

would be in a position to enlighten us about the steps taken by his Deputy Prime Minister to check prices in this country because in spite of his assurance, prices are rising beyond the purchasing capacity of the poor man, the common man ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : By and large the prices of foodgrains have their reaction on the prices of manufactured commodities. With good prospects of crop, a lower trend is noticeable in foodgrain prices, when the main harvest has still to come in and arrive in the market. There is no doubt that there will be an appreciable fall in the prices of foodgrains, and it will have its effect on the prices of other commodities.

SHRI NAMBIAR : Is it wishful thinking ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : It is real thinking.

SHRI HEM BARUA : He has not replied to my question. He is indulging in pious hopes that because of the good harvest prices may fall. I was interested in knowing the steps that Government have taken in the light of the assurance given by the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : One important step that has been taken is the amendment of the Essential Commodities Act which is coming before the House.

MR. SPEAKER : We are having a food debate, he is giving us some time. We have spent 20 minutes, and still so many people are there. If you want to continue this, I do not mind.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : On the question of foodgrain prices, in view of the conflicting interests of the urban population and the rural population, the policy of cheap foodgrains has been to greatest disincentive to the production of more foodgrains in our country. I would like also to point out to the hon. Minister that if an increase in food production leads to a proportionate fall in prices, then the primary producer

stands where he is. The only contribution to the rising prices is that which is added by the middlemen which may be avoided, because that is not....

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing anything; please put your question.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : I want an assurance that the policy of cheap foodgrains is not continued. (*Interruption*)

MR. SPEAKER : We are not discussing all those questions now. Next question.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि प्रश्न सं० 325 को भी साथ ही ले लिया जाय ।

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

F.A.O. CONFERENCE

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*302. **SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :**

SHRI MAYAVAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that he attended the Conference of F.A.O. in Rome; and

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at the Conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides other formal items, the following important subjects were discussed at the Conference :—

- (i) F.A.O.'s Food Production Resources Programme;
- (ii) Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development;
- (iii) Review of the F.A.O.'s General Structure;

- (iv) F.A.O.'s Draft Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1968-69;
- (v) Use of Arabic and German for interpretation in the F.A.O.'s General and Regional Conferences;
- (vi) Appointment of new Director General; and election to the Committees of the Organisation;
- (vii) Admission of new Members.

FOOD AID FROM U.S.A.

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*325. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :
SHRI MAYAVAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to Rome, he had discussions with the officials of U.S. Government in regard to the request for 6 million tonnes of foodgrains during the next year;

(b) whether any assurance has been sought from the U.S. Government; and

(c) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :

(a) The U.S. Secretary for Agriculture met the Minister for Food and Agriculture and had a discussion with him regarding schemes for agricultural development as well as our foodgrain requirements for 1968.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने रोम में अमरीकी अफसरों से अमरीका से अन्न लेने के सम्बन्ध में जो बातें कीं, तो क्या इस दफा अमरीकी अफसरों ने कोई ऐसी शर्त रखी है जैसी पहले उन्होंने कभी नहीं रखी थी ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) :

with the Secretary of State of the USA about the prospect of agricultural production, the agriculture strategy and also roughly the requirements of food-grains to be imported from outside. No new condition was suggested.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : क्या यह बात सही है कि उस बैठक में मोटे तौर पर अमरीका इस वक्त हिन्दुस्तान के सामने यह शर्त रख रहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान फूड का जोनल सिस्टम पहले खत्म करे तब अमरीका से यहाँ अन्न आ सकता है और क्या यह सही है कि इस बैठक में यह बात उठाई गई थी। अगर उठाई गई थी तो मंत्री महोदय का उस पर क्या रिएक्शन हुआ ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : बातें तो बहुत उठाई गईं, लेकिन जोनल रेस्ट्रिक्शन के बारे में फैसला हमारा होगा, किसी दूसरे का नहीं होगा। और अभी जोनल रेस्ट्रिक्शन नहीं हटाया जायेगा।

SHRI S. KUNDU : We are all aware that the Director-General of FAO was Mr. B. R. Sen, who did valuable work for this organisation. At this time we read in the newspapers that he is not going to be there any longer. The matter was like this : the Members' Committee felt that the Government of India has not properly utilised the very project aid that has come from the FAO, and secondly, due to the Government's wrong foreign policy, they also did not like to sponsor one of our reputed men in this international organisation. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as he was there at Rome, whether he took up the appointment of Mr. Sen in all seriousness there and whether he canvassed his candidature and if he had canvassed for him, whether he is prepared to say that in not being able to sponsor him to the Director-Generalship, F.A.O., he has also pulled down the prestige of India in the Comity of nations.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : It is not desirable that we discuss personalities here. The fact is, we sponsored Dr. Sen's name, but the question of eligibility was raised. On the question of eligibility on technical ground and not on merit in the committee meeting, it