

matter. The scientists who were in the employment of the Government are being asked to resign from the Government employment . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put a straight question. If you take three minutes for putting a question, how can I finish in five minutes?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know whether their remaining worried about their employment position in the Council stands in the way of the proper functioning of this Institute and is mainly responsible for the lack of achievement on the part of the Institute except in the field of roses?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am sorry for the statement made by the hon. Member. Dr. Pal is one of the leading scientists of our country. He has made a valuable contribution to agricultural development. I am sorry that a senior Member like Mr. Arora should not know this. Also I do not agree with this that our scientists are borrowing the scientific researches from outside. In fact, the researches in the field of sorgam, hybrid maize and hybrid bajra are due to our scientists and not due to a foreign achievement, although in the present context of the world, interchange of experience does take place in various fields. As far as paddy and wheat are concerned we did bring from outside but naturally we also contribute to the other parts of the world. There should not be any misunderstanding on that score. I repudiate the aspersions made by Mr. Arora in regard to the work carried on by the scientists in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more. How can I finish a question in five minutes? The moment five minutes are over, I will stop. If you do not co-operate, I will not co-operate with you . . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: The Minister has not finished his reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has. I thought he had finished.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I only wanted to say one thing that as far as the service conditions of the scientists are concerned, there has been some reorganisation of the I.C.A.R. because we wanted that politicians and administrators should not interfere with the work of the scientists. That is why we have constituted the Indian Council of Agricultural Research as an autonomous body and there is a proposal to confer all the rights and privileges to protect their service conditions. That is under the consideration of the Government of India and as soon as it is cleared by the Government, a Bill would be brought before the House to extend the necessary protection and to give other terms to the scientists so that they will be in a position to work in a very good atmosphere.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: I agree with the Minister that the contribution and the merit of the top scientists are rewarded. They are given awards but may I know what happens to the smaller scientists? I know the case of a scientist in the Botanical Garden Laboratory, Lucknow, who has developed a process or a solution which if sprayed on the mango tree . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: How does that arise here?

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: It does arise. It is agricultural research and his discovery was neither recognised nor put into practice . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kumaran should not put such a question.

Next question.

PAYMENT OF LEVY

*238. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central assistance in the form of development levy the

development bonus has been paid by the Central Government to any State Government at the time of procurement of rice/wheat from the Government; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE):

(a) A scheme for payment of incentive bonus for despatch of rice and wheat from surplus to deficit states were formulated for 1966-67 crop. A similar scheme for making rice available to Central Pool has been introduced against 1967-68 crop.

(b) An amount of Rs. 30 lakhs has so far been paid to Andhra Pradesh Government against 1966-67 crop under the scheme so far.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

May I know if the Madhya Pradesh Government has asked for such a facility to pay a certain percentage over the procurement price of paddy as development bonus with a view to utilising it entirely for agricultural development in the State? During the last sowing season the State Government had to pay higher prices for the import of wheat from Punjab and Haryana.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, the incentive bonus scheme is applicable to all surplus States which would be supplying foodgrains for being despatched to other States, and it equally applies to Madhya Pradesh. We have more or less evolved a uniform formula. If it is over the 50 per cent. quantity which has been considered as the target of procurement and it is made available to the Central pool Rs. 6 per quintal, Rs. 8 per quintal and Rs. 12 per quintal is the bonus payable to the various States, depending upon the slab which has been worked out.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

What about my question?

What happened to the request of the Madhya Pradesh Government? You have not enlightened me on that point.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I could not follow that question.

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: The Madhya Pradesh Government has been asking for payment of a certain percentage over the procurement price of paddy as development bonus. What has happened to their request?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I have already replied to the question. I have said that whatever applies to Punjab applies to Madhya Pradesh, applies to Andhra, applies to Madras and applies to all surplus States. A uniform formula has been evolved to pay an incentive bonus to the farmer, which would be received by way of incentive bonus by the State Governments and is to be utilised for the development of agriculture in those States.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA:

Sir, from what the hon. Minister has just said, it appears that this bonus is to be given to the State Governments for the procurement that they do. Now, Sir, will it not be better if the procurement price as such is raised, so that the *kisans* might get a better return for their produce instead of the State Government getting it and simply using it for developing agriculture? Everything in the Budget for developing agriculture is already there. Now how is it ensured that this money would specially be used for developing agriculture and would not be used for meeting the deficits in the Budgets which almost all States show in their Budgets? So may I know, Sir, whether the procurement price would be raised instead of giving this development bonus to the State Governments who may merge it in their general revenues and spend it otherwise?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As the hon. Member himself is w...

aware, the level of procurement price now is fairly high, and it would not be in our interests and in the interests of consumers at large to raise that price to a higher level because it would adversely affect the already inflationary economy. And as far as the bonus scheme is concerned, it is only a sort of temporary scheme. Even this scheme is very much criticised by deficit States who say that this is one country and we should not really charge them more because their States are in food difficulty. So this is only an *ad hoc* measure adopted during the current year, and I do not think it can be a permanent policy as such.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Sir, we had thought that after the bifurcation of former Punjab into Punjab and Haryana, Haryana would be given due attention because of its being a backward State. But now, while in Punjab a Rs. 12 per quintal levy has been given because of the higher slab laid down by the Government of India, the Haryana Government, in spite of its requests, has not been given that. May I know, Sir, from the Minister if the Government of India is considering to reduce this slab and give the benefit of this levy to Haryana, so that agriculture could be given an impetus in Haryana also?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, for Haryana almost a similar scheme as applied to Punjab has been worked out. For purposes of bonus the first 25,000 tonnes does not qualify, and over and above that, for the first slab it is Rs. 6 per quintal, for the second slab it is Rs. 8 per quintal and for the third slab the bonus is Rs. 12 per quintal; it is more or less on par with the Punjab scheme.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Do you agree that Haryana is a backward State? It has been the most forward State in floor crossings.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAJADE: The hon. Minister has said that

of rupees are being spent as incentive bonus for procuring foodgrains from the surplus States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this additional cost is transferred to the consumers. If it is so, would it not be advisable to stop the incentive bonus and reduce the burden on consumers? That is the first question. And the second question is this. Now, as we have got a good crop situation this year and as a result of this good crop, in surplus States the prices are falling, while in other States the prices are rising. With a view to bring about parity in prices and to see that there is no hardship to any sector of the population, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Food Zones will be abolished immediately?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, that is not at the moment under consideration—abolition of Food Zones. We have mentioned in the House earlier that next month we are having a Chief Ministers Conference, where this problem would be considered. Whether any relaxation has to be made, etc., that would be considered at that Conference. As far as the bonus incentive is concerned, there is no proposal whatsoever to give it up right now. It has been put for a year and it will be continued during the current year.

*239. [The questioner (Shri Babubhai M. Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1844 *infra*]

WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF LICENSED PORTERS

*240. **SHRI ARJUN ARORA: †**
SHRI A. M. TARIQ

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has constituted any study group to study the working and living conditions of licensed porters on the Railways;

†The question was asked in the House on the floor of the House.