

Minister to the Ministry? One of the questions which we took up was that it would be absolutely useless—without meaning any aspersion against anybody—to have the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture as the Chairman of the Desert Development Board. A Secretary comes and goes, a Secretary has no knowledge of the desert, he has no feeling for the desert. We should have a dynamic person as the Chairman of the Board, who knows the place and who has feeling for the place. May I know what are the Government's reasons for this? Even the Prime Minister said that she appreciated this idea. I do not know what has happened to this, whether it has trickled down to the Ministry, whether they have given consideration to this matter.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I will have to find out whether any suggestion was passed on by the Prime Minister in regard to this matter. But as far as the other suggestion of the hon. Member is concerned, whether there should be a non-official Chairman of this Board, I think that can be seriously examined. I assure him that this will be examined.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : श्रीमन् मध्य पूर्व के देशों में भी इसी प्रकार की भूमि की समस्या थी और वहां पर मरुभूमि का विस्तार होता चला जा रहा था और अरब के देशों ने वहां पर मरु का विस्तार रोकने के लिये यह ठहराया था कि जितनी भेड़ और बकरियां हैं उनकी ग्रेजिंग पर किसी प्रकार का कानून लगाया जाय।

SHRI SYED AHMAD: Goats only

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : इस तरह से वहां पर उसको रोका गया। अपने यहां पर राजस्थान में बीकानेर से लेकर कच्छ तक की जो सीमा है उसमें भी मरुभूमि का विस्तार होता जा रहा है और वहां पर भी भेड़ बकरियां अधिक संख्या में हैं। तो वहां पर भी क्या भेड़ बकरियों की ग्रेजिंग पर कोई कानून लागू करने की योजना है और क्या सरकार उस पर विचार करने वाली है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The hon. Member is right that goats cause considerable damage to the grass, and if the grass is once removed from the land, lot of erosion takes place. The problem of checking up exploitation of the desert area is also one of the problems which the Development Board is supposed to handle.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I have been to Ladakh recently, and Ladakh is a very important area. No vegetation grows there and some attempts have been made. I feel that Ladakh has to be properly vegetated. We should put in more effort in this direction. May I know what effort the Government is making to bring more vegetation to the Ladakh area?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: My question is limited to the desert area of Rajasthan. That can be considered separately but not under this question.

*302. [The questioner (Shri Raj Narain) was absent; For answer, vide cols. 2259-62 infra.]

IMPORTED RICE MILLS

*303. **SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many imported Rice Mills have been installed and gone into production so far; and

(b) what are the results regarding operational efficiency of these rice mills as against conventional indigenous mills in yield, quality, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Seven rice mills.

(b) The studies so far made in regard to the efficiency of the imported rice mills indicate that these mills give better outturn as compared with the conventional mills and the rice

obtained in modern mills is free from dirt and stones and contains a very low percentage of brokenes.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : From the reply given by the hon. Minister, I do not understand from where he has collected the information. But as far as I know a Committee was appointed on studying the performance of the modern rice mills. I will read, Sir, from the report of that Committee. Regarding Tadepalligudem: "Statistical treatment of the data has however shown that these differences are not statistically significant at 5% level. With regard to head rice yields also the differences between the modern and indigenous mills were not statistically significant". That is one. Then Memari is a place where another rice mill was installed. Here it is also said: "With regard to parboiled paddy, there was no difference in average total or head rice yields, and in this respect the modern mill did not exhibit any superiority as compared with the indigenous mills." The third place is Mandya. There was again a test taken. It is also said: "It can be said, in conclusion, that the modern mill has tended to be slightly superior to the indigenous mills."

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are mentioning so many places.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : What I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that the Department has taken trials at three places where the mills have been installed. What I want to claim is this that the modern rice mill costs Rs. 27 lakhs as against Rs. 2 lakhs for the indigenous mill. The Government has got a paradoxical view—different Ministries saying different things. A few days back we heard that they are not allowing imported machinery. Here it is said that imported machinery is also brought in this country at a huge foreign exchange cost, and there is no replacement facility available. I want to know why the Government in the Ministry of Agriculture are making this purchase of such machinery.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : The hon. Member has raised a number of

points. I do not think I can go into all details. But I can say that an Evaluation Team was constituted consisting of a representative of the Food Ministry and a representative of the Central Food Technological Research Institute, the Ford Foundation and the N.C.D.C. I am prepared to lay on the Table their findings, because the hon. Member has referred to a number of details; I do not think he has while making these assertions represented the true state of affairs. If I lay this paper on the Table of the Sabha, perhaps the true finding will be available to the hon. Members. As regards the imported rice mills, our policy is not to encourage import from outside. But when these mills were imported, local machinery was not available. Now two manufacturers have begun production. They are manufacturing modern rice mills. Naturally henceforth if we will have to undertake establishment of rice mills, indigenous machinery will be utilised. Last year of course under special circumstances the Food Corporation imported five fully equipped mills and basic components of 19 mills at a total cost of Rs. 38.56 lakhs. That was under special circumstances. Moreover vital parts of machinery were not available. That is why this programme had to be implemented with imported equipment. May I say that it will take some time for our indigenous industry to develop? We want to give all encouragement to indigenous industry. This is not being done at the cost of indigenous industry at all.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : Can the Minister throw some light to the House on the following question? As a result of the introduction of these imported mills what is the number of village workers who have been displaced?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I have no information of that.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Mr. Chairman, while the hon. Minister just stated regarding the policy of the Government, of putting the utmost possible restrictions on the import of rice mills from abroad, may I bring to the notice of the House a news item appearing in

the 'Hindustan Times' of 10th November, 1967—"Centre to buy 24 modern rice mills from Japan"? It says—

"Chandigarh, November 9.—The Central Government has contracted to buy from Japan 24 modern rice mills each of four tonne production capacity per hour at Rs. 19 to Rs. 20 lakhs a mill."

Sir, at this end the hon. Minister says that last year we imported five rice mills but that now it is not the policy. the manufacturers in the country are now producing up-to-date rice mills. When this is the policy of the Government it is the Chairman of the Food Corporation who stated in Chandigarh on the 8th November, 1967 that the Government has contracted to import 24 rice mills. Sir, during the last session, I had myself raised this question and the hon. Minister had in a written reply given a categorical assurance that only six mills would be imported and that no further imports would be made. So, when these assurances are given by the hon. Minister on the floor of this House, here is a news item wherein it is said that the Government has contracted to import 24 rice mills. May I request him to look into the matter and see that this sort of contradiction does not continue in the future?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Member is only repeating what I have said. I have actually mentioned that full components of five rice mills and basic components of 19 rice mills at a total cost of Rs. 38.56 lakhs are being imported and that was prior to what was mentioned in the House. And also the news item only refers to the previous contract and there is nothing new in that.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Sir, I will pass on the news item to you. There is nothing of that type, they are all new rice mills, 24 in number, at a cost of Rs. 19 lakhs each mill.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I have given the official information available with me.

SHRIMATI VIMAL PUNJAB DESHMUKH : Some time ago the Minister said that the Government was compelled to import rice mills from abroad because these rice mills were not available in our country. May I know what was the year in which these rice mills were imported?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I have not exactly understood the purport of what the hon. lady Member has asked.

SHRIMATI VIMAL PUNJAB DESHMUKH : What was the year in which these rice mills were imported?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Six were imported in the year 1964-65 and 24 were contracted to be imported last year. But the import is still to take place.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : This subject has been coming up in this House every now and then. There seems to be a conflict of opinion between the Government, the Food Corporation and the firm which is prepared to supply this machinery. May I know whether the Government have supplied their own designs and asked this Bombay firm which is coming up whether they are in a position to manufacture according to the specifications wanted by the Government?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : As I have already mentioned, the modern rice mill manufacturing industry in this country is of recent origin. The units were licenced only a few years earlier.....(Interruptions) No, no; the vital components which are more material from the point of view of the out-turn of rice, etc., they were not available in the country. But with these plants coming up now, I think it should be possible for them to supply machinery according to the Government's specifications.

CODIFICATION OF POWERS OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

*304. PROF. SATYAVRATA SIDDHANTALANKAR : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be