

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.

Statement

(Rates in Rs. per Quintal.)

Commodity	Economic cost	Issue Price	Element of Subsidy
1	2	3	4
		Rs.	Rs.
Wheat (All sources)	66.46	50.00 (upto 14-11-1966)	16.46 (upto 14-11-1966)
		55.00 (From 15-11-1966)	11.46 (From 15-11-1966)
Rice (All sources)	102.50	58.00 to 70.00 (For different States for coarse rice).	32.50 to 44.50 (For different States for coarse rice).
Milo. (Only from U.S.A.)	52.10	33.00 (upto 14-11-1966)	19.10 (upto 14-11-1966)
		40.00 (From 15-11-1966)	12.10 (From 15-11-1966)

Shri Maheswar Naik: The subsidy given by the Government is a sort of indirect taxation. May I know why this sort of subsidy is being given to the middlemen which is neither beneficial to the consumer nor is an incentive to the producer?

Shri Govinda Menon: The subsidy given is being passed on to the consumer.

Shri Maheswar Naik: In fair price shops which are also being given subsidy prices are sought to be raised. May I know why these shops which are supposed to be working on a no-profit no-loss basis should also be given the extra benefit of subsidy?

Shri Govinda Menon: They are working on a no-profit no-loss basis, but the supplies to them are at a subsidised rate.

Shri Priya Gupta: May I know whether the Minister proposes to bring any solution to the acute scarcity conditions all over the country and does the Government feel that, whatever the produce that is

available in the country along with the supplies from foreign countries, all people, all the 49 crores citizens of India, should get equal priority and equal distribution? May I know whether Government is going to think over that and take steps to see that there is all-India statutory rationing, so that the hunger may be shared together, and to hold the price line at least of the minimum necessities and to see that no hoarding is allowed, as is done in other foreign countries?

Shri Govinda Menon: If the intention behind the question is to get a confirmation that all surpluses from all individuals throughout India should be taken and pooled together and distributed, then that is not now being attempted.

Shri Priya Gupta: The whole of India constitutes one country under one Constitution.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Only information can be sought for and not any argument entered into during Question Hour.

Shri Priya Gupta: The Preamble covers the whole country. Why is it that while some remain hungry others get plenty? Is that equity?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Priya Gupta: What about hoarding? Why is hoarding allowed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He sits down and then he thinks of hoarding.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that the cost of imported foodgrains, especially wheat under PL. 480 which is being distributed through fair price shops in Uttar Pradesh, in those areas where there is statutory rationing like Kanpur, has been increased and the increase in price is being borne by the consumer; if so, I would like to know whether this question has been taken up to see that any increase in the price of imported wheat should not fall on the consumer.

Shri Govinda Menon: There has been no increase in the price of wheat.

The subsidy is being reduced gradually.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: If the subsidy is reduced the burden falls more on the consumer.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: The hon. Minister just now said that this subsidy is being ultimately passed on to the consumer. I would like to know whether Government is considering any proposal to see that a similar amount of subsidy is also provided to the farmers as a price incentive so that the farmers, with this incentive, would put more efforts to increase agricultural production?

Shri Govinda Menon: The Agricultural Prices Commission is looking into the question of cost.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: I am not asking about the Commission. I want to know whether Government has got any proposal at this time or not.

Shri Govinda Menon: We are acting on the advice of the Agricultural

Prices Commission regarding the economic cost of production and the price to be given to the producer from time to time.

Incentives for Agricultural Production

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*277. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**

Shri Bagri:

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:

Shri H. C. Linga Reddy:

Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

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

(a) whether Government propose to give economic incentives to farmers to increase agricultural production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether subsidies and loans will also be included in such incentives?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): (a) to (c). Economic incentives by way of remunerative prices and loans and subsidies are already being given to farmers for accelerating agricultural development. Price support policies are being pursued for important agricultural commodities including foodgrains, sugarcane, cotton and jute. Subsidies are being given at present for selected minor irrigation and soil conservation schemes as also on inputs like improved seeds, agricultural implements, pesticides, certain types of fertilisers and plant protection equipment. Short, medium and long term loans are provided for agricultural development. The Cooperative structure is being supported and strengthened to render increasing help to farmers.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय बता सकते हैं कि इस मामले में जबकि चारों तरफ अकाल है, उत्तर प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट ने जो पच्चीस परसेंट लगान बढ़ाया है और 25 परसेंट ब्रावपाशी की दर को बढ़ाया है, क्या