

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the Government wants to have one uniform law for matrimony for all the classes in India?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: It is the ambition to have a uniform law but then there are certain religious susceptibilities, and we are hoping that in course of time, we can have one. There are personal laws and religions, and there are religious demands. So we are going slow on the matter.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know whether the hon. Minister is not aware of the fact that women's organisations in India, Pakistan, Iran and in some of the countries of West Asia, have been pressing for this reform, that there should be monogamy so far as the Muslims are concerned and, if so, may I know why our country, which has been the pace-setter in the matter of reform in marriage laws, should not also be the pace-setter in this particular matter also?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: We wish all these women's organisations are strengthened. We are hoping that sufficient momentum will be gained by us so that in course of time there will be a uniform law available.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that the Constitution lays down that we should go forward for the establishment of a uniform civil code, is it now the policy of Government to slow down on this matter? Since the death of the Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, we have not had a single amendment to the Christian law, although we have amended it at a Select Committee, and now we are afraid of even touching the Muslim law in this country. What is the policy of the Government in this matter?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: We have had to deal with the civil code question in another form sometime ago. It is quite true that the endeavour is there. But, as I said, the religious susceptibilities of those people have to be taken into account. So far as I

have stated, the ambition is to have a uniform civil code for all the people living in India.

12:00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और गुजरात के लिए
खाद्य क्षेत्र

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SNQ.28 श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री ;

श्री मधु लिवडे ;

श्री किशन पटनायक ;

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया ;

श्री रामचंद्र उलाका ;

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

(क) क्या पंजाब, उत्तर प्रदेश और दिल्ली की तरह मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और गुजरात के लिये भी एक खाद्य क्षेत्र बनाने का प्रस्ताव विचाराधीन है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उन में से कुछ राज्यों में चना जैसे मोटे अनाज भारी मात्रा में रुके पड़े हैं और उनका व्यर्थ में नाश हो रहा है ; और

(ग) इस पर अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक हो जाएगा ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Accumulation of stocks of coarse grains has not been reported from the States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. There has been some accumulation of gram in certain Mandies of Rajasthan. The stocks of other coarse grains are reported to be not large.

(c) The question of the continuance or otherwise of the existing zonal system is at present under examination by the Foodgrains Policy Committee. The Committee has been

requested to submit its report as early as possible. A final decision would be taken on receipt of the report of the Committee.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी पीछे पंजाब, उत्तर प्रदेश और दिल्ली का एक क्षेत्र बना कर सरकार ने जो सराहनीय कदम उठाया है और जिसके कारण किसान को, जिनके पाम अनाज रुका हुआ पड़ा था, उचित मूल्य मिला, उत्तर प्रदेश और दिल्ली के अन्दर अन्न के दाम गिरे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में उस अनुभव का लाभ उठा कर मध्य प्रदेश, गुजरात और राजस्थान का एक क्षेत्र बनाने में सरकार को ऐसी क्या कठिनाई आ रही है, जो अब तक इस बारे में निर्णय नहीं ले सकी है ?

श्री त्यागी : आश्चर्य तो अच्छा है।

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): We will keep this in mind when we take a final decision with regard to the zones.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : कब तक ? यह चीज तो एक महीने से चल रही है। दूसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार खाद्यान्न के क्षेत्र समाप्त करना चाहती है, लेकिन कुछ निहित स्वार्थों के कारण मुख्य मंत्री केन्द्रीय सरकार के निर्णयों को कार्यान्वित नहीं होने देते और इसी के कारण केन्द्रीय सरकार और मुख्य मंत्रियों के बीच में तनाव चल रहा है और इसका अन्त नहीं हो सका है। तो कब तक यह समस्या इसी तरह बीच में लटकी रहेगी, जिससे किसानों और उपभोक्ताओं दोनों को कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not correct that there is tension between the Central Government and the State Governments. The whole question is now being examined by a committee. As soon as the report is available, we will take a decision.

श्री मधु लिखड़े : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि खाद्य के देश के अन्दर आयात-निर्यात पर जो क्षेत्रीय, राष्ट्रीय तथा इलाकीय स्तर पर निर्बंध लगाये गये हैं, उनके फलस्वरूप बड़े पैमाने पर राज्य सरकार मुनाफ़ाखोरी कर रही हैं। जैसे कि सुखाड़िया साहब के खिलाफ जो आरोप-पत्र पेश किया गया था, उसमें सं० 4 का आरोप यह था कि उदयपुर से मक्के तथा चावल के निर्यात पर पाबन्दी लगाई गई और सुखाड़िया साहब ने कहा कि जो लोग बाहर भोजना चाहते हैं, वे एक टन पर एक रुपया दे दें और इस तरह से सवा लाख रुपया इकट्ठा किया गया। इसी तरह राजस्थान से चना और दूसरा अनाज मद्रास या पश्चिमी बंगाल या अन्य राज्यों को सस्ते दामों में खरीद कर बहुत महंगे दामों में बेचा है। क्या इस तरह की शिकायतें इनके पास आई हुई हैं तथा इन की रोशनी में क्या राजस्थान में क्षेत्रीय, देश में राष्ट्रीय तथा जिले के स्तर पर जितने सरकारी निर्बंध लगे हुए हैं, उनको उठाने के लिये सरकार पहल करने वाली है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not admit that there has been profiteering by the State Governments, but the difficulties mentioned by the hon. Member will be taken into account in coming to a final decision.

श्री किशन पटनायक : मंत्री महोदय ने मना कर दिया है कि प्राफिटियरिंग नहीं हो रहा है, लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि गेहूँ और चना राजस्थान सरकार ने कितनी कीमत पर खरीदा था और कितनी कीमत पर बाहर बेचा था ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Wheat was not sold by them, only gram was sold by them. I think I have answered this question before. Anyway, I do not have the figures immediately with me.

श्री किशन पटनायक : हम ने किमत नहीं पूछी, हमने कीमत पूछी है। किमत

कीमत पर चना खरीदा और किस कीमत पर बेचा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने कहा है कि चना बेचा है, गेहूँ नहीं बेचा है ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, from the various statements issued by the hon. Minister it appears that there is no shortage of wheat at present because of the huge amount of imported wheat from USA. I would like to know, if it is true, what is the use of having zonal restrictions as far as wheat is concerned whether it be in U.P., Rajasthan or anywhere?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This question has been answered ever so many times. In a time of scarcity we cannot allow scarcity conditions to develop everywhere and then rush imported foodgrains there. That is why with such restrictions we try to localise the scarcity pockets and treat them with these imported foodgrains.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let him say there is scarcity. If there, is no scarcity—Sir, kindly hear me.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered the question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has not answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order—Shri Sheo Narain.

श्री शिव नारायण : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब में गेहूँ और चना सड़ गया और नेपाल के बाइंडर से चावल चीन को चला जाता है और इस प्रतिबन्ध की वजह से देश में बिकने नहीं पाता है, अब सरकार को इस प्रतिबन्ध को हटाने में क्या प्राप्ति है, जब कि कांग्रेस और देश के कोने कोने से यह आवाज है कि इसको फ्री किया जाये ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I agree there is a difference of view with regard to this. That is why the matter

has to be examined in detail and with care before we take a decision.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether Government has taken notice of the observations made by the High Court of Rajasthan in respect of this very harsh and improper manner in which the Government of Rajasthan is treating its gram dealers and the tremendous amount of gram valued at about Rs. 8 crores being held up in the mandis of Rajasthan without being bought by the Government or being disposed of in any other way; if so, may I know what is being done in this respect? I sent a detailed letter myself to the hon. Minister along with a copy of the observations made by the High Court, Still nothing has been done.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have lost track of it; I shall try to find out the judgment and go through it.

Shri Ranga: Sir, a copy of the judgment was sent to him. He should have been able to take a decision and do something about it. It is mere procrastination, nothing else.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether Government has taken note of the present stock position of wheat and how Government proposes to rescue the farmers from a fall in price of wheat from a certain level to a downward level when the American wheat starts coming in?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This supply has already started coming in. In spite of that the price of indigenous wheat is ruling fairly high, and Government have a programme of giving support; if it goes below a certain price we will intervene and purchase.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Apart from de-zoning and having larger zones, is it known to the hon. Minister that in Rajasthan there is restriction even from district to district in the matter of movement of foodgrains? Why is it so, in spite of so

much heavy imports and feeding Rajasthan with its requirements? What is your reaction to this restriction from district to district?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I agree that there is a district to district restriction also. We have taken it up with the State Government that this district to district restriction should go, particularly when there is no procurement programme. I hope they would consider this aspect.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: As a matter of fact, this district to district restriction cannot be there without your support. You have got this enactment and you assured this House at least that no State is authorised to have these restrictions without your support. Do I take it that they are having them with your support or in spite of your telling them clearly not to have them?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This order was passed long ago for the purpose of procurement at controlled prices. It was represented that without these restrictions procurement would be impossible. Now that the procurement programme has been given up and also the imposition of maximum price is no longer there, we have put it to the State Governments that these restrictions will be no longer necessary. As soon as I hear from them, I will have to take a decision.

Shri Ranga: We could have appreciated the hon. Ministers reply that he has sent for a copy of the High Court judgement, if only extracts from that judgement had been sent by my hon. friend, Dr. Singhvi. He is one of the leaders of groups here. He has sent the whole of the judgement to him. Was it not proper on his part to have straightaway asked the Government of Rajasthan what they have to say in regard to that judgement, why they harass the traders there and allow lakhs of tonnes of gram to not there in that State?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I lost track of that judgement. I have not seen

it. It has been misplaced somewhere. But I shall get a copy of the judgement and look into it.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: It is nearly one month ago that a full copy of the judgement was sent to the Minister with a long letter saying that the Government was acting in a manner which did not redound to its credit and that it was going back on the very express promise that it had made to these traders at the time of obtaining from them certain quantities of gram. Now the Minister says that he has lost track of it. A whole month has gone and nothing has been done.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Generally, I look into the various letters written by hon. Members, but I do not recollect to have seen this.

Shri Ranga: That is how this Government is carried on.

Shri C. Subramaniam: The hon. Member may be a better administrator when he gets into this position.

Shri Ranga: He has no business to talk like that. He owes an apology to this House for having neglected his primary duty.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I will not hear lectures by the hon. Member as to how I should carry on.

Shri Ranga: Sir, I rise on a point of order and privilege. Here is one of the leaders of groups who sent the judgement of the High Court in full to the hon. Minister and he did not take the trouble to look into it, study it and send it to the Rajasthan Government. He himself confesses now that he does not even remember having seen it. This is the kind of irresponsible manner in which they have been dealing with the leaders of the Opposition as also of this House. It is absolutely irresponsible.

Mr. Speaker: Sometimes mistakes might occur though it is expected that any communication received from a Member of Parliament should be given proper heed. Proper attention

should be paid and whatever action is required must be taken at once. But now that the Minister explains that he does not recollect having seen that . . . (Interruption).

Shri Ranga: What does he mean?

Mr. Speaker: If he has missed it, we can only ask him that he might look into it now and give us his reaction.

Shri Ranga: He should not repeat this performance. Does he not owe an apology to this House? Excuse me for making this observation but it is not enough that the Speaker and the House should be satisfied with expressing a general axiom and a principle. The application of that principle is equally important. Here is a case which has been brought to the notice of this House and for one month the hon. Minister does not even know or remember having received such a communication or judgement. They do not bother. And he gives that cavalier answer. On the top of it when I raised my voice in protest, he goes on saying that as if he is not at fault at all and he does not care.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I would like to know who is shouting.

Shri Ranga: You have shouted.

Mr. Speaker: Both hon. Members shall sit down.

Shri Ranga: He has no business to behave in this manner.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ranga: You must call them to order.

Mr. Speaker: I am asking both sides.

Shri Ranga: In regard to that particular matter you have to call him to order.

श्री गुरुदेव कृपया कृपया कृपया : इनको क्षमा मागनी चाहिं । इन्होंने कागज की टोकरी में फेंका है ।

Shri Ranga: At this rate it is no good having this House.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I would not have butted in but for the fact that the Minister of Food Imports had the temerity to go out of his way to suggest that the Leader of the Swatantra Party might on some conceivable future occasion become an administrator in his worthy place and behave better. This is a kind of taunt which came in the wake of a confession of incapacity to which reference has already been made by Shri Ranga. I am not concerned about the merits of the matter because I do not quite know what it is about, but this kind of behaviour on the part of a Minister who specialises in going abroad with a bowl in his hand . . . (Interruption).

Shri C. Subramaniam: I object to this. There is a limit.

Mr. Speaker: That is beside the point that he goes out . . . (Interruption).

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The Minister should have the sense of propriety, the sense of humility, particularly when it comes from a Leader of one of the Groups. The Minister has gone out of his way suggesting. (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I rise on a point of order.

Shri Rajeshwar Patel rose—

Mr. Speaker: I can hear one by one. Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I want to know whether the propriety and humility are not expected of the members on all the sides of the House; that a member should not shout this way or use the language of which the Minister is being accused, is equally applicable to all the members of this House.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; it is applicable to all the members.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad: Whereas the Opposition group leaders are entitled to certain things, is not the majority party—and the Minister in the Cabinet—entitled to expect the same from the leaders of other groups?

Shri Rajeshwar Patel: In view of the shortage of foodgrains in this country and in view of the fact that the Ministers are making journeys to all corners of the world to procure foodgrains, is it necessary for a member of this House to apprise the Food Ministry of the judgement of the High Court? Is not the Food Ministry supposed to take notice of this and save Rs. 8 crores worth of grams?

Shri D. C. Sharma: I thank you for restoring calmness in this House and I think you will be doing so in future also. One thing that I want to submit is this: no Member of Parliament, whether he is on the Congress benches or on the Opposition benches, whether he is a leader of a group or Minister of some portfolio, should be allowed to make any personal reflection on anybody. I think there should be no aspersions cast on a person. I am not particularly in love with any of these Ministers...

Mr. Speaker: Is he in love with any?

Shri D. C. Sharma: The aspersions cast by the Leader of the Right Communist Party should be withdrawn. They were not in good faith; they do not raise the dignity of the House. (Interruptions). of course, he is a scholar of great repute; he is a preserver of Parliamentary procedures and I hope that he will ultimately do so.

Mr. Speaker: There ought to be some end to such a controversy that erupts suddenly. It is an admitted fact that we should use language with toleration and forbearance inside the House. Sometimes we do get excited

An hon. Member: Outside the House?

Mr. Speaker: It is my bad luck that every one does it here and not outside. every one of them is a very fine gentleman outside. Mr. Mukerjee was making a thrust when he said it; if he had not gone a little further, certainly it would have been more dignified and I would have said something. He also referred to certain irrelevant things which were not needed at that time. Sometimes even responsible members get excited. There is reason to believe that sometimes they go out of their way.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: How about Ministers?

Mr. Speaker: Members include Ministers also.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But, Sir, a Minister can be a non-member according to the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker: I am talking of members and Ministers; I am referring to those on this side as well as to those on the other side.

There are certain things said in the representation that had been sent. The judgement of the High Court had been submitted to the Minister. Therefore, normally it ought to have been the job of the Minister to look into it and to take action on it or to say....

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have stated that ordinarily I look into the matter immediately. But somehow, I lost track of it. I shall look into it again.

Mr. Speaker: That was what I was going to explain. The hon. Minister has said that ordinarily he does look into it, whenever he receives it. But in this particular case, somehow, it has escaped his attention, and he has stated that he will look into it. The matter should end there.