

SUPER BAZARS

*277. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Super Bazars started so far in different parts of the country; and

(b) what is the amount so far given by the Central Government by way of loan and grants for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY ' DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE): (a) Thirty-Fve.

(b) The following loans and grants have so far been sanctioned by the Central Government as assistance to Departmental stores:—

	Rs.
Loans ..	3,08,83,750
Grants ..	31,69,250

3,40,53,000

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know whether the Government is aware that even after spending more than Rs. 3 crores on the Super Bazar the prices have not yet come down nor have the prices become stable? They are rather going up. Will the hon. Minister agree with me that the scheme of Super Bazar has completely failed?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE: I am not prepared to say that the scheme of Super Bazar has failed. It is in fact a sort of public distribution system. I think all the world over it has its own importance. May I say for the information of the hon. Member that out of '35 Stores which are operating in the

country almost 30 to 32 are having profit and are running very well Even in regard to others they have been started recently. I think in the course of a few months there will be considerable improvement.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I want to know whether the objective of bringing down the price of essential commodities has been served by the establishment of the Super Bazar at the cost of such huge amount of money? That was my question?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE: Sir, after all, the Super Bazars have a limited role. The maintenance of prices depends upon so many factors in the economy. And as far as the current year is concerned, as the hon. Member is well aware, as a result of the set-back on the agricultural front, we are finding difficulties to maintain the price line. But that cannot be attributed to the Super Bazars.

**श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौर-
डिया :** क्या श्रीमान यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस बात का प्रयत्न किया गया अथवा नहीं कि जो होलसेल में माल खरीदा जाता है और जो रिटेल में बेचा जाता है उसमें जो मार्जिन है और जो ओवरहेड चार्ज हैं उसमें क्या फायदा और नुकसान पड़ता है ? आपने जो प्राफिट की बात बताई तो प्राफिट का कारण यह भी है कि आपके पास कुछ ऐसी चीजें हैं जो अन्यो के पास नहीं हैं जैसे एम्बसी ट्रॉजिस्टर, उसमें आपके पास एक्स-क्यूसिव मानापोली है, उसकी वजह से आप लाभ उठा सकते हैं । उसके बारे में मुझे कुछ नहीं कहना लेकिन जो रिटेल में विकता है उसका खर्चा और कास्ट का जो मार्जिन है वह क्या ज्यादा पड़ता है या कम पड़ता है ?

SHRI ANNASAHB SHINDE: It is a question of details. And all over the country thousands of commodities are sold through these departmental stores and it is very difficult

to say in respect of a particular commodity. But, of course, balancing the position depends upon the overall income of the particular departmental store.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: While I appreciate the efforts of the Government by starting such Super Bazaars in order to maintain the price-line, if not being the prices down, may I know whether the Government has ever thought regarding the future of the Super Bazaars, whether there will be Super Bazaars, to be conducted by the Government as they are being conducted today or whether they will be converted into consumer co-operatives in the days to come? What is the policy of the Government? Or do the Government intend to centralise all the Super Bazaars into their hands?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As far as the policy is concerned, we are very clear about it. Even though the nomenclature is, Super Bazaars, they are really co-operative organisations and we are trying to see that if there are some lacunae they are removed. As far as the structure of the co-operative organisation is concerned, wherever they are, they are as co-operative organisations.

SHRI B. T. KULKARNI: Is the Government aware that the present working of the Super Bazar is mainly meant for holding the price-line? Has the Government seen that in the Super Bazar they are at present selling cloth ranging from Rs. 9 to Rs. 15 per yard? And that price has nothing to do with holding the price line. So, may I request the Government to review critically the working of the Super Bazar and evolve a policy which would be beneficial to the common people and to hold the price-line?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Our entire effort is directed in that direction that these departmental stores are useful to the common consumers and if there are any defects or any drawbacks, our constant endeavour

would be to rectify them and to see that they function efficiently and economically.

SHRI K. DAMODAR AN: May I know whether the Government gets any interest on the huge amount invested? If so, what is the rate of interest, how much have they realised in 1966-67? May I also know that the prices of the articles can be reduced a little if the enormous maintenance and establishment charges are reduced? Now, there are complaints that the cost of maintenance of the establishment is too high.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, it is assistance which is being extended to the stores according to a particular pattern. First of all, there is the share-capital contribution. The share-capital contribution is supposed to be repaid after a few years. Then, secondly, there is the loan. Only a small amount is as subsidy. The loan has also to be repaid and interest is charged on that. I will have to find out; I will require notice.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Minister said that the Super Bazaars are now-functioning in 35 centres. May I ask the Minister on what basis the Super Bazar is located in a particular area? Is it at State Capitals only or in any cities with a certain minimum population?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Those criteria have also been looked into. For instance, we have a scheme to have departmental stores in metropolitan towns, among them, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Bangalore. Then we wish to have the stores in cities where the population is between five and ten lakhs and also in cities with a population between two and five lakhs.

SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY: May I know from the hon. Minister the names of the Super Bazaars which are working at a profit and those which are working at a loss? And how do they propose to subsidise the loss?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: As I have already mentioned, out of the 35 stores which have been -opened, about 30 or 32 are running at a profit. About the names, I do not have them with me now, but if the hon. Member desires, I can give him the names.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: I would like to know whether a survey has been made regarding the class of people that use the Super Bazars because most of the Super Bazars are situated in posh localities and I think they only serve the upper middle class and the upper class. Therefore I would like to know whether the Government does not think it proper to open such Super Bazars in localities where labour and other people reside, instead of opening them in such localities and whether the Government is having any proposal to sell commodities at the wholesale prices at which they are bought and to subsidise the establishment cost?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: As far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, I think it is a good suggestion for examination. But my own feeling is that a large number of common people make use of these stores. As far as selling at wholesale prices is concerned, I think this is a retail store and if they are not to incur losses they must be allowed some reasonable margin. But what should be the margins and how they should be kept at the minimum level, that can always be looked into.

RIGS FOR FIGHTING WATER FAMINE IN BIHAR

*278. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar have urged the Centre to contact foreign Governments for supply of rigs to help fight the water famine on a war footing;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken on the State Government's request; and

(c) how many rigs could be made available to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) So far as minor irrigation programme of the State Government of Bihar is concerned no such request has been received. However, foreign exchange amounting to Rs. 16 lakhs was released during 1966-67 for the import of 4 medium percussion rigs from Poland by the State Government. Subsequently in March, 1967, the State Government sought release of additional foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 27 lakhs for the import of 9 rigs for sinking tubewells for irrigation purposes. Full amount of foreign exchange requested by the State Government has since been released.

(c) The Minor Irrigation Department of Bihar placed orders for 380 hand-boring plants for drilling 4" and 6" tubewells against which 60 have been received. The balance is expected by the end of June, 1967. Against the order for 8 medium reverse circulation rigs placed with indigenous manufacturers by the Bihar Government, only one rig was supplied by March, 1967, and the manufacturer is being pressed to expedite supply of the remaining rigs.

The Exploratory Tubewells Organisation has diverted 8 rigs to work in Bihar for sinking deep tubewells in drought-affected areas.

A fleet of over 100 rigs has also been mobilised from different agencies and organisations for sinking small tubewells for drinking water purposes. The UNICEF has supplied