

to start the work ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : We did receive a letter from the Secretary, Transport of the Tamil Nadu Government. We have no plan for it. There was no correspondence made with the Central Government. There has been a correspondence between the Vayudoot authority and the State Government and they said that they will have the technical feasibility to find out whether there is enough traffic or not but we have no plan.

**Extension of Employees State Insurance
Scheme to Workers Employed in
Tailoring Shops**

*447. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tailoring shops employing 10 or more persons and using electricity for ironing and stitching have been covered by the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Such shops are covered in certain specified areas.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had put a very specific question to the hon. Minister, but even a simple question has not been answered properly. He has said in his reply that such shops are covered in certain specified areas. It is your own regulation and the tailoring shops where power is being used and more than ten employees are employed are covered under it. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether in such a case the Government will enforce this rule ? As you are saying here that the shops are covered in certain specified areas, I would like to know as to how you would discriminate between shops in different areas ? I want a clear-cut reply from the Minister in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, to the specific question of the hon. Member, my answer is, 'Yes'. He wanted to know whether the tailoring shops employing 10 or more persons are covered under the ESI scheme. So, the answer is, Yes they are covered. Now, since he wants an explanation, so I will explain him.

According to the Act, ESI scheme is made applicable in an area where there are factories employing 20 or more persons and also using the power. So, the ESI has to cover this category first. After having covered all the factories employing 20 or more persons and also using electricity, the State Governments are empowered to apply this Act to the factories employing 10 to 19 persons and using electricity and then to the factories employing 20 persons but are not using electricity. So, this is the second category. After having finished all the shops under this category, in the third category, the State Governments are empowered to cover shops, hotels, restaurants, cinemas, including theatres, road transport, newspaper establishments. These are the three broad areas where this Act is applied and that is why I used the word, 'in specified areas'. Thus this Act is applied in the order of first category, second category and then the third category respectively.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a clear-cut reply has not been given by the hon. Minister. I would like to know again the number of shops where more than ten workers are employed and power is used and whether all of them would be covered under E.S.I. or not ? I want a clear-cut reply in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Sir, it is not applied uniformly in all the areas. It is for the State Government to judge whether it should be applied or not.

Now, so far as the question whether the tailoring shops employing 10 or more persons should be covered under the ESI Act or not, it was the decision of the Supreme Court itself. Some people with this plea went to the court, but the lower court said,

“ESI cannot be applied to the tailoring shops”. Then they went to the High Court. The High Court also said. “No, ESI cannot be made applicable to these tailoring shops”. Ultimately they went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has upheld that the ESI Act can be made applicable to the tailoring shops employing 10 or more persons.

Increase in Price of Sugarcane

*451. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have decided to increase the cost of molasses by hundred per cent ;

(b) whether there is any benefit to the sugarcane growers by this increase in the price of molasses ;

(c) if so, the likely increase of price of sugarcane per tonne ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not increasing the price of sugarcane ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) From 1-10-1987 the price of factory molasses has been increased from Rs. 60/- per tonne to Rs. 120/- per tonne.

(b) to (d). The impact of increase in the price of molasses on the price of sugarcane is very small. The benefit accruing from higher realisations from molasses will get passed on to the consumers of levy sugar distributed through the Public Distribution System. The Central Government fixes only the statutory minimum price of sugarcane. The actual prices received by the growers are generally much higher under the advice of the State Governments. For example, the growers in Uttar Pradesh will be getting a price of Rs. 27 to Rs. 26 per quintal of sugarcane as against the statutory minimum price of Rs. 18.00 per quintal linked to a recovery of 8.5% fixed for the 1987-88 season.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Sir, it is very unfortunate that this Government is showing a step motherly attitude

towards the agriculturists and that is evident in the answer. The price of molasses has been doubled from Rs. 60/- to Rs. 120/-. The consumer gets a benefit, the factory owner gets a benefit, but no benefit is given to the farmers. Why the Central Government is not considering to give some benefit to the farmers ? Why don't you give something more to the farmers or to the growers because he is the man who is responsible for growing it and affected very much ? Why don't you increase the support price so that the grower may get some benefit ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, I have amply replied that this is a negligible amount. The price received by the farmer is much higher than the price fixed by the Government because the statutory prices are less than the prices advised by the State Government. The price advised by the State Government is much higher. I can give you examples. I have given the example of Uttar Pradesh. In Bihar, when the minimum notified prices in 1986-87 were Rs. 17 to Rs. 21.40 P., the farmers were getting Rs. 24.50 P. ; in Punjab, against Rs. 17 to Rs. 20.80 P., it was Rs. 26 to Rs. 29 ; in Haryana, against Rs. 17 to Rs. 20.40 P., it was Rs. 25 to Rs. 28. In all the States, the prices received by the farmers are much higher than the statutory prices fixed. Another point is that while calculating the cost of the levy sugar, we will have to calculate the cost of production of sugarcane and the prices given. So, if we take into consideration the statutory prices, the levy price sugar will go up and it will be much higher, and the benefit accruing to the farmer is very very negligible, not even one paise.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : I am told that by using the molasses, we can produce alcohol. The cost of alcohol in the market is very very high. By using one tonne of molasses, the Government is able to get rupees five to six thousand more. Whether it is correct ? What is the amount the Government spends for converting one tonne of molasses into alcohol ? What is the net profit the Government gains by converting one tonne of molasses into alcohol ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This question does not relate to my Ministry. It is the Industry Ministry which can reply, because I can speak about the cane