

**Co-operation be pleased to state:**

(a) whether U.S.A. has agreed to give long-term food aid to India;

(b) if so, the main outlines of the agreement entered into for the purpose; and

(c) the terms on which this aid is being given?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shinde):** (a) The matter is still under their consideration.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Import of Foodgrains from U.S.A.**

\*388. Shri Madhu Limaye:

Shri Warior:

Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Shri Prabhat Kar:

Shri Vasudevan Nair:

Shri P. C. Borooah:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Shri P. H. Bheel:

Shri Kindar Lal:

Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.A. have agreed to meet the entire food deficit of India during the current year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Government of U.S.A. have made arrangements for the speedy despatch of foodgrains to India;

(c) if so, the total quantity committed; and

(d) the detailed arrangements for despatch?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri**

**Shinde):** (a) There is no commitment as such. However, the supplies of wheat and Milo under PL 480 are being continued from U.S.A. and supplementary funds have been provided from time to time under the Agreement of September 1964, for the purchase of foodgrains in U.S.A.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The last amendment to the PL 480 Agreement of September 1964 was made on the 5th February, 1966 providing funds for 2 million tons of wheat and one million tons of milo. The shipments have already started. It is expected that the above quantity of wheat would be shipped by April.

The shipment of the foodgrains is being arranged by the Government of India at topmost priority. Arrangements have been made to ensure that the vessels carrying the grain not only load quickly and sail without delay from U.S.A. but also are discharged quickly at our ports on arrival.

**अमरीका के साथ पी० एल० 480 करार**

\*389. श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री :

श्री तुकम चन्व कछवाय :

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती :

श्री श्रीकांठ लाल बेरवा :

क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ख) क्या खाद्यान्नों के आयात के लिये अमरीका के साथ किये गये नए पी० एल० 480 समझौते के अन्तर्गत कोई अतिरिक्त सुविधायें दी गई हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका स्वरूप क्या है ?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shinde):** (a) and (b). No new PL 480 Agreement has been signed with U.S.A. so far. The supplies of foodgrains from U.S.A. are, however, continuing under the PL 480 Agreement of September, 1964 as amended from time to time.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** What is the quantum of foodgrains received during the last three months, and may I know whether the various ports, smaller or bigger, are in keeping with the necessity of unloading?

**The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam):** Every month we are receiving roughly about 700,000 to 800,000 tons of wheat and other foodgrains. An estimate has been made with regard to the capacity of our ports to handle, and it has been estimated that, even providing for other cargoes which would be arriving, it would be possible for us to handle 1.2 million tons of foodgrains during the non-monsoon months and during the monsoon months about 900,000 tons per month.

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** May I know whether there is any rational arrangement about distribution. For example, when foodgrains are unloaded at Bombay, what are the States that come within the purview of the Bombay Port from the point of view of distribution of foodgrains?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Generally, from Bombay we send to the northern States here up to western Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, and to a certain extent Madhya Pradesh also is covered by it.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अमरीका के द्वारा इस साल जो मदद मिलने वाली है वह किस आधार पर मिलने वाली है क्योंकि विदेशी अखबारों में इसके बारे में

काफी चर्चा चल रही है और पूछा जा रहा है कि दुर्भिक्ष ग्रस्त का क्या मतलब होता है। मेरा खयाल है कि लन्दन का एक अखबार "टाइम्स" है, उस ने कहा है कि धीरे धीरे हिन्दुस्तान के लोग इस दुर्भिक्ष के कारण मरते जायेंगे तो लोगों को पता नहीं चलेगा कि मर रहे हैं लेकिन दस साल के बाद जब दूसरी मईमशुमारो की जाये तो इसका उस वक्त पता चलेगा कि काफी लोग मरे हैं। इसलिये उन लोगों को बचाने के लिये क्या सरकार अमरीका से मंगाया गया अनाज उन को देने वाला है, जिससे यह बुरे नतीजे न निकल पायें ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We have taken into account our requirements and sufficient quantities would be imported this year to avoid starvation or distress.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि किनकी आवश्यकताओं का यह खयाल करने वाले हैं ? शहर में रहने वाले लोग जो संगठित हैं, जो हल्ला करना जानते हैं उनकी या 20-25 प्रतिशत प्रामाण इलाकों के सब से गरीब लोगों की ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** अब आप बैठ जाइए। "भाल रिक्वार्मेंट्स" उन्होंने कहा।

**श्री हुकम चन्व कछबाय :** क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस बात की ओर गया है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा जिन राज्य सरकारों को अनाज दिया जाता है वह राज्य सरकारें उस अनाज को काफी ऊँचे दामों पर बेचती हैं और काफी उस से मुनाफा कमाती हैं ? इस के प्रतिरिक्त जिन राज्यों में अनाज है वह भी उसको ऊँचे दाम में बेचकर उसपर 16 व 20 रुपया क्विंटल कमाते हैं, क्या इस ओर सरकार का ध्यान गया है ? यदि हाँ, तो सरकार ने कौन से कदम उठाये हैं ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** As far as imported foodgrains are concerned, the price is fixed by the Central Government and the sales are made on that basis.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** मैं ने साफ सवाल पूछा था अध्यक्ष महोदय ...

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** उन्होंने कहा कि हम प्राइस फिक्स करते हैं ।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** केन्द्रीय सरकार जिस दाम पर देती है उस से ज्यादा दाम पर वह बेचते हैं

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** केन्द्रीय सरकार दाम भी मुकर्रर करती है ।

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** The State Governments are profiteering by selling at a higher price.

**Shri Ranga:** The Government of India fix a particular price for the imported foodgrains and sell it to the State Governments. He poses the question whether it is not a fact that the State Governments are selling it to the actual consumers at a much higher price and thereby indulging in profiteering.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We fix the price at which the State Government should distribute foodgrains at the consumers' level. While fixing that price we take into account the likely expenditure to be incurred for handling, transport etc. Further, it is sold through the fair price shops. So, there is no possibility of profiteering.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Was the Food Minister's attention drawn to a press statement which was issued by the former Chairman of the Foodgrains Trading Corporation, Shri Pal, at the time of his retirement in which he stated...

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Resignation.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** It was not resignation, please.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** Then what was it? Was it removal?

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** ...that provided the State Governments co-operated with the Centre, which they were not doing; the imported foodgrains from America under PL-480 could be used as a buffer stock in the hands of the Centre and not distributed because the normal requirements could be met even without the imported foodgrains provided the State Governments co-operated with the Centre. What is the view of the Government in this matter?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** First of all I should like to clear the misapprehension that the Chairman of the Foodgrains Corporation has resigned. As a matter of fact, he was appointed for one year and after the expiry of that period he retired. So, the question of resignation does not arise.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** We do not mind the euphemism.

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Was there any difference of opinion with him?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I can positively state that there was no difference of opinion between the Food Minister and the Chairman of the Food Corporation.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** He has made a statement that he could not pull on with the officials of the Food Ministry. Is it a statement of fact?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister might answer the main question.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I do agree that foreign imports should generally be used as buffer stocks and not for normal distribution. But unfortunately, this year we are facing an abnormal situation. Because of the

failure of the monsoon the production has decreased very much. So this is the occasion, if at all, when the imported foodgrains have got to be used.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Dwivedi.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Sir, he has not answered the main question. He has simply stated that there is no disagreement between him and Shri Pai. What about the reaction to Shri Pai's statement that the State Governments did not co-operate and that is why it is not possible to use the imported foodgrains only as buffer stock? In other words, he says that if they had co-operated this situation would not have arisen.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** That point would have arisen if there had been a normal production and there had been procurement within each surplus State for the purpose of making supplies to the deficit States. But, unfortunately, even the surplus States were reduced to the position of deficit States during this period. Therefore, the question of the State's cooperating which could have avoided the imports does not arise at all.

श्री ए. आ. द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पी. एल. 480 और दूसरे समझौते के अनुसार अमेरिका से गेहूँ तथा दूसरे कौन कौन से अन्न कितनी मात्रा में इस वर्ष आयेगी और जो कमी रह जायेगी वह किन देशों से पूरी की जायेगी ? साथ साथ यह मास हिन्दुस्तानी जहाजों से आयेगा या अमेरिकी जहाजों से आयेगा और उसका क्या किराया देना पड़ेगा ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Generally, we are getting wheat and milo. These are the foodgrains that we get. Other foodgrains are not available. Take, for example, rice. They used to supply a quantity of 200,000 to 300,000 tons of rice in the former years. But this year, the rice is not available

from U.S.A. Under the Agreement, 50 per cent of the quantities will come in U.S. ships.

**Shri M. L. Dwivedy:** What is the total quantity which will be imported during this year? He has not replied to that.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** This year, our requirement would be 10 to 11 million tons. We hope to import this quantity.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** The Government of India has repeatedly showed its anxiety to enter into long-term agreements and so also we are seeing the concern of the United States Government, President Johnson, for us. If that is so, when both the parties are so anxious, what are reasons for not entering into long-term agreements for the aid as has been replied to in Question 387?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The main point which the United States Administration has taken up is this. We have been depending upon this P.L. 480 for quite a long time and it was hoped that we would reach the stage of self-sufficiency at least by the end of the Third Plan period. Therefore, they express a concern that even during the Fourth Plan, we are going to depend on P.L. 480. They want to be assured as to whether we would reach the stage of self-sufficiency at any time. They have intimated to us that after five years, may not have surplus to give to India and, therefore, it is necessary for India to reach the stage of self-sufficiency at least in the next five years. They were impressing that point to us and about the formulation of a worthwhile agricultural programme to reach self-sufficiency. They said that continuing dependence on P.L. 480 will be a dangerous risk for India.

**Shri Warior:** May I know what is the main amendment made in the

Agreement and whether there is any substantial change either in the conditions or in the price fixed?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The amendment is only with regard to the quantity which could be imported. The 1964 Agreement was only for 4 million tons. They go on amending it because additional funds will be made available.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** I want to know whether the Americans who are meeting our food shortage have ever hinted to us, directly or indirectly, that they perceive a causal connection between our experiments in socialism and our food shortages.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No, Sir; not so far as I know.

**Shri Kapur Singh:** He says, not as far as he knows. Does he speak on behalf of the whole Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** He cannot give any information which might be within the knowledge of somebody else.

**श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्ती :** क्या भारत सरकार ने कभी यह अनुमान लगाया है कि इस पी० एल० 480 के अनुसार माने वाला जो भारत में घन्न है, इसका भारत में घन्न की वृद्धि के उपायों पर क्या बुरा प्रभाव पड़ता है ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I do not see the connection between the two. As a matter of fact, we have to take all the necessary steps for increasing food production. We are importing only to meet the gap which exists today because of our failure on the food front.

**Shri R. S. Pandey:** Today, the papers have given certain figures about the production of foodgrains which show that the food production is the lowest in our country as compared to the other countries of the world. In view of that, I want to know whether the provision of

Rs. 4,300 crores which has been made for agriculture in the Fourth Plan is going to be increased in order to produce more.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** As the hon. Member is aware, we are giving the highest priority to Agriculture and within the resources available, even though the other sectors are being cut down, necessary funds are being made available to the agricultural sector. I do not think that, if anything, the programme would fail for want of funds; it may fail for other reasons like our inability to implement.

**Shri Inder J. Malhotra:** May I know whether the Food Minister or the Government of India has given any kind of assurance or indication to the U.S. Government as to the probable time by which India hopes to become self-sufficient?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We have indicated, in a document, our production programme showing that it should be possible for us to give up imports of goodgrains by 1970-71.

**Shri Hem Barua:** The report is that there are five rats to one Indian in this country, which eat away 20 per cent of the foodgrains available in this country. In that context, may I know what measures Government have taken or propose to take by way of introducing family planning among rats or increasing the population of cats in this country?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We are not undertaking family planning but we are undertaking family eradication of rats.

**Shri-S. M. Banerjee:** From the statement of the hon. Minister it is clear that the condition is not as bad as it appears to be. I want to know whether his attention has been drawn to Shrimati Indira Gandhi's talk with the Pressmen where she has said that the condition is likely to worsen within two months. I would like to

know whether there is any truth in it, and on what basis she made such a statement to the Pressmen.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I am sure the hon. Members are aware that generally the months of May, June, July and August are the lean months in our country because there are no sizable harvests during that period and generally the availability decreases. Particularly in the context of decreased production due to monsoon failure, those are going to be difficult months, but I can assure the hon. House that we are taking all measures possible for the purpose of building up stocks to meet the situation during those four months and I can confidently say that we would be able to tide over the crisis without any starvation.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Is there any truth in the report that a long-term and phased agreement for supply of foodgrains from U.S.A. is not possible because of inadequate facilities in Indian ports to receive the foodgrains?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I have already stated that a team from the U.S.A. came over here and made an assessment that it should be possible for us, even with the existing facilities, to import 10 to 11 million tonnes yearly and with some marginal arrangements, we could import another four million tonnes during one year.

**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:** How far is it correct that, in India, out of those funds which are connected with P.L. 480 funds account, the American Government is ready to give money in the form of loan for irrigation projects? If the answer is in the affirmative, may I know how the Indian Government is intending to encourage people to take that loan and utilise that loan?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** The utilisation of the fund will be with the

Finance Ministry. If the hon. Member is interested, the question may be put to the Finance Minister.

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :** जब से प्रमरीका से प्रनाज आना शुरू हुआ है आज तक प्रतिवर्ष के हिसाब से क्रीमत और वजन से जितना प्रनाज आया है उसमें से कितना नकद खरीदा, कितना उधार लिया और कितना दान में मिला है ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I cannot immediately give the total quantities which have been imported during the last ten years. It should be, if anything, round about 20 million tonnes. That is what I should say. As far as the payment is concerned, we pay in rupee funds....

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is: how much did we purchase; how much did we get as gift and how much did we get as loan.

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** This is payment in rupees immediately. Therefore, the loan does not arise. For the freight we immediately pay. So, most of these things is on payment, but in rupee payments.

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, जरा मंत्री महोदय को याद दिला दीजिये कि यह जो जवाब दे रहे हैं वह जरा सोच समझ कर दें। यह कह रहे हैं कि उसमें से कुछ भी कर्ज में नहीं लिया गया, सब नकद लिया। अब सवाल यह नहीं है कि रुपये में लिया, पाँड में लिया, या डालर में लिया बल्कि सवाल तो यह है कि नकद कितना है, कितना उधार है और कितना दान है ? यह जो 2 करोड़ का कह रहे हैं तो फिर यह बदलना तो अच्छा नहीं होगा।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वह उन्होंने रफली कहा है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : 2 से 4 तो नहीं हो सकता। 2 से सवा 2 हो सकता है ढाई हो सकता है ।

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** This depends on the interpretation. As a matter of fact, we pay in terms of rupees and those rupees are retained here. Therefore, it is on payment basis. No doubt, how this amount should be utilised is a matter of agreement between the U.S.A. and the Indian Government?

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : एक तो यह होता है नक़द दे दिया, एक-होता है, 5, 10 12 या 15 वर्ष में दिया जाता है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसका हिसाब क्या है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वह तो उन्होंने बतलाया कि हर साल नक़द दिया जाता है रुपये में ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : नक़द का क्या मतलब होता है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मंत्री महोदय ने जो कहना था कह दिया है ।

**श्री गणपाल सिंह :** मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि एग््रीकलचर को टौप प्राएरटी दी जाती है तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि विदेशों को अमरीका से लेकर कॅनाडा तक कितना अरब रुपया दिया गया अनाज ख़रीदने के लिए और हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों को कितनी सब-सिडी दी गई ओ मोर फूड के लिए ।

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** These figures are available every year; we publish the plan targets and the amounts which have been expended. But if the actual figures are needed, I would like to have notice.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Some time ago when the United States Government was trying to frighten us by suggesting that they were withholding PL-480 aid, there was a report

that Government was preparing two alternative schemes regarding the supply of food to our country, one on the basis of the availability of U.S. imports and the other on the basis that such imports would no longer be available. May I know whether the latter kind of report which is very necessary for our purposes in order to develop our self-reliance campaign is ready and would be discussed, properly speaking, so that the country might be apprised of its duty in that regard?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No doubt, we were also preparing for a contingency when no aid will be available from the USA but that would have led to serious and difficult conditions in the country. Therefore, we tried our best to get them; for, even with these imports, we hear about hunger marches in West Bengal, Kerala and other parts of the country; just now, we are injecting into the market round about 850,000 tons of wheat every month, but in spite of that, hon. Members complain that there is starvation in the country. Without this amount of foodgrains being made available, hon. Members can imagine the plight of the people.

**श्री शिव नारायण :** मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो डा० लोहिया ने पूछा दान में आपको कितना मिलता है अमरीका से और चावल आप किन-किन मुल्कों से मंगा रहे हैं, अमरीका को छोड़ कर और दान में कितना मिला है ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** We are getting rice from Burma, Thailand and the UAR; these are the three main countries from which we are getting it.

**श्री शिव नारायण :** दान वाला भी तो बतलाइये ।

**श्री विजयनाथ पल्लभेय :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अमरीकी सरकार ने भारत सरकार को यह राय दी है कि खाद्यान्न की कमी की पूर्ति करने के लिए देश में कपास की खेती और गन्ने की खेती कम की जाय और उसके स्थान पर खाद्यान्न की खेती की जाय, यदि हाँ, तो इसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या सोचा है ?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No such suggestion has been made to the Government of India.

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Is it a fact that the United States Government have told our Government that it will not be possible to meet all our requests for imports and that we should convert part of our land under cotton crop into land under food crop and that they would be pleased to give us cotton instead of food? Is that a fact, and, if so, what is our reaction to this proposal?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** No such proposal has been made to the Government of India.

**श्री रामेश्वरानन्द :** प्रति-वर्ष के आंकड़ों को देखने से मालूम होता है कि अन्न की लगातार कमी होती जा रही है और हम पैदावार को बढ़ा नहीं पाये हैं, लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि हम 1971 तक अन्न के सम्बन्ध में आत्मनिर्भर हो जायेंगे और विदेशों को भी यह कह दिया गया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब कि सरकार दृषि-योग्य भूमि को कल-कारखानों और पता नहीं, किस-किस काम के लिए धरती जा रही है और जनसंख्या बढ़ती जा रही है, तो इस अर्थ में मंत्री महोदय ने यह अनुमान कैसे लगा लिया है कि हम 1971 तक अन्न के विषय में आत्मनिर्भर हो जायेंगे।

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** I have already placed before Parliament a

document showing the programme and strategy we are going to adopt during the Fourth Plan period, and we have shown there how the targets could be reached. It is on that basis we expect to reach the targeted production.

**श्री रामेश्वरानन्द :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पूछा है कि जब जनसंख्या बढ़ती जा रही है और जमीन सिकुड़ती जा रही है, तो इस हालत में हम 1971 तक कैसे आत्मनिर्भर हो सकेंगे।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** स्वामी जी इस बात की कोशिश करें कि जनसंख्या न बढ़े।

**श्री रामेश्वरानन्द :** मैंने तो यत्न किया है, लेकिन आप लोग गड़बड़ी कर रहे हैं।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मेरे खिलाफ तो कोई शिकायत नहीं हो सकती।

**Shri Daji:** What is the price at which US wheat is imported and the administrative and distribution charges estimated and the price at which it is sold to the consumer?

**Shri C. Subramaniam:** Now we sell at the wholesaler's level at Rs. 52 per quintal. All the charges, the cost we pay, the freight charges are the handling charges come to round about that figure, Rs. 50-51.

**Shri Daji:** My question has not been replied to....

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** नैक्स्ट क्वैस्टन—  
श्री भागवत आ आज़ाद।

**श्री बागड़ी :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे भी सवाल पूछने का मौका दिया जाये।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** मैं आप को अगले क्वैस्टन में चांस दे दूंगा।

श्री बागड़ी : इससे क्या फायदा है ?

Shri Daji: I asked what is the price at which it is imported.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I cannot immediately give a break-up. But as I said, the actual cost we incur and the freight and handling charges come to round about Rs. 51.

राशन व्यवस्था

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- \* 390. श्री भागवत झा आबाब :  
 श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :  
 श्री स० च० सामन्त :  
 श्री सुबोध हंसदा :  
 श्रीमती सावित्री निगम :  
 श्री प्र० च० बरध्ना :  
 श्रीमती मंमूना सुल्तान :  
 श्री बड़े :  
 श्री राम सहाय पाण्डेय :  
 श्री रा० बरध्ना :

क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामवायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली में बाजार में पहले खाद्यान्न मिल जाते थे परन्तु जिस दिन से खाद्यान्न की राशन व्यवस्था आरम्भ की गई है, वे अचानक ही गायब हो गये हैं;

(ख) क्या इस प्रकार रहस्यमय ढंग से अचानक खाद्यान्न गायब हो जाने के सम्बन्ध में कोई जांच की गई है; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो जांच का क्या परिणाम निकला है ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is it a fact that even today it is possible for any citizen to go to the black markets of Delhi and purchase any quantity of foodgrains he likes? If so, how do Government think that it is not a fact that such of the foodgrains have disappeared?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): As soon as statutory rationing was introduced, we asked the traders to declare their stocks. There were declarations to the extent of indigenous wheat 10,034 quintals and rice 2,185 quintals and also various other articles. It is quite possible that some of the stocks are withheld without being declared. But it can only be a marginal quantity. Whatever might be the arrangement, however tight might be the cordon, I have no doubt in my mind that there are bound to be leakages.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: If the leakage is of a very small quantity, it does not very much affect the position. But when everything is under ration and when better stuff is available in the form of indigenous wheat in free market, how do Government say that the leakage is small, that is to say, when better qualities are available in large quantities, as much as one wants to purchase?

Shri C. Subramaniam: At a high price, perhaps a few individuals might be able to get whatever they require. It may be a quintal or two. But if it is a question of supplying the whole community, it will not be adequate. I do agree that particularly soon after the introduction of rationing some stocks may have been withheld and they may be making some profit. But in course of time, that would disappear, apart from these marginal leakages.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी: दिल्ली में राशनग के लिए हफ्तों की जो गिनती की जाती है, वह साल भर के हफ्तों की तरह की जाती है,