

पंजाब में नहरें हैं तो क्या नहरी इलाकों में इसको पहले चालू किया जायेगा।

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : नहीं, यह कोई जरूरी नहीं है कि इस नहरी इलाकों में ही लिया जायेगा। यह तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंटों पर छोड़ दिया जायेगा कि जाँ जो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट चालू करना चाहें चालू कर दें।

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: May I know whether technical advice from experts from abroad has also been sought in this matter in regard to the preparation of the national scheme of crop insurance, and if so, on what aspects such advice has been sought?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We sought the advice of an FAO expert, Mr. Yamauchi; he saw the pilot project and he found it quite feasible.

Shri P. R. Patel: It seems that the drop insurance scheme will take some time to come into force in our country. Till such time as that scheme comes into operation throughout the country, may I know whether Government have any scheme to compensate the cultivators for the losses that they incur due to failure of rain or any other natural calamity,

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Whenever there is some natural calamity, some relief is given to the cultivators by way of land revenue remission and things like; that also some loans are given.

श्री गुलशन : मन्त्री महोदय ने बतलाया है कि फसल बीमा योजना के सम्बन्ध में एक बिल सदन में लाया जायेगा। तो क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस बिल को सदन में लाने के लिये कोई समय मुकर्रर किया गया है कि कब तक इस को लाया जायेगा।

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : मैं यह पहले दर्ज कर चुका हूँ कि इस की समरी बना कर उसको कैबिनेट के सामने रखवा गया है जब कैबिनेट उस को मंजूर कर लेगी तब पार्लियामेन्टरी

अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर साहब उसे लाने की कांशिश करेंगे।

श्री गुलशन : मैंने पूछा है कि कब तक आ जायगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह नहीं बतलाया जा सकता।

Rice Procurement by Food Corporation of India

+

*244. **Shri Kapur Singh:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Solanki:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Dr. Ramen Sen:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Food Corporation of India has not been assigned the task of rice procurement in the next Kharif season; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) and (b). No, Sir. During the next kharif season the Food Corporation of India will undertake direct procurement of rice partly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Kerala and the Union territory of Pondicherry and Karaikal.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: He said 'partly' or something like that.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): Directly by them in parts of the States.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know what is the approximate gap between the expected produce and the actual requirements of rice in the country, and how it is proposed to be filled?

Shri D. R. Chavan: This does not arise out of the question.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is so for you to decide, not for the Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Will he kindly repeat the question as I was not so attentive:

Shri Kapur Singh: The question relates to procurement of rice by this Corporation. I wanted to know what is the approximate gap between the expected produce and the actual requirements of rice in the country. He says it does not arise.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Certainly this is with reference to procurement by the Food Corporation. Production is separate thing altogether. So it does not arise here.

Shri Kapur Singh: Requirements are the basis of procurement. How can there be procurement unless we know what is the requirement?

Mr. Speaker: Anyway he wants notice.

Shri J. B. Kripalani: He did not say that he wanted notice.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Is it a fact that in Andhra Pradesh, which is having a surplus of rice, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is not allowing the Central Government and the Food Corporation to procure rice from the surplus districts, e.g. Godavari and other districts? If so, what is the earthly use of going in for procurement in a State where Government are not allowed to procure from the surplus districts?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There are two schemes in Andhra Pradesh, the scheme relating to the Delta areas and that relating to the non-Delta areas. In the non-Delta areas, there is a levy on the producers. Collection of that levy is undertaken by the Food Corporation. As far as the Delta areas are concerned—I agree that these are the districts with a heavy surplus—there is no levy on the producers as such, but there is a levy on the millers. Therefore, it is a question of procurement by the millers, and from the millers, we take over the stocks. The Food Corporation comes into the picture at the stage of taking over stocks from the millers.

1772 (A) LSD—2.

श्री वसुदेव नायर : सरकार को प्रोक्वोरमेंट के लिये अलग स्टाफ रखना पड़ता है। और लाखों रुपये तन्खाह के देने पड़ते हैं। अलग किसान का अन्जी प्राइस दी जाये तो किसान खुद ही धारकर स्टॉक को धर देगा और प्रोक्वोरमेंट की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि रेग्युलरेटिव प्राइसेज क्यों नहीं दी जाती।

Shri D. R. Chavan: The hon. Member is aware that we have announced remunerative and incentive prices to the producers, not only this year but last year also.

Shri P. K. Deo: While we learn with distress that some of the States do not toe the line of the central scheme—as for example, my State, Orissa—is it due the fact that the Government there is too much bogged in the morass of party interest? Or is it due to the impracticability of this procurement scheme of the Food Corporation of India?

Shri C. Subramaniam: In Orissa, last year the Central Government with their own machinery effected procurement particularly at the millers' point. This year, in view of scarcity, the Orissa Government is suggesting that the State Government itself should be allowed to make the procurement. The matter is still under discussion with the Orissa Government.

Dr. Ranen Sen: Is it a fact that most of the State Governments have informed the Government of India and the Food Corporation of India that the lowest level of paddy price should be increased as otherwise there will be difficulty in procuring rice; if so, what steps have Government taken in regard to that?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This year the policy has been to announce a minimum support price, and the State Governments have been allowed to fix the procurement price at a higher level than the support price, and most of the State Governments have fixed

the procurement price at a much higher level than the support price.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Since the West Bengal Government have decided to introduce State trading in foodgrains, and it is the State Government which will procure rice and paddy from the farmers, I want to know whether any minimum or floor price has been fixed there, and whether it is a fact that the price has been fixed at Rs. 16 whereas the demand of the farmer is Rs. 21.

Shri C. Subramaniam: We had fixed the minimum price, if I remember aright, at Rs. 39 per quintal for paddy, but for procurement, the Bengal Government have fixed the rice at Rs. 41.12 per quintal. I believe recently there has been a demand that this should be raised a little further from Rs. 41.12. The matter is under consideration.

Shri Man Sinh P. Patel: Can Government explain why millers are kept as an intermediary in the delta region of Andhra Pradesh?

Shri C. Subramaniam: They have been dealing with the purchase so long. The Andhra Government feels perhaps it will be disrupting the whole procurement operation if we introduce a new system, particularly when we are in difficulties. That is why they have been allowed to procure, but we have got effectual control over the system.

Shri Muthiah: May I know the target of rice procurement for the next kharif season for the country as a whole, and for Madras State in particular?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This has not yet been fixed. We are in the process of fixing these targets.

Shri Narendra Singh Mahida: Normally the payment is much delayed when you procure foodgrains from the farmers in the States. Will the Food Corporation pay immediately or will it take some time?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as the Food Corporation is concerned, when they enter into a transaction, they pay on the spot. That is the advantage of the Food Corporation coming into the picture. When the State Governments undertake operations, it takes some time to make the payment. This is a commercial undertaking. That will be an advantage to the producers.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know whether it is a fact that the price of some of the coarse foodgrains, for example jowar and maize, prevailing at present in the State of Madhya Pradesh is something like Rs. 60 to Rs. 65 per quintal, whereas the price fixed by the Government for the new crop is Rs. 40 per quintal? If it is so, can we call it a support price, and can we expect that the farmers who, this year, had to spend a lot and incur greater expenditure than usual, will be willing to part with their foodgrains?

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing, he is not asking for information.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: No, Sir. I only want to ask whether we can call it a support price and whether we can expect that the farmers will be willing to part with foodgrains at this rate.

Shri C. Subramaniam: As I have already stated, the policy of the Central Government is to assure a minimum price. As far as the procurement price is concerned, the State Governments are given the liberty to fix it at a higher level. It is for the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to take into consideration all the aspects and fix a reasonable price at which they would purchase. I am sure Madhya Pradesh Government is as responsible and responsive to the needs of the farmers as the hon. Member is or I am.

Shri Mohammed Koya: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that farmers are put to much hardship because a uniform rate of levy is

fixed without taking into consideration the fertility of the land?

Shri C. Subramaniam: To which State does he refer?

Shri Mohammed Koya: Kerala.

Shri C. Subramaniam: In Kerala it is a very nominal levy which has been imposed and therefore it is not possible to undertake a survey of the fertility of each field and on that basis fix it, but the quantity fixed is such that it would not be a burden even for a less fertile field.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : सब से पहले मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि यह खाद्यान्न निगम फरवरी से चावल खरीदेगा । सारे देश में चावल बड़ी देर से आ रहा है और वह बिक चुका है, और फरवरी में निगम चावल खरीदेगा तो किसान ने जिस भाव से बेचा है और जिस भाव से खाद्यान्न निगम खरीदेगा उसमें क्या अन्तर रहेगा ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not in February; they have already started from 1st of September.

Shri Ranga: How is it that Food Grains Corporation is not enabled or permitted to purchase or lift rice from millers as well as foodgrain producers in Krishna-Godavari delta even through the procurement from produces in Guntur district and the millers of Krishna and West Godavari districts have been complaining of the huge stocks on their hands and there were no buyers at all from them?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The Corporation is coming into the picture only now. Till now the millers have been the purchasers from the farmers and that practice is continuing. From the millers we procure the stocks after the paddy is milled. I do agree ultimately we have to get into the pattern, even in those areas, of the

Corporation directly purchasing from the producers.

Shri Ranga: My question is not that. There are these huge stocks with the millers and they have invested their money and that is all locked up. The Corporation is not taking at all from them anything for months while in Kerala the consumers are suffering.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am glad the hon. Member has given this information. I shall see that whatever stocks are available there are immediately taken.

श्री ब्रुकम लक्ष्मणाय : श्री माननीय मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि हम ने पिछले साल से भाव बांध दिए हैं । क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की भोग गया है कि जब से भाव बांध गए हैं तब से मंडियों में अनाज का अनाज कम हो गया है, जिस प्रकार हर साल मंडियों में अनाज अनाज था इस साल नहीं आ रहा है ? इसका क्या कारण है ? क्या भाव बांधने से अनाज का मंडियों में अनाज कम हो गया है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not know how the fixation of support prices will affect the market arrivals. It is due to other causes that market arrivals have been less than before.

Shrimati Vimla Deshmukh: How much does the government expect to procure by this procurement scheme?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is now being assessed with regard to the target to be fixed for each State. It will take some time. By the end of December I hope the targets would be fixed.

Shri K. N. Tiwary: The State Governments have their own plan of procurement and that is why the Corporation has not been able to do the

required business. If so, what steps do the government take to make the scheme successful?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The point for consideration is that the Food Corporation came into existence only on the 1st of January. For six months they had to build up the organisation and also during that period they have undertaken post-procurement programmes of getting at the stocks, storing them and distributing them. From 1st September they are undertaking direct procurement. We should see that we do not overburden this new Corporation immediately with too many tasks and break it in that process. That is why I am hoping it would be possible by phases to bring in the Food Corporation with regard to procurement in the entire country.

Import of Foodgrains

+

- *245. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Sumanta:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
Shri Parashar:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri Kajrolkar:
Shri Daljit Singh:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavalaya:
Shri Yogendra Jha:
Shri M. Rampure:
Shri Kanakasabal:
Shri Mohammed Koya:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 179 on the 24th August, 1965 and state:

(a) whether the agreements for the import of foodgrains from abroad have since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) and (b). The following Agreements for shipments

of wheat and rice till December, 1965 have since been finalised:

- (i) An Agreement dated the 10th September, 1965 for the import of 53.5 thousand Metric tons of rice from Thailand.
- (ii) Amendments to the P.L. 480 Agreement of September, 1964 on 28th September, 1965 and 4th November, 1965 each providing for additional funds for the purchase of 5 lakh tons of wheat to be shipped in November and December, 1965.
- (iii) A deal for the shipment of 3700 tons of rice from U.A.R. during November, 1965.

Certain other agreements are expected to be finalised later.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या इस में कोई लौग टर्म एग्रीमेंट होने की कमी उम्मीद है या आये महीने या आये साल उनका दरवाजा खटखटाने की जरूरत पड़ेगी ?

Shri D. R. Chavan: They are under consideration, as I said in the last para of the reply to the question.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

General Elections in Goa

*264. **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 326 on the 31st August, 1965 regarding General Elections in Goa and state:

(a) whether the consideration of the matter has been concluded; and

(b) if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) and (b). No final decision in the matter has yet been taken.