

Establishment and not to the local police?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): I do not think there is any necessity to entrust the case to the Special Police Establishment. In fact, it has been enquired into by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. Voluminous records have been scrutinised and a large number of persons have been interrogated and the investigation is coming to a final stage.

With regard to the other question put by the hon. Member, in fact, there are no cases which justify reference to the Special Police Establishment. Cases are referred to them concerning officers generally, not of private individuals. As a result of the audit report of the Delhi Central Co-operative Stores Limited for the period ending 30th June, 1962, there are certain irregularities that have been pointed out which are being enquired into by the Delhi Administration.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है, अध्यक्ष महोदय। पिछली बार मैं ने इस सवाल को सदन में उठाया था। सबको मालूम है कि मेरे पास इस सम्बन्ध में सामग्री ज्यादा होगी। तब क्या ऐसे एक सदन के सदस्य को एक पूरक प्रश्न पूछने का मौका नहीं मिलना चाहिये। ऐसा न हुआ तो नतीजा यह होगा कि जिन लोगों का किसी तरह से तकदीर कुछ अच्छी है उन का नाम वगैरह आ जायगा, बाकी के सब लोग तो दर्शक और श्रोता भर रह जायेंगे। पिछली दफे मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि दिल्ली प्रशासन पर यह काम छोड़ दिया गया है। जब हम ने जोर दिया कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस के ऊपर पहल करे, और दिल्ली प्रशासन का काम अब खत्म हो गया है, तब केन्द्र क्यों अड़गा डाल रहा है। मैं आप से कह दूँ कि साजिश और हिसाब गलत रखने के सम्बन्ध में जो इस सदन के माननीय सदस्य हैं उन के खिलाफ तक आरोप लगाये गये हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस सारे बयान से व्यवस्था का कोई प्रश्न नहीं निकलता इस लिये मैं इसे नहीं ले सकता।

Buffer Stock of Wheat

*280. { Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Himatsingka:
Shri D. J. Naik:

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

(a) whether India has sounded U.S.A. for import of wheat to create a buffer stock; and

(b) if so, the reactions of the U.S. Government thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). At the time of the review in May, 1963 of the working of current PL 480 Agreement, the Government of U.S.A. were sounded on the question of continuing imports under a fresh PL 480 Agreement after the present Agreement came to an end in June, 1964. There was an indication of the general desire of the U.S. Government to assist India. No decisions were taken. The Government of India have now under consideration formal proposals for a fresh PL 480 Agreement covering imports for current consumption as well as for building up buffer stocks.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Has the Government examined the reasons why the buffer stocks which are primarily meant to check the price rise have failed to check it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): There are limitations with regard to the building up of buffer stocks of rice. We have got adequate stocks of wheat and we release large quantities in areas which are

affected by crop situations and suffer from a large rise in the price. We are not in a position to build up buffer stocks to the extent contemplated by us.

Shri A. N. Vidyalankar: Has the Government estimated the quantity required to be imported to make out buffer stocks adequate to meet our requirements?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Our idea is six million tons of wheat and two million tons of rice. It will take two or three years to build up that stock.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Has there been any delay in getting wheat from the United States; if so, what are the reasons?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is no delay.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: What is the present shortage in the target that we have fixed for the buffer stock?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have been distributing about four million tons of wheat every year in the last 2-3 years: from the order of distribution now being made, it may go even up to five million tons.

Shri Warrior: In view of the rising price of wheat in the world market, is Government expediting the transaction under PL 480?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There is no question of expediting it. We import according to our requirements. Our ports also should be in a position to handle large shipments. Our ports can handle about 4-4.5 lakh tons every month.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: The Minister stated that it would take about three years to build buffer stocks. Has the Government decided that during this period the buffer stocks have to be built up only on the basis of further renewals of PL 480? Have they explored the possibility of securing wheat from other countries also?

Shri A. M. Thomas: You can get wheat from Australia, Canada and America, but from Australia and Canada, if you want to get, you will have to incur foreign exchange. Under the PL 480, we can pay in our own currency. That is why we are importing from America, and they have got huge surpluses which are being taken advantage of even by countries like Russia.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Minister said that there was not enough buffer stock of rice and there was enough buffer stock of wheat and it is the price of wheat which has gone high and is spiralling. How is it that the buffer stock has failed to bring down the price of wheat while looting in Uttar Pradesh has brought down the price? What lessons have the Government taken from that?

Shri Swaran Singh: It is true that the price of indigenous wheat has ruled high over the last several weeks, but the offtake of this imported wheat is at a fairly considerable level as I mentioned in the House the other day; even in the month of January, the total offtake was about 4½ lakh tons including *atta* from the flour mills which are working exclusively with the imported wheat, and the imported wheat is also distributed as wheat. So, it is quite obvious that although the price of the indigenous wheat has been kept at a high level, the major part of the requirements is being met by the imported wheat, and it is bound to have an effect in the short-run. On account of the non-availability or short supply of indigenous wheat, there was the tendency to corner, but I distinctly notice that that position is now gradually relaxing.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The question was entirely different. The question was, in spite of such a heavy stock, and in spite of such a heavy offtake, how is it that the prices are ruling high and how is that the looting of grain-shops has brought down the price.

Shri Swaran Singh: About the second thing, it is his own conclusion that looting has brought down the price. I do not accept it. (*Interruption*). So far as the first part is concerned, if a particular commodity is in extremely short supply, then the trade unfortunately in this country, even with regard to food, does not observe the decency of not pushing up the price. But the other alternative commodity is available at lower prices. Although the price of indigenous wheat itself ruled at a high level, the actual quantity that is the subject matter of the sale at higher prices is very small.

श्री शिव नारायण : यू० पी० के अन्दर सरकारी दुकानों पर गेहूँ और आटा नहीं मिलता तो क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि उस को बफर स्टॉक से क्या दिया गया ?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : यू० पी० सरकार ने जितना मांगा था उस कदर उन को दिया गया है ।

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : मेरा प्रश्न भी इस पर है इसलिये मुझे भी सवाल पूछ लेने दीजिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं ने दूसरा सवाल बुला दिया है ।

Shri A. M. Thomas: Sir, with your permission, I beg to correct the statement made by me. I think I said that our target of buffer stock is six million tons of wheat. It is four million tons of wheat and two million tons of rice (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: The target is six million tons: four million tons of wheat and two million tons of rice. That is the correction which he has made. Next question.

"Hansa Test"

*281. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new test called 'Hansa Test' has been evolved by the National Dairy Research Institute at Karnal to distinguish between cow and buffalo milk; and

(b) if so, the precise nature of technique and process found out?

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

(b) A serum is used for the Test. The serum is obtained by injecting buffalo milk into a rabbit. To perform the Test the sample is well mixed and one drop is placed on a clean glass slide. A drop of serum is placed on the drop of milk and then the two are thoroughly mixed with a clean glass rod. In about one minute the sample of milk develops a curdling reaction in the case of buffalo milk. The curdling reaction does not occur in the case of cow milk. The Test enables detection of even 1 per cent of buffalo milk in cow milk.

Mr. Speaker: It is a technical process. The hon. Member could have found it out from somebody else instead of asking it from the Minister. Yes, Shri Shree Narayan Das.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: I want to know whether the Government has taken a patent for it, and, if so, whether that will be kept up.

The Minister of of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): The Government have not taken any patent, but the National Dairy Research Institute at Karnal is manufacturing this and supplying it to the various dairies. In fact, the cost of each kit and equipment is Rs. 30 and the cost of the serum is Rs. 14.25 per ounce.

Shri Man Singh P. Patel: May I know whether the Government has advised that this test should be used in all the dairies?

Shri Shinde: Wherever it is necessary, it is employed. Actually it is being employed by several dairies.