour Commission and the Bipartite Committee. We are waiting for them. We have a machinery under which we try to bring about conciliation between the employer and the employees. When only they fail, we refer to the Wage Board.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: May I know from the hon. Minister what the future policy of the Government is so far as the Wage Boards are concerned and also whether, in view of the fact that both the employers and the employees have voiced concern about the pattern of the composition of these Wage Boards, the Government has thought about it, and what their future policy is?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I have stated it earlier. I am sorry I have to repeat the answer. Sir, we are waiting for these two important recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not repeat the answer; you have already stated it.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI : But my question was about the future policy regarding....

MR. CHAIRMAN: That also will depend on the results of that Commission.

SHRI ANANT PRASAD SHARMA: Is the Government intending to set up more Wage Boards besides these five which are already working, especially in the public sector undertakings and the undertakings managed by the Government?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : We have no such proposal for the present.

STORAGE OF IMPORTED FERTILIZERS

*209. **SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lack of adequate facilities in regard to storage and transport has resulted in large accumulation and deterioration of the imported fertilisers; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to avoid shortage and deterioration of the fertilisers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

There is no large accumulation and significant deterioration of imported fertilisers for want of storage and transport facilities. Adequate steps are taken to store imported fertilisers properly and to despatch them to the consuming centres expeditiously. There are, however, some damaged stocks and sweepings and spillings which are inevitable in the present large-scale operation of fertiliser imports. There are also marginal shortages in transit, particularly in respect of fertilisers imported in bulk. Steps taken to minimise such shortages include appointment of tally clerks to facilitate issue of clear railway receipts, proper weighments of all consignments despatched to the consuming centres, provision of hopper wagons at important ports to facilitate proper bagging and proposed installation of mechanical discharging and bagging plants at two major ports.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : Sir, from the statement I find that the accumulation, deterioration and shortage in transit are of a minor character and even to plug them, they have taken adequate steps as the appointment of tally clerks, the provision of hopper wagons, etc. If this is reduced in absolute terms—I do not think the Minister would disagree—the loss would run into tens of lakhs of rupees. May I know whether this accumulation is also due to the farmers not lifting the fertilisers from the Central Government godowns

because the retail price is Rs. 535, whereas the imported price is Rs. 370 ? The difference of Rs. 165 is due to the handling charges, departmental charges, interest on capital, sales tax and so many other overheads. I would only wish that the Government takes steps to see that this important input is subsidised as in other underdeveloped countries.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, Government's approach in regard to subsidies, etc. is well known and it is not contemplated to have any subsidies for the distribution of fertilisers. The point which was raised by the hon. Member was whether there is accumulation of stocks. To that, my answer is that all along the problem was, there was no timely availability of fertilisers to the farmers and for the first time, because of the way we are planning now, there is timely availability of fertilisers well before the monsoon, well before the kharif or the rabi seasons, and there should be stocks available at the retail points and the wholesale points all over the country. And taking into consideration the requirement of the country, the present stock is just the minimum requirement for meeting the timely requirements of the farmers.

SHRI N. R. MUNISWAMY : I would only request the hon. Minister to make a comprehensive statement as regards the requirements or needs of the people and how much we have to import from other countries, all these things being taken into consideration. So far as the Fertiliser Pool is concerned, which is intended for equitable distribution and for equalisation of prices between the imported fertilisers and the indigenous production, it has not done its job, as you will see that the farmers are not benefited. I would like to know what their reaction is to this observation.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We are not earning any profit and the Fertiliser Pool is operating on a 'no profit, no loss' basis. It is true that relatively the price of fertilisers in our country is high. But unless we have large-scale production with the latest technology, it would not be possible to reduce the

price structure. But even then, it is an encouraging feature that even at the prevailing level of prices, the demand is quite satisfactory and encouraging.

DR. K. RAMIAH : May I know whether it is not a fact that the off-take by the farmers of the fertilisers from the Pool is held up now-a-days because they are sure that there are enough fertilisers and that they can take them just when the crop season comes in? Formerly, when the fertilisers were deficient in supply, they used to take them and stock them. Now-a-days, they wait until the actual demand is there according to the season.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : It is a good thing. Why should the farmers unnecessarily block their money well before the season? What is required is, the stock should be with the co-operative societies or the private organisations distributing them, and Government is taking care to see that credit facilities are also made available to the distributors either through the co-operative societies or otherwise so that timely availability of the fertilisers is ensured.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : In reply to various questions, the hon. Minister has said that a huge amount of money in foreign exchange is being paid to the ship-owners and others as compensation because you cannot take delivery of the foodgrains and also the fertilisers in time. May I know from him what steps he is taking so that we book the orders in a phased manner and the supplies are received in our harbours in time and we are not to pay compensation?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : That will be examined, will be looked into.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : May I know whether the Government has received any representation from the Andhra Pradesh Government to the effect that in spite of repeated assurance given by the Government of India, fertilisers are being still despatched by rail at owners' risk and without weigh-

ment? Huge shortages are occurring in almost all the consignments despatched by rail. The dealers as well as the departments have been put to much inconvenience and loss since the fertilisers are booked without weighment and the railways are not willing to give weighment and open delivery. Also fertilisers which are not required by the farmers are supplied. For example, ammonium sulphate from Russia which is coloured and in powder form is not finding favour with the cultivators. Similarly, ammonia...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are reading a statement. Give time for other Members to put questions. You are quite capable of putting a question without reading it.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : Fertilisers which are not required by the farmers are being despatched by the Government of India. So, the Government of India should see that the fertilisers which are really required by the farmers are despatched to them.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : After all, we make allotments of fertilisers. And unless there are despatch instructions from the State Government, the actual deliveries or despatches do not take place. So, if any particular type of fertiliser is not acceptable to the State Government, the State Government need not give despatch instructions for it.

سردار نریندر سنگھ برار :

جناب میں صرف ڈٹریوریشن کی طرف

آپ کا دھیان دلاتا ہوں کہ جو

فرٹلائزرز آپ ہمیں دیتے ہیں اس کو

جوسہلائٹی کرتے ہیں ان کے گودام

اتنے ناقص ہیں کہ دیہات میں

فرٹلائزرز کے جس گودام کو بھی آپ

دیکھینگے وہ بالکل ردی اور ناقص

ملینگے۔ تو جب آپ کسی کو اس کے

لئے مقرر کرتے ہیں تب کیا دیکھتے

ہیں کہ ان کے گودام کس قسم کے

بنائے جائیں جس کے نیچے ڈیمپ ہرو
وغیرہ کا انتظام ہو۔ اور یہ بات بھی
بالکل غلط ہے کہ جب چاہے فارمر لے
سکتا ہے ایسی بات نہیں ہے۔ اس کو
رکھ کر اسٹاک کرنا پڑتا ہے کیوں
کہ جب وقت نکل جائے تب اس کے
ملنے سے کوئی فائدہ نہیں۔ تو میرا یہ
پوچھنا ہے کہ کیا آپ نے یہ دیکھا کہ
گودام برابر ہیں اور نمی کو بچانے کے
لئے کوئی پربندہ ہے۔ کیا اس کو
آپ دیکھتے ہیں ؟

[सरदार नरेन्द्र सिंह बरार : जनाब मे
मिर्फ डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन की तरफ आप का ध्यान
दिलाना हूं कि जो फर्टिलाइजर्स आप हमें
देते हैं उसको जो मण्डाई करते हैं उनके
गोदाम इतने नाकस हैं कि देहान में फर्टिला-
इजर्स के जिस गोदाम को भी आप देखेंगे वे
बिल्कुल रद्दी और नाकस मिलेंगे। तो जब
आप किसी को इसके लिये मुकर्रर करते हैं
तब क्या देखते हैं कि इनके गोदाम किस किस
के बनाये जाये जिसके नीचे डैम्पप्रूफ वगैरह
का इन्जाम हो और यह बात भी बिल्कुल
गलत है कि इसे जब चाहे फार्मर ले सकता
है। ऐसी बात नहीं है। इसको रखकर स्टॉक
करना पड़ता है क्योंकि जब बक्क निकल जाय
तब इस के मिलने से कोई फायदा नहीं है।
तो मेरा यह पूछना है कि क्या आपने यह देखा
कि गोदाम बराबर हैं और नमी को बचाने
के लिये कोई प्रबन्ध है ? क्या इस को आप
देखते हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE :
Sir, this problem has been examined
and we have suggested to the State
Governments that training into considera-
tion the increasing consumption of ferti-
lisers in our country, four times more
storage capacity is required at the
village level and mandi level so that the
stock arrangements can be adequate.

[] Hindi translation.

The Planning Commission has also gone into this problem and elaborate arrangements have been worked out to have a wide network of storage capacity all over the country through co-operatives and otherwise

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN DELHI

210. **SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the present capacity in the various telephone exchanges in Delhi;

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list in the various telephone exchanges in Delhi for getting telephone connections; and

(c) what are the development plans for these telephone exchanges in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) The total equipped capacity of all the exchanges in Delhi Telephone System is 86,350 lines as on 1st February, 1969.

(b) The waiting list for all the Telephone Exchanges in Delhi Telephone System for installation of new telephone connections is 58,713 on 1-1-1969.

(c) In the next five years 61,200 lines of exchange capacity are expected to be added to the Delhi Telephone System.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I have the break-up of the various telephone exchanges in Delhi both as far as the installed capacity is concerned as well as the waiting list in each telephone exchange is concerned, rather than the jumbled figure of all the telephone exchanges?

PROF. SHER SINGH : Yes, Sir. I am giving these figures.

In Shahdara the equipped capacity is 2,000.

Working connections up to 1-1-1969 ..	1,620.
Waiting list in OYT ..	Nil.
Waiting list in non-OYT ..	2,653.
TOTAL ..	2,653.

And proposed expansions, 1,000 by 1971-72.

Tis Hazari : Equipped capacity—10,000; working connections—9,020; waiting list, O.Y.T.—3,592; non O.Y.T. 12,606; total—16,198; proposed expansions up to 1973-74—10,000.

It is a long statement, Sir, but as the hon. Member wanted it, I am reading it out.

Delhi Gate : Number 1 Exchange equipped capacity—7,500; working connections—6,470; waiting list, O.Y.T.—nil;.....

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Sir, it seems the list is a very long one. May I suggest that it may be laid on the Table?

PROF. SHER SINGH : Yes, Sir, I lay it on the Table.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I now from the hon. Member whether it is the lack of production of the various materials which is holding up further connections being given, or is it the problem of resources or is it something else, inefficiency of the department, which is standing in the way of reducing the long waiting-list of 58,000?

PROF. SHER SINGH : One reason is that the department, the telecommunications branch, asked for a sum of Rs. 846 crores in the Fourth Five-Year Plan, and the allocation is expected to be Rs. 466 crores only. We wanted that in the Fourth Five-Year Plan we should be able to give connections to all those whose applications are pending for the last four years. But now because we have been given less money, I think all the applicants may have to wait up to five years.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : At least.