

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Cottage industries like handicrafts, etc. This Department does not deal with small-scale industries which come under the Industry Ministry.

श्री बिजु बिहारी मेहरोत्रा : क्या सरकार ग्रामीणों को सस्ती बिजली और बड़े उद्योग के मकानों संरक्षण की भी व्यवस्था करेगी ?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: We give protection in the form of aid.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether to improve the economic position of the villages, Government also propose to reconsider its agrarian policy, so as to remove the uneconomic ceilings on holdings?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: I am not competent to answer this question.

Mr. Speaker: He says he is not competent to answer this.

Shri Kapur Singh: Is there nobody on the Treasury Benches competent to answer this?

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं आपका ध्यान प्रश्न के भाग (ग) की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ। भाग (ग) में कहा गया है, "यदि हा, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है ?" मंत्री महोदय ने इस प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब इसकी सूचना महीने भर पूर्व दी गयी तो उसका विवरण क्यों नहीं बतलाया गया ? क्या अब बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Details are given. Government will provide financial, technical training, marketing and other facilities.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: These are not details.

Mr. Speaker: He says these are details. The hon. Member says these are not details. What can I do?

श्री सिहासन सिंह : क्या सरकार ने इस विभाब की तरफ से इंडस्ट्रीज विभाग और अन्य सम्बन्धित विभागों को सूचना भेजी है कि कोटज इंडस्ट्रीज, स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज और शुगर इंडस्ट्री के लिए सरकार की तरफ से जो बिजली दी जाती है उसके रेट में और जो बिजली बड़े उद्योगों को और बड़ी मिलों को दी जाती है उसके रेट में बड़ा अन्तर है, इनको समान किया जाए ? क्या इस दिशा में कुछ कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: I want notice.

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धास्ती : अंग्रेजी राज्य के आने से पहले हरियाना क्षेत्र में नमक, पारा, नील आदि के और मूड़े बनाने आदि के उद्योग थे। अंग्रेजी राज्य में इनको नष्ट कर दिया गया। क्या सरकार इन उद्योग धंधों को, जिनसे गांव आगे बढ़ सकते हैं, फिर से शुरू करने पर विचार कर रही है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मुझाब बड़ा अच्छा है।

Rationing

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- *367. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:**
Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Dr. L. M. Singhi:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Parashar:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Shri Jashvant Mehta:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Warior:
Shri Daji:
Shri K. S. Pandey:
Shri Rajeshwar Patel:

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
 Shri Kajrolkar:
 Dr. Mahadeva Prasad:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Kapur Singh:
 Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri Vishram Prasad:
 Shri E. Barua:
 Shri Yogendra Jha:
 Shri D. S. Patil:
 Shri Linga Reddy:

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

(a) the cities in the country which have been brought under rationing;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains supplied per unit per day;

(c) whether the food budget for the country has been prepared, if so, the broad features thereof; and

(d) the names of States which are surplus and which are deficit, and the extent of surplus and deficit, as the case may be?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) Calcutta, Madras and Coimbatore have been brought under statutory rationing.

(b) Ration quantum has been fixed on a weekly basis and is 1,900 grams per adult per week in Calcutta and 2,000 grams per adult per week in Madras and Coimbatore.

(c) and (d). A food budget for the country is under preparation. The surpluses and deficits of different States are being assessed.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the various State Governments have given their requirements of foodgrains if all the cities with a population above 1 lakh are brought under rationing?

Shri D. R. Chavan: First, statutory rationing will be introduced in all cities with a population of 1 million and above. The scale of ration would be 2 kgs. per week per adult.

Shri Rangil: What would be the number of ounces?

Shri D. R. Chavan: It can be calculated on the basis I have mentioned.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the State Governments have demanded from the stocks of the Central Government the quantities required if all the towns under this scheme are put under rationing; and, if so, what is the quantity indicated by them?

Shri D. R. Chavan: I have just now stated in answer to (c) and (d) that a food budget for the country is under preparation and the surpluses and deficits of different States are being assessed. Unless that assessment is made as to what are the requirements of the various deficit States, what would be the surpluses available, what would be the quantity that is likely to come from other countries on account of imports, etc., it is difficult to answer this question.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: Sir, we have some difficulty in putting supplementaries to this question. In the question, information is asked about cities and the hon. Minister in his reply referred to three cities. But you know, Sir, our State has gone in for statutory rationing and we have also some cities. I do not know whether the Minister considers them as cities. If Coimbatore is a city, Trivandrum is a city. It has a Municipal Corporation. Calicut is another city where also there is a corporation. The Minister does not mention about them at all. In the absence of information about them, how can we ask supplementaries?

Mr. Speaker: The information given might be about cities having a population of more than ten lakhs.

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The question is in regard to cities. It is no doubt true that Kerala has gone from informal rationing to statutory basis on 24th October, 1965. Since the question is only raised in regard to cities the

answer has been given in regard to three cities. Kerala does come under statutory rationing from 24th October, 1965 and the ration is 160 grams of rice and 120 grams of wheat per adult per day and half that quantity per child.

Shri P. E. Chakravarti: While fixing the quota for the ration card holders, may I know whether the Government has taken into account the pressing demands of the colliery workers whose work is strenuous and very hard?

Shri D. B. Chavan: As just now explained, all cities with a population of one lakh and above and also places where there would be a concentration of industrial population would be taken into consideration. So far as the cities that have been referred to are concerned, if my hon. friend will refer to the scale of ration he will find that manual workers have been given certain quantities by way of extra ration.

श्री ए० ए० द्विवेदी : क्या मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान दिल्ली शहर के उन फार्मों की घोर गया है जिनमें उन्होंने हिन्दी के फार्मों में सप्लाई विभाग यानी संचरण विभाग की जगह मरण विभाग लिखा है और जो डिटेस मागे हैं वे मरे हुए लोगों और उनके परिवारों के मागे हैं ? यदि ऐसा है, तो इसको कब तक ठीक कर दिया जायगा ?

Shri D. B. Chavan: Concerning this point, Sir, I have not got the information available with me.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The hon. Minister just now stated that in Calcutta the ration is 1900 grams per week while in Madras and Coimbatore it is 2000 grams. In Kerala it is a slightly different figure. May I know what is the reason for this difference in the treatment given to different cities in India so far as rationing is concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The loading comes from the fact that the additional quantum of ration that is given is by way of wheat which is not accepted in most cases; rice happens to be the staple food in Madras. Since wheat has been added in many cases—they are not taking wheat—they can be a little more liberal. That is how the State Government has fixed the quota.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: What is the reason for the difference in rice ration?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question of rice ration is a thing which is to be fixed on the basis of supply. It is a thing which has been fixed by the State Government.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The Centre has no responsibility?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is not a question of responsibility. The quantity has been fixed by the State Government and accepted by the Centre.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Is there any classification of ration cards in those cities where statutory rationing has been introduced; if so, may I know why there is such a classification of ration cards in cities when you talk of socialism?

Shri D. B. Chavan: I have not understood the question properly, but if the hon. Member is referring to ration cards, I want to tell him that the distribution of rations will be made on the basis of ration cards.

Shri Banga: Sir, it is difficult for me to make it out when the quantity is mentioned in grams. I would like to know in ounces how the quantity works out. In view of the fact that for a manual worker the minimum is considered to be 16 ounces of ration by FAO and other nutrition experts, how does the figure now given work out? If it is very much less than 16 ounces per day per adult, how does the Government expect these people to supplement their diet? Would

there be a free market in addition to rationing so that the people can purchase in the free market also?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as grams are concerned, I quite agree with him and I share my hon. friend's difficulty. It works out to somewhere between 10 and 11 grams per tola. So far as the question of manual workers is concerned, the State Governments have appreciated this fact and are working out the basis on which they could make some additional allowance available to them.

Shri Ranga: Can it be supplemented by a free market?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I do not think so. I do not think the question of free market is under consideration. The question of giving an additional quantity to the manual workers has been discussed by the Chief Ministers.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how much quantity of foodgrains are kept in stock in cities or near about before the rationing system is introduced? For how many months is the stock kept?

Shri D. R. Chavan: The minimum stock for about a month or a month and a half is kept to meet the rationing commitments.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस तरफ गया है कि देहात में इस वकत एक दाना भी घनाज का नहीं है और रूरल एरियाज में लाखों एकड़ जमीन इसलिए पड़ी रह गई है कि उसको बीज नहीं मिस सका है तो उन देहातों में जहां न बीज हैं और न प्रावश्यक खाना ही वहां राशन का क्या इंतजाम हो रहा है ?

Shri D. R. Chavan: The cities have got considerable power of sucking supply from the rural areas. Now the cities will be put under statutory rationing. The idea behind it is that the cities which have got higher purchasing power should not suck up supplies from the rural areas. Therefore, there would be some availability

in the rural areas, because that is the producing area.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: May I know whether it is proposed to have a uniform scale of rationing introduced in all the cities or it will vary from State to State?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: At the moment, the rations given vary from State to State.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: That is creating difficulties.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes, I quite agree. I am not going into the merits of the problem; I am merely stating the fact. It varies from State to State and also according to daily, weekly and monthly rates. Uniformity would be a little difficult at this stage. Probably, it might be arrived at later on.

Shri Kapur Singh: I want to know whether Government propose to ensure rationing availability of indigenous foodgrains in States where there is self-sufficiency in such foodgrains?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Obviously, in the present circumstances, as we are placed now, it will be difficult for us to give additional foodgrains in three or four States which are self-sufficient.

Shri Kapur Singh: My question has not been followed and, therefore, it has not been answered properly.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: All his questions are difficult to follow.

Shri Kapur Singh: I will illustrate my question. In Punjab, for instance, you take away the indigenous wheat and in its place you give American wheat. Do you propose to change it?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I apologize to the hon. Member for not being able to quite follow him correctly. But, if it is an area which is self-sufficient, naturally the question of supplies would not be there. But if,

as the hon. Member states, Governments are taking away wheat from them which is beyond the surplus then some provision has to be made for giving them some other type of wheat.

Shri Warior: In the light of what the Finance Minister has stated, namely, that the States are supplying different quotas of rationing, how is it that the Centre took a decision that their responsibility will be only to supply about 6 ounces of rice ration in those areas where the Central Government has taken the responsibility?

Shri D. R. Chavan: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: He is talking about Kerala. He is asking whether the Central Government has taken the responsibility that the ration will be only 6 ounces.

Shri T. T. Krishnaamachari: The question of Kerala is very peculiar. The Centre takes the responsibility of supplying the deficit. The whole question of rationing depends upon the availability of stocks. The idea is what is short in regard to rice has to be made good by wheat.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय : प्रभु मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि राज्यों की खाद्य पदार्थों की मांग के सम्बन्ध में एक योजना बनाई जा रही है तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह योजना कब तक बना दी जायगी और सरकार इसके सम्बन्ध में कब तक विचार कर लेगी ?

Shri D. B. Chavan: So far as the introduction of statutory rationing is concerned, in the first place, it would depend upon the availability; but, it has been decided to introduce rationing as far as possible in all the cities with a population of a million and above some time by about January 1, 1966.

Shri Mohammad Elias: Sir, in Calcutta the situation is very serious. Please allow us to ask one question.

Mr. Speaker: There are so many signatories to the question and I have certainly to look to them also.

Shri Mohammad Elias: But some of them are absent.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Vishram Prasad.

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रसाद : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि चूंकि महीने भर का पूरा राशन एक घ्रादमी को नहीं मिलता है तो वह घ्राटॉर्मेटिकली बाजार में ब्लैक मार्केट से घ्रानाज खरीदेगा तो इस तरह के ब्लैक मार्केट को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कदम उठाया है ?

Shri D. R. Chavan: In areas where there would be statutory rationing there would not be any black market.

Shri Ranga: Question.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The ghost ration cards eat up the ration cards of the living. May I know what efforts have been made in these towns, where rationing has been introduced, to eliminate altogether the ghost ration cards?

Shri D. R. Chavan: All the steps are taken where statutory rationing is introduced to eliminate ghost cards. That is what the job of the State Governments is, and that they are doing.

Shri Nath Pal: May I ask the Minister why we cannot introduce rationing throughout the country? Even during the Second World War there was rationing throughout the country.

Shri Ranga: No.

Shri Nath Pal: May I point out that an impression is gathering that rationing is being introduced in the industrial cities because the city inhabitant is very vociferous and to mollify

him the Government is introducing rationing? I do not want to argue; but please allow me—I come from a State which is in the grip of a dangerous famine.

Mr. Speaker: That I am allowing separately also. There is going to be a debate. Then, there is "Call Attention" notice also.

Shri Nath Pal: I refer to Maharashtra. What will the Government do to remove this impression, which, I think, has good justification, that rationing is being introduced only in the cities? His talk about sucking up of foodgrains by cities shows that Government is worried about the trouble that may shoot up in the cities which it is trying to forestall by introducing rationing there, whereas the agricultural and poorer section living in the countryside is not having anywhere to go to buy foodgrains. What does the Government propose to do with regard to that.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The idea of rationing in selected areas which are cities is to try to free those areas which have a higher purchasing power and are sucking the supply from the rural areas. That is the whole idea. That is how it began. Now, there is an extension of it which seems to be inescapable because in certain States there is all-round need for rationing. That is why, Maharashtra, I think, is going in for a much larger area of rationing....

Shri Nath Pal: They refuse unless you give them the grain.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: ... than what was originally contemplated, taking in other cities as well. The point that the hon. Member mentioned to begin with in regard to the experience during wartime is certainly valid. Towards the end of the war Government did achieve a certain amount of uniform rationing all over the country.

Shri Ranga: Not all over the country.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Very largely in smaller towns we had rationing during wartime, but it was done over a period of time and not to begin with. So, the idea is to begin with you should sort of seal off those areas where the purchasing power is higher.

Shri Mohammad Elias: Just now the hon. Deputy Minister stated that in Calcutta and Howrah rationing area a 1,900 gram ration is being given every week; but, it is not correct. The ration is being drastically cut and units also are drastically being cut. The whole rationing system is going to collapse in Calcutta and Howrah, one of the biggest industrial cities of the world. In the areas near-by the Calcutta city, like Howrah, 24-Parganas and Hooghly, there is no rationing at all. When the hon. Food Minister was in Calcutta, he gave an assurance that the Centre would rush with more supplies....

Mr. Speaker: It should not be such a long supplementary.

Shri Mohammad Elias: I want to know whether the Government is going to give any help to the West Bengal Government to keep this rationing of foodgrains. There is going to be complete procurement under the State Trading Corporation; it is being done next month.

Shri Kapur Singh: Let the system collapse.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as West Bengal is concerned, the idea seems to be to have informal rationing in all the districts and statutory rationing in Calcutta and that is how they have assessed their demand. It is also true that Calcutta is going on to monopoly procurement completely in which case they might, at a later stage, be able to take up statutory rationing in a larger area. That is all I can say at the moment.