

SHRIMATI VIMAL PUNJAB DESHMUKH: Did the candidate for whom the driver voted win or lose?

(No reply)

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: The hon. Minister has himself said that it was a holiday. I would like to know whether on a holiday during lunch-hour, a driver is entitled to use this car for his personal and private work. Because an Opposition Member has asked this question, it should not appear that just the Congress wins or loses just because we are using public cars. I would like to know how that car went there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the shipping authorities had anything to do with it or the driver took it on his own.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That has been answered.

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: I am prepared to answer the hon. Member's question. Actually the driver was on duty at the Circuit House and evidently he took the car . . .

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: It was a holiday.

PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO: It was not a holiday in the strict sense of the term. It was declared a holiday for the purpose of enabling the workers to go and vote. I thought I had told the House that at that time, the Minister for Transport was in Visakhapatnam holding enquiries and discussions with a number of officers of the shipyard at the Circuit House. The staff car was at the Circuit House and the driver was on duty. Evidently—it is not an entirely unnatural and ununderstandable practice—the driver must have taken the car for going home for lunch. When he was going home for lunch, according to the statement I received, he went to the particular place, stopped the car and went in to cast his vote. When he came back, he found a few friends clustered round the car, of whom some

were Congressmen. Now that the hon. Member has made a very serious statement that he saw the car in a number of places flying the Congress flag, certainly I shall seek more information and see what further enquiries can be made into the matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

**DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS' ESTIMATES OF FOOD PRODUCTION**

\*550. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN; SHRI T. V. ANANDAN; SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is considerable difference between the Central and State Governments' estimates of food production in 1966-67;

(b) whether this difference in estimates have proved to be a major hurdle in the rational distribution of available foodgrains in the country; and

(c) if so, whether Government intend to set up an independent machinery to collect agricultural production data which should be acceptable to both the Centre and the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D. ERING): (a) Firm estimates of food production for 1966-67 are not yet available and as such the question of difference between the Central and State estimates does not arise.

(b) Absence of reliable advance estimates of food production was the main hurdle in the preparation of a proper and accurate national food budget.

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri P. K. Kumaran.

(c) A proposal for instituting Central supervision over the work of area enumeration and strengthening of Central supervision over yield estimation work done by the State agencies with a view to building up independent and timely estimates of food production at the all-India and State levels is under consideration.

SHRI P. K. KUMAR AN: May I know what kind of machinery they are contemplating to conduct this survey properly?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: At present, as hon. Members might be aware, the estimates of production are based on two factors. First of all the estimates of the area are compiled on the basis of complete field to field enumeration by the State Revenue agencies in all the States <except Kerala, Orissa and West Bengal and estimates of production are arrived at with the help of random sample crop cutting surveys. In regard to the system at present, there is no Central supervision over the area enumeration work done by the State Government. So we wish to have some Central supervision over that. Then, although there is Central supervision over the yield estimation done by State Governments, the quantum of such Central supervision is not adequate. We wish to strengthen it. Then firm estimates of production of various crops become due only after the crop is harvested. These actually become available with considerable time-lag after the due dates. We wish to have timely advance estimate by adopting some scientific methods.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: The surplus States under-estimate their production and the deficit States overestimate their deficits. Apart from actual difficulties, some artificial difficulties are also there. To overcome this, are you likely to take any steps in this regard?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As I have already explained, the diffi-

culty is about advance estimation only. As far as final estimates are concerned, I do not think there was any discrepancy. The advance system of estimates we wish to adopt, by strengthening the statistical organisation so that perhaps the discrepancies may not be there.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: The Minister says that the discrepancy arises only with regard to advance assessment. Am I to understand that there is no discrepancy so far as final assessment is concerned because I find that sometimes the Union Government does not agree with the estimates made by the State Government in their negotiations regarding food supplies either for procurement purposes or for supply? In each case I find that the Centre has its own estimate. Whenever the estimate comes from a State, the Centre has no estimate. I would like to know about the machinery at the Centre and how they come to some assessment if they depend on the machinery of the State for assessment whether at the final stage or at the advance stage.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As far as the differences are concerned, there was only one occasion so far during the post-independence period when they had varied, when they had some difference of opinion between the Centre and the State, in regard to one State, but that too was reconciled after examining the position.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: Whenever there is a discussion, I have found that there is always a difference of opinion with regard to statistics between the Centre and the States. If you depend entirely on the State machinery for your estimates, how do you make your own assessment of production of a particular State?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: In fact we do not wish to have a duplicate organisation. What we wish to>

do is to strengthen the supervision on area enumeration. We also wish to strengthen the Central supervision on the work of the yield estimation carried on by the State Governments.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is he aware that in the past, in Bengal at least, the former Chief Minister and Food Minister had a special Statistician at his disposal and he asked him, according to political exigencies, what statistics of foodgrains he needed. It was done accordingly. Firstly, it was decided what kind of speech he had to make and then he asked him: "Can you make it like that?" Is he aware of such things?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I am not prepared to say that statistics are manipulated by the State Governments, as the State Governments are responsible entities. They base their estimates on the basis of statistics available from the Statistical Division.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is the Government aware that on many occasions deficit States overestimated their deficits and surplus States underestimated their surplus production and that is the reason why there is no fair and proper distribution of food in the country? May we know from the Government whether some machinery will be set up to see that such sort of differences do not exist?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: So far as forecasts of production in the various States are concerned, there are differences as regards the estimates of production in the various States and the hon. Member may remember that during the Food Discussion I had said that some machinery which will have the full confidence of the Centre as well as of the States is necessary to supervise the various procedures for estimating the production in a particular States,

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: It is not only a difference in assessment between the Centre and the State.

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It is between the Statistical Departments also. There is difference between the Statistical Department of the Planning Commission and that of the States as well as the Central Departments of the Central Government. May I know if all the Departments have the same organisation to assess the produce and, if it is so, why there is so much difference? Is it not a fact that every Department forecasts its figures according to its own convenience?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It may not be that it is according to the convenience of the Department concerned but there are various methods which they employ but as I have said, I am trying to have some agency which will coordinate the function of the various statistical organisations in the different Ministries and we will have a machinery which will by and large have the support of the state Government and the Centre so that the data produced by that machinery may be regarded as a reliable data by the states and the Centre.

#### MINIMUM PRICE FOR PADDY AND COARSE GRAINS

♦581. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new minimum prices for paddy, and coarse grains for the coming Kharif season have been announced; and

(b) if so, how it compares with the last year's prices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D. ERING): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.