

STATEMENT-II

Centrally Assistance Sanctioned to State Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of pre-Matric Scholarship for the Children of those who are engaged in unclean occupations. (as on 3.3. 1992).

State	Central Assistance Sanctioned during 1991-92 (Rs. in lakh)
1. Andhra Pradesh	27.515
2. Assam	13.00
3. Bihar	2.2675
4. Gujarat	25.4725
5. Haryana	12.9183
6. Karnataka	1.00
7. Madhya Pradesh	28.23
8. Maharashtra	0.955
9. Meghalaya	0.225
10. Orissa	0.06
11. Punjab	20.27
12. Rajasthan	35.692
13. Tamil Nadu	5.16
14. Tripura	9.416
15. Uttar Pradesh	49.7875
16. West Bengal	3.73

12.02 hrs.

*(Interruptions)**(Interruptions)*

RE: IMPORT OF WHEAT

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nirmal Kanti
Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE
(DUMDUM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are dis-

cussing about wheat import. There is an important news in the Press.

Sir, there is a view obviously of the Government that the North-South conflict or the existence of imperialism is over in the present international context. That we shall discuss much later in the Budget Debate also.

Presently about wheat import, the situation seem to be that we have approached the United States, perhaps for PL-480 import of wheat at subsidies rate, that subsidy they are giving to their own peasants. But it is reported that the opposition from the U.S. is coming because of the fact that India has supplied some cereals to Cuba. The Country's name is very important. United States gives the condition that if you supply anything to Cuba, you will not be entitled to import wheat, even if India applies for such import. This is one more indication where we have landed ourselves by begging loans from all kinds of people.

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to understand from you, from a knowledgeable Member of this House one thing. Now something appears in the newspaper. You are making a basis for making speech on the floor of the House without verifying whether that fact is correct or not. Will it not affect the relationship between the two countries?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is not that, Sir. The Government is very much present here.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR(Ballia): Mr. Speaker. Sir, you have hit the right point whether this news does not affect the relationship between the countries.

If it is reported that the American Government does not allow us to import wheat because we are exporting rice to Cuba, it also impairs the relationship. (*Interruptions.*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow Somnathji.

I am trying to understand whether it is a true fact.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The hon. Member says, if it is not a true fact, the Government should contradict it.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, let him ask the question whether it is true.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The report is more damning, in the sense, Indian representative is trying to convince the U. S. authorities.... (*Interruptions.*)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you saying that it is true and you take the responsibility? Then, ask the question, if it is true.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): We are making the statement and let them clarify. He wants clarification. (*Interruptions.*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, I say, in substance, it is true.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you than.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Let the Government come with categorical denial that it is not a fact.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is the clinging of the Indian Government. If it is true, the criticism that we are making that our economic sovereignty is lost, is once again evident in this deal. Therefore, we want the Government to answer this question. Along with that, they should assure that even if this is true, they have not surrendered the economic sovereignty via the Budget and other economic policies.

I want a categorical answer from them.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue. I would like to submit in response to the question raised by you in this regard that we are the private Members and we do not have the concrete information. Whatever information from whatever source we are able to collect, we submit the same to this House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question not only relates to the import of wheat, but it is linked with the statement also issued by the Prime Minister, day before yesterday. We are continuously inviting Multi-national companies, IMF and World Bank and are trying to have link with them. This is against our policy of non-alignment. This is a matter of great shame and regret that our Deputy Ambassador in Washington requested the foreign Secretary of U.S.A., Mr. Morgan on telephone that U.S. A. should supply foodgrains to India for which it had promised, because India has acceded to America's request not to supply rice to Cuba. But U.S.A. refused to supply wheat to India on the plea that Cuban representative went to India and India supplied rice to Cuba, so U.S.A. would not supply wheat to India.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it true? If you are asking then it is correct...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had earlier submitted.....

MR. SPEAKER: Let him ask the question. If it is true then you should own the responsibility for it.

SHRI RABI RAY: You should examine the whole sequence of events. Indian representatives tells Mr. Morgan of Agriculture Department of America that since India had not exported rice to Cuba, U.S.A. should once again reconsider its decision regarding non-supply of foodgrains to India.

At first, I would like to submit that the Government is not paying remunerative prices to the Indian farmers. It is benefiting the American farmers as Shri Balram Jakhar himself has admitted. Secondly, the policy of non-alignment which has been followed by India since independence is now at stake. Indian Government does not feel any sense of shame in telling the American agriculture Secretary that India has not committed any mistake by supplying rice to Cuba. When our representatives are telling Mr. Morgan that India has not supplied rice to Cuba then what is his reply? He says if India has not supplied rice to Cuba then American Government would consider supplying foodgrains to India. After that we are told that the matter is under consideration of U.S. Government but it does not necessarily mean that India is sure to get the foodgrains. All this situation reveals that the country is not interested in benefiting the Indian farmers and we are giving benefits to the American farmers. Secondly, to which country we will supply the foodgrains or rice, it should be decided by the Parliament of this country and America cannot dictate us in this regard. The Government is taking loans from the World Bank and in turn it is putting the sovereignty of this country at stake. That is why the Government is working under the dictates of the U.S. Government. Lastly, I would like to ask if it is a pleasant situation for you or for the Parliament that the Indian representative, Deputy Ambassador or whosoever he may be gives explanations to U.S. officials and pleads for being excused as India has not supplied rice to Cuba.

This is rather a very critical question. So I would like to request honourable Shri Balram Jakhar who is present here that he should give his statement in the presence of the Hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Prime Minister should give a statement in this regard.

[English]

SHRI LAL K ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last five to seven minutes of the question hour, a pertinent question that was being asked was, at what rate was wheat imported. Instead of replying to this straight question, the hon. Minister sought to put the blame on the proceeding and then said that his Ministry was not concerned with it. It is this which has caused all these problems and left an unsavory and a foul taste in the mouth of every one that there is something hanky-panky about the whole deed. Therefore, this pertinent question should be answered.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Better put a question to the Commerce Ministry and you will be satisfied with it.

SHRI LAL KADVANI: I heard the hon. Minister very carefully. The hon. Minister said "Though it is not pertaining to my Ministry, I am willing to answer it," This is what the hon. Minister said in the course of his reply. This pertinent question is sought to be avoided: What is the rate at which wheat was imported?

SHRI PIUSTIRKEY (Alipurduars): I have asked a question. The hon. Minister has not answered it. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should direct him to ask questions from the concerned Ministry. The question of wheat import has not yet arisen.... *(Interruptions)*...

[English]

Let the Commerce Ministry handle the import and export matter after that that will be done....

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way you are allowing this issue to be discussed even after fifteen minutes of the question hour, it will result in strengthening our apprehension that you are working under the pressure of the government and this thing is not in the interest of the country as well as of the Government. It is, therefore, in your interest to clarify the position.... *(Interruptions)*...

If you do not clarify the position, we would be forced to accept it that you have not taken any step under the pressure of the Government to benefit the Indian farmers.

[English]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: There is nothing. The point is only the competent Ministry which handles import and export can fully reply to this question. I can assure you one thing.

[Translation]

That no wheat has yet been imported, so there is no question of any controversy over it.

MR. SPEAKER: There has been some misunderstanding. Kindly pay some attention to that. Actually, the question had been raised regarding import of wheat and simultaneously some honourable Members also wanted to discuss the same matter which was already existing in the list of Business and both these things have been placed one after the another, so the confusion arose.... *(Interruptions)*...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you later. Please sit down now. Please do not disturb me like this. There are two points—one point

is that there is one question put here: when the decision to import was taken and the hon. Members want the date. I expect the hon. Minister to give that in writing.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will convey the feelings to the Commerce Minister. We will give the exact date....(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dao Dayalji, you are raising the same issue again and again. This is not proper. Secondly, you wanted to discuss another topic also. I have allowed that matter also. Just now, Nirmalji, Shri Rabi Ray and Shri Lal K. Advani have spoken on the same topic and now you are raising the same issue....(Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) Mr. Speaker, Sir, why we feel very much concerned is that even in respect of commercial transactions this country is being shown the red-eyes by the U. S. A. They are dictating to us when the country can purchase even wheat from the United States of America on commercial terms. They are saying that as you have supplied rice or wheat to Cuba - the U. S.'s relation with Cuba is very well known - therefore we would not enter into any commercial transactions even with India. It is possible only because we have shown that we are cringing supplicants of mercy from the U.S. A. That is why they have got the courage today to dictate to us on which lines, on what basis we can enter into even commercial transactions and with which country. Is a Cabinet Government functioning in this country? The Agriculture Minister is a very important Member of the

Cabinet. But he pleads all ignorance....(Interruptions) He pleads ignorance on a very vital issue like this. Let the Commerce Minister be present in the House here and now. Let him explain to the House immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: This matter has come without notice.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: How can this House function? What dignity has this House got? What dignity we have? Can you direct him to appear here and now? How can we function when we do not know whether we are being dictated by the U. S. A. or not? What is the prestige of this House? What is the prestige of the Government today? This is a matter of concern to us. When such matters are raised I feel it is the duty of the Government to come immediately to the House and disabuse the minds of the Members and the country. They should respond themselves. Why should you ask them to come here and make a statement? The Agriculture Minister is such an important Member of the Cabinet. I hope you have your due importance in the Cabinet, Shri Balram Jakhari....(Interruptions)... Let the Finance Minister say. He has to approve of the expenditure. I do not know what sort of understanding you are having with them. Three or four Cabinet Ministers are here. But what is happening?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are presiding over the Lok Sabha. But the Members of the Lok Sabha are not taken into confidence. We are told that we should not refer to this. This is the highest forum of this country....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us do it in a proper manner. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is the way they are behaving. This way we cannot function in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed your views. The Ministers concerned have noted it.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): I am trying to ask a question for the last half an hour... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not Question hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: To whom you are asking the question. Please take your seat. I will call you later.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: We consider this to be a national insult. The first question that comes to our mind is that when we claim that we have become self-sufficient in foodgrains, what prompted us to ask for import? When we had approached USA for import of wheat from that country, they had declined to give that to us on the plea that we has given to Cuba. On a commercial transaction... *(Interruptions)* This is very important. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur):

You ask whatever you want to ask *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: Are you not feeling insult for your country? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Hon. Member knows it very well that this relates to the Finance Ministry. But the Agriculture Minister has already answered... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: The point is, very country has a right to sell its foodgrains to any country that it likes. But when USA declined, what necessitated our representative in Washington to tell that we have not given rice to Cuba. We are a sovereign country and not slave to somebody else. They have to give a clarification. This is a question on honour of our country.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have quoted the rules that points have not to be repeated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: So long they do not respond to it we shall have to repeat it to put it into their heads. They must respond to it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): There is no doubt that it is a serious matter. But the point that has been raised is based on an unsubstantiated press report. *(Interruptions)* This case could have been raised as per the rules. Raising it during the Zero Hour and insist for a reply is not correct. They should raise it with proper notice and they will get proper reply. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: They should raise it through the Calling Attention Notice. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you made a right observation in the beginning. When Shri Chandrasekhar raised this question, you said that if this question is raised here, it will affect our relations.... At that time, Shri Chandra Shekhar said whether disclosure of such news in the newspapers do not affect our relationship. The news has already appeared in the newspapers and we are saying if from the very first day of this session that this Government wants to mortgage the country to IMF. This cannot be done in one day and so it is a step in that direction (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Sir, where is the Commerce Minister?

(*interruptions*)

SHRIDIGVJAYSINGH: Sir, they should give a Calling Attention Notice. It cannot be done like this. Sir, they to go according to the rules.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I think that nothing is more important than this issue at the moment. As Shri Advani has raised this matter, the Government should not insist on an hon. Member to give it in writing. The House is free to know about the rate on which the import has been made and the Government should give the details. If the news which has appeared in the press is wrong, the Government should contradict it. If the Agriculture Minister does not know, the

Finance Minister should contradict it. If it is correct, the Government should give a statement on this by today evening. If a statement is not made, it will prove our charge against the Government that it is mortgaging the country to IMF and the Government will act according to the dictates of America. If it is true, we give utmost importance to the interest of this country than the Government or the Congress. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am waiting for the last 40 minutes. I have an information. In the current year, this Government has exported wheat at the rate of 95 American Dollars per tonne whereas there are reports that it would be imported at the rate of 180 Dollars per tonne. I am asking a specific question.... (*Interruptions*)

If I am not correct, the Government should deny it.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: (Amritsar): Sir, these allegations cannot be made like this.

SHRI DIGVIGAYA SINGH: Sir, he has to give a notice. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana, I am warning you that you are making a specific statement and you have to bear the responsibility for it.

(*interruptions*)

SHRI DIGVJAYA SINGH: Sir, I am on a point of order. How can he raise this question without any notice? (*Interruptions*) Sir, this is a zero hour and this cannot be carried on like this (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I have the clipping of the news item with me. I have raised this matter earlier also and had written to the hon. Prime Minister also about the rates on which wheat was imported and exported by the country. For import, the rates have come to near about 190 Dollars per tonne, according to the international prices whereas the export has been done at the rate of 90 Dollars per tonne. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What he says is out of order.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, Amar Roypradhan.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooh Bihar): Sir, on the one hand, we are importing wheat and on the other hand we are exporting it. As per the documents, whatever the Minister may say, it is a fact that we are importing wheat from Bhutan. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please hear me. Now you are holding a document and you are quoting from that document. You will be responsible for what you are saying.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Yes, Sir. It is authenticated document and I would like to place it on the Table of the House. According to the Royal Government of Bhutan, Department of Revenue and Customs, Declaration and Assessment form, we are importing lakhs of tonnes of wheat and we are also exporting lakhs of tonnes of wheat to Bhutan. We are not protesting about the export of wheat to Bhutan. It is a poor country and they have no wheat. But the things is that

on the one hand we are importing wheat from Bhutan and on the other hand we are exporting wheat to Bhutan. How can it be possible? At the same time how are we exporting wheat to Bhutan? Can you explain this. Sir, I have got the document with me. There is a link between the businessmen and some persons in the Government. Some unscrupulous businessmen and persons in the under world, they are earning a lot of money by this type of business.

Sir, the document is dated 8th September, 1991. I would like to know what is the position of the Government in this regard. I would also like to place the document on the Table of the House. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have to follow the rules and according to the rules you can submit it. And then I will take cognisance of it. Now, will the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs say something on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMAR MANGALAM): Sir, various forms of address have been used on this question. You have very clearly said that the exact date on which the decision to import wheat was taken should be communicated. I would definitely bring it to the notice of the Commerce Minister. (*Interruptions*) Sir, we have no problem and we will definitely come back to the House.

With regard to the issue of news item on the USA's refusal to permit us to import wheat because we gave it to Cuba and all that, I can inform the House that we would bring it to the notice of the Commerce Minister and definitely we will respond. If I may humbly submit, the misfortune is that normally on such issues, we do not respond to everything that comes in the papers. But since the hon. Members have spelt about it

and as they have brought it to the notice of the Government through the zero hour, we will definitely respond. But to say that we have to respond now, immediately, that is not possible.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker Sir, I came across a news item recently that at the rate of 110 to 180 Dollars the Government of India has....

MR. SPEAKER: That is closed now.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: (Amritsar): Sir, yesterday there was a match between India and Pakistan at Sydney. And in the live telecast, we saw that there was a demonstration of Khalistan at Sydney and the word said was that Pakistan "Aage Badho Ham tumahare sath hai" (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think the lady Member also wanted to raise this question.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: I would like to raise this question in the House and I would like to know whether the Minister has been able to notice it and if he knows it, I would like to know what action is being taken. Australia is a very friendly country and we have got a very great tradition with them. This demonstration in a third country should not be allowed.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Sir, let us congratulate first the Indian Team.

[Translation]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA (Nagaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the support prices for the Rabi Crops should have been announced four months back, but the Government did not do so. It should have declared the mini-

mum prices four months back. The crops have already started arriving in the market. Wheat will arrive in the market any time and by when does the Government propose to declare the minimum support price... (Interruptions) The farmers are getting lower prices in the market. By when does the Government propose to announce the minimum support price for Mustard, Groundnut etc.? (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Mirdha has raised a very important question. For the past six or seven months, the farmers are very much anxious over the support price for their crops. Subsequent to the rise in the price of fertilizers, water and electricity rates have also gone up, and many State Government is have hiked them recently. As the Minister of Agriculture has not given any indication of the support prices the Government proposes to announce, the farmers have become apprehensive. In the Economic Review presented by the Government, it is mentioned that there is a possibility of a decrease of 10-40 million tonnes in wheat production, and that the Government proposes to import one million tonne of wheat. If the support prices are not announced, the farmers would obviously decrease the production. All kinds of crop patterns are arriving and the Sugarcane growers are facing unprecedented difficulties. You know very well that in Maharashtra, sugarcane is priced at Rs. 56 per quintal, while in Uttar Pradesh, the prices range between Rs. 32 to Rs. 34.... (Interruptions) Why do you get anxious?

I am not blaming the Uttar Pradesh Government. I am stating the facts. Although the price is fixed at Rs. 45 per quintal, the farmers are getting only Rs. 32 to Rs. 34.... (Interruptions) The country would face a crisis situation if the Government doesn't take immediate steps and announce remunerative prices. (Interruptions)