

THE

PARLIAMENTARY-DEBATES OFFICIAL REPORT

In the sixty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha *Commencing on the
24th July, 1967 the 2nd Sravana, 1889 {Saka}*

RAJYA SABHA

*Monday, the 24th July, 1967/the 2nd Sravana,
1889 (Saka)*

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

MEMBER SWORN ■i Shrimati
Bindumati Devi (Uttar Pradesh)

ORAL, ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CENTRAL STATE FARMS

*1. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. -414 in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th June, 1957 and state:

- (a) whether any other State has allotted suitable sites for the Central State farms;
- (b) if so, the names of the States; and
- (c) the progress made so far in implementing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Besides Orissa, the States who have offered sites for setting up Central State Farms are Haryana, Punjab, Mysore, Kerala, Madras and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) The sites offered by the Governments of Haryana, Punjab and Mysore have been tentatively approved. Negotiations in regard to the terms and conditions on which the land is to

be transferred to the Centre are in progress. The offers made by the Governments of Kerala, Madras and Madhya Pradesh are under consideration.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: May I know whether the Government is in a position to enlighten this House as to the detailed scheme of the Central State Farms?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Of course this is not the time to explain in detail the scheme but I may submit the broad features of the scheme. First of all, hon. Members will realise the importance of seed in agricultural development. It occupies a very pivotal position. Our idea is to encourage and help the State Governments in having State Farms and in having quality seeds. So these farms would be under Central management but the seed is to be made available to the various States as per their requirements. Then the sites would be selected on the basis of expert advice. That means irrigation requirements soil, etc. would be looked into. Seeds are important in this scheme and that is why almost all the State Governments have indicated their desire to have the scheme implemented.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: There are certain State Governments that have not yet responded or agreed to give land for the State Farms. May I know whether the Government has sought or rather induced them to give the necessary land to set up such State Farms in those States?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: We have written to all the State Governments and whichever State thinks it

proper and finds the land, it would be our effort to help that State Government to set up the Farm.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government negotiated with a certain foreign Government in this matter and whether the Government received a certain offer, for starting a large number of State Farms, almost *one* in every State, and, if so, what has happened to that negotiation and what are the results?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Initially a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary for Agriculture was set up in 1965 to examine the possibility of setting up such seed farms. Later on, the Soviet Union indicated its willingness to supply Borne machinery to some of these farms and the present position is that the Soviet Union has entered into an agreement with us to supply the machinery to five farms and the approximate value of the machinery would be Rs. 1.5 crores, which means Rs. 31 lakhs per farm.

श्री: बिनकुमार भन्नालालजी
चोरङ्गिया : क्या श्रीमान यह बतलायेंगे कि जो मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने भी अपना आफर भेजा था कि हमारे यहां पर भी यह फार्म खोला जाय तो क्या कारण है कि वह अभी तक विचारधीन है और उसे स्वीकार नहीं किया गया ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: In regard to the offer by the Madhya Pradesh Government, they suggested two sites but it was found by the team which visited the sites that irrigation facility was not available there. Later on, the Madhya Pradesh Government also agreed with our view in regard to one instance that really irrigation facility was not likely to be available at the site.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You mean the run-away Government?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am not prepared to say that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, ordet.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: to regard to the second farm, the Madhya Pradesh Government is still to take a view and communicate it to us.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Is the Government aware that the setting up of State farms in the various States includes long-term farm policy and a creation of the infrastructure for receiving the seeds, irrigation facilities and credit facilities and it is a long-term process? Only opening of Seed farms does not satisfy—it may satisfy the immediate needs but it may not satisfy—the long-term need. Have the Government any scheme to service these Seed farms with the infrastructure required by the farming industry as such?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I may say that the Member has not understood the purport of my answer. The seed farms would be centrally managed and the Government would take care to see that the necessary technical know-how, technical management credit, fertiliser, etc. are supplied to these farms because they would be under Central management I also submit that these farms would go a long way in helping or giving the impetus to the long-term development of agriculture because the necessary infrastructure would be there.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know when the agreement with the Government of the U.S.S.R. was actually signed? If I recollect correctly, it was signed in 1966 and still, in spite of food shortage in the country and the need for good seeds in the country, the Government has not utilised that offer made in that agreement. Who is responsible for this delay in utilising the much-needed equipment offered by the Government of the U.S.S.R.?

SB* I ANNASHEB SHINDE: While the agreement was signed on the 25th November, 1966, it was supposed to be implemented in 1967-68 and there *has* been no misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and ourselves and the selection of the sites is likriy to take some time, but I do not see any difficulty in implementing the agreement.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I never suggested that there will be any misunderstanding with the Government of the U.S.S.R. over such a small thing but my question was, why the equipment offered in 1966 has not been received by this Government so far and the Gcvvernment has not yet selected the sites nor is in a position to receive the equipment? Who is responsible for this- delay and muddle?

SHE] J AG JI VAN RAM: The House should appreciate that in most of the-State sizeable area of land is not readily available, and if you require 10,006 or 15,000 or 20,000 acres of land, *m* all areas, such a large quantity of land is not available. The State Government will naturally take some time to locate the area which will be suitable for this purpose and efforts are being made in that direction. I think as it has been stated in the answer, in certain cases the matter has been finalised or is being further examined.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Could the Minister give us an idea of the size of these farms which have been offered by the States? Will he say in terms of acreage?

SHRI ANNASHEB SHINDE: The size of the farm is expected to be between 7,000 to 10,000 acres broadly— as a minimum— and of course if we get more area it would be welcome.

DIWAN CHAMAN LALL: That is the question that I wanted to ask.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I am not *Aatisfted* with Mr. Jagjivan Ram's reply because from my personal

knowledge I know that vast tracts of land fit for cultivation could be reclaimed and put under cultivation. This is going on for a number of years. How is it that they are not putting these lands which are lying fallow, under cultivation? They can be reclaimed and put under cultivation.

(No reply)

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: Mr. Chairman. Sir, the hon. Minister has just explained that they cannot have Central Statt farms until and unless large-sized land is available at a place. Is he not aware that any amount of land is available in Rajasthan and near Rajasthan Canal area where they can put up ten farms straightway if they like? What is it that they are searching for for the farms? What they want to produce is seed which, particularly, is in short supply, and which can be grown luxuriantly in that area. May I know, Sir, whether he has learnt any lessons from the Suratgarh farm, which was set up in Rajasthan more than five years back with a handsome offer from the U.S.S.R. and where a lot of machinery got for the purpose is still, even after five years, lying idle? Will he sort it out and do the needful.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: There is nothing to isort out. The farms have to be located in various States; they are not to be concentrated in one State—one thing. And another thing.....

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: Will it be a national view or a regional view?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Of course, national view in the context of the requirements of the various States, and without regional considerations the national aspect cannot be strengthened.

SHRI HARISH CHANDRA MATHUR: If nation is the consideration, the question is whether the land required for the purpose is

available or not. Now, even if the land is available, they will, it seems, still go on searching for it before starting the farms. And nothing much has been done about the Suratgarh farm. Let the hon. Minister answer.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am answering. The Rajasthan Canal area is not as simple as the hon. Member presumes it to be. I also claim to know something about the area near the Rajasthan Canal. It will require the spending of crores of rupees before the water can be reached there. It is not so simple as he thinks.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: What the hon. Member, Mr. Mathur, said is not as complicated as the hon. Minister wants to make it out. Is it not a fact that the Soviet Union did offer to set up a large number of farms, and that they were prepared to make facilities and also materials available to the Government of India, and that one reason why that offer could not be accepted was that some people in the Ministry of Agriculture and some people in the State did not fancy this kind of farms being set up? May I know whether the Rajasthan Government has told the Central Government, in the light of the question put by Mr. Mathur, that they would not be in a position to make land available to the Central Government?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: All the presumptions of the hon. Member are without any basis.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order, Sir. You know very well the difference between presumption, assumption and question. I make no presumption whatsoever. It is a question. He may read presumption or assumption into it. I only put a question whether the Rajasthan Government had said that they would not be in a position to make the land available to the Central Government. We have been told about the search

for land. Secondly, I wanted to know whether it is not a fact that the Soviet Union did make an offer for setting up a large number of farms, for which they were ready to supply the needed credit as well as the materials, equipment and so on. Where is the assumption about it?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I should say again that if the hon. Member had listened to the reply given to the main question, there would have been no occasion for this supplementary.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Is there any understanding that those who have offered the sites would be given preference or preferential treatment in point of distribution of seeds?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: In the matter of distribution of seeds, the requirements of States are being looked into and, I think, there will be no difficulty in regard to availability of seeds. And this is the long-term development aspect of the problem. As for the requirements and the availability of seeds, these are being looked into separately.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question..

STRIKE IN AIR INDIA

*2. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: SHRI NIRANJAN VARMA: DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR: SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the* pilots of Air India went on a strike on the 27th June, 1967;

(b) if so, the number of Air India flights that were cancelled during the strike period;

(c) what was the loss to Air India as a result of the strike;

*The question was actually on the floor of the House by Shri M. P. Bhargava.