



LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 13, 1962/
Kartika 22, 1884 (Saka).

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Smuggling of Rice to Pakistan

*154. **Dr. L. M. Singhvi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large amounts of rice are being smuggled out of West Bengal to East Pakistan thereby contributing to scarcity and soaring prices of rice in India; and

(b) if so, what special measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). No such instances on any large scale have come to the notice of Government though the Enforcement Branch of the State Government and the check posts are keeping a vigilant watch on the border.

There has been rise in prices in West Bengal because of lower production of rice there during the 1961-62 crop season as compared to the very good crop of the previous season. To remedy this, distribution of foodgrains through fair price shops has been stepped up.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: To what extent has small-scale smuggling in rice been

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going on: The hon. Minister says that there has been no large-scale smuggling.

Shri Shinde: The point is, the prices which prevail in India near the border areas are higher than the prices prevailing on the East Pakistan side. So, the temptation to smuggle is ruled out in these circumstances.

Mr. Speaker: Only large-scale smuggling comes to the notice of the Government. Otherwise it goes on.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Would the hon. Minister tell us whether any cases have been registered showing that there has been any smuggling against any person and whether any persons have been brought to book on account of these anti-national activities?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): This little smuggling on either side of West Bengal and East Pakistan happens. It is not one way traffic. It is both way traffic. Sometimes it helps. When I say that it does not mean that I allow it or encourage smuggling. Surely it is not of a type that should worry us.

Mr. Speaker: Whether any case has been registered: that was the question.

Shri S. K. Patil: A few cases are always registered and let off. There is not much about it.

Some Hon. Members: Let off.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: The question is whether any one has been brought to book. He says they have been let off.

Mr. Speaker: Therefore, no one has been brought to book.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister said that the prices in West Bengal in certain places have gone up. I

want to know to what extent it has gone up and the steps taken by the Government to see that the prices in West Bengal or in other border areas do not go up.

Shri S. K. Patil: When the jute production failed two years ago, there was a very concerted effort in West Bengal in order to increase jute production. Therefore lands, as much as 6 to 7 lakh acres, were transferred from rice to jute. The result was, as was expected, rice production slightly went down. This year, the production will be now coming. I am told, is very good.

Shri Priya Gupta: Did the Government, before sanctioning conversion of paddy growing land into jute growing land, take a census as to whether it will result in shortage of food production or not?

Shri S. K. Patil: The hon. Member knows that there is no law in this land by which any Government can do it.

Shri Priya Gupta: The Central Government decision is there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; he wants to know whether any census was taken.

Shri Priya Gupta: These are avoiding replies.

Shri S. K. Patil: I am avoiding nothing. I am merely saying as I have said very often that crop planning by legislation has got to be taken. That strengthens the case. As it is, a farmer is free to do anything he likes in his land.

Shri Priya Gupta: Jute cultivation has been imposed on them.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या यह सही है कि चावल निम्बत भेजा जा रहा है और उस से यहाँ क्राएसिस पैदा हो गयी है और मुनाफाखोरी बढ़ गयी है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : इन दिनों इस अनुचित मुनाफाखोरी पर बड़ा रिस्ट्रिक्शन हो गया है और वह चीज नहीं होने पायेगी ।

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that anti-social elements in Pathankot Tehsil in Punjab and Kathua Tehsil in Jammu and Kashmir State are engaged in smuggling rice to Pakistan?

Mr. Speaker: We have gone from eastern region to the northern.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: The question is one of smuggling.

Shri D. C. Sharma: On a point of order, Sir, the hon. gentleman knows nothing about Pathankot. I represent Pathankot. I know much. Every time he mentions Pathankot and brings in Gurdaspur about which he knows nothing.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Every hon. Member is supposed to know everything.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: He is questioning my integrity....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order now. Next question.

ग्रामदान क्षेत्रों में कृषि उत्पादन

*१५५. श्री श्रीनारायण दास : क्या

सामुदायिक विकास, पंचायती राज और सहकार मंत्री ७ अगस्त, १९६२ के अतारंगकित प्रश्न संख्या १३१ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ग्रामदान गांवों और भूदान क्षेत्रों में सहकारी समितियों को कृषि उत्पादन के लिये वित्तीय सहायता देने के प्रश्न पर इस बीच विचार किया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका क्या नतीजा निकला ?

सामुदायिक विकास, पंचायती राज और सहकार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री श्यामलाल मिश्र) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) ग्रामदान और भूदान क्षेत्रों में स्थापित की गई सहकारी समितियों को १