

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Is it the policy of the Government to progressively introduce electrification of railway lines, especially in the areas where there is more traffic? If so, what is that plan?

Mr. Speaker: A very general question. That might be put during the Budget discussion.

Shri Maheswar Naik: By what time is the first electric train likely to run over this line?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: By about Decemer, 1966.

Agricultural Production

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- Shri Daji:
 - Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 - Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 - Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
 - Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
 - Shri Bhakt Darshan:
 - Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 - Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
 - Shri Ramshekhar Prasad:
 - Shri P. C. Borooah:
 - Shri Sarjoo Pandey:
 - Shri Hem Raj:
 - Shri D. C. Sharma:
 - Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the agricultural production during the Third Five Year Plan period;

(b) what has been the rate of increase;

(c) whether the production is falling behind targets, and if so, to what extent; and

(d) what remedial measures are being enforced to correct this position?

The Minister of State for the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). Estimates of agricultural production are available only for the first year of the Third Five Year Plan. According to

these estimates, the overall index of agricultural production for 1961-62 stood at 139.9 as compared to the base level of 100 in 1949-50, and remained at the same level as in 1960-61. The estimates of production for 1962-63 will become available at the close of the agricultural year 1962-63, i.e. about June-July, 1963.

(c) and (d). In a vast country like India where less than one-fifth of the cultivated area is irrigated, weather and climatic conditions in any given year influence agricultural production to a very considerable extent. However, with a view to ensuring the achievement of the Third Plan targets of agricultural production, a number of measures have been taken to intensify the production programmes. These have been indicated in the statement placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Measures taken to bring about rapid increase in agricultural production are:

I. Greater emphasis has been laid on—

- (a) Minor Irrigation;
- (b) Soil Conservation;
- (c) Supply of fertilisers and manures;
- (d) Seed Multiplication and Distribution;
- (e) Popularisation of Plant Protection measures and improved agricultural practices and implements; and
- (f) Intensive Agricultural District Programme.

II. Intensive production programmes for rice, millets, pulses and subsidiary foods, have been introduced in selected districts. For this purpose, Extension machinery is proposed to be strengthened so as to provide one Village Level Worker for 4,000 acres of agricultural land and two Agricultural Extension Officers per Block.

III. Administrative arrangements for co-ordination of agricultural programmes are being strengthened. On the suggestion of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, State Governments are setting up two high level Committees—one at the Cabinet level and other at official level for ensuring co-ordination of thought and effort among the different departments dealing with agricultural programmes.

IV. Village Level Workers have been assigned only one set of task, namely, to organise agricultural extension and supplies and help village panchayats and co-operatives to draw up and implement village production plans in agriculture.

V. The Community Development budget has been reorientated so as to cater for the needs of agriculture to the maximum possible extent.

Shri Daji: In view of this reply, I would like to know what the estimate of the department is. Is it true the department now does not expect agricultural production to keep pace with the targets set?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The department does expect that agricultural production will keep pace with the over-all target of the Third Plan. Even during this year, 1962-63, in Madhya Pradesh the wheat crop is better than last year, and we will be getting a very good wheat crop this year. The production of maize, bajra and jowar has also increased this year from 7 to 8 per cent, though, of course, the production of paddy did fall to some extent. So, there is no worry about that target.

Shri Daji: Is it true that the Planning Commission has viewed with grave concern the slow pace of agricultural production, and if so, does the department share the concern of the Planning Commission?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, the department is in the field of production, and I would like the hon.

House as well as the Planning Commission to help me in exploiting all the irrigation potential that has been created, because 4 million acres of irrigation potential I want to utilise, and there I would seek hon. Member's co-operation also.

Shri Daji: My question has been avoided. My question is very specific.

Mr. Speaker: Now he is soliciting the Member's co-operation.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: From the statement of the hon. Minister it appears that the picture is very rosy. I want to know to what extent all this production has reduced our import from foreign countries, and whether we are likely to stop imports in the near future.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The import programme is also linked with our population increase. It is not that the production of foodgrain alone is going to affect the imports, because there are so many other items also. Even at this particular moment, we are worried as to how to dispose of our surplus vegetables that we produce in Assam, West Bengal and in some other areas. So, they are all inter-linked.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I seek your protection. My question is very simple. We import wheat from foreign countries.

Mr. Speaker: His point is whether the imports had reduced to the extent of the picture of enhanced production given now.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: This year, there has been a slight increase and we expect that in the remaining years of the Third Plan according to the increased production the import will correspondingly decrease. How can I say what the imports will be in the next year? We are working on that line: we will try to increase the production at least by thirty per cent and to that extent, of course subject to our increase in population, the import will decrease.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: In the statement it has been stated that some administrative arrangements for co-ordination of agricultural programmes had been worked out and that on the initiative of the Minister of Food and Agriculture, two high level committees at State level are being set up. Is anything like this done at the Centre also to achieve the most-required co-ordination?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We have been in constant touch with the connected Ministries and are trying to see that there is perfect co-ordination between different ministries of the Government of India as well as the Planning Commission.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमान् मुझे आश्चर्य है कि जिन क्षेत्रों में पहले से ही अधिक उत्पादन होता रहा है, ज्यादा ध्यान उन्हीं की ओर दिया जा रहा है, और जो स्थायी कमी वाले क्षेत्र हैं, क्रानिकली डेफिसिट एरियाज़ हैं, उन की ओर या तो बहुत कम ध्यान दिया जा रहा है या बिल्कुल नहीं दिया जा रहा है, जैसे कि पर्वतीय क्षेत्र हैं जिन के बारे में स्पेशल कमेटी भी कुछ वर्ष पहले नियुक्त की गई थी। अतः मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे इलाकों के बारे में क्या कोई खास कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों की ओर विशेष ध्यान देने का प्रयास किया जा रहा है। माननीय सदस्य महोदय को यह जान कर खुशी होगी कि केवल लद्दाख के इलाके में ५० कीलोग्राम बीज की सब्जी बोई गई है, और १२, १३ और १४ अप्रैल को शिमले में लद्दाख इलाके के सारे पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों के संसद् सदस्यों, विशेषज्ञों और जो वहाँ के किसान हैं उन की सभा हम लोग इस लिये कर रहे हैं कि यह सोचा जाय कि उन इलाकों का विकास कैसे किया जाये। इस में विलम्ब इस लिये किया गया कि जाड़े के दिनों में ऐसी सभा नहीं की जा सकती थी।

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: The measures suggested here are the same minor irrigation soil conservation, etc. What is the greater emphasis that is being laid by this Government now and which was not there before, which is going to lead to increased production?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I quite agree with the hon. Member that these are oft-repeated measures but naturally the fields will have to be ploughed by the plough which is as indigenous as our country itself. But there the allocation is needed. I would be too happy if the hon. House allows us to go ahead with the utilisation of at least five lakh tons of fertiliser which we very badly need today. The present availability is about 4.5 lakh tons in terms of nitrogenous fertilisers; if the House gives that much of foreign exchange we will be too nappy to utilise it.

Shri P. R. Patel: Is it not a fact that the unremunerative price of food-grains and the large import of food-grains from outside are disincentives to more production?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is a fact; there is no doubt about it because today, we are very much worried about the price of wheat in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and other wheat-growing areas; the price of wheat should be remunerative; similarly the price of paddy, etc., should also be remunerative. But there again comes the question that our plan would not be able to work, and therefore, it is necessary that we should strike a balance between the consumer's price and the producer's price. But the farmers' interest must be protected with a view to providing them some incentive.

श्री रामसेवक दादव : जैसा कि अभी मंत्री जी ने बतलाया, जैसे जैसे अनाज का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा वैसे वैसे विदेशों से अनाज मंगाना बन्द होगा। लेकिन चूक आबादी

बढ़ रही है इसलिये वे निश्चित रूप से कुछ नहीं कह सकते। तो क्या मैं यह समझूँ कि जो योजना बनी है उसके उत्पादन की उस में आबादी का कोई लिहाज नहीं रखा गया है और ऐसे ही उसे बढ़ाते जायेंगे, आबादी के हिसाब से बाहर से मंगायेंगे ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : दोनों चीजों का लिहाज रखा गया है। अगर बात यह है कि इस वक्त पूँजी को खेतों में लगाने की प्रवृत्ति बहुत कम हो गई है। इस सदन को और सारे देश को देखना चाहिये कि ऐसा वातावरण तैयार हो जिस में कि हर किसान समझे कि खेत में पूँजी डालना लाभदायक है। इस लिये आबादी का लिहाज प्लैनिंग कमीशन ने रखा तो है, लेकिन आज की स्थिति में किसान में वह रुचि नहीं रह गई है कि वह ज्यादा पैदा करे। मैं चाहता हूँ कि स्पष्ट ढंग से बात करूँ ताकि हर किसान के दिल में यह अग्नि पैदा हो कि वह खेत में ज्यादा धन डाल और उस से ज्यादा उत्पादन करे। लेकिन आज आप के कारण भी ऐसा वातावरण बना है कि किसान में ज्यादा पूँजी डालने की हिम्मत नहीं रह गई है।

Several Hon. Members rose:—

Mr. Speaker: I find it difficult: Hon. Members should realise the difficulty: there are about 20 hon. Members standing. I have already given 12 minutes to this question. There should be some limit up to which we can go.

Shri A. P. Jain: I would like to put one very simple question.

Shri Bade: My question will be the simplest.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Vishram Prashad,

Shri Vishram Prasad: The Prime Minister was all along making a statement, ever since 1950—that India would be self-sufficient in food. Since

then, 12 years have passed, and we are purchasing food grains and spending millions of rupees on the purchase of foodgrains. May I know whether the Government has considered the reasons: whether our planning is defective, or our approach is defective or our potentials are not utilised?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: At that time, in 1950, there was no plan. At that time, there was of course the approach, and the Prime Minister must have expected that all our officers—I would like to be excused when I say that my hon. friend who put the question was also an agricultural officer at that time...

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You were not a Minister then.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I was not a Minister at that time. The Prime Minister must have expected that all will work efficiently and wholeheartedly, but to that extent the work was not efficiently done... (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri A. P. Jain: The hon. Minister threw the burden of providing funds for the purchase of fertilisers on the House. Now, according to the Constitution, all demands for grants are initiated by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: My difficulty is, every hon. Member, be he the questioner or the Minister, prefaces his question or the reply with a long speech!

Shri A. P. Jain: I never do that, but sometimes it is necessary. It is necessary for this question.

Shri Hem Barua: I agree with him.

Shri A. P. Jain: The demands for grants can be initiated only by the Government. Does the Minister propose to come before the House to ask for further grants for purchasing fertilisers?

Dr. Ram Sughag Singh: I am very happy that this thing has been pointed out. We approached the Planning Commission. I also approached the Finance Ministry. You might remember that last year there was a question here in the House that fertilisers are not being utilised fully. Now we are so short of fertilisers that immediately I can go in for utilising 50,000 tons of fertilisers, and so, we approached the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry, and I hope that full utilisation will be made.

Shri Tyagi: That shows that it is not the House but it is his own colleagues who have let him down!

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

Fishing Harbour, Veraval

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*262. { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**
Shrimati Maimoona Sultan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishing harbour of Veraval on Saurashtra coast is nearing completion;

(b) the money spent on the project; and

(c) the steps being taken on cooperative basis to build a boat-building year?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) to (c). The subject matter concerns the State Government of Gujarat. Information is being collected as to the present stage of construction and the money spent from the State Government and will be placed on the table of the Sabha in due course.

जी रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें कन्द्रीय सरकार क्या सहायता देने जा रही है !

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): With regard to fisheries harbour, the assistance is, 50 per cent would be given as grants from the Central Government. As far as this project is concerned, we have not got the latest figures. That is why we have asked for information. Altogether Rs. 34,88,970 have been spent up to 31st December, 1962.

रेलवे भोजनालय

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*२६३. { **श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :**
श्री रामेश्वर प्रसाद सिंह :

क्या रेलवे मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे योजनालयों में दिए जाने वाले तथा रेलवे स्टेशनों पर बेचे जाने वाले खाद्य पदार्थों की जांच करने की कोई व्यवस्था है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो फिर भी घटिया किस्म के खाद्य पदार्थों को क्यों बेचने दिया जाता है ; और

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि विभिन्न श्रेणियों के यात्रियों को एक ही कीमत पर एक ही तरह का भोजन नहीं दिया जाता है ?

रेलवे मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री सें० वें० रामस्वामी) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) रेलवे स्टेशनों पर घटिया किस्म अर्थात् निर्धारित स्तर से निम्नकोटि के खाद्य पदार्थ बेचने की इजाजत नहीं है । जब कभी मालूम होता है कि बेचे गए खाद्य पदार्थ अपेक्षित स्तर के नहीं हैं, तो उनमें सुधार करने के लिये उचित कार्रवाई की जाती है ।

(ग) जी नहीं ।