

[Shri Niren Ghosh]
increased prices. That is the point I want to get clarified.

SHRIMATI JAHANARA JAIPAL SINGH : If you look at the statement, we propose to levy a surcharge of 57.5 per cent. We are considering whether we should charge it from all the vessels engaged in export.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the foreign shipping companies will have to pay 57.5 per cent. less than they were paying in the past ?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : If this 57.5 per cent increase is not there, the foreign shipping companies will stand to benefit. Therefore, any vessel that is earning foreign exchange has to pay, Indian or foreign.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : The hon'ble Minister gave a general assurance that costal shipping would not be affected by this devaluation and that freight would not go up. In the context of this assurance, how does he explain that even the Indian Airlines Corporation rates have gone up even though they only operate inside the country ?

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Because aircraft are purchased from foreign companies.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Coastal ships also have to be purchased.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : But we have to pay the loans in foreign exchange. Each dollar costs more today and it has to be paid in seven instalments. It is not as if we pay in rupees. All planes have to be paid in foreign exchange.

*423. [The questioner (Shri Mahabir Dass) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3359-60 infra.]

DEPARTMENT STORE IN NEW DELHI

*563. SHRI A. D. MANI : †
SHRI V. M. CHORDIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons proposed to be employed in the department store in

Cannaught Place, New Delhi, according to present plans; and

(b) what are the financial implications of the Store ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) :
(a) The strength of the staff to be employed will depend upon actual requirements from time to time.

(b) Government have so far provided a sum of Rs. 16.25 lakhs to the Store. The store is eligible to receive another sum of Rs. 3.10 lakhs according to the approved pattern of assistance.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, I am sorry the Minister has not given us adequate information about the number of persons employed at the present time, I mean the employees who have been working. I would like him to let us know what is the highest salary paid to an executive and what is the lowest salary paid. What is the salary range ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : I must humbly submit that the question does not ask for the number of persons at present employed ; otherwise I would have given it. I am now giving the supplementary answer. The number of employees today is about 842 in this Store. I am not in a position to say what is the maximum pay and the minimum pay.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, I would ask the Minister to give us information about the resources that he has in respect of working capital for the Store. Normally when a commercial concern of this kind is floated the working capital is secured from banks. I understand that because money to be obtained normally from commercial banks has been taken from the Government, the Finance Ministry has serious objections to financing the activities of the Store on an *ad hoc* basis. Would the Minister give us information on the steps that the Government are going to take to finance the working of this Store.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : I must say the information just passed on to the House is completely wrong. What has happened is that this is assistance in the shape of subsidy and loan, in the form of share capital—grant and loan—for furniture fixtures and fittings, to the Store. Besides, there is assistance in the form of loan given by commercial banks like the State Bank of

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. D. Mani.

India and other commercial scheduled banks. That arrangement is also there with the Super Markets that have been created and also the wholesale stores. For example, in this particular case of Super Bazar they have made their arrangements with the Syndicate Bank but they have not taken money so far because they did not need it. But they will get it on commercial terms. There is no question of any objection from the Finance Ministry. This is the minimum share capital which is required to get the loan assistance from commercial banks. That will be there. There is a guarantee scheme also.

SHRI A. D. MANI : Sir, Will the Minister give concrete information on the subject whether these co-operative stores are going to appoint Purchase Officers for the various centres of India or for the purchases made in Delhi because it is very important if they are going to have a network of Super Markets ? We should like to know what steps the Government are taking to buy their articles for the Stores ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : All the articles that are needed by the Super Markets and wholesale stores will be purchased from the manufacturers whether they are in Delhi or outside. To the extent it is required from places beyond Delhi we are making arrangements. We have appointed a Commissioner of Supplies in the Ministry of Commerce who will take care that the distributors and the manufacturers do not charge beyond the wholesale rate. That agreement will be there. We have declared about 12 items and another 3, about 15 items under the Essential Supplies Act so far. Sir, the Commissioner of Supplies has made arrangements through all manufacturers. They have agreed to give supplies to the consumers' stores. Therefore, that problem is being solved. And I am sure it is working very satisfactorily.

श्री विमल कुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलायेंगे कि इस बाजार के लिये कुल कितने रुपये की सबसिडी या किसी तरह का धन, जिससे रिटर्न आने वाला नहीं है वह धन, या और क्या-क्या सुविधायें बिना किसी कंसिडरेशन के दी गईं। एक बात। दूसरी बात यह है कि एक अखबार में

यह पढ़ने को मिला था कि प्रत्येक काउंटर पर सायंकाल को हिसाब लगाने पर दो सौ या तीन सौ रुपये की कमी आई, तो यह कहाँ तक सही है। इन दोनों बातों को बता देने का कष्ट करें।

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : श्रीमान्, इस बात को मैंने भी सुना था और मैंने दरियाफ्त किया तो मुझे बताया गया कि यह बात बिल्कुल गलत है। किसी काउंटर पर ऐसी शार्टेज नहीं मिली। जहाँ तक सबसिडी की बात है कुल टोटल 25 हजार रुपये की मैनेजेरियल सबसिडी है जो कि तीन सालों में दी जायगी। एक और है, 7 लाख रुपया फर्नीचर का दिया जायेगा और उसमें 25 परसेंट सबसिडी है और 75 परसेंट लोन है। इसके अलावा गवर्नमेंट और कोई सबसिडी नहीं दे रही है।

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know if the facility of financial accommodation which the Government has given to this Super Bazar will also be available to the Super Bazars which the State Governments may open in their respective States ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Yes, that is exactly the scheme that we have circulated and we are expecting that within this year we will have 60 more Super Bazars.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : He says that he expects 60 more Super Bazars. May I know whether all those 60 will be given the same financial accommodation as this one ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Yes.

SHRI K. DAMODARAN : A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has to be given as rent in addition to a part of the net sales and not a percentage of profit. Under such conditions, can the Government assure that the Department Store will function profitably and will not run on Government subsidies ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : That is the idea. The Department Stores are supposed to work on their own.

SHRI A. D. MANI : On commercial lines.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Yes.

SHRI K. K. SHAH : Is the Government aware that the Department Store's turnover has been so good that even the share capital

that has been supplied is not drawn on by the Departmental Store and in the evening the money is collected by the bank and the collection is sufficient to meet the requirements of its turnover ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Yes, that is my information also.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH : What is the daily loss which is suffered now ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : There is daily profit. There is no question of daily loss.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Since the Government has come to the conclusion that the Super Bazar is good for the community, not only for sale of goods but for checking the prices also, may I ask him why he is taking so much time and why the 60 Super Bazars which are to come are not coming soon ? He says that the others are coming on but even so, may I know if any will be opened this month ?

SHRI S. D. MISRA : When I said 60 Stores, I meant for the whole year by the end of March, 1967. We have had discussions with the State Governments. By the end of September we have planned to open 20, by the end of December another 20 and by March another 20 and that will bring up the number to 60. In this month also we are expecting that Super Bazar will be there and as a matter of fact only three days ago there was other Super Bazar opened in Delhi itself. We are expecting another 4 or 5 in Delhi. It is not that we do not want to do it now. Immediately we would like to do it but the problem is availability of suitable buildings. That is the biggest problem. In Delhi we have partly solved it in one or two areas and we hope within another two months we will be able to open 2 or 3 more but in other areas the same problem is there and it is being sorted out.

*564. [The questioner (Shri N. R. M. Swamy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3360 infra.]

*565. [The questioner (Shri D. Thengari) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 3360-61 infra.]

EX-FACTORY PRICES OF FERTILIZERS

*566. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FOOD, AGRICULTURE,

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizer Association of India has been given the right to fix ex-factory prices of fertilizers; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. D. MISRA) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir, but only for single superphosphates.

(b) 1. There is no statutory control on prices of single superphosphate. Till April 1966 the Government of India had been fixing informally the maximum ex-factory prices to be charged by Superphosphate Factories for single superphosphate after an half-yearly review in consultation with the Fertilizer Association of India as a representative of the Industry.

2. The price formula adopted for these reviews takes into account variations of the weighted average prices of the principal raw materials, namely, rock-phosphate and sulphur and of polythene-lined gunny bags in determining the prices. Of late the price of sulphur had been fluctuating widely and the industry faced difficulty in securing adequate supplies of sulphur at steady prices. Consequently the industry represented that the price of super phosphate should be reviewed and revised more frequently and that the Association of the Industry may be permitted to determine and notify fair ex-factory prices for different units from time to time guided by the same principles as were being adopted by the Government of India in determining the variations according to the existing formula.

3. The demand for superphosphate has been rising steadily while production has not increased to the extent necessary. Meanwhile in order to encourage increased production of fertilisers the Government of India has taken a policy decision to remove, as far as possible, controls on the Industry except in regard to maintenance of the quality of the product. This had to be applied to superphosphate manufacture also.