

Government have provided supplementary funds through exchange of letters from time to time for a total import of about 2 million tons of wheat, the shipment of which is expected to be completed by the end of December, 1965. So far the scale of availability per month has not been reduced.

Food Imports from U.S.A.

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- *242. Shri Madhu Limaye:
 Shri Bagri:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri Kapur Singh:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Solanki:
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:
 Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Kajrolkar:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:
 Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 Shri Warrior:
 Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:
 Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:
 Shri R. S. Pandey:
 Shri Rajeshwar Patel:
 Shri Jashvant Mehta:
 Shri Hukam Chand
 Kachhavalya:
 Shri Bade:
 Shri Yudhvir Singh:
 Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:
 Shri R. Baru:
 Shri Himatsingka:
 Shri Rameshwar Tantia:

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

(a) whether the United States Government have shown any reluctance to enter into a long term agreement with India in regard to PL 480 food imports;

(b) how much wheat and other foodgrains were asked for by India and sent by the U.S. Government during the months of August, September and October, 1965; and

(c) the prospects for these imports for the next six months?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) The P.L. 480 Agreement entered into with the United States of America in September 1964 and amended in December 1964 provided funds for import of 4.3 million tonnes of wheat and 3.3 lakh tonnes of rice which were shipped by August 1965. Pending a fresh long-term agreement, the United States of America have since provided supplementary funds, through exchange of letters from time to time, for the import of about 2 million tons of wheat from September to December 1965.

(b) No specific quantities were asked for, for the months of August to October 1965, but the following quantities of foodgrains were received from U.S.A. under P.L. 480:

(000 M.T)

	August '65	September '65	October '65
Wheat . . .	501.9	537.3	585.6
Rice . . .	14.4
Milo . . .	37.3	22.4	..

(c) As the fresh long term agreement under P.L. 480 has not yet been concluded, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the quantities which might be imported under P.L. 480 during the next six months.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Do Government and the Minister of Food and Agriculture continue to view the PL 480 programme as a programme contributing to stabilisation of prices and for tiding over shortages or have they come to realise that it is being used or has been used or is liable to be used as an instrument of political pressure and as a programme affecting adversely our agricultural development? If so, is this reduction considered as part of the political pressure?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): I have

already answered this question during the debate. I do not think food is being used for exerting political pressure. That is my judgment and the judgment of Government also.

As far as the other question is concerned, mainly this PL 480 is for the purpose of meeting the shortage, particularly scarcity conditions existing this year.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: The House would be interested to know whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister made a statement that Shri S. K. Patil, who went to the United States, had no brief whatsoever to hold any talks in connection with the PL 480 programme, and also whether Shri S. K. Patil made a statement that to hold these talks he needed no special brief from the Ministry or from the Minister. Can the Minister enlighten the House on this unseemly controversy?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There is no unseemly controversy. As a Minister of the Cabinet there is joint responsibility. What I said was that there was no special brief to Shri S. K. Patil with regard to PL 480, but as a Minister of the Cabinet he is entitled to hold talks on general matters concerning India.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : प्राय जो धन्न पी० एल० 480 में मंगा रहे हैं यह बकर स्टॉक के लिये रकबा जयिगा या कंजमन के लिये होगा।

Shri C. Subramaniam: It will be for both, in the context of the scarcity conditions, we may have to use it more for current consumption.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the quantity and continuity of US food supplied under PL 480 is governed politically and not altruistically, as in the case of Food for Peace to UAR which was disrupted suddenly, may I know whether Government can assure us that they

are properly armed to face any emergency in case there is disruption of food supplies from USA?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, this is also kept in mind in formulating our plans.

श्री शिव नारायण : बैसन सरकार कहती है कि धन्न की सूखा पड़ गया, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस झूठ के बाद पी०एल० 480 का प्रभाव यह प्रगले बंध से मंगाना बन्द करने का विचार रखती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह कौन कह सकता है कि प्रागे बन्द होगा।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It appears from the statement of the hon. Minister and the reply which he gave in this House to the debate, that P.L. 480 is an unavoidable nuisance and we have to take it.

Shri Banga: Necessity.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: So, I would like to know how long we are going to depend on this imported wheat and whether we are going to attain a state of self-sufficiency in the matter of wheat and rice in the Fourth Plan.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir. I have categorically stated that we are formulating plans with a view to reach self-sufficiency by the end of the Fourth Plan. The House will have an opportunity to discuss that programme when we have a discussion on food.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: The answer to part (a) of Q. 242 is neither in the negative nor in the affirmative. I would like to know what reasons have been given by the U.S. Government for delaying the final negotiation for the supply of foodgrains under P.L. 480.

Shri C. Subramaniam: This matter was taken up even in March. The 1964 agreement was coming to an end by June end, and for the next two years we took up the matter in March.

Then, some of the hon. Members expressed anxiety that we should not continue to depend upon P.L. 480 alone to meet our shortage, that on the other hand we should have an agricultural programme which would carry us to a stage of self-sufficiency. So, they were anxious to know how we were programming to reach self-sufficiency and therefore we have also submitted our tentative Fourth Plan agricultural programme to the US Administration and the broad strategy and programme which we are going to adopt for this purpose. This is also under examination for the purpose.

Shri Kapur Singh: Are Government aware that unless a whole shipload of foodgrains enters an Indian port every day, famine conditions would develop; if so, do they accept responsibility for this terrible predicament?

What is he worried about? I have put a very simple question.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Simple questions are always difficult to answer, particularly from this hon. Member.

Shri Ranga: I do not understand why the hon. Minister said just now "particularly from this hon. Member".

Mr. Speaker: He says simple questions are always difficult to answer.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Particularly from this hon. member because even though they look simple, they are difficult. Anyway, I find them difficult to answer. It may be the leader of his party may have simple answers for them.

The point for consideration is this. I have already expressed that it is dangerous to depend upon ships every day entering our ports, particularly from 12,000 miles away. Therefore, it is necessary for us to reach the stage of self-sufficiency as early as possible, but we cannot work a miracle overnight.

Shri Kapur Singh: Sir, he has not answered my question; there were two parts in my question. One is, whether

he is aware, etc. He has answered no part of my question. That is my complaint.

Mr. Speaker: He, therefore, ought to be content with this. Shri D. C. Sharma.

Shri D. C. Sharma: PL 480 has been taken away from the purview of the Agricultural Department of the USA and has been taken over by the State Department. May I know if the Government understands the implications of this transfer and if it understands, what are they?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This is the internal working of the US Government and it is for them to arrange their working in the best way they consider in the circumstances. As far as we are concerned, we are certainly interested to know whether there is a shift in the policy because of this transfer. I have tried to probe into the matter and I have been assured that there is no shift in the policy because of this change in the department.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: It seems that the US authorities including President Johnson are very much worried over our performance in respect of agricultural production over the past many years and it seems that they want us to increase our production and stop this dependence on them. Is it because of that, that our Government is compelled to produce all our plans and schemes and the production schemes before the U.S. authorities to satisfy them? May I know whether this Government is not ashamed to do such a thing?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am not ashamed to do it. I am prepared to take the assistance from whichever quarter it comes. (Interruption).

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Why should you do that?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am rather ashamed to be put in a position to continually ask for food supplies, but as far as the production programme is concerned, it is a technical matter. I am prepared to discuss it with any

technical authority in any part of the world for the purpose of successfully carrying it out. It is not a matter to be ashamed of.

Shri P. O. Borooah: May I know whether the short term aid by the USA has resulted in the rise in the price of imported foodgrains and also of other foodgrains in the country?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This has not resulted in the increase in the price of imported foodgrains. But I do agree that it creates a certain amount of uncertainty with regard to our distribution plans.

श्री श्री बड़े : क्या यह सच है कि...

श्री मधु लिमये : 'अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है।

मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या आपने मेरे प्रश्न को भी इसके साथ जोड़ दिया है, बस इतना ही मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जोड़ा है।

श्री मधु लिमये : तो मुझे इसके बाद बुलाइए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं पहले आपको बुझा चुँ और सब को छोड़ूँ ?

श्री मधु लिमये : जब मेरे प्रश्न को जोड़ दिया है तो बुलाना ही चाहिए।

श्री राम सेवक घावब : हम 15 मिनट से बार-बार खड़े हो रहे हैं लेकिन आपकी नजर इधर नहीं घाती। मैं चाहता हूँ कि हम को ऐसी बातें न कहनी पड़ें, लेकिन रोजाना जब यह देखते हैं तो दुःख होता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुझे अफसोस है कि बिना वजह यह इल्जाम लगाया जाता है। जितना ही मैं उनको ज्यादा वक्त देता हूँ, उतना ही वह इस तरह के इल्जाम लगाते हैं। मैं बारी-बारी से हर एक को वक्त दे रहा हूँ।

श्री राम सेवक घावब : उनका पहला नम्बर है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : तो आ जाता हूँ उस पर भी।

श्री बड़े : 'अभी' आपने कहा कि पी० एल० 480 बढ़ाने के वास्ते अमरीका ने आप से कहा है। लेकिन क्या यह सच नहीं है कि पाकिस्तान और हिन्दुस्तान की लड़ाई जब शुरू हो गयी तो उसके बाद अमरीका ने वही पालिसी जारी नहीं रखी जो शुरू में थी और उस पर अमरीका फिर से विचार कर रहा है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is why it is necessary to understand that this short-term arrangement came to be adopted. It was not after the Pakistani aggression; August 5th is the starting point. The arrangement for the first instalment, on the short term basis, was entered into in July, 1965, when there was no Pakistani conflict.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: Sir, on a point of order. Is it in order for a Minister of the Government of India to say that the scheme of this Government for the Fourth Plan has been submitted to the American Government? I want to know whether it is in order.

Mr. Speaker: Who has said it?

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: I heard the Minister say so. You can verify it from the record.

Shri C. Subramaniam: We have indicated to them how we propose to get over this dependence on PL 480.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: He made that statement in answer to my question here.

Mr. Speaker: He used words which were not intended.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: What is your ruling, Sir, to my point of order?

Mr. Speaker: When I asked the Minister he explained what he meant.

Therefore, it means in his previous answer it was not a good use of the words.

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या अमरीका वालों ने यह कहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान के साथ अनाज के आयात सम्बन्धी करार लम्बान के लिए हम तभी करेंगे जब शास्त्री जी अमरीका की यात्रा करेंगे ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think that impression is correct.

Shri P. B. Chakraverti: Irrespective of any political question attached to the sanction of PL 480, may I know whether the Government has probed into the reasons that prompted them to make it in the form of supply by instalments; if so, what is the substitute which the Government have now fixed so that India can be free from imports?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is only putting the question in different words. We have to reach self-sufficiency. As I have already stated, we have to formulate a programme of agricultural development which would take us to the stage of self-sufficiency. As I mentioned earlier, it would take a few years.

श्री किशन पटनायक : क्या सरकार यह सोचती है कि पहले खाद्य में देश आत्म-निर्भर शील होगा और बाद में पी० एल० 480 को खत्म किया जाएगा, या सरकार यह भी सोचती है कि पहले पी० एल० 480 को खत्म करने के बाद ही इस निर्जीव सरकार के अंदर कुछ जान घा सकती है जिसके द्वारा क्षेत्रों में पैदावार बढ़ सकेगी ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, it is a question to answer which a judgment will have to be made whether our gap between the need and the supply is big or small with which we can get along without imports or with imports. But in the present context of, particularly, falling monsoons, it will be foolhardy to think that we

can get along without imports from foreign countries.

Shri Kapur Singh: Sir, does he accept the premise that his is a nirjeev sarkar?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह जो अमरीका द्वारा गेहूं दिया जा रहा है यह इतना हल्का है कि जिसे जनता अच्छा नहीं समझती, इसमें बदबू आती है और यह वही अनाज अमरीका निर्यात करती है जिसे वहां के लोग नहीं खाते और जो खराब होता है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is a completely wrong impression. I do not know how this impression has spread. The quality of the grain has been examined. . . (Interruptions).

Shri Bade: Has the Minister used it?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जनता लेती ही नहीं है उस अनाज को।

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. They should listen to the answer.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जनता लेती ही नहीं है उस अनाज को। क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह कह सकते हैं कि यह अनाज स्वदेशी अनाज से ज्यादा अच्छा है ?

Mr. Speaker: I can get the information. I cannot just extract any particular answer from the Minister. Hon. Members have other means to put their pressure if they so want. When a question is put, the answer has to be heard.

Shri C. Subramaniam: This grain has been tested in many of our laboratories with regard to the quality of the grain, and it is in no way inferior to the indigenous wheat as far as quality is concerned. As a matter of fact, there is greater and greater demand for this wheat. I do not know wherefrom the hon. Member has got the information that people do not like it and there is no demand for it.

If there is no demand, certainly I will immediately stop the import.

श्री प्र० सि० सहगल : क्या यह सत्य नहीं है कि अकिम्बान में हमारी लड़ाई शुरू होने के बाद अमरीका ने पत्रों के जरिए यह एलान किया था कि जब तक हमारी सलाह नहीं मानी जाएगी तब तक हम पी० एल० 480 के मातहत अनाज सप्लाई नहीं करेंगे ?

Shri C. Subramaniam : I have not received any such communication.

Shri A. S. Saigal : It was in the papers.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : क्या खाद्य और कृषि मन्त्री को यह पता है कि यदि उन न्यूनताओं को हम दूर कर सकें जो हमारे भोजन के उत्पादन में बाधक है तो अमरीका से गेहूँ लेना तो दूर रहा, उसका दे भी सकते हैं ? क्या उन बाधाओं को दूर करने का यत्न किया जा रहा है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam : I thought I had answered this question. We are taking steps to step up our production, so that we may reach a stage of self-sufficiency.

Shri Warrior : In view of the fact that every shipment of PL 480 grain is costing us more and more, may I know whether Government has got any indication from the American Government that the next shipments will also be priced higher?

Shri C. Subramaniam : I do not think the price which the American Government has been charging has been varying. We have been varying the prices, taking into account the demand here and the repercussions of the cheap price of imported grain on internal production.

श्री मधु लिसये : सन् 1956 से 1964 तक कुल जितना गेहूँ हमारे देश में बेचा गया उसमें करीब करीब 40 फीसदी से लेकर 58 फीसदी तक पी० एल० 480 के अन्दर आयात किया हुआ गेहूँ रहता था। इस साल

प्रकाल की जो व्यापक स्थिति है उसको मद्दे-नजर रखते हुए क्या मन्त्री महोदय ने कोई अनुमान किया है कि इस साल कुल कितना गेहूँ आयात करना पड़ेगा ?

Shri C. Subramaniam : Yes, Sir. We are trying to make an assessment of what has been the internal production and what is the prospect of production during the rabi season. As far as import is concerned, our capacity to import by using foreign exchange is limited. Therefore, it has to be by other arrangement and that arrangement is mainly PL 480. Unless we enter into a long-term agreement with USA with regard to PL 480, I would not be able to give any indication of the quantities that we would be importing this year.

श्री मधु लिसये : मेरा प्रश्न अनुमान सम्बन्धी था कि क्या ऐसा कोई एम्प्टिमेट उन्होंने बनाया है कि क्या आवश्यकता रहेगी ?

Shri C. Subramaniam : An estimate is being made with reference to production.

श्री युद्धवीर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, दोनों में मेरा नाम शामिल था और मैं कितनी ही मर्तबा खड़ा भी हुआ लेकिन मुझे एक भी सवाल पूछने का अवसर नहीं दिया गया। कम से कम जिनके नाम दोनों में था उनको तो मौका दिया ही जाना चाहिए था।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा : मेरा भी नाम दोनों सवालों में था लेकिन मुझे एक भी सवाल पूछने का अवसर नहीं दिया गया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इन दो सवालों पर मैंने 20 मिनट का समय दिया अब इससे अधिक तो देना मशकल था। जब लिमिट में बहुत मारे घादमी होते हैं तो इतना समय देने के बाद भी यदि कुछ बच जायं तो कोई क्षयाम नहीं करना चाहिए।

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा : दोनों में मेरा नाम था लेकिन नहीं बनाया गया। समझ

में नहीं जाता बाकी मायकी प्राज्ञानुसार बँडे जाता ह ।

Safe Port Facilities

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*240. Shri Hem Barua:

Shri P. B. Chakraverti:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the present conflict with Pakistan, Government are contemplating to have some surplus and comparatively safe port facilities; and

(b) if so, whether the port facilities available at present are proposed to be improved or new facilities are proposed to be created?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Government's policy is to develop adequate port capacity all along the coastline of India, so that our ports can cope with the foreseeable expansion of India's seaborne trade and also with the stress and strain of any kind of emergency.

(b) Government's programme of development envisages both improvement of the existing ports and development of new major ports.

Shri Hem Barua: I hope by "safe port facilities" Government also mean safety of the ports from the defence point of view. If they mean that, may I know what steps Government have taken to ensure the safety of the existing ports from possible enemy attacks, particularly air attacks?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That essentially impinges upon the functions of the defence forces. I am sure they have taken adequate care about the safety and security of our ports.

Shri Hem Barua: As the Minister responsible for ports he should know the steps taken for the safety of ports.

Mr. Speaker: What is his next question?

Shri Hem Barua: As the Calcutta port is facing gradual extinction, may I know what steps Government have taken to rejuvenate it?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have been taking steps.....

Mr. Speaker: Rejuvenating the Government or the member?

Shri Hem Barua: The port, the Calcutta port.

Shri Raj Bahadur: In that sense, Calcutta is an old port.

Shri Hem Barua: Both the Minister and myself are rejuvenated people.

Mr. Speaker: I am very happy.

Shri Raj Bahadur: We are trying to improve the facilities in the port of Calcutta. We are trying to keep the channel open by extensive and intensive dredging. We have also taken steps to develop the satellite port of Haldia.

Shri P. B. Chakraverti: In view of the fact that the Government is already committed to the development of Haldia Port as a substitute port near Calcutta, may I know whether in the context of this emergency it will be given top priority?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I must make it clear that Haldia is not being developed as a substitute port, it is being developed as a satellite port. There is a lot of difference between the two and I would like to remove the misunderstanding, if there is any, because it has complications. We are taking all possible steps to expedite the development of Haldia Port.

Shri P. C. Borooah: What is the total port capacity proposed to be created under the contemplated scheme and will it be completed during the Fourth Plan?

Shri Raj Bahadur: By the end of the Third Plan, we hope to create a capacity of ports of an order of 60-7 million tonnes. It might go up to 80