

Shri D. C. Sharma: 'Kamath Gram'.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri B. S. Murthy: No, Sir. The village is already known.

An Hon. Member: There is one known as Haripura.

श्री गुलशन : जो सुन्दर गांव चुनने के लिए सरकार के अधिकारी जाते हैं तो जो उस सुन्दर गांव के माये पर काला दाग पिछड़े वर्गों की बस्ती का होता है, उसका भी ध्यान रखा जाता है ?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Yes, that is also taken into consideration.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार बतला सकती है कि बेस्ट गांव के चुनाव करने में किस स्टैंडर्ड को मेनटेन किया गया है ताकि हाउस मुतमैन हो सके कि ऐसा करने में निपोटिज्म और फेवरिटिज्म से काम नहीं लिया गया ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस का तो उन्होंने जवाब दे दिया ।

Shri A. P. Sharma: The hon. Minister said that so many allied subjects would be taken into account in adjudging a village as the best village. Can he give a list of those subjects?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I have already enumerated them.

Wheat Prices

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*1219. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
 Shri D. J. Naik:

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

(a) whether prices of wheat have gone down on account of formation of wheat zones; and

(b) if so, whether the agriculturists have suffered due to fall in wheat prices at the harvest time?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) As a result of the formation of wheat zones, the wholesale prices of wheat in the producing States of Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have recorded a fall; those in Uttar Pradesh have either recorded a fall or remained steady.

(b) The present wholesale prices of wheat in all the areas are higher than those prevailing in the corresponding period of last year. There is no reason to concluded at present that agriculturists have suffered.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What is the incidence of fall recorded in the Punjab and specially in Delhi during this month or during the last fortnight?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): With regard to the incidence of fall, as far as the Punjab is concerned, as on the 25th April, in Abohar which is an important market the price per quintal has come down to Rs. 53/30; in Moga it has come down to Rs. 57/- per quintal and in Amritsar also to Rs. 57/- per quintal. In Delhi there has been a considerable fall. It has come down to Rs. 42/87 per quintal; per maund it will be Rs. 15/80 nP for the Dara variety.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that on account of this steep fall—I would call it a steep fall though he has given the figures for the 25th February. . . .

Mr. Speaker: April, he has said.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if on account of this steep fall the agriculturists are not bringing their wheat produce to the market; if so, what steps the Government is taking so that the agriculturists are encouraged to bring their produce to the market?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Swaran Singh): The fact that the price has fallen is due to the fact that there is market arrival. The price would not have fallen at

all until and unless agriculturists or growers brought wheat to the market.

Shri Lahri Singh: May I know whether it is under the consideration of the Government to fix the minimum price of wheat to ensure reasonable remuneration to the agriculturists for the cost of labour that they have put in?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The minimum support prices have already been fixed. For red wheat it is Rs. 13|- a maund; for the common white variety it is Rs. 14|- a maund and for the superior farm variety it is Rs. 15|- a maund. Even now the prices are much higher than the price prevailing at this time last year. Last year in April the index was 87·6; it went up to 120·9—of course, now taking the country as a whole it has come down to 113 . . . (Interruption).

Shri Kapur Singh: But does he call Rs. 13|- a maund a fair price to the wheat grower?

Mr. Speaker: That might be a different question altogether and I can allow someone else to ask it. . . . (Interruption).

An Hon. Member: That might be last year, not this year. . . . (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: But is this the manner that all Members should stand up and ask question. . . . (Interruption)?

Shri Kapur Singh: He says about the minimum price; we talk of fair prices. . . . (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Will all Members please sit down? Shri Patel.

Shri P. R. Patel: The present price as also the support price have been given. I want to know whether the present prices are remunerative and whether there is any agency to see that the prices are remunerative or whether any survey has been made to prove that the present prices are remunerative to the agriculturists.

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to the remunerative nature of the pre-

sent price; it is remunerative because, as I have said, the prices are much higher than the prices prevailing last year.

Shri P. R. Patel: I have asked about the agency.

Mr. Speaker: Let him answer it now. Again and again insistence is being placed on that point. It is not the minimum price that they want to know about; it is not the comparison that they require.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I say that having regard to the prevailing price level. In fact, in Madhya Pradesh it is even now Rs. 17|35 a maund; in the Punjab it comes to about Rs. 25|50 a maund and in Delhi alone it has come down to Rs. 15|80 a maund. So it cannot be said that the present price level is not remunerative.

Shri Ranga: Question.

Shri A. M. Thomas: But apart from that aspect, with regard to the point that has been raised by the hon. Member, we are making some investigations, some surveys, as to the additional cost of production for wheat, rice and other things, and we will be taking suitable measures to see that the farmers get a remunerative price.

Shri Kapur Singh: Does the hon. Minister know anything about what it takes to produce wheat?

Mr. Speaker: I had not called him.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that the Punjab Government, which is also responsible as this Government I suppose, has itself suggested to this Government, and even through their public statements, that they do not consider the so-called fair price to be fair enough to the peasants and therefore they would like to have an increase made in it, would Government at least now reconsider their position and step up the scale of these fair prices that they are fixing and enforcing?

Shri Swarnam Singh: This matter has to be viewed from two aspects. One

is the support price which has been announced, and which has been in the field for quite some time. It is quite interesting that no one raised this question, and in fact, every day the entire criticism was that the prices were ruling at a very high level.

Shri Ranga: That is from the other end.

Shri Swaran Singh: Throughout the country as a whole.

Shri Ranga: We were raising it all the time.

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not think you spared me at that time either. Therefore, one is the question of support price, which had been introduced a couple of years ago, maybe last year. I can understand a desire that there should be an upward revision of support prices. It is a matter which could be considered, but let us not forget that this support price has not yet been touched.

I would like to give further information to the House, that the Ministers in charge of food and agriculture, both of Punjab and Rajasthan are in touch with me, and they are likely to go into the market to make purchases to build their own stocks and the like, and the price at which they purchase need not be the floor price, because the floor price is a sort of undertaking that at that price Government will purchase, even the Central Government will. I have every reason to hope that the State Governments both of Punjab and Rajasthan will go into the market and make purchases to build up stocks. In making those purchases, they need not stick to the floor price which has been announced.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: Generally, our experience is this, that the prices fall down at the time of the harvest, and prices go up at the time of the sowing season. So, when after the formation of the wheat zones the price of wheat has fallen, may I know whether Government have

thought of any mechanism or machinery to find out a solution so that the prices at the time of the harvest and sowing time do not fluctuate with a big gap.

Shri Swaran Singh: The obvious mechanism is to make purchases after the arrival of the crop if the prices tend to fall, and build stocks which can be off-loaded when the prices show a tendency to harden. This appears to be the only possible method.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: Is Government prepared to assure us that there will not be this wide fluctuation?

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : राजस्थान सरकार ने गेहूँ का भाव १४, १६ या १८ रुपये प्रति मन किया हुआ है लेकिन वह उसके ऊपर ६ रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के भाव से प्राफिट लगा कर ज्यादा दाम पर बेचते हैं तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह ६ रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के लाभ का शैड्यूल केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा या राज्य सरकार द्वारा तय किया गया है?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : मैं समझता हूँ कि यह बात ठीक नहीं है कि वह उस पर ६ रुपये का प्राफिट लगा कर बेचते हैं ।

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा: मंत्री भूहोदय वहाँ से रिपोर्ट मंगवा कर देख लें कि मैं सच कह रहा हूँ या गलत कह रहा हूँ ।

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि पहले उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार में जो पंजाब का गेहूँ जाता था, व्हीट जोन हो जाने के बाद वहाँ नहीं जाता है और इसलिए वहाँ पंजाब के गेहूँ की कीमत बढ़ गयी है जबकि वहाँ पंजाब के किमातों को उनके गेहूँ का दाम कम मिलता है

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : यह ठीक है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि इम्पोर्टेड व्हीट की बिहार और यू० पी० में जितनी उनको जरूरत होगी, वह दिया जायगा और मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे काफ़ी वहाँ लोगों को सहूलियत मिलेगी ।

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : मैंने दूसरी बात पूछी थी ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब अगली दफा सही ।

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether the Government of India have on any occasion tendered any advice to any State Government in respect of imposing a ban on inter-district movement of grains, and if so, with what objective; and may I know whether it is not a fact that such a ban has brought into the whole situation an element of compulsion compelling the farmers to sell at unremunerative prices?

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not think it is correct. We have to strike a balance. While there has to be a reasonable price to the grower we have also to ensure that there is not too much of a burden on the consumer. All these steps are taken from time to time. The situation is kept closely under watch. If there is a tendency either way corrective steps are taken and I hope they will be taken.

Shri Ranga: Most of the time you will favour rich consumers.

Mr. Speaker: Question Hour over.
Shri P. K. Deo.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Assistance to States for Control on Foodgrain Distribution

*1220. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Ram Harakh Yadav:

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

(a) whether Government have decided to extend financial assistance to the States for strengthening their administrative machinery for successful enforcement of the scheme of strategic controls on foodgrain distribution;

(b) if so, what is the total amount of assistance to be given and how it would be distributed amongst the different States; and

(c) the outline of the scheme referred to in part (a) above in its final form?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) Yes, Sir, for the proper enforcement of the foodgrains dealers' licensing order and other control orders pertaining to foodgrains, sugar and gur.

(b) These details are under consideration in consultation with the State Governments.

(c) There is no separate scheme as such.

General Insurance Co-operative Societies

*1221. { Shri A. V. Raghavan:
Shri Pottakkatt:

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

(a) whether the study team to examine the working of the general insurance cooperative societies has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are its main recommendations?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) The study team on general insurance cooperatives has not yet submitted its report.

(b) Does not arise.

Derailment of Dehra Dun Express

{ Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Gokaran Prasad:
*1222. { Shri Vishram Prasad:
Shri Gulshan:
Shri Solanki:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seven bogies of the Dehra Dun Express derailed near Bundki 54 miles from