

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: From the past experience we have seen that in spite of the assertion made by the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture here on behalf of the States and also in spite of pumping funds into the Plans and things like that, in regard to food production practically no State has come up to expectation. May I know how the hon. Minister has ensured himself now that hereafter the planned progress of all the States will be in a manner that will bring them up to the expectations now and also in the future?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I would not say that no State has come up to expectations. I can say that Punjab has done more than what we expected. In the same way, some of the States like Madras and Andhra Pradesh have also done well. After all, we learn by experience. We try to find out how and why we failed to reach our expectations and then we try alternatives. It is on that basis that I say that our expectation is that we will be able to perform better in the Fourth Plan.

Shri R. S. Pandey: Is it a fact that when PL 480 negotiations were going on with the American authorities, specially with President Johnson, certain suggestions were made by the American Government to be implemented in order to produce more in this country?

Shri C. Subramaniam: When we asked for further commitment with regard to supply under PL 480, it was put to us that we cannot continuously depend on PL 480 imports, we have to take measures, and that too measures which are certain to yield results, so that within a foreseeable future we would attain a stage of self-sufficiency. In that connection we discussed with them a programme which we have evolved for reaching self-sufficiency.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: The hon. Minister stated that PL 480 imports is a temporary measure. May I know whether Government has set

any time-limit after which PL 480 imports will not be necessary?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We have a phased programme of cutting down imports and we hope that by the end of the Fourth Plan we will not need any more imports.

National Food Authority

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- *539. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Kajrolkar:
Shri Parashar:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to set up a high-powered National Food Authority to look after the procurement and distribution of food; and

(b) if so, its main features?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: While appreciating the statement that there is no idea to establish a National Food Authority, may I know whether it is not a fact that there are districts in every State which are surplus but the policy of procurement of the Central Government is being thwarted, or not being followed, by the States? In that case, how do the Government propose to make the erring States to follow the policy?

Shri Govinda Menon: By and large, the surplus States are procuring for the needs of the deficit States.

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation:

ration (Shri C. Subramaniam): The question of the hon. Member is whether in every State there are surplus districts where procurement could be made but some State Governments are not making those procurements. I think the suggestion of the hon. Member is correct to a certain extent.

Shri Ranga: What is correct?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That some of the State Governments are not making procurement in the surplus districts. But, in the present context of decreased production and, consequently, a big gap between demand and supply, we have to give a certain amount of freedom of action to the State Governments. Whether they would procure from the surplus districts and supply to the other areas or they would allow free movement to take place from one district to another we give some freedom of action and, later on, when we find that normal production is reached perhaps it should be possible for us to evolve a common programme for all the States.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Since the distribution of food is the most essential part of the food problem where we are encountering difficulties, is the Government aware that there are States where the administrative machinery is zero and, therefore, even if spoon-feeding or ship-feeding is done, it will not be possible for them to tide over the difficulties? May I know what Government propose to do in the case of such States where the mere pumping in of supplies is not going to ease the situation in the long run?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I would not go to the extent of saying that there is no administration at all in some States. No doubt, there are certain deficiencies in some States. We are a country with various levels of administration. We have to function within that limitation. So, it becomes almost impossible to evolve a uniform programme for every State. But this will be kept in mind. That is why we are bringing in the Food Corporation for the purpose of procurement in all the States

so that the administrative efficiency of any State Government may not affect procurement.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that some Members of Parliament have requested the hon. Prime Minister to consider the feasibility of establishing a National Food Council at the Centre and also in the States where members of the opposition will also be represented?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have no information about it.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Do Government feel satisfied with the different procurement and levy policies laid down by different States for procurement of foodgrains in the different States; if not, is it desirable to have a uniform procurement and levy policy in all the States?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, I explained the policy with regard to that.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether our shortage in foodgrains is only 8 to 10 million tonnes and, on the other hand, 8 million tonnes are in the hands of the hoarders? Had the Food Corporation of India been given sufficient incentive to purchase that 8 million tonnes of foodgrains in the hands of the hoarders so that there would not have been any scarcity?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, the question for consideration is as to how we get the stocks from the hoarders. It can either be by a levy on the producer or by having a control over the traders and having it from the traders; but once it goes into the hands of the traders it becomes impossible to trace the foodgrains. That is why we are trying to evolve a system in which it would be possible for us to get it from the producer himself at a fairly economic price.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Just now the Minister said that the Food Corporation is to help in procurement. May I know whether it is a fact that although

the Food Corporation is a statutory body created by Parliament, the State Governments refuse to issue licences in their own States for the procurement right by the Food Corporation and, if it is a fact, whether the Government is going to have a national food body with a view to having proper control over all the procurement?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The hon. Member's statement that they require licences by State Governments to function seems to be correct with regard to the legislation that we have passed. Therefore we are taking steps to amend the legislation so that the Food Corporation will not stand in the queue along with the other traders for the purpose of trading operations in the States.

Shri Ranga: Is it to have monopoly powers there?

Shri Bade: Is it a fact that in some States the procurement price is Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 per quintal for jowar and the distribution or consumer price is Rs. 50; thus, the Government is criticised that the States are profiteering more than what the private dealers are doing? Is Government going to take action against such States?

Shri C. Subramaniam: These allegations have been made on more than one occasion and we have looked into it. I do agree that certain State Government have charged a little more than what they are entitled to. The whole matter is under consideration to see that no profiteering is done.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : जितना भी उत्पादन होता है छोटा और बड़ा वह सब का सब मकानों में बैठ कर होता है और सर्दी, गरमी और बरसात सबसे बचने का बड़ा प्रयत्न होता है केवल खाद्यान्न का ही एक ऐसा उत्पादन है जोकि खुले मैदानों में होता है और तीनों ऋतुओं में बड़ी समस्या और कठिनाई के साथ होता है तो क्या उस कृषक को सरकार टैक्स न लगा कर उसे कोई सीधा अनुदान देने का विचार

रखती है जिससे खाद्यान्न न तो कहीं ले जाना पड़े और न विदेशों से मंगाना पड़े इस तरह का क्या कोई सरकार का विचार है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The policy of the Government is to give all assistance to the farmers to produce more.

Shri Ranga: Question.

Shri C. Subramaniam: But certainly we cannot reach a stage where no person need be taxed.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : अध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा प्रश्न यह नहीं था।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो आपका सवाल है उसका बिल्कुल जवाब था गया है।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : उसमें टैक्स लग गया है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वही उन्होंने कहा है कि हम उस मजिल पर नहीं पहुँच सकते कि टैक्स को माफ कर दिया जाय। उन्होंने अभी कहा है लेकिन आप मुन्ते नहीं।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : फिर यह क्या सहायता है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री रंगा।

Shri Ranga: When the Food Corporation Bill was introduced here the House was given the impression and also the assurance, I think, that it was not to enjoy any monopoly powers for procurement to the exclusion of private trade. Now this morning my hon. friend said that it need not stand in the queue along with other people and it should be given some special powers. Does that not mean that the Food Corporation is not expected to compete with private trade and is expected to have monopoly powers so that it can keep down the prices for the peasants also.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I want to make it clear that public corporations will have a special privilege....

Shri Ranga: Why should they have it?

Shri C. Subramaniam:...and it is our policy to encourage public corporations rather than private traders.

Shri Ranga: Shame.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that haphazard distribution of available foodgrains is at the root of all disturbances all over the country, may I know what steps Government have taken to ensure proper distribution of available foodgrains by reducing the surplus States to the stage of non-surplus States so as to ensure fair distribution?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not agree that there has been a haphazard distribution. On the other hand, on a planned basis, we have tried to pass on the surplus from the surplus States to the deficit States on a Government-to-Government account. Certainly, we should not think it is only when the trade transfers it from one State to another that is in order and that when the Government does it, that is all haphazard.

दिल्ली में राशन कार्ड

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- * 541. श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी :
 श्री भागवत झा आजाद :
 श्री स० चं० सामन्त :
 श्री सुबोध हंसवा :
 श्री प्र० चं० बरध्वा :
 श्री विभूति मिश्र :
 श्रीमती सावित्री निगम :
 श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :
 श्री बड़े :
 श्री यशपाल सिंह :
 श्री बी० चं० शर्मा :

क्या खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास

तथा सहकार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में राशन व्यवस्था लागू करते समय कुल कितने राशन कार्ड बांटे गये थे ;

(ख) राशन व्यवस्था के प्रारम्भ होने से 31 जनवरी, 1966 तक राशन कार्डों की संख्या में कितनी कमी अथवा वृद्धि हुई है ;

(ग) क्या किन्हीं फालतू अथवा झूठे राशन कार्डों का पता चला है ; और यदि हां तो उनकी संख्या कितनी है और संबंधित व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ;

(घ) अब तक राशन व्यवस्था संबंधी नियम तथा विनियम प्रकाशित न किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ङ) दिल्ली में, आने जाने वाले लोगों के लिये खाद्य की व्यवस्था करने के लिये क्या प्रबंध किये गये हैं ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) 6,19,087.

(b) There had been an increase of 1,00,516 cards during the period from 8th December, 1965 to 31st January, 1966.

(c) Yes, Sir. The number of bogus ration cards detected is 333. It was also found that 1,442 ration cards had units in excess of the entitlement. The question of launching prosecutions against the persons concerned is under consideration of Delhi Administration.

(d) The Delhi Rationing Order and Regulations were published in Delhi Gazette before the introduction of rationing.

(e) There is a large number of catering establishments and public