

**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

+

\*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

Punjab and Assam had shown big losses last year while other sugar mills in the Punjab had made good profits; if that is so, whether Government will make some new law to regulate the working of the co-operatives and safeguard the public money?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** This is a question relating to rice mills.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** This money, 100 per cent assistance, will be given by the Government; so, will the Government make some new rules to regulate the working of the co-operatives to see that the money is safeguarded?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** On the other hand, the reports that we have received show that the working of the co-operative sugar mills is generally very satisfactory.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** I said about the Punjab and Assam.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. He should ask the question and have the answer. He should not begin to argue and dispute the statement.

**Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** There are thousands of old rice mills in the country. May I know whether these co-operative mills will consider taking those mills on lease instead of building new mills or together with building new mills also?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** We are not taking old rice mills wholesale. We wanted to have 500 rice mills, both new and old.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** What is the present rice-milling capacity in the country in the cooperative sector and by this new proposal to what extent are we going to meet the co-operative sector production?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I do not think I have figures for the rice-milling capacity of the whole country, but as far as the co-operative rice mills are concerned, the existing rice mills are about 132 and rice hullers are 76.

**Shri P. C. Borooah:** Capacity?

**Shri Kashi Ram Gupta:** I want to know whether all the rice mills have equal capacity for production; if not, what is the total capacity of all the 100 rice mills?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** I said that we are thinking of establishing nearly 500 new rice mills in the co-operative sector out of which we wanted to see that 100 are established in States which are co-operatively under-developed. As far as the capacity is concerned, we cannot say now; it all depends on each unit.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** The hon. Member whether 100 per cent Government assistance does not implicate 100 per cent Government control; if so, how do the Government propose to introduce and sustain the co-operative principle in this venture?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** The hon. Member knows that we are trying to de-officialise, as far as possible; therefore, the question of officialising the rice mills does not arise. What is being done is that 100 per cent assistance is being given to the State Governments and the State Governments will, in turn, purchase shares in the co-operative marketing societies as and when they establish the rice mills, contemplated under that scheme.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** Has he answered my question?

**Mr. Speaker:** He thinks so.

**Shri Man Sinh P. Patel:** In view of the decision to nationalise all the rice mills, may I know whether Government has contemplated any legislation or rules whereby Government or Co-operatives organisations can come up to take over the existing rice mills?

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** There is no decision as far as nationalisation is concerned. We are trying to see that, as far as possible, the co-operative sector develops its activities in rice milling.