

(c) Supply of fishing equipment like boats, improved nets, etc., to about 100 fishermen in the selected coastal Blocks, setting up facilities for fish curing, and supply of salt and other processing accessories.

(d) Making necessary technical guidance and supervision available in the selected Blocks.

Finances:

The cost of the scheme (except expenditure on additional staff provided, if any) is to be met from Block funds supplemented by existing Departmental funds and schemes.

Shri R. G. Dubey: May I know what is the present fish production in the country, and, as and when this scheme materialises, what will be the increase in production?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I would like to have notice for this question.

Shri R. G. Dubey: Apart from sea water, what are the other sources from where fish is tapped, such as inland water, lakes, etc.?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Inland water, especially rivers.

Shri Shivaji Rao S. Deshmukh: May I know whether this scheme for the development of fisheries also includes the development of pisciculture and rice cultivation together on the same piece of land together, as has been advised by some technicians?

Shri B. S. Murthy: This deals only with the intensification of fish culture.

P.L. 480 Agreement

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{ **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**
Shri Naval Prabhakar:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Warior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri M. N. Swamy:

{ **Shri Mantri:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri P. K. Ghosh:
Shri Kapur Singh:
*6. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Balmiki:
Shri Heda:
Shri Inder J. Malhotra:
Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shrimati Renuka Barkataki:
Shri Bishanchander Seth:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent trip to the U.S.A., he made a formal request to the U.S. Government to extend the P.L. 480 agreement by one year more;

(b) if so, what was the U.S. Government's reaction to the proposal; and

(c) what is the effect of this extension on import of wheat and rice from U.S.A.?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) A request was made to the U.S. Government to extend the period of shipment of wheat under the current P.L. 480 agreement by one year as it was expected that the shipment of the entire quantity of 16 million tons of wheat could not be completed by June 1964. Shipments of rice are, however, expected to be completed by this date.

(b) The reaction of the U.S. Government is awaited.

(c) It has no effect on the total quantity to be imported. It will merely permit shipments of the total quantity of about 16 million tons of wheat to be purchased under the current P.L. 480 agreement to be completed one year later i.e. by June 1965.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: The hon. Minister just stated that India has not

been able to maintain the rate of off-take as contemplated in the PL-480 agreement and the actual import of food grains has been very much less than what it should have been. May I know the reasons for that?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): According to the Public Law 480 Agreement 16 million tons of wheat should have been brought in four years—that means on an average 4 million tons per year. One point to be noted here is that this also includes an element of buffer-stock of 4 million tons. The buffer-stock can be kept only in modern store houses. Therefore it took a little time, because we did not want to have that buffer-stock to rot in not adequately, or in the modern way, equipped storage houses. That was one reason. Another reason was we thought if we could do with less quantity why should we hurry in having more. That was in the mind of the Parliament also. Therefore, whereas within three years we should have brought 12 million tons, we brought only 8 million tons. 4 million tons, therefore, still remains and it will spill over after four years and there is no harm in it.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Has any assessment been made by the Government to find out, apart from whether the prices of foodgrains have been stabilised, whether this PL. 480 Agreement has helped us to achieve our main aim of self-sufficiency in agricultural production?

Shri S. K. Patil: Apart from self-sufficiency, in times of emergency buffer-stocks are very useful, and I think it has been demonstrated beyond doubt that but for this buffer-stock in difficult times during this year and last year we could not have tided over the difficulty.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether this request was made only for the spill-over or whether the Government also requested for some additional quantity under PL. 480?

Shri S. K. Patil: The question of having additional quantity under PL 480 will arise only after one year because this agreement has to run until June, 1964. Therefore, that question does not arise. But I have made arrangements to build up a stock of rice, about two million tons; that was discussed and it has been promised. It will come.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The hon. Minister just now stated that he wanted to try whether he could manage with less than 16 million tons. Now that he has asked for the whole quantity of 16 million tons are we to understand that he could not produce enough in this country and that is why he is asking for it?

Shri S. K. Patil: The hon. Member heard only half of my answer. I am merely saying that what remains we will spill over in another year. That does not mean that we are not having enough, but we are not having it with that much speed with which it was expected to come.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what is the prospect before the country? Are we going to have PL. 480 imports for a larger number of years; if so, may I know for how many more years we are going to have these imports?

Shri S. K. Patil: That depends upon various elements—nature, ourselves and the conditions of farming (*Inter-ruption*).

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Why do we have planning then? What is the use of having planning?

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether the Government have considered a sudden cessation of the PL. 480 facilities; if so, what plan they have kept in view to meet such an eventuality?

Shri S. K. Patil: What we are thinking—only 'thinking' I am saying—is that this has got to taper off. It is nothing like "you had it" and "you stop it". If we had it, we will have

less and less until it disappears and we produce it from our own resources.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know how much of these 16 million tons which has been contracted for is in wheat and how much is in rice? May I also know whether in view of the existing scarcity of rice the Food Minister in his recent talks in America has tried to get the composition of a total 16 million tons changed somewhat in favour of rice?

Shri S. K. Patil: These 16 million tons are wheat. I did not mention about rice. Rice was only the additional 1 million tons and it is yet to come. The hon. Member will be pleased to know that we have expedited the shipment of that of which the beneficiary has been the State from which the hon. Member comes.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : हम अमरीका के ऊपर निर्भर न रहें, इसके लिए कितनी सबसिडी हिन्दुस्तान के काश्तकार को दी गई है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : सबसिडी की बात नहीं है। हम जो प्राइस दे रहे हैं, वह आप को मालूम ही है। गेहूँ की चौदह रुपये और चावल की सोलह रुपये मिनिमम प्राइस हम ने रखी है। यह पहले नहीं था। अभी गवर्नमेंट ने किया है ताकि काश्तकार ज्यादा प्रोड्यूस करने की कोशिश करें।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : पी० एल० ४८० के किस बरस तक का अनाज अभी तक सरकारी गोदामों में पड़ा है और किस बरस तक का बेचा गया है ?

Shri S. K. Patil: I would require notice.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : एक सवाल और कर लूँ, अगर आप इजाजत ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सप्लीमेंटरी एक ही सकता है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : चूँकि मंत्री महोदय ने नोटिस मांगा है, इसलिए क्या आगे इस पर बहस हो सकेगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तब देखा जाएगा।

Shri Warrior: May I know whether the price agreed upon will be less or higher than the world market price?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It will be the world market price.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: May I know if any final decision has been taken to import rice under PL 480 for the purpose of buffer stock which we want in this country?

Shri S. K. Patil: No final agreement or decision has been reached because, as I said in the beginning, rice is rarely a surplus commodity in any country, because the total surplus of rice in the whole world may not go over 5 million tons, while the surplus of wheat may be five or six times that much. Therefore, it is rather difficult to get it, because it always depends upon the crop in that particular country. I am hoping that in two or three years' time I shall be able to build a stock of 2 million to 3 million tons of rice.

Shri Basappa: As the Planning Commission has stated that dependence on PL 480 should be reduced to the minimum, what action has been taken in that regard?

Shri S. K. Patil: It has been our anxiety too, more so than anybody else. But, then, the time should come and it should be as early as possible. There, there should not be any danger or difficulty as we have witnessed during this year. That is why these buffer stocks have become all the more necessary.

Shri P. R. Patel: I want to know whether PL 480 has helped in lowering the local price of foodgrains,

thereby affecting the production in the country?

Shri S. K. Patil: Not at all. We sell more or less at the subsidised price, and that is in our fair price shops. So far as the minimum prices of foodstuffs like rice, wheat and jowar are concerned, we have been able to fix them, and we consider that they are, if not remunerative, sufficient enough to enable them to meet both ends.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : माननीय मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि विदेशों पर अन्न के मामले में हमारी जो डिपेंडेंस है, वह खत्म हो जाए और हमें बाहर से मंगाना न पड़े। मगर हम मंगाने ही जाते हैं। क्या सरकार ने ऐसी कोई योजना बनाई है कि बाहर से या अन्दर से कर्ज ले कर अन्ने यहाँ सिंवाई और खाद का इंतजाम कर दिया जाए जिससे हम सैफ-सफिशेंसी प्राप्त कर सकें? इसके लिए क्या कोई टारगेट मुकर्रर किया गया है?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : यह चीज बार बार सदन के सामने आ चुकी है।

Indo-Pakistan-U.K. Continent Shipping Conference

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- Shri Bishanchander Seth:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Morarka:
*7. { Shri Ravindra Varma:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of **Transport and Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of Indo-Pakistan-U.K. Continent Shipping Conference discussed the question of increase in freights with the Government of India;

(b) the main points urged by the Conference; and

(c) the decision taken in the matter?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Conference held discussions not with the Government of India but with the Maritime Freight Commission of India.

(b) In support of their proposal to increase freight rates on westbound cargoes by 15 per cent the Conference urged the following points:—

(i) The freight rates were last revised in 1957.

(ii) The cost of operation has increased considerably since then.

(iii) Freight rates on Eastbound cargo have already been increased.

(iv) A large number of Conferences have increased their rates.

(c) The final decision does not lie with the Government but they accepted the recommendations of the Commission that the increase should be restricted to 7½ per cent subject to certain sensitive commodities being exempted. This was duly communicated to the Conference who thereupon decided to increase the freights by 12½ per cent as against 15 per cent originally contemplated by them.

श्री बिशानचन्द्र सेठ : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश को कितना लास हर साल फ्रेट में होने की सम्भावना है?

श्री राज बहादुर : यह अंदाजा लगाया गया है कि लगभग १ करोड़ ५० लाख या उससे ऊँचे रकम फ्रेट रेट्स बढ़ जायेंगी और देश को इससे विदेशी मुद्रा में एक करोड़ रुपये के लगभग नकद घाटा होगा। लेकिन अभी ये आंकड़े स्टडी किए जा रहे हैं।

श्री बिशानचन्द्र सेठ : क्या गवर्नमेंट ऐसा सोच रही है कि हम खुद इसका प्रबन्ध कर लें ताकि एक्स्ट्रा फ्रेट खर्च न करना पड़े?

श्री राज बहादुर : हमारे देश को भिन्न भिन्न कारगोज के लिए अलग अलग तरह के