

representatives were consulted at the time of fixing the prices?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This has been done on an *ad hoc* basis because there was no time to go into the full implications of the cost of production and decide on that basis what would be the remunerative price but this factor, namely, parity between agricultural and the non-agricultural prices during the last ten years had been taken into consideration.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Has it come to the notice of Government that in a State like West Bengal the price which had been advocated for the ordinary rice is Rs. 13 a maund and does the Government consider this to be an incentive price for the farmer.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think it is Rs. 13 which we have given here; the producer's price in West Bengal for the common variety is Rs. 37.50 per quintal.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: May I know whether the Centre has advised the States to fix the producer's selling price and also the wholesaler's and retailer's margins and are these being enforced?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; they have already informed the wholesale and retail prices on the basis of the formula given by the Jha Committee.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether the States have notified the price of coarse grains and what is its impact on the present price?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This is with reference to the coming crop. We will have to see the real impact only in the coming months.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the Government proposes to cordon off deficit areas and major cities for the introduction of rationing and if so, since the most vulnerable part of the scheme is Government's dependence on the State machinery, what steps

have been taken to gear up the State machinery for this purpose? .

Shri C. Subramaniam: With great respect to the hon. Member, it would not arise out of this question, it is a completely different matter?

श्री यु० सि० चौधरी : सरकार ने पिछले सेशन में अनाउंस किया था कि किसानों को रेमुनेरेटिव प्राइस दी जायेगी, तो किसानों की इन कीमतों के बारे में, जिस के सम्बन्ध में इतना विरोध प्रकट किया जा रहा है, क्या सरकार यह बतलाने की स्थिति में है कि बाजार के रूप को देखते हुए उन को रेमुनेरेटिव प्राइस दी जायेगी और किसानों की कीमतों की कमी को सरकार पूरा करेगी।

Shri C. Subramaniam: Generally, soon after the harvest the prices are depressed and it is at that price the traders purchase. Later on the price increases. By the policy now advocated by Government, the farmers, even soon after the harvest, would be assured of the price declared as the remunerative price and all organisations set up will take steps to ensure that every farmer will be enabled to get that price.

खाद्यान्न की क्षेत्रीय व्यवस्था की समाप्ति

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श्री विभूति मिश्र :
श्री क० ना० तिवारी :
श्री विश्राम प्रसाद :
श्री बागड़ी :
श्री चविद्या चरण शुक्ल :
श्री प्रकाशबोर शास्त्री :
श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती :
श्री यशपाल सिंह :
श्री दे० द० पुरी :
श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा :
श्री गुलशन :
श्री कजरोलकर :
श्री सुरेन्द्रनाथ द्विवेदी :
श्री रा० बरुआ :

* 28.

• श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय :
 श्री द० ब० राजू :
 श्री प्र० च० बरभा :
 श्री हुक्म चन्द कछवाय :
 श्री हेम राज :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने क
 कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या विभिन्न प्रकार के खाद्यान्नों,
 खांडसारी और तिलहन के लाने से जाने की
 वर्तमान क्षेत्रीय व्यवस्था को हटाने के बारे में
 सरकार ने कोई अन्तिम निर्णय कर लिया है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसके कब से लागू
 हो जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) क्षेत्रीय व्यवस्था की समाप्ति से
 कौन-कौन से फायदे होने का अनुमान है ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) and (b). No final decision regarding zonal arrangements for rice has been taken. Regarding wheat the future of zonal restrictions would be considered some time before the next wheat harvest. There is no zonal system for other foodgrains and oil seeds. Restrictions on inter-State movement of Khandasari still continue and there is no proposal to withdraw these restrictions.

(c) Abolition of the zonal system will ensure free trade throughout the country. Whether in the existing situation such free trade would serve public interest is a question of policy to be decided by Government taking all factors into consideration.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: I want to know whether on account of this zonal system the food prices in Kerala have increased and, if it is so, why the Government is not contemplating to abolish the zonal system.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): It is not because of the zonal system. There is a definite shortage and that shortage gets itself reflected in one way or

the other. The zonal restriction was itself brought about mainly because of the informal restriction which the States placed on the movement of foodgrains and that is why it had to be formalised and the responsibility placed on the State Governments for making the surplus available in the States for the deficit areas.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Is it a fact that due to the zonal system, from the village to the Centre, several units have become independent and thus it is weakening India's unity?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is a matter of opinion. I do agree that this leads to all sorts of distortions. It has not stopped with State to State restriction alone; it is from district to district and tehsil to tehsil and sometimes village to village. As a matter of fact, the whole thing is under consideration, and today in the Chief Ministers' meeting, this aspect will be considered and a final decision taken.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया, जोनल सिस्टम डिस्ट्रिक्ट से ले कर हर प्रान्त तक में हो गया है, तो क्या जो चीफ मिनिस्टर्स की कॉफ्रेंस हो रही है उस में इस बात को गखा जायेगा कि इस तरह की जो बाँटें हैं उन को हटाया जाये । यदि उन को हटाया जाना है तो कब से ऐसा करने का विचार है ।

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have already stated that this will be considered in the Chief Ministers' meeting and a final decision taken.

Shri Narasimha Reddy: On a point of order. We are not hearing the English translation.

Mr. Speaker: I will get it examined.

Shri Narasimha Reddy: We can hear only Hindi; even when English is spoken, only Hindi is falling on our ears. I think there may be something wrong with the equipment.

Mr. Speaker: I will get it examined.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि खाद्य-क्षेत्रों के लिये जो क्षेत्रीय व्यवस्था निर्धारित की गई है क्या यह सत्य है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार उस को समाप्त करना चाहती है, लेकिन कुछ राज्य सरकारें इस से सहमत नहीं है, विशेषकर वे राज्य सरकारें जो अपनी आवश्यकता में अधिक अन्न उत्पन्न कर लेती हैं। यदि हाँ, तो इस पर केन्द्रीय सरकार का क्या निर्णय करने का विचार है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am able to hear the English translation. There is no doubt a difference of opinion with regard to this zonal system: whether there should be a State to State zonal system or a bigger zonal system as it has been done in the case of rice, or, whether the whole country should be one unit for the purpose of tackling the food problem. I should say there are points in favour of anyone of these arrangements. That is why they will have to be discussed in all its details and ultimately a decision should be taken and the decision will have to be implemented.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष महोदय शायद मैं प्रश्न को पूरी तरह समझ नहीं पाया। मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार क्षेत्रीय व्यवस्था को समाप्त करने के पक्ष में है और कुछ राज्य सरकारें इस से सहमत नहीं है। मेरा प्रश्न स्पष्ट रूप से यह है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think the hon. Member is putting the case correctly because I would not say that there is one positive opinion on the part of the Central Government and another positive opinion on the part of the State Governments.

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती : जिन क्षेत्रों से वहाँ अन्न अधिक होने के कारण दूसरे क्षेत्रों के लिये लिया जाता है, क्या उन राज्यों को जिन दूसरी चीजों की आवश्यकता है उनको उसी ढंग से दिये जाने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: Deficit areas

within the same State? I could not follow.

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती : जैसे पंजाब राज्य से अन्न अन्न लेते हैं जो कि वहाँ अधिक मात्रा में है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब को जिन दूसरी चीजों की आवश्यकता है उस को उसी ढंग से उन्हें देने का प्रबन्ध किया जाता है या नहीं, सरकार द्वारा।

Shri C. Subramaniam: The idea is that whatever exportable surplus is available, that should be moved to the various different deficit areas for the purpose of distribution in those areas. How much should be allotted to each deficit area is decided by the Government taking into account the requirements of each area.

Mr. Speaker: That question is not strictly relevant as to what would be given to Punjab in return for the wheat that you get. Punjab requires sugar, he says, and therefore when wheat is taken away from Punjab, sugar should be given to it.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry I could not follow that.

श्री गुलशन : पंजाब से जो अन्न राज्यों को गेहूँ, चावल और चना भेजा गया है, इसकी वजह से वहाँ कमी पड़ी है और कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं। क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह बात सरकार के नोटिस में है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am not hearing the English translation.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether Government has taken note of the rise in price in Punjab consequent on the taking away of wheat from that State for the needs of other States.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir; that has been taken note of and that is why Punjab is kept as a separate zone for the present.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy: May I know whether the hon. Minister is considering to fix the amount of sur-

plus available in the surplus States and abolish the zonal system and make that particular State responsible for supplying the quota allotted by the Centre, without having a zonal system?

Mr. Speaker: That would be a good suggestion.

Shri Nath Pai: The Minister earlier said that the final decision will be taken soon. May I know when finally he will be taking the final decision, in view of the fact that on four different occasions, the country and the Parliament have been promised first that the Chief Ministers' conference would take the decision. Then it was postponed to the National Development Council; then it was referred to Guntur and now it has been referred to the Chief Ministers' conference. May I know when the final decision will be taken?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The Chief Ministers are meeting today and tomorrow for discussing this and for the purpose of taking a final decision. I am hoping this would be the final decision.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : अभी माननीय मंत्री ने फरमाया कि जब गेहूँ की फसल नजदीक आ जायेगी तब जोनल सिस्टम एवालिग करने की बात सोची जायेगी। क्या सरकार के ध्यान में यह बात है कि पिछले साल गुड़ पर से प्रतिबन्ध उस वक्त खत्म किया गया था जब उत्पादक के घर में एक छटांक भी गुड़ नहीं रह गया था ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस पालिसी से किसानों को जो करोड़ों रुपये का घाटा रहेगा उसे सरकार कैसे पूरा करेगी ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I could not hear the English translation.

Mr. Speaker: The tiller would suffer immensely because at the time when he produces the foodgrains, that is taken away from him at a cheaper rate and then he has to get it at a higher rate when he needs it.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I thought I answered that question. That is why we have now a firm price which the producer will be entitled to get. We have also fixed the price at which ultimately the consumer would get it. This problem of the exploitation of the producer by the trade soon after the harvest would be put an end to if we successfully implement this programme.

Shri A. P. Sharma: In view of the various difficulties experienced in the country due to the introduction of the zonal system, may I know what is the definite opinion of the Central Government, besides the views of the State Governments, about the abolition of the zonal system?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think I will be justified in putting forward what I think about it. It is a matter on which, after discussion with the Chief Ministers and on the basis of the consensus of opinion, we have to take a decision, because ultimately it is the State Governments who are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Shri P. R. Patel: In view of the clear pronouncements of our Prime Minister and the hon. Food Minister that all the ills are due to the zonal system, may I know whether the Central Government is unable to remove this zonal system because of opposition from some Chief Ministers of States?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not merely that opposition alone; we have to look into the practical working of any system. It is with reference to that that discussions are going on. I hope after the discussions we would be taking a decision which would be on the whole beneficial to the country.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : देश के हर राज्य के किसानों को, चाहे वे उत्तर प्रदेश के हों, या पंजाब के हों या अन्य किसी राज्य के, कृषि करने में, बीज डालने में, खाद देने में, सिंचाई आदि करने में समान परिश्रम पड़ना

है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि फिर सरकार की ओर से विभिन्न राज्यों के किसानों की पैदावार के प्रान्तीय आधार पर भिन्न मूल्य क्यों निर्धारित किये गये हैं ? इसका विशेष कारण क्या है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry, I have not been able to follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: In every province the farmer has to put in the same amount of toil and labour for producing foodgrains. He asks why is there difference in the prices of the same commodity in different places.

Shri C. Subramaniam: In spite of putting in the same toil the results are different because of the fertility of the soil and the natural advantages that certain places have and, therefore, that has also to be taken into consideration.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : अध्यक्ष महोदय . . .

Mr. Speaker: This may be added to the question: "with all the toil that is put by the farmers equally in every province and also the representation that is made here equally by every hon. Member".

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: Recently the hon. Minister made a statement that some of the surplus states are manipulating the figures and that has resulted in a certain amount of confusion. May I know whether this fact is also weighing with the hon. Minister is not taking a decision regarding the abolition of food zones?

Shri S. Subramaniam: I stated that with regard to making available the surplus available and also for the purpose of getting the supply. Once we undertake the responsibility for this the surplus States try to minimise the surplus available and the deficit States try to exaggerate their deficit. This is the real difficulty.

श्री राधे लाल व्यास : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सारा हमला मध्य प्रदेश पर हो रहा है और आप मुझ को

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसलिए अच्छा होगा कि आप सत्र से सब सुन लें।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know how far it is correct that the wrong division of various zones or the zonal system has been responsible to a great extent in raising the prices of the various essential commodities, and whether any study has been made by Food Ministry in this respect?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir, some study has been made; for example, in the case of wheat in Punjab the price ruled between Rs. 45 and Rs. 55 and at the same time in U.P. it was Rs. 80 and Rs. 90. Therefore, it has created some distortion. At the same time, we have to see how to solve the food problem as a whole and with reference to that we have to take decisions. That is why this matter is under discussion for a long time, and I hope ultimately we may be able to take the correct decision.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: The zonal system has created new problems and the Government has announced that it is considering the question of abolition of this system. The hon. Prime Minister stated at a meeting recently that we are evolving a national food policy. May I know what is the national food policy that the Government is going to present before the Chief Ministers' Conference?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think the hon. Member is entitled to know what I would be putting forward before the Chief Ministers' Conference.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: He may indicate

Mr. Speaker: The Conference is going to be held today and after that he would come to know of it.

Shri Nambiar: In view of the fact that there are zonal restrictions, may I know whether the Government have taken active steps to procure whatever surplus foodstuff is available in different States? For instance, from Andhra, which traditionally flowed rice to Kerala and Madras, for the last one month nothing has been forthcoming. My I know what steps have been taken?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Recently the procurements have been intensified and sufficient movements have been organised for Kerala. The hon. Member may be interested to know that the position in Kerala is improving now and we hope to stabilise that soon.

Shri Brij Raj Singh: There was a big controversy between the Central Government and U.P. Government regarding the export of khandsari sugar from U.P. May I know whether any agreement has been reached in this matter? May I also know whether the Central Government contemplate lifting the restrictions imposed by them, leaving the matter entirely to the State?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am not aware of any difference of opinion between the Central Government and U.P. Government in this matter.

Shri Brij Raj Singh: Is it not a fact.....

Mr. Speaker: He has said that he is not aware of it.

Shri Brij Raj Singh: It is very strange. May I remind him.....

Mr. Speaker: What can I do if he says he is not aware of it?

Shri Narasimha Reddy: Since during this food crisis it is evident that the Andhra State has become a milch cow for all other States in the South, would the Central Government be at least charitable enough to sanction the demand for schemes and grants set up by Andhra State for its development in other spheres?

Shri Nambiar: Sure, sure. Any amount can be given to that State.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kashi Ram Gupta.

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : यह क्षेत्रीय व्यवस्था जो बनाई गई थी वह क्या राज्य सरकारों से परामर्श कर के बनाई गई थी और अब केन्द्रीय सरकार ने जो योजना स्वीकार की है उस में कौन कौन सी राज्य सरकारें ऐसी हैं जोकि रोड़ा अटका रही हैं और उस के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: What are the obstructions put forward by the State Governments and what is the Central Government doing to remove those restrictions?

Shri S. Subramaniam: There is no State Government which is putting obstructions. I do not know what the hon. Member means by 'obstructions'. If he is referring to any obstruction in regard to the functioning of the Central Government in the matter of the food problem, there has been absolutely no obstruction.

Mr. Speaker: Now the representative of Madhya Pradesh might answer the question.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: Since it is the firm policy of the Government of India to maintain and stabilise the price line in foodgrains, is it not a fact that it is not possible to do so without putting restrictions on the free movement of foodgrains from one State to another or even from place to place within the same State?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This is another point of view which has been put forward. One side is suggesting that there should be free movement throughout the country. Now he is suggesting that each village should be a separate zone. It is a matter of opinion.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The zonal system has been responsible for a great deal of smuggling from surplus areas to the deficit areas. May I know if anything will be done to stop this smuggling so that the moral fibre of the nation improves?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is all these aspects which are being discussed before taking a final decision.

श्री शिव नारायण : इन जोस को ऐवालिस कर दिया जाय । हमारे जिले में जो कंट्रोल किया हुआ है उस को क्यों नहीं हटाते हैं और ग्रेस का फ्री मूवमेंट क्यों नहीं करते हैं ? आखिर डिक्ट्रोल करने में सरकार को क्या औबर्जेशन है ?

Mr. Speaker: He has spoken with such violence that I cannot interpret it.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I could follow it. The question is: what is the objection to de-control. If we de-control then we should not complain about rise in prices or non-availability of foodgrains in certain areas, which is not possible at present. It is for the purpose of regulating prices and supply that we are introducing controls.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: If the statement issued twice by a spokesman of the Food Ministry that the food crises in the three Southern States has been due to the policy adopted by a surplus State in the South is based on facts, what more facts are needed by the Government to remove the zone immediately?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am afraid, I do not subscribe to the statement which has been published as emanating from an official of the Food Ministry. I do not think that represents the correct situation. Every State Government has been trying its best to be helpful. In spite of that, there are certain difficulties which could not be overcome.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. We should cover some other questions also. We have spent 35 minutes on this question on food alone.

Cooperative Rice Mills

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*20. { **Shri Rameshwar Tantia;**
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla;
Shri P. C. Borooah;
Shri Shree Narayan Das;
Shri Bibhuti Mishra;
Shri K. N. Tiwary;
Shri P. R. Chakraverti;
Shri Yashpal Singh;
Shri Kajrolkar;
Shri Ram Sewak;
Shri P. G. Sen;
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey;
Shri Y. S. Chaudhary;

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Union Government to provide 100 per cent assistance for the setting up of Cooperative Rice Mills in the country;

(b) if so, when the decision is likely to be taken;

(c) the main features of this proposal; and

(d) the estimated total expenditure involved in each Mill?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A decision has been taken. Necessary instructions are under issue.

(c) The National Cooperative Development Corporation will provide 100 per cent of the cost as long term loan to state governments to provide financial assistance to co-operatives as share capital contribution for setting up of the rice mills?

(d) The cost per mill will vary between Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakhs.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that some of the co-operative sugar mills in