

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: I would like to know whether the Government experienced any difficulties in the procurement of equipment? Is there a free hand in the selection of such equipment?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: So far as World Bank is concerned, the purchases can be made from the member countries. So far as IDA loan is concerned, it should be bought in the USA.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How much demand was put before IDA and how much was sanctioned?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Our total assessed demand was put before IDA and we got Rs. 32 crores, as I said. In addition the delegation has negotiated two more loans also which will total Rs. 16.5 crores that would meet our current requirements.

Purchase of Wheat by Government

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 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantis:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Onkarlal Berwa:

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

(a) whether Government propose to buy wheat during the next harvest as a price support measure;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal with the price at which it is proposed to buy the same; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) to (c). Government intend to do so. The feasibility and details are still being examined.

Shri Heda: Is the Ministry of Agriculture also thinking on the same lines as the Minister of International Trade who said that they would fix the price and announce it on the next Monday for jute and if so for what else will the prices be announced? Will there be adequate support?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): We had consultation with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Finance Ministry as well as the Planning Commission. What will be announced on Monday will be with our consent also.

Shri P. C. Borooah: Does this scheme form part of the stabilisation scheme of consumer goods prices and if so at what level will the price of wheat be fixed?

Shri Shinde: The proposal is still under consideration.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Keeping in view the past experience of the Government regarding the prices of various agricultural products, I would like to know whether the Government is now in a position to consider the proposal for a permanent body of price fixation for agricultural products?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): That is very much under our consideration. But apart from that the wheat price would be announced in time before the season. Only, the delay is due to the fact that I am trying to increase it.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : यह जो कदम उठाया जा रहा है, यह क्या अपने ढंग का सब से पहला कदम है या इससे पहले भी कभी गेहूं खरीदा गया था? अगर खरीदा गया था तो उससे क्या अनुभव प्राप्त हुआ, अर्थात् कितना किसानों को लाभ हुआ या कितनी सरकार को हानि हुई?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : गेहूं खरीदने की जरूरत इसलिए महसूस हुई है कि हम स्टॉक रखना चाहते हैं। अब तक हम ने नहीं रखा था, फारेन व्हीट से ही हम ने अपना स्टॉक बनाया था। लेकिन हर साल उस स्टॉक को बदलना पड़ता है। अब हम गेहूं खरीद करके स्टॉक बनाना चाहते हैं।

Shri P. R. Patel: I want to know whether the Government is going to fix the price of different agricultural

products and whether the prices will be remunerative?

Shri S. K. Patil: We are trying to strike a 'margin' between what is called 'remunerative' and what is practical. But my own desire is that they should be as near remunerative as I can possibly make them.

श्री का० रा० गुप्त : क्या प्रदेशों की सरकारें व्हीट की खरीद करेंगी विशेषकर वे सरकारें जहाँ पर अधिक धन्न की उपज होती है ?

Shri Shinde: Of course; the Food and Agriculture Ministry has drawn the attention of the concerned States where mainly wheat, etc. are grown to take measures as and when necessary.

श्री कछवाय : इस समय कितने गल्ले की खरीद का लक्ष्य आपने अपने सामने रखा है और पिछला कितना खरीदा हुआ है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : ऐसा है कि जब कोई दाम निश्चित होता है और वह कभी उस से नीचे चला जाय तब गवर्नमेंट मार्केट में जाती है । जब तक ऐसी चीज नहीं होती है तब तक खरीदने की खास आवश्यकता नहीं होती है । मैं नहीं मानता हूँ कि इस देश में ऐसी कोई आवश्यकता आयेगी ।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि किसानों से जो गल्ला खरीदा जाता है और अमरीका से जो गेहूँ सरकार खरीदती है उन के रेट्स में कितना अन्तर है ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): For the imported wheat, the landed cost comes to round about Rs. 15.

Shri Yashpal Singh: I did not follow.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Rs. 15.

Mr. Speaker: What is the comparative rate of price?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, my senior colleague has already stated that we are proposing to make an increase in the present procurement price. The present procurement price for the common variety of wheat is Rs. 34.83 per quintal; for red wheat, it is Rs. 32.15 per quintal; for the superior farm variety, it will be Rs. 37.51 per quintal.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know whether, as a consequence of this measure, the movement of wheat from surplus States will be permitted to go to the other States without Government check or control?

Shri S. K. Patil: With regard to wheat movement, even now I think we have made it one zone. The question that was asked was whether we are going to buy the wheat by fixing the price. I said that we propose to do that, and do that in time. But so far as the movement is concerned, it is allowed even now.

Shri P. R. Patel: The reply recently given was that the price that would be fixed will be very near to a remunerative price. I want to know about the promise given in the third Plan to give a minimum remunerative price to the agriculturists.

Shri S. K. Patil: This word "remunerative" is a matter of interpretation. What the hon. Member may regard as remunerative may not be regarded as remunerative by somebody else. Therefore, that has got to be decided. So, I guarded myself by saying, "as near remunerative as we possibly can."

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya: May I know whether the Government is aware of the existing rise in the price of rice in West Bengal and whether Government has any plan to see that the price comes down?

Mr. Speaker: That is not relevant here. Next question.