

### Shortage of Wheat and Rice

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Shri Himatsingka:  
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:  
 Shri B. P. Yadava:  
 Shri Dhaon:  
 Shri Naval Prabhakar:  
 Shri Balmiki:  
 Shri Harish Chandra  
 Mathur:  
 Shri Krishnapal Singh:  
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:  
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:  
 Shri N. P. Yadav:  
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
 Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri Solanki:  
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:  
 \*32. Shri Balgovind Verma:  
 Shri Bibhut Mishra:  
 Shri K. N. Tiwary:  
 Shri Mohan Swarup:  
 Shri Bishwanath Roy:  
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
 Shrimati Jyotsna  
 Chanda:  
 Shri Achal Singh:  
 Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:  
 Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:  
 Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:  
 Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:  
 Shri Dharmalingam:  
 Shri K. C. Pant:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all the States are facing a critical shortage of wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what action Government have taken in view of the grave situation arising out of the shortage; and

(d) the total demand made by States and how the Centre is likely to meet that demand?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) and (b). There is a shortage of rice and wheat but the extent of shortage varies from State to State. The shortage of wheat is mainly due to two successive years of bad production while shortage of rice is due to low market arrivals.

(c) The import of rice and wheat has been stepped up and larger

quantities are now being distributed through fair price shops. The licensing control on trade has been tightened up with a view to bringing out hoarded stocks and preventing undue rise in prices in the open market.

(d) The requirements of each deficit State are examined in consultation with the State Government and supplies are arranged keeping in view the needs of the other States and the overall availability of foodgrains with the Central Government.

Shri Himatsingka: What is the total quantity of imported wheat and rice in 1963-64?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): In 1963, the import was round about 4.5 million tons, and during 1964, it is expected that it may reach nearabout six million tons.

Shri Himatsingka: What is the amount that is being supplied to the States per month, roughly?

Shri D. R. Chavan: During the last five to six months, about five lakh tons per month is the average offtake.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that in some zones, the price of wheat is double that of other zones and if it is so, may I know whether the Government will reconsider the allocation to the different zones according to their requirements?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: Is it a fact that the Government are considering to abolish the food zones in the country to facilitate proper and equitable distribution of foodgrains in the country and, if so, at what stage is it lying now?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is one of the matters under consideration. The zonal system cannot be disturbed in the midst of a trade season. During the next harvest season we shall review the situation and take a decision.

Shri R. S. Pandey: May I know whether the Madhya Pradesh Govern-

ment has made any representation to get the imported wheat?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Almost every State Government has made representations.

**श्री राम सेवक यादव :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या खाद्य मंत्रालय को राज्य सरकारों से इस प्रकार की शिकायतें मिली हैं या इस प्रकार के निवेदन मिले हैं कि सस्ते अन्ने की दूकानों पर पर्याप्त मात्रा में आवश्यकता के अनुसार अनाज नहीं पहुंच पा रहा है।

**श्री काशी राम गुप्त :** क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि राजस्थान के देहातों में अनाज न मिलने के कारण लोग मारे मारे फिरते हैं और जो बिलायती केन्द्रों पहुंचाने की व्यवस्था है उसके अनुसार वह वहां नहीं पहुंचता है।

**श्री डा० रा० चव्हाण :** जैसा भानरेबल सेक्टर कह रहे हैं वह सब हमारी जानकारी में नहीं है, लेकिन अगर उन के पास कोई ऐसी कम्प्लेंट हो और वह उसे हमारे पास लेब दें तो हम उस की एन्क्वायरी करेंगे।

**Shri Bade:** Is it a fact that in so many States wheat is not given by the Government and 50 per cent quota is cut out and therefore the chief grainshops were lying empty without any grain?

**Shri D. R. Chavan:** I have already stated that the demands of the States are met looking to the overall availability of foodgrains in the country.

**Shri Krishnapal Singh:** Is the Government aware that the measures adopted by them have totally failed to control the price with regard to rice, and that wheat is selling between Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 a maund in different parts of Uttar Pradesh, and, if so, what measures have the Government adopted to control the price?

**Mr. Speaker:** We have got a food debate and this question can be put then, and not here.

**Shri D. R. Chavan:** We are meeting the demands of the State within the overall availability of foodgrains.

**Shri Basappa:** In answer to part (c), may I know whether the State Governments are cooperating with the Centre in the matter of enforcing control orders against hoarding, etc., and if the Government are thinking of a central squad to see that hoarding stops completely?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Ultimately action will have to be taken by the various State Governments. I do not think I have much to complain against the State Governments that they are non-cooperating. But whether they are doing it effectively and efficiently is a matter of opinion.

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** In the context of the functioning of the food zones in the country, may I know whether the Government has taken steps to set up a central pool of foodgrains dismantling the food zones?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The import is done by the Central Government. They store the grains and distribute to the various States. In that sense, there is a central pool of wheat and also rice.

**श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** माननीय मंत्री जी ने मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह कहा था कि लाइसेंसिंग प्रादेश को कड़ा कर दिया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या दिल्ली में इसकी कोई प्रतिक्रिया हुई है, और कितने व्यापारियों ने लाइसेंसिंग प्रादेश का उल्लंघन किया है।

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I do not think I can give the numbers immediately.

**Shri Ramanathan Chettiar:** In view of the unreasonable attitude of the surplus States and in view of the difficulties experienced by the deficit States, may I know whether the Central Government is seriously considering the question of issuing a directive to these surplus States to have the zonal restrictions removed?

**Mr. Speaker:** There ought not to be such reflections and insinuations. Why should he presume that their attitude was unreasonable?

**Shri Man Singh P. Patel:** In view of the different habits of consumption of rice and wheat in different States, may I know whether the Government have issued strict instructions to the different States about the quantum of wheat and rice to be distributed in different States?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** As a matter of fact, wheat is distributed only to the wheat-consuming areas generally. But we are also trying to popularise wheat in the non-wheat areas also. Therefore, to that extent we distribute wheat to the non-wheat areas also and try to popularise wheat.

**Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda:** May I know from the Government what long-term measures Government propose to take to stop the shortage of foodstuffs?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I think I will be dealing with this matter in my reply to the debate.

**श्री श्रीकार लाल बरेवा :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसा सर्वे कर लिया है कि साल में कितने गेहूँ और चावल की आवश्यकता होगी, और इसकी कमी के लिये किन किन देशों से बातचीत की है ।

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know what would be the deficiency and to make up that deficiency whether they have had talks with any countries and if so, what are those countries.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** As far as wheat is concerned, the main import is from U.S.A. under PL 480. In addition to that, we import on commercial account from Australia and some other countries. We are also trying to get rice under PL 480 from U.S.A. In addition, we make purchases in the South-east Asian countries also.

**श्री श्रीकार लाल बरेवा :** क्या सर्वे किया गया है कि साल में कितने गेहूँ और चावल की जरूरत है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वह सब का जवाब डिबेट में दूँगे ।

**Shri P. K. Ghosh:** May I know if the shortage in wheat is due to shortage in production or due to the wrong policy of the Government in giving wheat to the big chakkis instead of supplying wheat to the consumer directly through the fair price shops?

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this the information he wants from the Government that their policies are wrong? That comment he might have to make, but what is the information he wants? Would the Government say that their information is that their policies are wrong?

**Shri Himmatsinhji:** Just now the hon. Minister stated that the Government were trying to popularise consumption of wheat. May I know what steps Government have taken so far to popularise consumption of wheat?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** By preparing various wheat products like maida, suji and atta, and distributing it to the people, they are becoming more and more accustomed to that.

**Shri D. N. Tiwary:** May I know whether the Government has sent any instructions to the State Governments or the State Governments *suo motu* have issued instructions to the District Magistrates not to supply foodgrains from ration shops to those owning more than one acre or more than two or three acres of land; if so, how the Government thinks that those people will get their foodstuffs?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We make foodgrains available to the various States taking into consideration the total availability of foodgrains. Then the State Governments have got to take the decision as to how they would distribute it and to whom they would distribute it. No doubt, we have dis-

cussions with them, but ultimately it is the State Government which has to take the responsibility.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर ।

इस प्रश्न के घंटे में जो लोग प्रश्न करते हैं और जिनके नाम उन प्रश्नों के सामने दिये रहते हैं, उनके खड़े होने पर भी प्राप उनकी तरफ से अपनी प्रांख इधर उधर हटा लेते हैं और जिन लोगों का नाम उस प्रश्न के सामने नहीं लिखा है उनको पुकारा जाता है । यदि हमारे सवाल करने पर कोई ऐतराज हो तो हम सवाल ही न किया करें क्योंकि खड़े होने पर भी हमारा नाम नहीं पुकारा जाता ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्राप बैठ जायें ।

जब किसी सवाल के सामने इतने ज्यादा नाम होते हैं कि सब को नहीं बुलाया जा सकता, तो वह सवाल सारे हाउस के सामने आ जाता है । फिर भी मैं कोशिश करता हूँ कि जिनके नाम में वह सवाल है उनको बुलाऊँ । लेकिन जब सब को नहीं बुलाया जा सकता तो और मेम्बरों को एक्सक्लूड नहीं किया जाता । ऐसी हालत में प्रापकी यह शिकायत ठीक है कि मैं सिर्फ सवाल करने वालों की तरफ नज़र नहीं करता बल्कि सारे हाउस की तरफ देखता हूँ ।

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : ऐसा है तो क्लर्किंग बन्द कर दिया जाये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस पर भी सोचा जा सकता है ।

प्राप बैठ जायें ।

Mr. Speaker: Next Question—Shri Rameshwar Tanti.

Shri Rameshwar Tanti: Question No. 33.

Shri Kapur Singh: Sir, Question No. 56 is an allied question and it may also be taken up along with this.

Mr. Speaker: If it is convenient for the Minister, that too might be answered along with this. If he feels that it is not convenient he might not answer it.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): I think it will be slightly different.

Mr. Speaker: Then only Question No. 33 need be answered.

### Prices of Foodgrains

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Shri Rameshwar Tanti:  
Shri Bishanchander Seth:  
Shri B. P. Yadava:  
Shri Dhaon:  
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:  
Dr. Saradish Roy:  
Dr. Ranen Sen:  
Shri Surendra Pal Singh:  
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:  
Shri S. C. Samanta:  
Shri Subodh Hansda:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Yashpal Singh:  
Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
Shri Kapur Singh:  
Shri Vishram Prasad:  
Shri B. G. Dubey:  
Shri P. C. Borooah:  
\*33. Shri Bagri:  
Shri Hem Raj:  
Shri Kashi Ram Gupta:  
Shri Jashvant Mehta:  
Shri Solanki:  
Shri Narasimha Reddy:  
Shri P. E. Chakraverti:  
Shri Balmiki:  
Shri Daji:  
Shri Basappa:  
Shri Balgovind Verma:  
Shri A. S. Saigal:  
Shri Kolla Venkatah:  
Shri J. P. Jyotishi:  
Shri P. L. Barupal:  
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:  
Shri P. K. Deo:  
Shri Gaitan:  
Shri Daljit Singh:  
Shri M. L. Jadhav:  
Shri Kajrolkar:  
Shri Mahananda:  
Shrimati Renuka Ray: