

PURCHASE OF WHEAT IN HARYANA BY F.C.I.

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*62. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU:
SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM:
SHRI SATYA NARAIN SINGH:
SHRI K. RAMANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has not been able to buy fixed target of wheat in Haryana;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat target fixed and the total quantity of wheat purchased so far;

(c) the reasons for low quantity of wheat purchased; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure the purchase of adequate quantity of wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (c). The work relating to purchase of foodgrains including wheat had not been entrusted by the State Government to the Food Corporation of India. Towards the end of December, 1967 when the market prices of wheat showed a downward trend, the State Government called upon the Corporation to undertake purchase of wheat. As the Corporation undertook these purchases as a price support measure no targets were fixed. It purchased a small quantity of about 93 tonnes of wheat. The reason for the low purchase is reported to be that most of the wheat offered for sale in the mandis was heavily weevilid.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Will the hon. Minister tell us why is it that the present Government in Haryana has

failed to co-operate with the F.C.I. and bring the price within the stipulated price of F.C.I. and thus help the procurement work?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: When the former Government of Haryana was in power, they did not allow the Food Corporation to purchase....

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: I was asking about the present Government.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Thereafter, when the present Government saw that the price trend was downward and producers were likely to suffer, they requested the Food Corporation to step in and the Food Corporation has stepped in accordingly.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: Even in whatever little quantity the Food Corporation has purchased in Haryana, the quality of the foodgrain is supposed to be residual and very inferior. What is the reason for that?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The local trade had hoarded some quantities perhaps with the expectation that the zones might be removed. Now with the prospects of good crop, they feel that it is not worthwhile to hoard up stocks and the damaged grains are now being brought to the market. As far as the good quality grains are concerned, I may assure that it will be purchased, as has been assured before also, at the procurement price.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU: So, they are negotiating the price with the big holders.

श्री स्तम्भनाथरायण सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि फड कारपोरेशन के फैसले के बाद हरियाणा से बहुत बड़ी तादाद में गेहूँ हरियाणा से बाहर भेजा गया है— क्या यह बात सच है? यदि सच है तो इसको रोकने के लिए सरकार ने कौन से कदम उठाये हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As far as the purchases are concerned, very small quantities were purchased, as I have already mentioned. Before that, the State Government had also purchased some substantial quantities, and they had made it available to the Centre; about 49,000 tonnes of wheat were made available to the Centre for being despatched to other States and that was made available to the other States according to the desire of the Haryana Government. As regards rice, 87,000 tonnes which were made available to the Centre were also despatched outside. As far as the illegal movements are concerned, I have no knowledge.

SHRI K. RAMANI: From the answer of the hon. Minister it seems that the former Haryana Government did not co-operate with the Food Corporation of India in purchasing the quantity of wheat that they wanted to purchase. Now, when actually the prices have gone down, the Food Corporation has failed to purchase. Do not both these things reveal that the Central Government are not having a co-ordinated policy along with the State Governments in arranging for proper procurement to fulfil the quota? Supposing this happens tomorrow in Andhra Pradesh or in other States, what will be the position? Will the Central Government take action to have a co-ordinated food policy along with the State Governments in regard to the price as well as the quota to be purchased?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I have made it very clear that as far as the Government of India are concerned, we have assured the producers in this country that we shall be purchasing foodgrains as and when the prices fall below the procurement level.

As far as Haryana is concerned, I have explained the specific difficulty namely that the Haryana Government did not at that time desire that the Food Corporation of India should step in. This matter was considered at the previous Chief Ministers' Conference.

and the specific mode of procurement in a particular year was left to the discretion of the State Government. As far as the particular mode of procurement is concerned, the Government of India do not think that they should intervene in the matter; it should be left entirely to the discretion of the State Government. But as and when the State Government desire, we are prepared to take our share and shoulder the responsibility.

SHRI HEM BARUA: The President's Address to Parliament has pin-pointed the fact that we are having a harvest of 95 million tonnes this year; and there is a proposal also to constitute a price stabilising buffer stock with the procurements to be made by the Food Corporation as well as the imports. But the progress of procurement by the Food Corporation is so slow and so sluggish that at this rate they would not be able to procure even 5 million tonnes. In the circumstances, may I know what Government propose to do?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am glad that the hon. Member has put this question that the procurement programme of the Food Corporation is going slow....

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: The main question relates only to procurement in Haryana.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: In fact, last year, the total procurement by the Food Corporation was hardly about 18 lakhs tonnes. As compared with that, during this year, although only three months of the season have passed, the Food Corporation has been able to procure more than 11.5 lakh tonnes. The total procurement on State account by the State Governments and the Food Corporation amounts to 16.....

SHRI HEM BARUA: What are the targets of procurement?

MR. SPEAKER: I am afraid the hon. Minister is straying away from

the main question. If he wants to answer, I have no objection, but he would be going away from the main question.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am only mentioning this figure....

MR. SPEAKER: The main question relates to Haryana only.

SHRI HEM BARUA: It is an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: I entirely agree with the hon. Member. But the Members take objection; if somebody else asks some other question and I intervene then they start taking objection. The hon. Ministers can go on answering questions on every subject on the earth. Here, the main question relates only to Haryana. The hon. Ministers should themselves have taken objection and said that the supplementary question is not relevant to the main question. But when they are prepared to answer it, how can I object to it? I have no objection if they want to answer, but actually they should not.

SHRI HEM BARUA: May I submit that there was a newspaper report to this effect and, therefore, I wanted a clarification from Government as to how far it is true?

MR. SPEAKER: I agree.

SHRI RANGA: In view of this declaration made by the Minister that the Food Corporation would be willing to purchase all the wheat that would be made available to them at the procurement price, would it not be possible for Government to advise the scheduled banks and also the State Bank to advance credit on food-grains with peasants which they would be storing in the traditional manner until the stocks are taken over by the Corporation, so that the peasants need not have to suffer in the meanwhile?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN

RAM): No, that will go against the procurement policy. We do not want stocks to be stored with the farmers beyond what is required by them.

SRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Question No. 64 may also be taken up with this question.

MR. SPEAKER: It is too late now.

श्री कंबरलाज मुस्त : हरियाणा में गेहूँ और मोटा अनाज लाखों मन फालतू पड़ा है। वह सड़ भी रहा है और उसकी कीमतें भी नीचे गिरती जा रही हैं। प्रोक्योरमेंट प्राइस से भी कीमतें नीचे गिर रही हैं। क्या यह सही बात है कि हरियाणा की सरकार ने ग्रॉप को कहा है कि यह भूवमेंट पर से कंट्रोल हटा दिया जाय और वह अनाज, मोटा अनाज और गेहूँ बाहर जाने की हमें इजाजत मिलनी चाहिये ताकि यह जो एक मिनिमम प्राइस है वह फारमर्स को मिल सके, यदि ऐसा कहा है तो भारत सरकार उसपर क्या कार्रवाही करने जा रही है ?

श्री जगजीवन रान : यह कहना कि हरियाणा में बहुत स्टॉक है और वह सड़ रहा है, बेबुनियाद है। दूसरी बात यह भी कहनी है कि हरियाणा सरकार ने कहा है कि इसको खोल दिया जाय वह भी बेबुनियाद है। बल्कि हरियाणा गवर्नमेंट अभी नहीं चाहती है कि मोटा अनाज खोला जाय।

SHRI BALRAJ MADHOK: Is it a fact that grain merchants at a number of markets and places in Haryana have made a representation to the hon. Minister himself that they have large stocks of coarse grains including kabuli chana, gram and other things and that these should be procured by the Food Corporation, but they are not being procured and therefore they are being wasted?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is a perpetual demand on the part of the foodgrain dealers to remove all the restrictions and the zones.

SHRI HALRAJ MADHOK: I am not on the the question of restrictions.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM. I am coming to that.

So far as the purchase of the grains available is concerned, the Food Corporation will be prepared to purchase everything provided the prices at which they are offered are reasonable.

SHRI SHRICHAND GOEL: I would like to know whether Government do not follow the policy of guaranteeing minimum prices to the farmers. Haryana and Punjab are two States in the country where prices have fallen below the minimum guaranteed to the farmer. May I know why the Central Government do not intervene and procure the stock in Haryana when it is being directly administered by them?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Now the Food Corporation is operating.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all repetition. Next question.

WAGE STRUCTURE AND CONDITIONS OF WORK IN FILM INDUSTRY

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SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:
SHRI K. RAMANI:
SHRI VISWANATHA MENON:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 771 on 19th December, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the Tripartite sub-Committee set up on the recommendations of the Standing Labour Committee has since finalised the scheme to enact special legislation to regulate the wages and working conditions of workers in the film industry; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI):

(a) Not yet. This sub-Committee is to make recommendations only for regulating the working conditions in the industry, and is not concerned with the wages.

(b) The sub-Committee has come to tentative conclusions regarding the scope and contents of the proposed legislation. These together with some fresh suggestions made by a worker's representative have been circulated for comments to the members. Replies are awaited from some members. 15th February, today, is the last date for receiving the comments. The sub-Committee proposes to meet again before finalising its conclusions in the light of the comments received.

श्री मुहम्मद इस्माइल : लेबर मिनिस्टरी ने फिल्म इंडस्ट्री के लिए वेज बोर्ड बैठाने का वायदा किया था। वह यह वायदा कहां पूरा कर रहे हैं और मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह वेज बोर्ड बनेगा या नहीं और अगर नहीं बैठा है तो क्यों नहीं और उसका एनाउंसमेंट क्यों नहीं होता ?

श्री हाथी : वेज बोर्ड बैठाने की बात होती रही है और बैठाने का इरादा भी है, लेकिन अभी तक वेज बोर्ड इस फॉर्म में हो या दूसरे फॉर्म में हो, वह बात जब तक स्टैंडिंग लेबर कमेटी तय न करे तब तक अभी उस को करने का इरादा नहीं है।

श्री मुहम्मद इस्माइल : यह फिल्म इंडस्ट्री एक ऐसी इंडस्ट्री है जिसमें 10, 12, 13 या 14 आदमी काम करते हैं तो यहां पर प्राविडेंट फंड का इम्प्लीमेंटेशन कैसे होगा, यह मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ ?