

financial loss some collieries have been closed, may I know whether Government have made any serious study of this question and not simply taken the information doled out by the companies? It is known to us that many companies refuse to pay bonus and other dues and they have closed the collieries to deprive the workers of their legitimate dues.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : We have made a study. I am prepared to give colliery by colliery the reasons for closure, but that will be a long exercise. But I certainly agree that in some cases there is an element of bypassing the present obligation as far as possible.

SHRI R. N. SHARMA : About section 25F of the Industrial Disputes Act, the minister said closure is not retrenchment, whereas it has always been treated as retrenchment. How does he come to the conclusion that closure is not retrenchment of workers?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : On the question of retrenchment, it is obligatory on the employer to give notice and make payment. But on the question of closure, though it is obligatory, it is difficult to give notice. That is the distinction. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Demand for Increase in Supply of Boiled Rice to Kerala

*94. **SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was any demand from Kerala Government to increase the supply of boiled rice to that State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The Government of Kerala have, from time to time, been demanding supply of a much quantity of coarse boiled rice for public

distribution in the State as possible. While Kerala is being given a substantial share of the coarse boiled rice available in the Central pool, the availability of coarse boiled rice and even of boiled rice of medium and fine varieties being limited, it is not possible to make the entire supply to Kerala in the shape of boiled rice. Supply of raw rice against part of their requirement is inescapable.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : Time and again, we, the Kerala members are raising this question of boiled rice in this House. In the last Lok Sabha also we asked a question and almost the same answer was given. When we hear such answers the people of Kerala are forced to think that the Central Government are treating us with callousness. Anyway, we are not asking for the entire amount of coarse boiled rice. We are used to such rice. Now it is the monsoon season there and within a few days, the whole coastal region will be flooded and if you give raw rice to those areas, surely cholera will break out there and this Government will have to spend more to check the cholera. Under these circumstances, will the minister reconsider the matter and send some more boiled rice to Kerala?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : The position of supply of rice in the country as a whole including Kerala is very easy. The difficulty is about boiled rice. Even there we are doing whatever is possible. Out of the total coarse boiled rice available 27,000 tons were given to West Bengal and 2,27,000 tons to Kerala. So the maximum that is possible to be given to Kerala. Therefore I do not know why the hon. Member is complaining. The other types of rice are easily available in the country and even the Kerala depots are full with rice. There is limitation only on the supply of boiled rice.

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN : I was referring to boiled rice and not to some other varieties of rice. If the position of the Central Government is so difficult on this issue will the government consider the repeated demand of the Kerala Government to supply rice from Andhra to Kerala through the FCI?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : The FCI is looking into it and the maximum possible help will be given by us.

SHRI SHANKARRAO SAVANT : Which are the areas which demand boiled rice ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Kerala and West Bengal.

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : अमामयिक वर्षा से पूर्ण भारतवर्ष में, विशेषकर बिहार में, चने और गेहूँ की फमल को हानि पहुँची है। क्या सरकार यह आश्वासन देगी कि इसके कारण मूल्य-वृद्धि नहीं होगी ?

श्रीधर महोदय : यह गवाल तो केरल के वाटे में है।

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : इसका असर पूरे भारतवर्ष में पड़ेगा और केरल भी भारतवर्ष में ही है। क्या सरकार आश्वासन देगी कि मूल्य-वृद्धि नहीं होगी।

SHRI P. R. SHENOY : May I know whether the artificial scarcity of boiled and other rice in Kerala and some parts of Mysore cannot be removed by abolishing the present zonal system and creating one single zone for the whole of South India ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I do not think a solution is so easy.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : The Food Corporation of India is supplying very bad quality rice at 20 per cent above the market rate. It is very bad quality rice and I wish I could produce it here to show how really bad it is. Why is it that such rice is supplied at such high prices ? Will the government enquire into the reasons ? Is it not a fact that the bureaucrats of FCI are corrupt and that is why this is happening ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : There is no shortage of rice in Kerala. In fact, even the market availability is easy.

If there are any specific cases where our standing instructions are not followed, if they are brought to our notice, we will take necessary action. Now the consumers can get their requirements from the FCI but there is no compulsion. Moreover, there are standing instructions that such rice should not be issued.

Nationalisation of Sugar Industry

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*95. **SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF :**
PROF. S. L. SAKSENA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have chalked out any programme to nationalise the sugar industry in the country ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (KRISHI MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Central Government have already set up a Commission of Inquiry on the 28th September, 1970 under the Chairmanship of a retired Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court to undertake a detailed and comprehensive examination of the working of the sugar industry and the various problems relating thereto, especially in the context of the demand for nationalisation of the industry. Government will examine the matter further on receipt of the report of the Commission.

SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : May I know whether the Government expect, after the decontrol of sugar, any upward trend in the price of Sugar, particularly in Tamil Nadu where there is a glut of stocks ?

SHRI SHER SINGH : This question is about the nationalisation of the industry.

MR. SPEAKER : The upward trend of prices too big a question to be answered on this very simple question. You can ask another question.