

**श्री कद्वबाय :** मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये कितनी पूंजी लगाई जायेगी और इसके मुख्य मुख्य स्थान किन किन राज्यों में होंगे ?

**डा० राम सुभग सिंह :** मध्य प्रदेश में जहाँ से कि माननीय सदस्य आते हैं एक फटिलाइजर फैक्ट्री बनाने की बात है। लेकिन पूंजी का वितरण किस प्रकार होगा यह मैं अभी नहीं दे सकूंगा।

**Shri Sonavane:** May I know whether, as a result of the proposed formation of the Fertiliser distribution corporation, the prices of fertilisers would be increased and whether it will be kept in mind that the need for reducing price is necessary rather than seeing this rise in the price of fertilisers?

**Mr. Speaker:** The first part is a question and the second part is a suggestion.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Actually, the price of fertiliser, we are not proposing to increase because that is a commodity which is very much needed for increasing our agricultural production. In fact, last year, we reduced the price of Calcium ammonium nitrate to Rs. 278 per tonne and there is a margin of Rs. 52 between the pool price of Calcium Ammonium nitrate and ammonium sulphate.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** May I know whether, before finally deciding upon the Government controlled marketing Board, any consideration was given to the setting up of a National co-operative federation of farmers for this distribution since it is our policy to encourage co-operation?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil):** So far as control is concerned, it cannot be handed over to anybody else.

**Shri D. P. Deshmukh:** Not control, I referred to distribution only.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Government would do it. Surely, if such a federation comes into being they can have preferential treatment over others.

#### Scarcity of Rice

**Shri P. C. Borooah:**  
**Shri Yashpal Singh:**  
**Shri Bishanchander Seth:**  
**Shri Warior:**  
**Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:**  
**Shri Vasudevan Nair:**  
**Shri M. N. Swamy:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri P. K. Ghosh:**  
**Shri Kapur Singh:**  
**Shri Kesar Lal:**  
**Shri P. B. Chakraverti:**  
**Shri Harish Chandra**  
**Mathur:**  
**Shri Hem Barua:**  
**\*3. < Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:**  
**Shri Heda:**  
**Shri Inder J. Malhotra:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**  
**Shri Vishram Prasad:**  
**Shri P. K. Deo:**  
**Shri Tridib Kumar**  
**Chaudhuri:**  
**Shri P. C. Deo Bhanj:**  
**Shri Shree Narayan Das:**  
**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:**  
**Shri Siddananjappa:**  
**Dr. Ranen Sen:**  
**Shrimati Renuka**  
**Barkataki:**

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

(a) whether the attention of Government had been drawn to the large scale scarcity of rice in the rice eating areas of Assam, West Bengal and other adjoining areas in May this year;

(b) whether Government have gone into the causes of this scarcity, and if so, with what results; and

(c) the steps taken to tackle and improve the situation and the latest position obtaining?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde):** (a) and (b). The

market availabilities of rice in Assam, West Bengal and other adjoining areas after the first quarter of this year started getting less. This was due to a short-fall in the production of rice in these States during the 1962-63 season.

(c) The distribution of foodgrains (both rice and wheat) at subsidized rates through fair price shops has been liberalized and the number of fair price shops has been increased where necessary. The State Governments have also been advised to take suitable action against foodgrains dealers found profiteering or hoarding stocks. There have been indications during the last several weeks of a stabilising or declining trend in prices of foodgrains in this area.

**Shri P. C. Boroah:** What amount of rice was asked for by the Government of Assam from the Central Government and is it a fact that more than 50 per cent of the demand remains as yet unsatisfied; if so, what action do Government propose to take to meet the situation?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):** The assumption of the hon. Member is not correct. We have so far supplied 40,300 tons of rice to Assam. On the 2nd August, that is, last week, an assessment of the requirements of Assam was made. They had said that they would require a further quantity of 54,000 tons and if it becomes necessary that the entire quantity is to be made available, we will make it available.

**Shri P. C. Boroah:** May I know whether in view of the widespread scarcity of rice in the country the Planning Commission proposes to have a PL agreement for rice instead of for wheat as has been asked for by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture? Has Government come to any decision about that?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil):** The general situation of rice is that in two of our

surplus States, namely, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa, there has been a shortfall of a million and half tons and that shortfall cannot be made good by any magic. Therefore there is bound to be some type of a toughness during the next one or two months until the new crop comes. Therefore along with rice sometimes we give wheat because there should not be conditions in which a famine can occur. But until the new crop comes, nothing better can be done.

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** क्या यह सही है कि चावल का बफर स्टॉक टाइम पर नहीं आ सका इसलिए स्कारसिटी हुई ?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** There was no question of a buffer stock of rice so far. This idea came and it was to establish that buffer stock of 2 million tons of rice that I had been going to certain countries and trying to have it until we are able to have it by our internal procurement which would take a long time. But the difficulty is immediate and it has got to be met by immediate measures. But that stock has not yet come.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** May I know whether Government have taken any effective steps towards the modification of the food habits of the people of the rice-consuming areas by popularising wheat and some other grains?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It is being popularised. For example, the State of West Bengal may be consuming about a million tons this year.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** What is the reaction of the hon. Food Minister to the building up of a buffer stock for rice from the stocks which are available within the market and is it true that there is a conflict of opinion between the Planning Commission and himself?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I do not know what is the Planning Commission and the Ministry. I am responsible for the action of my Ministry. So far as the

building up of the buffer stock from internal procurement is concerned, it will take time. As I have said again and again, when there is a scarcity, you do not build a buffer stock or something out of nothing. Therefore in order to obviate the immediate danger, we have got to do it by taking it from outside. But rice is not in abundance anywhere in the world. It is not like wheat; it is a commodity that is scarce everywhere. Therefore this has got to be done so that we are not caught napping until we build up a buffer stock from our internal procurement.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** What is the gap between the production of rice in the country and the needs of the country and how is the hon. Minister trying to fill up that gap?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** It is a larger question. I will answer it in the debate some time. It will take another ten years even to know what the consumption of a particular commodity in this country is because our consumption pattern is fast changing. People are changing their habits. They are eating more and nicer type of stuff....(Interruption). It will take time.

**श्री प्रिय गुप्त :** आधा पेट खाते हैं

It is an objectionable statement.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** When I say 'nicer stuff' I mean that from coarse grains we are positively changing to rice etc. which is a good sign.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** I take objection to it.....(interruption).

**श्री प्रिय गुप्त :** क्या बात कर रहे हैं ।  
दस साल लगेगा ।

**Mr. Speaker:** Will he continue interrupting in this manner?

**Shri Priya Gupta:** Why is he giving replies that way? He says that people eat good quality stuff.

**Mr. Speaker:** Would he not sit down?

**Shri Priya Gupta:** I am sitting.... (Interruption). The hon. Minister is taking a cloak for his failure. It is a serious matter.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It is very objectionable that the hon. Member continues to talk even after he has sat down.

**Shri Hem Barua:** In view of the act that coarse rice is selling at Rs. 35 per maund and fine rice at 85 per maund in Assam and West Bengal, may I know whether Government have imposed any price ceiling or propose to impose any, and if they have imposed a price ceiling, may I know the results thereof?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** In a situation like this, Government can only be responsible—because it is in their power—to open fair price shops through which they are selling the rice, the price at these fair price shops being uniform throughout the country. The number of fair price shops has risen from somewhere about 10,000 or 12,000 to somewhere about 53,000 or 54,000 in the country. I have been telling the States that even if they want to open a thousand fair price shops more, I shall give them rice, which I am giving. But, surely, so far as the markets are concerned, in a situation like this, when that commodity does not exist, then surely I cannot be responsible for anything until the new crops come.

**Some Hon. Members rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Priya Gupta should be relieved of his burden first. Now, Shri Priya Gupta.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** Why is he giving ble for this scarcity? May I know whether Government, and particularly the hon. Minister himself took a census about it? I am surprised to know how the hon. Minister says that it is not possible to do anything.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Now, the hon. Member is entering into an argument.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** I am putting the question. Kindly allow me to put the question. It is perplexing. His replies are perplexing to me. I represent labour, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** I cannot help him there; if the replies are perplexing to him, he might put his question which might be clear to me.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** Would the hon. Minister kindly say whether the rice supplied in the fair price shops is edible at all? And why he supposes that this scarcity is the cause of high price and.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, he is arguing the case. He is entering into an argument. He might only put his supplementary question. I have called him only to put his supplementary question.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** I am putting the supplementary question. I want to know whether the rice supplied is inedible or not?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** It is very much edible, and nobody has lost his health on account of that.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** I would like to give a sample to him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. There should be no second supplementary question.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** Will the hon. Minister take a sample of it?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Why a sample? The whole of it.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** The hon. Minister was pleased to say that the Government could not possibly regulate prices, if they rose beyond certain limits. May I know if in view of what has happened in this House over and over again, when Ministers have given assurances regarding holding the price-line, if this statement, this statement is correct?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is entering into an argument now.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** No, Sir. He made a statement which reflected definitely upon the Government's determination not to hold the price-line. Is that in accordance with Government's policy?

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I submit that that reply of the hon. Minister was to my question? I feel that the hon. Minister has pleaded inability to hold the price-line.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Hem Barua:** My submission is this. He has pleaded inability.

**Mr. Speaker:** Can we discuss that inability to hold the price-line in the course of a supplementary question?

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** When a Minister of Government and a Cabinet Minister at that, on the first day of the opening of Parliament, makes a statement that Government are unable to hold the price-line in regard to rice, does it not give rise to the right of the Members to hold the Government to its words committed before this House over and over again. And the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister should do some thing about it.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I think I have never said....

**Mr. Speaker:** I have not asked the hon. Minister to reply.

Certainly, if any statement is made by Ministers which is not consistent with the policy that has been laid down or pursued by Government, the Members can hold them responsible. But there are steps that can be taken regularly for that purpose and they are being taken. We are coming to that. So, why should we be in a hurry?

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** May I know whether the unsatisfactory progress in internal procurement is due to the unremunerative prices that are being given to the farmers, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to give remunerative prices to the farmers?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Procurement has no meaning or very little meaning when we have got a shortfall. Therefore, what little we procure is being added on to the other stock that we have got. Therefore, for another five or six weeks, we are opening more and more fair price shops both in the urban and in the rural areas, and as I said....

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** I am asking about rice....

**Shri Prabhat Kar:** In the fair price shops they say that there are no stocks. (*Interruptions*).

**Shri Mohammad Elias:** He makes contradictory statements. Last session, he said that there were adequate stocks. Now he says that there is no such thing....

**Mr. Speaker:** I would request hon. Members to exercise some restraint. Of course, there are moments for excitement. There may be differences of opinion; also the answer might not be satisfactory. But then proper methods should be adopted, and when supplementaries are asked, it should be in an orderly manner.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** They have been irritated.

**Mr. Speaker:** They ought not to be. Politicians have to be thick-skinned.

**Shri Daji:** In view of the condition mentioned by the hon. Minister, are Government aware that in the surplus State of Madhya Pradesh there is abundance of rice with mill-owners and even the 10 per cent. levy has not been collected? What steps have been taken to collect it and save the rice from going into the black-market?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** That is not correct. The levy with regard to the Madhya Pradesh mills is 25 per cent and we have been able to collect most of that. But the production in Madhya Pradesh has fallen down by more than a million tons and we cannot expect that procurement will be more.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Have Government obtained firm estimates of the shortfall in different States, particularly West Bengal? Also have they considered the desirability of advising the State Governments not to come out with different estimates at different times thus creating a psychology of scarcity in the market which affects the availability in the market?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** That is, in a way, true. I am glad the hon. Member has brought forth this point. In fact, unnecessary scare is also being caused even by these questions. As far as West Bengal is concerned, there has been a fall to the extent of 3-4 lakh tons, but we have been able to make adequate supplies through fair price shops of which there are 11,000 in West Bengal. As far as that State is concerned, the peak level of prices was reached in the second week of July. Now it is two points less and it is the reverse trend, because prices during this peak season tend to rise.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि स्वतंत्रता-प्राप्ति के बाद प्रधान मंत्री और खाद्य मंत्रियों ने कितनी बार—कब कब और किस किस तारीख को—इस बात की घोषणा की है कि खाद्यान्न के सम्बन्ध में देश आत्म-निर्भर हो जायेगा। मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय जिस प्रकार की घोषणायें पिछले वर्षों में करते रहे हैं, क्या यह घोषणा भी उसी तरह की होगी।

खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (डा० रामसुभग सिंह) : माननीय सदस्य महोदय ने प्रधान मंत्री और खाद्य

मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन के इस निश्चय की जो चर्चा की है कि देश खाद्यान्न के विषय में आत्म निर्भर हो जायेगा, उस के सम्बन्ध में तृतीय पंच-वर्षीय योजना का एक लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है कि दस करोड़ टन खाद्यान्न पैदा किया जाये। उस लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति की ओर हम लोग बढ़ रहे हैं और कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Orissa is said to be a surplus State. May I know what are the reasons for its being in the grip of a difficult situation now. Is it because of the wrong system of procurement or some other reason?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Last year Orissa did not remain surplus. It comes once in five or ten years, when the elements are against us. Orissa did suffer as part of it. Therefore, it has not remained a surplus State for that year only. It will be followed by a better year in the next year.

**Shri Basumatari:** What steps have Government taken to induce people in the rice scarcity areas to take to wheat? There are some areas....

**Mr. Speaker:** He is arguing. He has already put the question. He need not explain it.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** We have said that wherever there is a shortfall in rice, we are going to give wheat instead so that there may be a little diversion. But surely nothing would be done which would affect health.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that there is likelihood of shortage in Madras State, particularly in Tanjore District where only 20,000 acres of Kuruvai crop has been sown whereas over 2 lakh acres are normally sown, and if so, whether Government will take steps to increase its supply to meet the shortage that is expected out of Kuruvai crop?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** We have no information with regard to shortage of the Kuruvai crop. The monsoon has been delayed a bit in Madras, but I do not think the over-all position has been affected.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** The hon. Minister stated that the price of rice has gone down by 2.5 per cent or something, I could not hear. I want to know whether it is not a fact that the retail price has not come down, and it is still at the high level of Rs. 38 to Rs. 40 a maund?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** I have got figures with me indicating that the wholesale prices are either maintaining a steady trend or showing a decline.

**Shri Mohammad Elias:** What about retail prices?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** In West Bengal taken as a whole, there has been a reduction of about two points in the last two weeks. For two points per 100 to be reflected in the retail prices would take some time. It cannot be very material.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** My question is about retail prices. The consumer is buying at high prices. There has been no reduction. What is the use of quoting to me wholesale prices when the profiteers are eating up that amount?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** As far as West Bengal is concerned, the entire vulnerable population of West Bengal is taken care of. They are being supplied 1 Kilo rice and 1 Kilo wheat every week, and that is sufficient for their requirement.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** This is a completely wrong statement. Cheap rice is not available.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The hon. Member is asking what is to be done to see that the lowering of prices in the wholesale market is reflected in the

retail market. The only answer to that now, tomorrow and the day after would be the same, namely opening more fair price shops. There is no other answer.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Cheap rice is not available in the fair price shops.

• **Shri S. K. Patil:** It is available. We are satisfied, and we have no complaint from the State Government that rice is not available in the fair price shop.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या यह सही है कि पिछले साल बंगाल बिहार, उड़ीसा और आसाम में एक जैसा पानी हुआ और एक जैसा धान हुआ और क्या यह सही है कि बंगाल उड़ीसा और आसाम में चावल ट्रेड वालों ने छिपा कर रखा है, जिस से स्केसिटी पैदा हो गई है ?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** With regard to hoarding by the trade, having regard to the returns that we get from the licensed wholesale dealers and the reports of market arrivals, there has not been any undue hoarding on the part of the traders. There are reports that at the producers level some hoarding is being done.

**Shri Ranga:** Let us get into the proper perspective. Is it not a fact that in most of the other States, barring these two States of Assam and Bengal, which are also very important, the situation is not so unsatisfactory?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I am told that in the Southern States the price has not risen at all. It is only a question of some of the States where there has been shortfall, and adjoining States, like Bengal, in this lean season. When the new crops arrive in five or six weeks, this question would not arise.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**श्री बागड़ी :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा सवाल बहुत जरूरी था ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** अब माननीय सदस्य माफ़ करें। मैं उन को अगली बार मौका दूंगा ।

**श्री बागड़ी :** मैं बीस दफ़ा खड़ा हुआ था ।

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):** Questions 4 and 11 are on co-operative farming. If you permit, I will read both the answers.

**Mr. Speaker:** He may answer both.

#### Co-operative Farming Societies

\*4. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of **Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether study teams of M.Ps. have recently gone into the working of the Co-operative Farming Societies;

(b) if so, what are their main recommendations; and

(c) what action is being initiated to implement them?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the observations of the Study Teams is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library.* see No. LT-1368/63].

(c) The recommendations have been brought to the notice of the state governments for appropriate action.

#### Co-operative Farming

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\*11. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**  
**Shri Mohan Swarup:**

Will the Minister of **Community Development and Co-operation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to organise pilot projects for encouraging co-operative farming; and