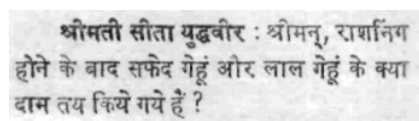


have to give them a little more salary. But it is not correct to say that it is more than the Central Government salary scales.



SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: That question does not arise out of this question. This is concerned with the overhead charges of the Corporation for handling the food-grains.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know what particular expenditure of the Corporation is going to be charged on the cost price of the cereals?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAN: There are two aspects. There are certain incidentals which are inevitable, whether it is handled by the Food Corporation or by any agency, for example, railway freight and various other things. As far as the administrative charge is concerned, when it was being done by the governmental agency, we allowed 78 paise per quintal, whereas for the Corporation we are allowing only 42 paise per quintal.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: At this rate is it going to be a "no profit, no loss" organisation?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This is a 'commercial organisation. It may incur loss or it may have some profit.

DROUGHT CONDITION IN PUNJAB

*648. SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has conveyed to the Government of India about the existence of serious drought condition in that State and

(b) if so, whether any steps have been taken to meet the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Punjab Government have reported drought conditions in some parts of Hissar and Mahendragarh Districts.

(b) Necessary relief measures are being taken.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: May I ask the hon. Minister if any estimate has been made as to how much will be the short-fall in production of cereals compared to last year due to drought conditions?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I presume the State Government must have made estimates themselves. They have not communicated that to us. They do it normally district-wise.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Overall.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I will have to find it out from the State Government. If the hon. Member will give me notice, I will find it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The faith of the House in estimates seems to be touching.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: May I ask the hon. Minister if he is in a position to tell us if any steps have been taken to meet the drought conditions? I know he cannot make it rain, but he can do something else. For instance, have any water pumps been energised and, if so, how many?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Pumps have been energised, but I cannot give the exact number. In addition to that we are supplying a large number of diesel pump sets, mobile sets, so that whatever water resources are available could be properly utilised. Yesterday I was in Chandigarh. They are taking all measures to see that the drought conditions are to a certain extent relieved.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: Has the hon. Minister been informed at Chandigarh yesterday that the waterlogged areas of Punjab will improve due to the drought conditions?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAN!: There are certain benefits arising out of drought also, that is, the waterlogging conditions might improve; but the water availability has decreased. That is likely to affect the production.

श्री जगन्नाथ प्रसाद : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी यह बतलाया कि ऐसे इलाकों में जहाँ ड्राट हुआ है वे डीजल इंजन प्रावाइड कर रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ पर आलरेडी डीजल इंजन लगे हुये हैं, क्या आप को इस बात का समाचार मिला है कि वे इंजन डीजल या क्रूड ऑयल के अभाव में ब्रेक पड़े हुये हैं। यदि हाँ, तो क्या आप उनके लिये कोई इन्स-चार्ज करने जा रहे हैं और क्या आप को राजस्थान सरकार से इसकी सूचना मिल चुकी है ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAN!: This impression of the hon. Member that they are lying idle is wrong. As a matter of fact there is pressure for more pumps, and we are encouraging producers to produce more pumps so that they may be made available to the various State Governments, and particularly Punjab I should have thought has been making use of these facilities.

SERVICES FOR FARMERS' FORUM

*649. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been utilising the services of the Farmers' Forum for stepping up agricultural production; and

(b) if so, the nature and extent of the cooperation of the Forum during 1964-65 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b) There has not been any particular collaboration of Farmers' Forum with Government for stepping up agricultural production during 1964-65. However, Bharat Krishak Samaj being one of the organisations representing the farmers gets itself associated with some such activities.

SHRI D. THENGARI: Is there proper co-ordination between the Bharat Krishak Samaj and the Food Department of the Government ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am sure the hon. Member is aware that the relations between the Samaj and the Agriculture Department were cool because of certain deficiencies in the organisation. We are trying to rectify them and to utilise this organisation to the best advantage possible as a voluntary agency to help in food production.

SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL: What are the deficiencies suffered by the Bharat Krishak Samaj ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: In the past there were some deficiencies with regard to the maintenance of accounts and accounting for certain receipts too. All these things are being rectified.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Usual Congress deficiencies.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरडिया :

क्या श्रीमान् यह बनलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारत कृषक समाज से जो रुपया लेना था उसके सम्बन्ध में क्या विभाग से कोई सेटिलमेंट हो गया है कि कितना रुपया उनसे लेने वाला निकला और कितना रुपया राइट आफ किया गया ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We have referred it to arbitration. I hope a decision will be taken soon.

Am STRIP IN THEKKADY (KERALA)

*650. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to construct an air strip in Thekkady to cater to the needs of foreign visitors to the famous Periyar lakes in Kerala;

(b) whether possibilities of helicopter services from important neighbouring towns