

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, August 16, 1966/Sravana 25,
1888 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Migration of People due to Famine conditions in certain Regions

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- *450. Shri N. R. Baskar:
Shri Liladhar Kotoki:
Shri R. Barua:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people from those regions of the country which have been hit by famine con-

4684

ditions with regard to the availability of foodgrains have migrated to other parts of the country in order to get foodstuffs;

(b) if so, the names of the places from where people have moved to other places; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to provide adequate foodstuffs to the people in the food scarcity regions of the country?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The normal allocations of imported foodgrains (wheat and milo) to various scarcity affected States have been increased. The quantities allotted to these States during the first eight months of 1966 are given below:

	Wheat	Milo
(Figures in '000 tonnes)		
1. Andhra Pradesh	163	
2. Gujarat	369	149
3. Madhya Pradesh	334	56
4. Maharashtra	1046	439
5. Mysore	332	151
6. Orissa	166	17
7. Rajasthan	316	86

The above allotments include the following quantities given to these States for free distribution as gratuitous relief to the old and the infirm and others who are unable to work:

	Wheat	Milo
	tonnes	tonnes
1. Orissa	14,000	3,000
2. Madhya Pradesh	7,000	—
3. Maharashtra	6,000	—
4. Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh & Mysore	5,000 (each)	—
5. Gujarat	3,100	1,000

The State Governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have each been allotted 1,000 tonnes of wheat flour also for free distribution as gratuitous relief from the gift consignments received from abroad.

A quantity of 2,918 tonnes of dried peas and about 850 tonnes of beans received as gift from abroad have also been given to these affected States for free distribution.

The scarcity affected States have so far been allotted over 25,000 tonnes of milk powder for free distribution to children and expectant and nursing mothers in the affected areas. They have also been given over 500 tonnes of biscuits so far for free distribution amongst children.

Shri N. R. Laskar: I find that there is no mention of the State of Assam. Assam is facing severe scarcity of food these days. Very recently I had been to Assam and I found that in the villages and the rural areas, rice was available in the free market at Rs. 4 per k.g. But Assam has not been mentioned in the statement. May I know whether scarcity conditions do not prevail in Assam these days?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): The statement refers to States which were affected by drought conditions last year and where there was a considerably significant fall in production.

As far as Assam is concerned, last year's production was almost normal,

and, therefore, Assam has not been classified as one of those areas which have been affected by drought. But there are difficulties in Assam due to other conditions. We quite realise that and we are trying to take steps to meet the situation.

Shri N. R. Laskar: It has been reported in the papers that Andhra Pradesh also is facing acute scarcity of foodgrains due to drought. May I know whether Government are taking any steps to meet the situation in Andhra Pradesh also?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We are supplying wheat and milo to Andhra Pradesh for consumption in the drought-affected areas, particularly in Rayalseema Telengana.

Shri Liladhar Kotoki: May I know the additional quantity of rice and wheat which the Government of Assam have asked for to meet the present situation and what quantity has been supplied by the Centre to them?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I cannot straightway give the quantities asked for by Assam. But only a few days back we had allotted a thousand tonnes on an emergency basis. The other requirements are being looked into.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि खाद्यान्न की कमी के कारण कोई भी एक राज्य से दूसरे राज्य में नहीं गया, जब कि मैं ने अपनी आंखों से देखा है कि राजस्थान और मध्य प्रदेश के लोग काफी संख्या में

भूखों के मारे एक राज्य से दूसरे राज्य में चले गये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय के सामने आंकड़े नहीं आये या इस को ठीक से जानने की कोशिश नहीं की गई है। दूसरी बात यह है कि जो गेहूँ पैदा करने वाले क्षेत्र हैं उनको जो क्वांटिटी दी गई है वह राजस्थान और मध्य प्रदेश के लिये बहुत कम है। इस के क्या कारण हैं।

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as the movement of population is concerned, we have asked for information from all the State Governments, and they have replied that no migration of people has taken place because of shortage of foodgrains. But they have said that during this season there is generally a movement not from State to another, but from the rural to the urban areas, and that movement has taken place, but that is a normal movement. Therefore, all the State Governments have said that there was no movement from one State to another. That was how we understood the question and that is how it has been answered.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: The second part of my question has not been answered. May I know whether Government have allotted less quantity of wheat to the wheat-eating States like Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh as compared with other States?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Last year, we had made a calculation of the deficit in each State, and on the basis of the deficit a proportionate allotment was made of the quantities available with the Centre. But recently there has been difficulty in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, and we have increased the quota for them.

Shri J. C. Samanta: May I know whether any of the States mentioned in the statement demanded rice also? If so, was rice or any other grain supplied to them?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There was demand for rice from Gujarat, Maharashtra and Mysore, but unfortunate-

ly, we could not supply them much of rice. Some marginal quantities were made available.

श्री गुलशन : क्या सरकार के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि राजस्थान से पानी की कमी की वजह से, चारे की कमी की वजह से और अनाज की कमी के कारण लाखों की गिनती में पशु और पुरुष पंजाब में गये हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसका जवाब तो उन्होंने दिया है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: I thought I had already answered it.

श्री गुलशन : मंत्री महोदय ने गलत उत्तर दिया है। पंजाब में बहुत से लोग गये हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : गुलशन साहब, अगर गलत है तो मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ।

श्री गुलशन : मैं कहता हूँ कि बिल्कुल गलत बयान है। हजारों आदमी वहाँ गये हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस में मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ। इस पर बहस नहीं हो सकती।

श्री गुलशन : लेकिन मंत्री महोदय गलत जवाब तो नहीं दे सकते।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं ने आप से कह दिया कि इस में मैं कुछ नहीं कर सकता।

He says that the Rajasthan Government had sent them this information that no migration has taken place on account of drought and famine conditions.

श्री गुलशन : यह बिल्कुल गलत बयान है। बहुत से लोग गये हैं।

Shri D. J. Naik: How much quantity of foodgrains, particularly milo and wheat, has been supplied to drought-affected States and also how much milk powder was supplied to various States for giving relief to women and children in the drought-affected areas?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have given in the statement itself the figures of the quantity of wheat and milo given

for distribution as gratuitous relief, namely:

	Wheat	Milo
	tonnes	tonnes
Orissa	14,000	3,000
Madhya Pradesh	7,000	—
Maharashtra	6,000	—
Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and Mysore	5,000 (each)	—
Gujarat	3,100	1,000

As far as milk powder is concerned, 25,000 tonnes have been supplied.

Shri U. S. Pandey: May I know whether from the Chattisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh, movement of population has taken place to other parts of the State or to other parts of the country?

Also, what steps have been taken to supply them foodgrains?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There has been movement within the State from rural areas to urban areas in search of employment.

श्री बूटा सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय : जब जब भी इस सदन में यह प्रश्न उठता है कि भूख की वजह से मृत्यु हुई, भूख की वजह से लोगों ने अपने राज्य छोड़े और किसी दूसरी जगह जा कर निवास किया तो मंत्री महोदय सब से पहले कह देते हैं कि :

(क) नहीं ।

(ख) सवाल पदा नहीं होता ।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस सूचना के आधार पर वह ऐसा उत्तर देते हैं ।

दूसरी बात मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब ऐसे हालात हर प्रदेश में हैं और खराक के ऊपर दंगे फसाद होते हैं तब क्या मंत्री महोदय ने यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि कौन कौन से ऐसे राज्य हैं जहाँ इतनी गम्भीर स्थिति है ।

Shri C. Subramaniam: We depend upon reports from the State Govern-

ments; we do not have our own agencies for the purpose of verifying these matters. The only thing I would like to say with regard to the movement to Punjab is that I am told that every summer—not only during this year—cattle move from Rajasthan area to the adjoining States and return as soon as the rains come. That is a normal movement. Of course, this year because of the unprecedented drought conditions, a little more cattle might have moved.

Shri Buta Singh: Not only cattle but large numbers of people have moved to the Bhatinda district. Is the Minister in a position to verify this?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Shri Buta Singh: A large number of cattle and men have come from Rajasthan to Bhatinda District.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसा आफिस कायम किया है या कोई ऐसा रजिस्टर रखा हुआ है कि जब भूख के कारण जनता कहीं से माइग्रेट करे तो वह उस रजिस्टर में दस्तखत करके आए या उस आफिस को इनफार्म कर के आए ? मैंने अकेले हरिद्वार में देखा है कि चालीस हजार आदमी ऐसे हैं जो कि तीन तीन आने रोज के ऊपर काम करने के लिए तैयार हैं और कहते हैं कि उन के पास जो हथारों मवेशी हैं उनको कोई मुफ्त ले जाए । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार के पास इस बात का क्या क्राइटीरिया है जानने का कि कौन आदमी भूख की वजह से

छोड़ कर जा रहा है और कौन आदमी सैर के वास्ते छोड़ कर जा रहा है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नैकस्ट क्वेश्चन ।

Rationing in Foodgrains

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- *452. **Shri R. S. Pandey:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Shri Kishen Pattnayak:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:
Shri P. R. Chakravarti:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Bbagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
 • **Shri R. Barua:**

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to introduce rationing in foodgrains in smaller cities also; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): (a) Government's intention is to extend statutory rationing of foodgrains only to cities with a population of one lakh and above and to industrial areas having heavy concentration of workers. Smaller cities are not proposed to be statutorily rationed.

(b) The intention was to cover cities with a population of one million and over in the first instance. Cities with population between 3 lakhs and one million were to be covered next and cities with population between one and 3 lakhs were to be covered in the last stage.

Shri R. S. Pandey: May I know what is the alternative arrangement Government has made so far as small cities are concerned to supply foodgrains?

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

operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): There we have what you call informal rationing and in addition to that the open markets function there.

Shi R. S. Pandey: May I know whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that there are many ration shops in the country which have refused to supply foodgrains and essential supplies to consumers; if so, what steps Government propose to take?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have not received any such report, but if cases are brought to our notice, certainly we shall enquire into it.

श्री मधु लिमये : क्या मंत्री महोदय ने अभी-अभी मद्रास में कोई ऐसा वक्तव्य दिया है कि अगले दो महीनों में खाद्य की स्थिति बहुत ही गम्भीर होने वाली है और चूंकि सरकार के पास कोई अनाज नहीं है इस लिए राशनिंग का इंतजाम अपनी योजना के अनुसार किसी भी नए शहर में करना हमारे लिए असम्भव है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The question was whether we would be introducing statutory rationing in cities and towns where it had not been introduced during this fiscal year. I said: "No, because of the critical food situation, we will not be able to build up stocks for two or three months; we will not be able to have statutory rationing and cordoning off, we will only have a breakdown there." This is what I stated.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : सरकार ने अभी यह बताया है कि राशनिंग के तीन स्टेजिज मूकुरर किए गए हैं एक, पांच लाख से दस लाख की आबादी तक, दूसरे तीन लाख से पांच लाख की आबादी तक और तीसरे एक लाख से ऊपर । यह पता नहीं चलता है कि कितने समय में यह राशनिंग पूरा होगा? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने इस बात को क्यों खयाल नहीं किया है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में जो कृषिहर नहीं हैं, जो कृषि-