

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** There are disparities now, but when we have rationing, in those rationed areas it will be sold at controlled prices.

**श्री सुब्रमण्यम :** मंत्री महोदय ने अभी एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा कि जो देहातों में रहने वाले गरीब लोग हैं उनको अनाज की किल्लत जरूर होती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो तकलीफ देहात वालों को होती है उस को दूर करने के लिये सरकार ने क्या सोचा है।

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** That is why I explained that the rural people suffer because now the urban people take away a major portion of the crop as they have a higher purchasing power. When we cordon off and limit consumption in the urban areas, automatically the situation in the rural areas is bound to improve.

**श्री सुब्रमण्यम :** मेरा उत्तर नहीं मिला। उन्होंने कहा है कि प्रबन्ध किया है। मैंने पूछा था कि जिन को कठिनाई होती है उन के लिये उन्होंने क्या प्रबन्ध किया है।

**प्रध्यक्ष महाशय :** वह भी सोचेंगे।

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** In reply to Shri Prabhakar Kar, the Minister stated that the price of rationed foodgrains had actually gone up so that the producer could get a fair price. How can the argument be valid in view of the fact that prices were raised in the month of June, that is to say, long after the previous harvest and long before the next, when foodgrains are no longer in the hands of producers at all?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The point is that we were subsidising the urban consumer to a certain extent. How long the taxpayer should pay for the urban consumer is the question. We thought it should be on a no-profit no-loss basis.

**Shri P. R. Chakraverti:** Have Government considered the repeated demand of the colliery workers that their quota of rations should be in-

creased due to the hazardous and difficult nature of their work?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, in fixing rations, we are giving a bigger quantity particularly for manual workers.

11.00 hrs.

#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

#### Supply of Rice to West Bengal

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S.N.Q.7. { **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**  
**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**

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

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal, has representend to the Government of India that unless 40,000 tons of rice are supplied to his State by the 30th September, 1965 from Central Stocks, the quantum of ration in the Calcutta statutory rationing area will have to be reduced by 2 ozs. per capita; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Is the Minister aware of the fact that as from Monday this quantum of ration has already been cut down and that the Chief Minister has stated that this is due to the fact that the receipt of supplies from Central stocks is lagging behind the promised quantity and that therefore he has no alternative?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** In answer to other questions I explained why this 2 oz. cut has been made. Evidently the hon. Member was not present at that time.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Have I to be present when other questions are answered?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is expected.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** On a point of order. This is a short notice question which you have allowed. What the hon. Food Minister has said earlier does not constitute a reply to it, and the Food Minister must repeat it according to the procedure of the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think that really there is a point of order in that, though I agree it should not have been difficult for the Minister to repeat his earlier answer.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** Is it obligatory or not?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not obligatory.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** Obligatory for the Member to remain when other questions are answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes. It is presumed that he will be aware of all the proceedings. If something happens in the absence of the hon. Member, he should not say on coming back that he was not aware of what happened, and therefore all those proceedings should be repeated here.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Anyway, I did not insist on it, and I think I am aware also of the reply that has been given.

May I know clearly whether this reduction in quantum is due, primarily due, to the State Government's own initiative and its desire to conserve its stocks, or, as the Chief Minister stated recently to a deputation of MLAs and MPs in Calcutta, that it is due to the fact that he has no alternative but to conserve supplies because the Central Government supplies are not forthcoming?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No, Sir, it is not that the Central Government supplies failed, but I take the responsibility for taking the initiative with the State Government for cutting down the ration so that we may be able to meet the emergency and the likely short supply of foodgrains in the country. I take full responsibility for the initiative, but ultimately the State

Governments have to make the final decision.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** May I remind the Minister of the interesting discovery that he made last year that the food scarcity in the country was artificial and was due to a big producer and big trader axis? Does he still adhere to that view, and if so, considering that in this emergency sacrifices should be equally made and burdens equally shared, may I know what measures have been taken or are being taken by Government to levy compulsorily from these big producers and to compel the big traders to disgorge their hoarded stocks?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I explained that for the purpose of getting the necessary quantities to meet the ration requirements, there will be a national levy, particularly on the big producers. We have written to the State Governments, and they are taking action on that basis. Some State Governments have already fixed the levy on a graduated basis, starting from a low level for low holding and increasing the per-acre quantity to be delivered to a higher level for higher holdings. It is on that basis that we are trying to have a levy, and once we are able to get from the producer himself, the trader may not be very much in the picture.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** I asked about disgorging of hoarded stocks from the big traders. Have any measures been taken at all?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Yes, under the Defence of India Rules, particularly in West Bengal action has been taken for the purpose of dehoarding but I must admit I do not know with what success.

**Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Am I to understand that the commitments of the Central Government to the State of West Bengal for rice and wheat supplies have been fully met, and will be fully met and that there is no basis for the reported statement

of the Chief Minister that the Centre's commitments have not been met?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** As I have already stated, we had committed to deliver 3 lakh tons during 1965, and this 3 lakh tons will be made available.

**Shri Priya Gupta:** In view of the fact that more areas are also being brought under the rationing system, may I know whether the Government has ascertained what quantum of rice and wheat will be required for feeding the population in the area, and what will be the quantity per head to be supplied? Will the Government be able to supply it at all?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** As far as statutory rationing areas are concerned, the quantum has been fixed and that quantum is being made available without any breakdown. As far as modified rationing areas are concerned it is informal rationing system. There also quantities to be given to various categories of people have been announced and subject to the availability of stocks those quantities are being made available.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** I would like to know whether this emergency cut relates only to West Bengal and that too about the supply of rice or such a cut is going to be implemented in all the States and, if so, how these two ounces are to be compensated by any other commodity or foodgrains?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** This should apply to all the States without any distinction between surplus and deficit States. For instance, Madras also has cut down its ration quantity from 12 to 10 ounces.

**Mr. Speaker:** The other part is whether this cut would be compensated by any other commodity?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Not from the Government. They have to supplement it by vegetables and various other things wherever they are available. In a period of shortage the alternatives are whether we should be

in a position to supply at least these ten ounces continuously without any breakdown or whether we shall face a breakdown in any future period. Therefore, we have taken a decision that at least at the lower level we should have a continuous supply. As a matter of fact during the previous war there were periods when we had statutory rationing on the basis of six ounces.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Ground Water Survey

**\*758. Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 332 on the 9th March, 1965 and state the response of the States to the Centre's proposal regarding the carrying out of systematic Ground Water Surveys and investigations by the State Governments with a view to delineating ground water worthy areas which would offer scope for ground water extraction for irrigation purpose?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam):** The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Maharashtra, Mysore, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have reacted favourably to the Centre's proposal regarding the carrying out of systematic Ground Water Surveys and Investigations by the State Governments, with a view to delineating groundwater worthy areas which would offer scope for ground water extraction for irrigation purposes. The Government of Kerala does not consider it necessary to undertake any survey of groundwater resources in the State as there is little scope for groundwater utilisation there. The Governments of Assam and Jammu and Kashmir have not intimated their views in the matter.

##### Election in Orissa

**\*759. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased