

बिहार विधान सभा वादवृत्त ।

बुधवार, तिथि २८ मार्च, १९५१ ।

भारत के संविधान के उपबन्ध के अनुसार एकत्र विधान सभा का कार्य-विवरण ।
सभा का अधिवेशन पटने के सभा सदन में बुधवार, तिथि २८ मार्च, १९५१ को
पूर्वाह्न ११ बजे माननीय अध्यक्ष श्री विन्ध्येश्वरी प्रसाद वर्मा के सभापतित्व में हुआ ।

अल्प-सूचना प्रश्नोत्तर ।

Short Notice Questions and Answers.

RISE IN THE PRICES OF RICE IN PATNA RATION SHOPS.

48. Shri NAND KISHORE NARAYAN LAL : Will the Hon'ble the Minister in charge of the Supply and Price Control Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of rice in the ration shops of Patna have been raised from Rs. 22-12-0 to about Rs. 30 a maund ; if so, the reason thereof ;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the negative, the prices of all the different commodities supplied to card-holders of Patna ;

(c) whether it is a fact that a very large number of Government servants of the Secretariat and attached offices who are low paid are facing hunger and starvation these days ;

(d) whether it is a fact that such Government servants are selling their wife's ornaments and other belongings to give at least one meal a day to their family and children ;

(e) whether Government have considered the baneful effect of increase in the prices of rations on the already famished poor Government servants without any corresponding increase in their salary ?

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : (a) It is not a fact that the retail price of the same variety of rice has been raised from Rs. 22-12-0 per maund to Rs. 30 per maund in the ration shops. Certain variety of Punjab rice costing this Government about Rs. 22 per maund had been sold at the wholesale rate of Rs. 22 per maund from Government godown and retail rate of Rs. 22-12-0 per maund from ration shops at Patna. It is also a fact that certain variety of overseas fine rice costing this Government Rs. 28-2-0 per maund is being sold at the wholesale rate of Rs. 28-2-0 per maund from Government godown at Patna and retail rate of Rs. 29-1-0 per maund plus sales tax from the Patna ration shops. d

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Government have been taking steps from time to time to get the entire award fully implemented.

Shri JAGANNATH SINGH : I would like to know whether Government are aware of the fact that in spite of the assurances of Government and in spite of the half-hearted measures taken by Government the award remains unimplemented ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : If you presume that the measures were half-hearted, then where is your question ?

Shri JAGANNATH SINGH : Very well, Sir, I shall omit the words 'half-hearted'. Are Government aware of the fact that in spite of the assurances of Government and in spite of the steps taken by them the award remains unimplemented and the staff are groaning under a sense of frustration ?

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : I have already answered that Government are taking steps. Though they have not yet succeeded fully yet they hope that they will be able to see that the entire award is implemented in due course.

Shri JAGANNATH SINGH : Are Government aware of the fact that owing to the inordinate delay in getting the award implemented a crisis is brewing and an industrial unrest is in the air ?

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Crisis may be brewing and industrial upheaval may take place any time but Government are fully alive to their duties and responsibilities. If the hon'ble member thinks that a crisis is brewing necessary steps will be taken by Government to avoid it.

RETRENCHMENT IN SUGAR FACTORIES.

A. *347. Shri JAGANNATH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Hon'ble Minister incharge of the Labour Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that certain sugar factories are contemplating to make either substantial retrenchment or complete disbandment of the Cane and Cane Development Departments on the ground that (i) they are now to obtain supplies of cane through Cane-growers' Societies and that (ii) the Government and Societies propose to take up the entire cane development work ;

(b) whether it is a fact that no decision has been taken by Government for compulsory supply of cane in the reserved areas through the agency of Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies ;

A.—Postponed from the 22nd February, 1951.

(c) Development Departments of sugar factories without making proper and adequate alternate arrangements for the Cane Development work, namely, survey, propaganda, distribution of seeds and manure, etc. ;

(d) if answers to clauses (a) to (b) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to take any action on the decisions of the Sugar Factories regarding retrenchment in Cane Development Department ?

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Compulsory supply of cane is already being made through such of the Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies as have two-thirds of the growers as their members. So far as societies with less than two-third of growers as members are concerned, steps have been taken for the amendment of the Bihar Sugar Factories Act with a view to provide for compulsory supply of cane in selected areas through them. A Bill for the purpose was introduced in the Legislative Assembly during the current session and the Bill has been referred to a Select Committee.

(c) Government propose to advise the factories that so long as entire supply of cane is not entrusted to the Canegrowers' Co-operative Societies, the factories should not reduce any staff of the Cane and Cane Development Sections. The Committee appointed by Government to advise regarding the Cane Development work has recommended that the factories should continue to maintain their existing cane development staff, whose activities should be co-ordinated with those of the Cane Development work being undertaken by Government. The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of Government.

(d) But apart from it, Government have evolved a procedure with the consent of the employers and employees in sugar factories to regulate retrenchment and they are glad to say that the procedure is being followed by factories generally. According to this procedure, each proposal for retrenchment about which there is difference of opinion between the factory and the registered and recognised Trade Unions is scrutinised by the Labour Commissioner, whose decision is finally accepted by the parties.

Shri JAGANNATH SINGH : I would like to know whether the decision of Government that cane development work should not be discontinued by the Sugar Factory has been communicated to all the factories of the State ?

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : Certainly.

Shri JAGANNATH SINGH : Are Government aware of the fact that in spite of the decision of Government some factories of this

State are proposing to retrench the Cane Development staff, for example, the Rohtas, etc. ?

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : If they propose any retrenchment they must do it under the terms of agreement laid down with Government.

PREFERENCE TO GIVE CONTROLLED GOODS TO MULTI-PURPOSE CO-OPERATIVES.

B. *687. Shri JAGANNATH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Hon'ble Minister incharge of the Supply and Price Control Department be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is the policy of Government to give preference to multi-purpose co-operatives in giving quota of cloth, sugar and other controlled goods ;

(b) whether it is a fact that in Sadr Subdivision of Shahabad preference is being given to individual dealers ignoring the claims of co-operatives in the matter of opening Fair Price Shops and giving quota of cloth in villages like Sakaddi, Dhamar, etc., etc., in p.-s. Mufassil ;

(c) the total number of Fair Price Shops in Sadr Subdivision and the number of individual dealers and co-operatives to whom quota has been given separately ;

(d) if answers to clauses (a) and (b) be in the affirmative what are the reasons for giving preference to individuals over co-operatives ?

The Hon'ble Dr. ANUGRAH NARAYAN SINHA : (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Up to 14th March, 1951 the Fair Price Shops of cloth in this district were not being given to the Co-operative Societies as a matter of policy for the following reasons :—

(i) A good percentage of cloth is allotted to the State Co-operative Bank direct by Government. Out of January and February, 1951 district quota as much as 121 bales (88 plus 33) have been so allotted to the State Co-operative Bank for distribution amongst the Co-operative Societies of this district. The Assistant Registrar has been requested to account for these bales before any additional quota could be given to him.

(ii) The Co-operative Societies have so far confined their sales to their members only. They have not extended the benefit to the other people of the place of locality where they exist. As such it was not thought proper to get the cloth distributed through them, when they were already getting special quota for their society direct.

B.—Postponed from the 21st March, 1951.

NOTE.—Starred questions nos. 684—686 lapsed.