

scheme with the Government to prepare a joint scheme for Maharashtra where the depth is more.

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** There is a separate scheme for installation of deep tubewells. Besides, we want to instal more than 10 lakh dug-wells in a year in the country. After the new scheme is ready, we will see if those in Maharashtra where the water level has gone down very much, can be brought under this scheme.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir in his reply the hon. Minister has stated that if it is found necessary to instal deep tubewells, he will consider that. In this connection, I would like to know from the hon. Minister upto how many feet tubewells are not treated as deep and upto how many feet tubewells are treated as deep? Has he prescribed any definition for this because the farmers are facing injustice and bungling in the name of the depth.

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, generally, shallow tube-wells are successful upto a depth of 100'. 125' and 150'. Therefore, if the water is more than 150 feet deep, it is called a deep well. It requires a big motor i.e. a motor of higher horse-power. We will also try in this regard, I have already said that Uttar Pradesh has been included in shallow tube-wells scheme. At those places where the water level is deep, deep tube-wells will be installed. Apart from these schemes, other schemes could also be introduced. We are conducting survey for this purpose and examining the matter. It is hoped that we will be able to take a final decision in this regard very soon.

[*English*]

**SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any element of subsidy in this scheme. If so, is the benefit of it such subsidy available to poor cultivators regardless of their caste, i.e. even if they do not belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? If not, in view of the urgency of the situation and also in view of the anxiety of the Government to bring more and more land under irrigation, will

the Government consider giving subsidy to all poor cultivators regardless of their caste?

I would also like to know whether these shallow tubewells are meant to provide irrigation only during Kharif season or during Rabi too, During Rabi also, the existing water level may not be sufficient. Therefore, is there any scheme to deepen these tubewells to provide irrigation even during Rabi season?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of Rabi and Kharif crops in it. The question is about installation of tube-wells and for this an assistance of Rs. 3000/- i.e. Rs. 1500/- from the Central Government and Rs. 1500/- from the State Government is given. A total amount of Rs 88.92 crores will be spent in the whole country for this and 5,92,834 tube-wells will be installed.

**SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes be provided any assistance under this scheme?

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL :** Marginal farmers will be given assistance under this scheme and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are also covered under it

#### **Bonded Labour**

[*English*]

\* 547. **SHRI PKAKASH V. PATIL :**

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to lack of proper follow-up action, a large number of released bonded labourers are reverting to bondage;

(b) whether Government have conducted a survey in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to prevent such reversion of labour bondage?

[*Translation*]

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA):** (a) No such report has been received by the Government.

(b) No specific survey on this aspect has been conducted. However, certain evaluation studies have been conducted. These studies have made some suggestions for improvements in the programme.

(c) The responsibility for rehabilitation of released bonded labourers lies with the concerned State Government. The financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourers has been increased from Rs. 4,000/- to Rs 6,250. per bonded labourer w.e.f. 1.2.1986. In addition to this, the State Governments have been requested to integrate the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour with other on going anti-poverty programmes like IRDP, NREP, RLEGP etc.

A scheme for involvement of voluntary agencies in work relating to identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour has been introduced from 30.10.1987.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of labour that when our country has reached the gateway of 21st century and made progress, why the bonded labour problem is still prevalent in the society? This problem is not only an administrative problem but also a social evil. Has the Government taken any measures to solve this problem at social level? It has been seen that the whole responsibility is thrust upon the State Governments. I, therefore, would like to know whether the Central Government also interfere in this work and whether the State Governments have made any suggestions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): There are two to three agencies that have identified them and according to the figures made available to us 2,24,562 persons have been identified upto 20th February, 1988. Efforts have been made to rehabilitate them by providing means of livelihood, shelter, bank assistance and help from Central and State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just listen, please. It is not a thing, which can be done by thrusting it on others. We are

as much concerned with the bonded labour as you are. Out of 2,24,562 persons identified by us, 1,98,508 persons have already been rehabilitated in co-operation with the State Governments. As regards remaining 26,054 persons, the Government is making every effort to see that they get full assistance from the States and the banks have also been asked to provide assistance to them. Each bonded labour is given an assistance of Rs. 6,250/- which is met by the Central Government and the State Government on fifty-fifty basis. Apart from this, keeping in view the schemes launched by the Government and the banks each bonded labour has been provided a benefit of Rs. 15,000.

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : What measures is the Government taking for the social and economical security of the bonded labourers. Is there any proposal with the Government to pay wages to these labourers through crossed cheques so that their economic exploitation could be checked? Besides, what provisions have been made to pay wages for the leave period? At the same time what steps the Government is taking to check the tendency in these labourers not to do any work?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : The whole responsibility in this connection lies on the State Governments. It is up to them to enforce their own laws as they deem fit keeping in view the prevailing situation.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : A Committee of the Members of Parliament was formed by the Labour Ministry under the Leadership of Shri Gurudas Dass Gupta, M.P., Ralya Salha. They conducted a study of these agricultural labourers in various parts of the country, say Bihar, etc. They have stated that agriculture is the major place where bonded labourers are there. A number of such people are recruited by the people and they use them as bonded labourers for taking work from them in their States and all that.

I would like to know whether the recommendations made by that Committee have been implemented and also whether the Government will consider implementing the minimum wages for the agricultural sector?

And if the minimum wages are not paid and the regulations which are given in that field are not observed and the prosecution are launched against such persons, will it help to prevent abolition of bonded labourers by landlords and people like that ?

**SARI JAGDISH TYTLER :** This question relates to two distinct kind of labours bonded labour and the labour which works in the field.

I would like to answer by saying that as per the Committee's Report—I think I am subject to correction—most of the recommendations which were given by that Committee have been accepted, except these two.

**PROF. MADHU DANAVATE :** This is the question which I am asking to the fifth Labour Minister. I hope, I will get a satisfactory reply.

Is it not a fact that the Supreme Court had already deputed its representative to visit the stone quarries in Faridabad and try to find out the first-hand evidence regarding the complaints concerning bonded labour ?

Is it not a fact that the report was submitted sometime back and that the Supreme Court had given its directions and those directions regarding the bonded labours in Faridabad still remains unimplemented ?

If so, will you use your good offices to see that once and for all this problem is settled ? Because you are a fresh Minister, you can do it with a fresh mind.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Young too.

**SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER :** I would like to assure the hon. Member that the Report which was given by the Supreme Court has been sent to the State Government. But I will see to it that with our good offices, I will try to persuade the State Government to implement it as quickly as possible.

[Translation]

FCI Godowns in Rajasthan

\*548. **PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT :**

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has got constructed the godowns on scientific lines through private parties in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the storage capacity of those godowns;

(c) whether there is a scheme of sending the foodgrains for storage to other places from Rajasthan;

(d) whether foodgrains remained lying in the open and got damaged and rotten;

(e) if so, the details of such damages; and

(f) the effective steps proposed to be taken for proper storage of the foodgrains produced in the country in future ?

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) :** (a) to (f) A Statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. These godowns were constructed by the private parties as per the specifications prescribed by the Food Corporations of India (FCI).

(b) The FCI had hired covered storage capacity of 3.71 lakh tonnes from private parties in Rajasthan.

(c) The foodgrain stock is moved to and stored in Rajasthan not only to meet the requirement of the State but also meet the requirements of other States. Stocks are, therefore, despatched from Rajasthan to other States also to the extent required.

(d) and (e) During 1986-87, the foodgrain stock held in cover-and-plinth (CAP) storage in Rajasthan varied from 2.69 lakh tonnes to 4.84 lakh tonnes at different points of time. Of these stocks, 156 tonnes of wheat was damaged during the year.