

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-

कार नहीं हैं, उनको गल्ला मिलने का उपाय क्या होगा, वे कैसे खायेंगे, पियेंगे ? क्या सरकार ने उन के लिए कोई इंतजाम किया है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This is with regard to statutory rationing. Certainly it will not be possible for the Government to have statutory rationing in rural areas also. That would be an impossible task. But as far as the rural areas are concerned, wherever there is scarcity the proposal is to have fair price shops and even now we have fair price shops in these areas, and in the scarcity areas to the extent possible we will try to supply foodgrains.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: In what period the implementation will take place of this rationing in big towns of 1 to 10 lakhs of population, that has not been replied to.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have already stated that because of the difficult days during this year it has not been possible to stick to that programme, and we will have to consider during next year if there are almost normal conditions and find out how soon it can be introduced.

Shri B. K. Das: As matters stand now, what is the idea of the Government, how far will they be able to cover the areas according to their programme this year?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I would rather wait for the crop prospects to be known before we further take up this programme. As I have already stated we will be passing through a critical period during these two months. I am concentrating my attention on meeting this situation rather than planning ahead of that.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government would not be able to introduce statutory rationing or even informal rationing in rural areas and through small towns there, why is it that Government do not allow those people to bring the food-

grains from one place to another and in that way minimise their troubles? My hon. friend was asking for specific cases of this kind of trouble. There are places in my own constituency—Punganur, Palmaner and Kuppam also—where people are not allowed to take foodgrains even from the rural areas into the towns and vice versa. Why not Government allow them and in that way relieve their own trouble?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There are two cases which are covered by the hon. Member's question. First of all, it is only where there is statutory rationing that that area is cordoned off and no supply is allowed to go inside. Secondly, wherever we have informal rationing, the very basis of informal rationing is that there will be an open market functioning. That is one aspect. I know there are cases of movement restriction with regard to districts for the purpose of procurement. That is a completely different thing. But within the district, there is movement from one place to another. In those districts, it is for the purpose of procurement, and after that, subject to the payment of the levy and all those things, my understanding is that there is movement from one place to another.

Shri Ranga: Even when there is levy, this trouble is arising.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : कसबों में राशनिंग करते वक्त किस आबादी को शामिल करेंगे ? कितने तक राशन हो जाएगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपके आने से पहले उन्होंने इसका जबाब दे दिया है ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : देश की कुल कितनी आबादी है ?

Mr. Speaker: What population of the country would be covered by this?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I think about 80 million.

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : जब से पंजाब यू० पी० दिल्ली और हिमाचल प्रदेश फूड के

लिए एक जोन हो गया है उसके बाद से कानपुर में लोगों का यह मांग है कि वहाँ राशनिंग हटा दिया जाए। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस तरह से कोई भाग गवर्नमेंट के नोटिस में आई है ?

I will put it in English. May I know whether it is a fact that since the removal of the zones and the merger of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab into one zone, in the only city in Uttar Pradesh, that is, Kanpur, which was under complete rationing, there is a demand by the people in that city to remove the rationing and restore the old method?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have not heard of this. On the other hand, Kanpur has such an advantage that they are getting an assured quantity at controlled prices whereas in other places they pay a different price.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the hon. Minister has said very recently that in the coming two months the food situation in the country will become very difficult, may I know what special steps are the Government going to take to meet the difficulties that are ahead of us?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The main difficulty is going to be in respect of rice, and the rice harvest would be coming towards the end of October-November. Therefore, we have to get through September-October. So I am trying to find out the quantity available with the State Governments and then make an adjustment for those two months so that even if necessary we will be able to replace whatever quantities the States are in a position to hand over to us in the months of November and December. On that basis I am negotiating with each State Government so that sufficient quantity of rice will be available for those two months.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that statutory rationing, informal rationing, fair price shops, consumer stores and super bazar have all failed

to get an equitable distribution of food among the people and also to check the soaring prices not only in the towns but also in the villages? If it is a fact, what is the good of going on multiplying these show-window things and not do something drastic to have an equitable distribution of food and to see to it that the soaring prices are curbed?

Shri C. Subramaniam: What is important to realise is that we have passed through one of the worst years. The question is not whether everything has gone on perfectly all right, but without these things what would have been the condition. That is what we have to consider. In my view, but for the steps which we have taken—whatever faults there may be here and there—the situation would have been much worse. We have tided over one of the worst crises in the century.

Surcharge on Land Revenue

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*453. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**
Shri Kishen Pattanyak:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

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

- (a) how many States imposed surcharge on land revenue after the proclamation of the Emergency in 1962;
- (b) the additional revenue this has brought per year;
- (c) whether this was done on the advice of the Central Government;
- (d) whether it had any adverse effect on agricultural production; and
- (e) how many States have since abolished the surcharge?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.