

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVILAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there will be volley of questions on by them if I say anything more. We will consider their suggestions. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shastriji, please take your seat. I have called for the next question. Shri A.K. Patel.

[*English*]

Expert Committee on Fixation of Remunerative Prices for Agricultural Produce

*143. DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of a former Planning Commission Member to go into all the issues connected with the fixation of remunerative prices for farmers' produce;

(b) whether the Committee has submitted any report; if so, its findings and Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether the reactions of the farmers' bodies have been sought on the recommendations of the Committee; if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVILAL): (a) Government have set up an Expert Committee for Review of Methodology of Cost of Production of Crops under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, Former Planning Commission Member. The Committee will also review the terms of trade between agriculture and non-agricultural

sectors and suggest any other measures to improve the remunerativeness of crop production.

(b) The Committee has submitted its Interim Report which is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Committee comprises of experts who are expected to examine technical issues involved from a scientific and objective angle. The farmers' bodies would however have opportunity to react to the recommendations of the Expert Committee after its report is released.

A committee of the representatives of farmers has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Joshi. They will also be asked to give their views. After that, the Government will consider the matter.

[*English*]

DR. A.K. PATEL: This topic was discussed in part during Eighth Lok Sabha several times but no result was achieved. This time luckily we have here Shri Devi Lal who is a person to handle this subject and I am hopeful that he will handle this subject.

This cost of production varies from place to place especially in Gujarat where we have to tap water from neighbouring States. Therefore, the cost of production is very high. What steps the Government is going to take to equalise the cost of production of crops for all the places?

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVILAL: Whatever he has said is absolutely right. Considering the conditions of almost every State, besides Shri Joshi's organisation, farmers' organisations of each State and all the Chief Ministers were asked to send the names of the representatives alongwith their bio-data. Based on the bio-data so received, a seven member committee has been appointed in each State which would look into the matter as to what procurement price should be fixed for a

particular grain in a particular State. All these things will be decided by that committee.

[English]

DR. A.K. PATEL : Sir, hon. Devi Lal-ji has replied to part (c) of the question wherein he has stated: "The farmers' bodies would however have opportunity to react to the recommendations of the Expert Committee after its report is released." What is the meaning in taking the opinion afterwards? Why don't the Government include the farmers' right from the beginning and ask the opinion? They should rather consider the farmers' suggestions for considering the cost of production of crops.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking why don't provide representation to the farmers in the committee?

SHRI DEVI LAL: If he could give a separate notice for this, I would tell their names later.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Had enquiries been made from the farmer to find out as to how much he spends on the fertilizers and seeds, he would have received the price based on the cost of these inputs.

SHRI DEVI LAL: While determining the price, all the crops would be taken into consideration. At the same time, the cost of production including the cost of various inputs and the managerial cost would also be taken into consideration. The woman who brings meals for the farmer working in the fields is called "Batwaran". I am afraid, I will have to impart this bit of adult education to you. The cost of her labour based on the time she spends in carrying meals from her house to the field would also be taken into consideration. Provision for all these factors will be made in it so that the farmer could get reasonable price. While fixing the price, the committee will also take into account any rise in the cost of inputs after the crop is sown

so that the farmer could get the right price. His terms of trade would be taken into consideration in order to know how much is spent by him on the crops he raises. In this way all the factors would be taken into consideration.

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister made a mention of setting up of an expert committee. I would like to know whether any guidelines have been formulated for the proposed committee to fix remunerative prices for the crops, taking into account capital investment and interest on the capital, other incidental expenditure and profit to be allowed and rise in general price-index of other commodities. I would like to know whether any guidelines have been issued to the expert committee, if not does the Government propose to issue any guideline in this regard so as to ensure remunerative prices for the produce of farmers.

SHRI DEVI LAL: While fixing prices for agricultural produce, wages paid to the labourers, expenditure incurred on ploughing the fields with the help of a pair of bullock or a tractor, etc. will be taken into account as farmers have to pay for it if they do not have a pair of bullock or a tractor of their own. Ploughing charges at the rate of Rs. 40/- per acre, no matter whether he ploughs the fields with the help of his own tractor or with the help of a hired tractor, will be taken into account. Perhaps he does not know what is a 'bund'. For him, a 'bund' is nothing more than raising the level of the land. It will also be taken into account. The prevailing prices of insecticides and fertilizers will also be taken into account. The Depreciation of agricultural implements will also be taken into account. Not only this, depreciation in the value of cattle-shed will also be taken into account. Expenditure incurred on irrigation and payment of revenue and other taxes on land will also be taken into account. These things never came in their minds earlier. Now we have set up a committee to go into all those aspects referred to above. It has been an outstanding demand of the farmers to provide them remunerative prices

for their produce, i.e. a price having a bearing on their costs of production. It is also demanded by the farmers that agriculture be given the status of an industry. In order to fulfil this demand, we have set up an expert committee which will decide as to how it can be done. It is not an ordinary committee. It is a committee with a tenure of 3 years. We will try to accept its recommendations to the extent possible. Its recommendations will be duly considered by our Government.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement laid by the hon. Minister on the table of the House has left many points unexplained. Neither the Finance Minister in his general Budget nor Shri Devi Lal in his written reply gave any hint as to whether the cost of land which is supposed to be capital investment, will be taken into account while fixing the prices of agricultural commodities. Therefore, I would like to submit that the interest on the cost of land which is the capital investment of the farmer should also be taken into account while fixing prices of agricultural commodities.

SHRI DEVI LAL: A decision would be taken keeping in view each and every aspect. It seems that he has not cared for going through the whole statement. Had I read it out in the House, it could have been said that I was wasting the time of the House. All these details are already there in the statement. As regards expenditure incurred, it will also be taken into account and decision would be taken keeping all these things in view. Besides, an amount equal to one and a half times of the wages of the labour prevailing in a particular area will also be taken into account for the management of farm by the farm owner.

Reinstatement of Dismissed DTC Employees

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*144. **SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:**
SHRI KARLA MUNDA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state—

(a) whether all the employees of the Delhi Transport Corporation dismissed for participating in the strike during March, 1988 have been reinstated;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a demand has been made for giving full salary to the reinstated employees for the period of their suspension; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Out of 3125 dismissed DTC employees, 2906 have been reinstated in service of DTC as on 12-3-1990.

(b) 72 dismissed employees who have represented for their reinstatement and who have been asked to join duty have not yet reported for duty. The remaining 147 employees have not approached DTC for reinstatement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No decision has so far been taken in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as hon. Minister stated that out of 3115 dismissed employees, 2906 employees have been reinstated. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether it is not the duty of the Government to call the remaining employees to report for duty. Will the Government take action to inform the remaining employees to report for duty?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a general announcement has already been made in this regard and these employees also know that the Government