

opposition, and it was not considered expedient to proceed with the matter.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Which political parties were they at that time? Let us know which parties, which organisations.

Shri Shinkre: Not relevant.

Shri G. S. Pathak: Some of the important Muslim organisations which opposed the appointment of such a committee were—the opposition was to the appointment of the committee itself....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Committee for what?

Mr. Speaker: He wanted to know whether they had opposed this new enactment, uniform civil code. There is nothing about that.

Shri G. S. Pathak: The question was... (Interruptions).

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let us have it, please do not stop him.

Mr. Speaker: The names are of those associations or parties which were opposed to the appointment of the committee and not to the uniform civil code.

Shri G. S. Pathak: Since the announcement in Parliament, representations from individuals as well as Muslim organisations were received, and they have by and large opposed any amendment to the existing Muslim law on the ground that it would amount to an interference in their religious affairs. Some protests also appeared in the press about it. Some of the important Muslim organisations which opposed the appointment of such a committee were the Jamiat-ul-Ulema, Delhi, Majlis-e-Shoora of Jamiat-e-Islamia-e-Hindi, Delhi, and there are ten others. If he wants their names, I can give them.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let them be laid on the Table of the House. In secular India, they should behave better.

Mr. Speaker: That might be laid on the Table of the House.

Next question. Shri P. C. Borooah.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: This is a very important question and I want to know... (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: It might be an important question but I have called Mr. Borooah. They can have a discussion on polygamy if they want but I cannot allow further questions.

Shri Priya Gupta: There is very little time in this session.

Shri Joachim Alva: If Members persist they do get a chance. It is an important question.

Mr. Speaker: No. When I have passed on to the next question I do not go back.

Shri Joachim Alva: You have relaxed many times.

Mr. Speaker: I have not done it.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Never.

Shri Tyagi: It is a very interesting subject.

Shri Hem Barua: For questions like this you should give more time.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure Mr. Hem Barua is interested. He can have a discussion in any other form.

Drive against Black Marketeers

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- *275. **Shri P. C. Borooah:**
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

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

(a) whether Government have obtained any reports from different States and Union Territories about the drive against hoarders and black-marketeters of foodgrains and other essential commodities during the year 1966;

(b) if so, the extent of foodgrain hoarded stock unearthed in each State/Union Territory this year; and

(c) the steps taken in each State/Territory to intensify foodgrain procurement by Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) Periodical reports are obtained from the State Governments and Union Territories regarding number of prosecutions, convictions, etc., in case of violation of orders under Essential Commodities Act and Defence of India Rules in regard to foodgrains.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) In order to intensify foodgrain procurement a broad-based policy of procurement through a levy on producers, millers and dealers was followed in different States and Union Territories. The system of levy on producers was introduced for the first time in recent years. In many States prosecutions were launched in case of default in complying with levy orders. Other measures included tightening of cordons round procurement areas, etc.

Shri P. C. Borooah: While moving for consideration of the Essential Commodities Bill in 1964 the hon. Minister referred to the existence of an axis between the big hoarders, big traders and big cultivators which was difficult of detection as the hoards were spread over the whole country. To what extent does that axis exist today and has the Government been able to liquidate the axis?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri C. Subramaniam): I am not prepared to say that it has been completely liquidated, but with various measures taken it has been reduced considerably.

Shri P. C. Borooah: How far has the foodgrains procurement drive been successful this year, in 1966, and how does it compare with the production of 1966?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I gave these figures on a previous occasion; I am sorry I do not have the exact figures now. But I can tell the hon. Member that in spite of lesser production during 1965-66, we reached a figure which was more than that for 1964-65.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister says that in States where there are levy orders the surplus is taken away by Government and in some places cases have been instituted against those persons as hoarders. May I know whether Government is following the definition of hoarding as it is and whether it is clear to all State Governments?

Shri Govinda Menon: In the case of a levy order after the grain asked to be surrendered to the Government in the levy order is delivered, what is left over is not considered to be hoarding.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी: मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब और हरियाना राज्य बनने के पूर्व ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स, होर्डर्स और इस प्रकार के अन्य अपराध करने वालों की खोज खबर लेने के लिये जो तरीका अपनाया गया था वही तरीका दिल्ली तथा दूसरे केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में क्यों नहीं अपनाया जाता ताकि इस प्रकार के अपराध बन्द हों और लोगों को अच्छी तरह से भोजन आदि सामग्रों की रकामों पर मिल सके।

Shri Govinda Menon: There was no occasion to take similar measures because in the Union Territories it was not suspected that there would be hoarding to the extent....

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: There are no hoarders there?

Shri Govinda Menon:...to which it exists in other places.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन वर्ष के प्रारम्भ में जो जबरन लेवी वसूल करने का तरीका अपनाया गया था, और जिन के पास लेवी में देने के लिये अनाज नहीं था उस से रुखा वसूल किया गया था, क्या सरकार आने वाले वर्ष में भी उसी प्रकार के काम करने वाली है या कुछ ढील देने वाली है।

Shri Govinda Menon: There may be stray cases like that, but generally only those who have grains or lands under cultivation are served with levy orders.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं ने डील की बात पूछी थी। ऐसी बहुत सी घटनायें मध्य प्रदेश में हुई हैं और जबरन लोगों से लेवी ली गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार उस में ढील देने वाली है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं, नहीं। वह ढील देने वाली नहीं है।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that in areas which are badly hit by famine the hoarders and black-marketeers are playing havoc by hoarding thousands of maunds of grains and selling them at exorbitant prices, and if the answer is in the affirmative, is the Centre going to give any directive to the States to arrange food raids at such places where they suspect hoarding and blackmarketing?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Those suggestions are already there not only in regard to famine conditions but even before for the purpose of proper distribution of the available foodgrains that hoarding should not be permitted. Naturally, this will be a more heinous social offence particularly in the context of famine if traders resort to hoarding and profiteering. Certainly, the State Governments will take severe action against these people.

श्री प० ला० बारूपाल : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस बोरेबाजारी का कारण भावों का अन्तर नहीं है। जैसे कि पंजाब में चने का भाव प्रति क्विन्टल 86 रु० कुछ घाने है और राजस्थान में उसी चने का भाव 60 या 62 रु० प्रति क्विन्टल है।

Shri Govinda Menon: While there is no complete procurement and there is a free market, it is always found that the prices in the free market are slightly higher or sometimes much higher than the controlled price; that is a phenomenon which is met with everywhere, but that cannot be the reason for blackmarketing. Blackmarketing should be prohibited.

श्री प० ला० बारूपाल : मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या एक ही किस्म के चने का भाव देश के भिन्न भिन्न भागों में अलग अलग नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने जवाब दे दिया।

Shri Hem Barua: He says blackmarketing should be prohibited. That is right; but to whom does he address those words? I do not understand that.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri U. M. Trivedi.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: When this question of blackmarketing comes, this question of blackmarketing in foodgrains, the problem is touching the whole nation as such, and I would, therefore, like to know from the Minister, if there is any possibility of checking up, without disclosing the names of those Members of Parliament who have the guts to write to him, such and such places where hoarding has taken place. Will he take immediate action in such matters so that the blackmarketeers can be caught immediately, or, will they follow the measure which was adopted by the Madhya Pradesh Government, of disclosing the names of those Members of Parliament to the party concerned and creating trouble for them?

Shri Govinda Menon: Government would be happy to get information of that type from Members,.....

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Will it be kept secret?

Shri C. Subramaniam:... and we shall not disclose their names.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: So far as the procurement in deficit States is concerned, may I know what is the attitude of the various Governments in procuring as much grain as possible so that they cannot place an undue demand on the surplus States, thus creating artificial scarcity?

Shri Govinda Menon: In all the States, the State Governments are particular to see that all available surpluses are procured.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: The question refers to drive against the black-marketeers. Has the Government organised any countrywide drive or campaign against blackmarketing which is becoming a very big problem for the government and also for the people?

Shri Govinda Menon: In those States where there is the levy system of procurement, there is no scope for black-marketing, once those orders are complied with. The State Governments are seeing to it that those orders are being complied with.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: I was asking about the Government. Has it organised any drive or campaign against blackmarketing?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Kandappan.

Shri S. Kandappan: May I know whether it is not a fact that from the various State Banks and other banks in the country loans totalling more than Rs. 80 crores have been advanced to various foodgrain traders which eventually has led to hoarding and blackmarketing and, if so, what steps do the Government propose to take, and may I know whether they are prepared to discourage this kind of advancing loans to foodgrain traders?

Shri Govinda Menon: Loans on the security of foodgrains are being res-

tricted from time to time in the interests of preventing hoarding.

Shri S. Kandappan: I wanted to know whether it is not a fact that more than Rs. 80 crores have been advanced; is the Government in a position to give the figures? What was the position in 1960 and what is it now?

Shri Govinda Menon: I am not in a position to give the figures just now.

Shri Hem Barua: In certain parts of our country, because of the food hoarded by the hoarders, the people themselves have taken the law into their hands and looted godowns where foodstuff is kept, as in the incident which occurred recently in Gaya. In order to prevent this sort of chaos from spreading in the country, may I know whether Government are going to take any dynamic steps or steps of a dynamic nature, so as to spot out the hoarders and take strong action against them or to crush them if necessary?

Shri Govinda Menon: The State Governments are taking all steps to prevent such things.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He is just passing on the buck. What are the steps that are being taken from here?

Mr. Speaker: The State Governments would be taking steps because it is for the State Governments to take action.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Two years ago, the senior Minister discovered that the scarcity that was being brought about in India was due to the big producer-big trader axis. If he is still of that view, it is up to him to take measures from here and advise the State Governments properly. Has he done that? Is he Minister of Famine or Minister of Food?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Subsidy on Foodgrains

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: When people are dying in thousands, he cannot leave it to the State Governments for taking action.

Shri Hem Barua: Are we not entitled to know what steps are being taken by the State Governments in view of the threatening situation in the country?

Mr. Speaker: We can have another discussion on it. But in a supplementary to expect that the Minister should give all the steps taken by each State Government....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He can lay it on the Table. After all, there is emergency in the country.

Mr. Speaker: All right; I will ask him to place it on the Table of the House.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: Leave alone blackmarketers and hoarders; even the ration shops in the economically backward areas are not able to supply the rations to the people. Has the Government at least taken care to find out what happens about this matter? At least this is in the hands of Government. In economically backward areas food is insufficient even in the ration shops.

Shri Govinda Menon: Where there is statutory rationing, ration shops have been supplying the quantities which have been laid down for supply. In areas where there is informal rationing, such quantities as are available are being supplied from time to time. It is conceded that there is scarcity in the country and, therefore, there is a shortage in supply in some areas.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: What are the people to do then?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

***276. Shri Maheswar Naik:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the actual subsidy in foodgrains distributed by Government has been much larger than the figure given out and if so, the actual figure to which it is worked out; and

(b) whether Government propose to raise the price of foodgrains in the fair price shops to meet the deficit thus sustained?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) The reference apparently is to the figures given in reply to unstarred Question No. 3034 on the 23rd August, 1966. The figures of subsidy given there related to foodgrains imported only from the U. S. A. A statement showing the economic prices, issue prices and the estimated rate for the element of subsidy on foodgrains imported from all sources during the year 1966-67 is laid on the Table of the Sabha. The difference in the figures relating to subsidy in the case of milo is accounted for by variations in the cost and/or rates of ocean freight.

(b) In order to reduce the quantum of subsidy, which went up consequent on devaluation, and to narrow down the gap between the Government issue prices and open market prices, the issue prices of imported wheat and milo are being increased with effect from the 15th November, 1966. The issue prices of rice will also be revised shortly to bring the issue prices of coarse rice to the level of the ex-mill cost of rice in each State. The superior varieties of rice will continue to be issued on economic cost.