

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: So far as this particular colliery is concerned, Sir, I have tried to ascertain the history of the fatal accidents there and I find that from 1963 up to 1967 there have not been any fatal accident involving death of any person. In 1968 January there was one fatal accident where one person was killed. As for serious accidents in 1966—serious meaning those accidents involving serious physical injuries—there were six in which six persons were injured seriously in 1966, five in 1967 in which 5 persons were injured and none in 1968; except the present accident. Therefore, it would not be quite correct to say that many deaths have occurred.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: There were some 500 of them.

SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI: I may say that the number of serious accidents is on the decrease. In 1960, if you take all the mines together the number of deaths per 1,000 was .49 and that of serious injuries was 7.15 per 1,000. For the year 1966 it has come down from .49 to .45 per 1,000 and from 7.15 to 4.58 per 1,000. That is because of the safety measures taken, because of the vocational training schemes, that are there and of the safety awards that are given and also because of the special committees that are appointed to go into the problems of mines safety. All those things are done.

#### LARGE FOOD ZONES

\*125. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent upon the creation of a larger food Zone for the Northern States, Government propose to constitute two or three larger Zones for the rest of the country; and

(b) if so, the probable time by when they will be constituted and the States which will be coming under each of these Zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present for making any change in the existing zonal restrictions. The question of continuance or otherwise of zonal restrictions will have to be considered in the conference of Chief Ministers before the Kharif Harvest.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vaishampayen has not put even a single question.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: May I know from the Minister, Sir, . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Certainly you have the right to put two questions if you want. But if you put only one and sit down I shall be glad.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: May I know whether the question of the forming of the Northern Zone alone was discussed at the Chief Ministers' Conference or whether the larger question of the zonal system as a whole also was discussed? That is one thing. Secondly, when there are reports of bumper crops in the country and of the possibility of sizeable imports and when there are efforts at procurement, why is it that no decision has been taken to do away with the zonal system altogether?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, it was only the rabi procurement areas that were taken into consideration on the 16th March when the Chief Ministers of the States met in Delhi and that was to discuss the procurement, prices and other aspects of food policy in regard to rabi crops. And the decision was that there had got to be one zone for the entire region and ultimately the Government of India decided on 28th March on the recommendations made by this Con-

ference that there should be one zone comprising Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Sir, I had asked specifically . . .

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am answering that.

In regard to the zonal system as such, this matter has got to be considered during the next kharif crop and it is too premature *i.e.* to say anything, on this issue. When the next kharif crop is in sight perhaps the Government of India will call a conference of Chief Ministers and at that time this issue will be considered,

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARTHY: We are a free country but we are still not free with reference to food zones. It has been time and again stated in this House by Members On both sides that the food zones should be abolished. May I know whether the Government is going to respect the views expressed from both sides of the House and whether the Government is going to impress upon the Chief Ministers if necessary by an ordinance that the food zones should be abolished throughout the length and breadth of the country?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I have to reiterate what I have said. This question has got to be considered by the Chief Ministers; when the kharif crop is in sight next time this issue will again be discussed and whatever the decision of the Chief Ministers' Conference the Government of India will abide by it.

Secondly, for the information of the hon. Member I may say that there are different zones for different foodgrains. Wheat has got separate zones, rice has got separate zones and there are different zones for pulses. It is not as if there are same restrictions for all foodgrains; it is not so.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the advisability of further enlarging the larger northern zone by including U.P. which is a wheat consuming area is being considered by the Government and if not what are the reasons for not including U.P. in the northern wheat zone?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: All these factors were taken into consideration during the Conference on the 16th March and they have decided like this. They actually excluded even Delhi but the Government of India took the decision that Delhi should form part of this zone. Regarding the specific issue whether U.P. should remain outside this zone or should be within this zone, it is a matter which can come up again at the Chief Ministers' Conference.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: When will it come up again?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Before the next rabi crop.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Before the Gill Government in Punjab there was a single State zone, namely, Punjab, and it produced good results. It is admitted by all but suddenly the zone was enlarged to cover certain other States also, I believe, including Jammu & Kashmir also and this has created rather a serious situation. May I know how is it that, when the hon. Minister is saying that the matter will be settled at the Chief Ministers' Conference, in Punjab this step was taken unilaterally by one Chief Minister maybe in consultation with the other participating Chief Ministers of this enlarged zone? I should like to know whether the opinion of the Centre was sought in this matter and if so what opinion the Centre gave on this proposal for extension of the Punjab food zone?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: All the State Governments agreed to enlarge the zone and in the Conference even the Punjab Chief Minis-

ter agreed to this enlargement. There is no question of a dispute on this point at all. The consensus was that it had got to be enlarged and the main reason for this was that this time the wheat crop was good and there has been considerable production in various areas and therefore they should take this step to enlarge the zone so that the entire area may be treated as one zone for this purpose. There is no question of opposition from the Punjab Government to this..

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not saying that the Punjab Government opposed it. I never said that. I said that the puppet Gill Ministry suddenly issued this order with a view to placating some people and the blackmarketeers in Punjab.

SHRI C. ACHUTHA MENON: I want to know whether the Government of India has any definite view or approach with regard to this question of retention or abolition of the zones because generally we find that the surplus States want single State zones and the deficit States want larger zones. In the Conference of Chief Ministers naturally the Chief Ministers will fight for their own view points. I want to know whether the Government of India have a definite view with regard to this matter and what is their approach to this question.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: We cannot neglect the views of the Chief Ministers because they are the authorities who have to undertake the responsibility for the distribution of the foodgrains. Whatever the policy of the Government of India, it has got to be evolved after arriving at a consensus and this consensus is usually arrived at the Conference of the Chief Ministers. We have definite views but we always adopt a policy of flexibility to suit the various situations. There is no rigidity about it. We want to have a flexible policy with regard to this vital matter.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: There was a zone in the South consisting of the

four States of Andhra, Madras, Mysore and Kerala for six or seven years and it worked excellently. Now these States have been created into separate zones and the supply of rice to Kerala has been reduced to about 3 oz. per head. In view of this fact that the Government of India is not able to maintain supplies to Kerala at the usual rate, will the Ministry take immediate steps to see that the old southern zone for rice is restored?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: This does not arise out of this question. It is only after due consideration that each State has been made a single zone so far as rice is concerned. And for wheat . . .

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I am not talking about wheat; I am talking about rice.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: This matter has come up from time to time and the view was that we should continue the existing single State zones so far as rice is concerned. But as I said this does not arise out of this question.

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि मंत्री महोदय ने अभी फर्माया कि कई बार चीफ मिनिस्टर्स की कॉन्फ्रेंस हुई And the view was that this was to be or this was not to be. लेकिन जब हर स्टेट, जो सरप्लस स्टेट्स हैं वह अपना अलग अलग जोन रखने के फेर में हैं तो क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से भी कोई व्यु है इसके बारे में और क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट यह नहीं चाहती है कि जो आजकल जोनल सिस्टम चल रहा है उसको खत्म कर के हिन्दुस्तान का पूरा एक ही जोन किया जाय। और मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या खाने पीने के मामले में भी इस तरह का अलग-अलग और डिस्क्रीमिनेशन करेंगे कि जिस स्टेट के पास ज्यादा हो, जो सरप्लस स्टेट हैं, उसको फूडग्रेन्स के मामले में मानोपली दे दें कि सब अपने पास रखें। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या कोई सेंट्रल पालिसी इसके

बारे में है या नहीं और क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट यह उचित नहीं समझती है कि खास कर के जहाँ तक कि फूडग्रैन्स का मामला है इसमें यह जोनल सिस्टम वगैरह सब खत्म कर के सेंटर को और से इनका डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन अंडरटेक करें और अगर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की यह राय है तो वह साफ यहाँ कहना चाहिए ताकि इसके बारे में पब्लिक ऑनोनिशन भी, उन स्टेट्स में भी जहाँ कि सरप्लस है, हम क्विट कर सकें।

شہری اکبر علی خان :

نہیں ہے -

[श्री अकबर अली खान : प्रैक्टिकल नहीं है।]

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, that is the view of the hon. Member.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: What is your view? That is what I want to know.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am telling you. Our view is, we have to take into consideration the various factors like scarcity areas, the surplus areas and then evolve a procurement policy, mop up the foodgrains in the surplus areas and distribute them in the vulnerable areas. The policy of the Government of India is very flexible in the sense that we take into consideration the needs of various areas, the demands of various areas, the views of the Governments in the States and evolve a common policy. We have got an open mind in regard to zones—let me make it very clear—and we are not very rigid. The very fact that we have enlarged the northern zone shows that we are responding to this.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It shows that you have begun well.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: We have begun well and will go on very well in future.

t [ ] Hindi transliteration.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: May I know whether the policy of enlargement of zones is a prelude to the gradual or total abolition of the zones altogether?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: The hon. Member can draw his own inference.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: We come here for drawing conclusions from you. Inference is our business and conclusion is your business.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF BAKERIES

•126. SHRI ABID ALI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the action taken by Government for the establishment of a large number of bakeries and Tandoors, both in urban and rural areas, to ensure supply of good bread at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): Nine Modern Automatic Bakeries are being set up in the public sector of which four at Bombay, Madras Cochin and Ahmedabad are already under production.

Under the scheme of assisting co-operatives to set up small scale bakeries, sanction has so far been accorded for 3 bakeries in Keraia and Mysore.

There is no proposal to set up any Tandoor.

SHRI ABID ALI: What percentage of the requirements of the people will be met by the bakeries which have been set up? The price of the bread is high. Now, half a day's wage is paid for a kilo of bread in India whereas in other parts of the world, in the cities, the average price of a kilo of bread is only from ten minutes to fifteen minutes wage. What action is Government taking to ensure supply of bread to the poorer sections of the society at a reasonable price?