

प्राइसिस कर्मिणन बलम से एप्रिकल्कर मिनिसट्री में बगबर काम कर रहा है. उस पर कार्रवाई हो रही है ।

मुझे इन दोनों मूवमेंट्स में कोई कान्फ्लिक्ट प्रतीत नहीं होता है ।

Shrimati Renuka Ray: In reply to part (b) of the question, the Minister has said that the Government is helping this price resistance movement. I would like to know, apart from verbal sympathy, where certain women's organisations and others have approached Government for help, what kind of concrete help has so far been given and what is contemplated to be given in regard to helping the price resistance movement.

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: When this movement was started in Delhi 1½ years ago, this organisation wanted to start a coffee house and the Government actually gave them some building. That coffee house is running in a corner of Connaught Place and is working very well. Therefore, to that extent Government has helped them. If they require any other concrete help, we are always willing to consider that.

Mr. Speaker: Ladies ask about women's organisation. If they have applied.....

Shri Hem Barua: I understand, Sir, that the Parliament House canteen is going to be managed and run by a women's organisation. The women's organisation is interested in changing our food habits. So, that was very alarming news for me.

Mr. Speaker: The report of the two Chairman was that it might be entrusted to women. I have agreed to that. They might run it.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: What form of special facilities are made available to this movement?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: As I said earlier, this is a completely voluntary organisation. This is linked up with

our National Consumer Service. Also, they go on assessing and creating awareness among the people. In one case they wanted some land and building and, as I said, that was given. Now, this movement has also started in one or two States—Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Pondicherry—but in a very limited way. I do not know what else he wants from me.

Price Stabilisation Committee

+

*425. **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Daji:

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

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to have Price Stabilisation Committee both at the Centre and State levels;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to check the rise in prices of foodgrains?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b). The Government of India have already set up an Agricultural Prices Commission in January, 1965 to provide advice on a continuing basis on agricultural price policy with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and consumer. At present, there is no proposal to appoint such Commission at the State level.

(c) Some of the steps taken to check the rise in prices are: increased distribution of foodgrains through ration/fair price shops, intensification of internal procurement, increased imports from abroad, restrictions on inter-state movement on private trade account, and tightening up of restrictions on bank advances against foodgrains, etc.

Shri Ranga: What about stopping inflation? That you will not do.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: This was one of the recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee. In view of the fact that this Government has miserably failed to hold the price line and to stabilise it at a reasonable level, why is it that all-party committees are not being formed both at the Centre and at the State level to see that prices do not increase unreasonably?

Shri Govinda Menon: It is for the State Governments to set up committees.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I said, both at the Centre and in the States.

Shri Govinda Menon: At the Centre there is the Agricultural Prices Commission and Government think that that is sufficient.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question was this. When I talk of price stabilisation, it is not about agricultural produce only. There are other articles a'so which go in the market. There is much difference between the wholesale price and the retail price and we have to purchase articles at the retail price. The Government promised that an All-Parties Committee will be formed to check the prices. I would like to know whether such a Committee has been formed or is likely to be formed both at the Central and the State levels.

Shri Govinda Menon: That is not contemplated presently.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that in the market the difference between the retail price and the wholesale price is so much that the person who wants to purchase from the retail shop has to pay much more than the one who purchases from the wholesale shop. May I know what steps the Government have taken to see that the difference is narrowed down to the minimum?

Shri Govinda Menon: One of the steps taken is the setting up of co-operatives as mentioned by my colleague a little while ago. Then again, the public distribution system is attempted to be extended very significantly and where the public distribution takes place, this difference as pointed out by the hon. Member between the retail price and the wholesale price does not exist.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : सरकार ने पहले एक एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइसिज कमीशन नियुक्त किया था और अब एक फूडग्रेज पालिसी कमेटी बनाई है, लेकिन इन दोनों में केवल उन लोगों को रखा गया है, जो कन्ज्यूम्स के पायंट आफ व्यू को रिप्रेजेंट करते हैं, न कि प्रोड्यूसर्स के पायंट आफ व्यू को। क्या सरकार यह सोच रही है कि खेती से सामान पैदा करने वालों को या किसानों को या उनका दृष्टिकोण रखने वालों को इस कमेटी में रख कर कृषि-उत्पादन के उचित मूल्य-निर्धारण में सहायता ली जाये ?

Shri Govinda Menon: The Agricultural Prices Commission is composed of economists and they take into consideration the requirements of the consumer as also the needs of the producer to get an economic price.

Shri Ranga: Question.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस कमीशन में कितने इकोनॉमिस्ट्स हैं, कितने किसान हैं, कितने खेती की उपज करने वाले हैं।

Shri Govinda Menon: In a matter like this, where for the entire country, for all the States in the country, a minimum price and other price arrangements have to be made, it is the view of the Government that it is a job for experts.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Indrajit Gupta.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What do you mean by experts? Do you mean to say that producers or farmers are not experts? You are condemning all

the farmers and producers in this country.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Just now the hon. Minister has emphasized that, what he calls the public distribution system, that is to say, rationing, is going to be further extended as a main step for stabilising the prices. May I know from him whether it is not a fact that actually the Government has decided that their earlier decision to extend rationing gradually to all towns and cities with a population of over 2 lakhs and then to cover towns with a population of over 1 lakh has been given up now and it has been decided not to extend rationing beyond the present stage?

Shri Govinda Menon: It has not been given up. On account of the situation of emergency, if the supplies are very very limited, the matter is not being pursued presently. That is all. When the supplies become sufficient and they are necessary to maintain the public distribution system, this will be done.

श्री प्रबल सिंह : चूंकि आज़कल मार्केट में खाद्य पदार्थों के दाम बढ़न ऊंचे हो गए हैं, इसलिए क्या यह मुनासिब नहीं होगा कि स्टेट लेवल पर फ़ायरिंग, पब्लिक प्रौर स्टेट वनरिंग के रिप्रेजेंटेटिव्स की कमेटीज़ बनाई जायें, जो कि भाव निश्चिन्त कर सकें ?

Mr. Speaker: That is rather a suggestion.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the attention of the hon. Minister is drawn to an assessment made by a very responsible body of men engaged in trade and commerce of this country which says that inflationary tendencies are going to get intensified under the Fourth Plan and that the prices are going to register a further rise and, if so, whether Government have foreseen this development and are taking any measures to see that, if the prices are not lowered, at least they are stabilised at this level and that there is no further rise in prices?

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development & Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): This is a much larger question than what is contemplated in this question. That would go into the technique of planning and what would be the effects of planning.

Shri Hem Barua: Give us an idea.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Ranga.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether it is the policy of the Government and also the Agricultural Prices Commission to see that whatever price levels come to be fixed as procurement prices by Government on the advice of this Agricultural Prices Commission would be fixed in consonance with the general rise in the prices prevailing in the country, especially of those commodities and products that the peasants themselves are obliged to purchase as producers as well as consumers?

Shri Govinda Menon: On this question I may say that this year there has been an all-round general increase in the procurement prices in all the States.

Shri C. Subramaniam: For example, in Andhra, last year the price of Paddy was Rs. 39.00 and this year it is Rs. 41.5 per quintal.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: There are two types of States—deficit States and surplus States. Recently in the Chief Ministers' Conference with the Agriculture Ministry it was decided to have single State zones. But in the deficit and surplus States, the wholesale trade is in private hands. There is a wide disparity between Punjab and Gujarat in prices of grams. May I know what steps Government are going to take to have a uniform price all over the country so that there may not be smuggling from one State to another and there may not be such a wide disparity as Rs. 100 per quintal in the price of gram between Punjab and Gujarat? May I know what steps Government have taken?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We are arranging with the Food Corporation; it should be able to purchase these commodities as much as possible so that the trade may not profiteer on this basis.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: The Foodgrains Inquiry Committee of 1954 suggested the establishment of a Price Stabilisation Board, but what the Minister has said is that they have only appointed an Agricultural Prices Commission. The recommendation was that there should be a permanent Board to advise the Government from time to time taking an overall view of the general rise in prices in the country. May I know what are the particular difficulties in accepting this particular recommendation?

Shri C. Subramaniam: This recommendation seems to have been examined in 1954, 1956, 1957, etc., and Government came to the conclusion then that it was not necessary. Later on, we examined it and we have appointed an Agricultural Prices Commission and that is also to serve the same purpose.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. K. C. Sharma.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं प्रश्न पूछने के वास्ते अनेक बार खड़ा हो रहा हूँ।

Shri K. C. Sharma: There are various formulae in agricultural prices, namely, the economic price, fair price and equity price. May I ask the hon. Minister whether any decision has been taken at a higher level as to on what basis the Agricultural Prices Commission is to work out the price formula? Price is not something very nebulous. This question has been considered, ever since 1901 uptil now, in different countries all the world over. What is your formula? Is it equity price or fair price or economic price?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We have indicated that it is a remunerative price to the producer; it is on that basis the price is to be worked out.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन भावों के अन्दर जो भारी मात्रा में उतार चढ़ाव है उसका एक बहुत बड़ा कारण यह भी है कि जोस बनाने के बाद कुछ राज्यों में अन्न का अधिक संयह है और कुछ राज्यों के पास अन्न का बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में अभाव है उन सारी परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए जोस खत्म करते के लिए जो कमेटी बनाई गई थी उसके प्रत्यावहारिक निर्णय को देखते हुए सरकार क्या उसके ऊपर फिर से विचार करेगी और यह जोनल प्रणाली खत्म करेगी ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I think the Committee has recommended that zones should be kept; each State zone should be kept. I agree that there will be difference of opinion on this point. We have to take a decision on some basis and then go forward. We have appointed the Committee and it has made its recommendations. This was discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference also and I am placing a paper with regard to our discussions in the Chief Ministers' Conference.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा : मैं यह जानना चाहंगा कि अग्नी एक आयोग ने यह सिफारिश की थी कि जोनल सिस्टम खत्म किया जाए, अगर हां, तो उस बारे में सरकार ने क्या विचार किया है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Which commission is the hon. Member referring to? If it is the Foodgrains Policy Committee then it has recommended the retention of the zones.

Mr. Speaker: He is referring to the Planning Commission.

श्री श्रींकार लाल बेरबा : कृषि आयोग ने अग्नी विचार विभा था और उसको यह रिपोर्ट दी थी कि जोनल सिस्टम खत्म किया जाय अगर हां तो उसके ऊपर क्या विचार किया गया है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have not seen any such recommendation.

Shri Ranga: No, it was the AICC.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या बिहार और पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में सब से ज्यादा प्रकालग्रस्त इस वक्त जो इलाका है वहाँ चावल, मकई, बाजरा और गैर अमरीकी गेहूँ के इस वक्त दाम क्या हैं और देश में सबसे कम दाम कहाँ हैं इसका कोई तुलनात्मक अध्ययन किया गया है और क्या इसके बारे में कोई तौलनिक आंकड़े सदन के सामने मंत्री महोदय रखने के लिये तैयार हैं ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think that I can give all those figures under this question. If a separate question is tabled, certainly I shall be able to give the information.

श्री मधु लिमये : अब कहाँ समय है ? क्या शॉर्ट नोटिस व्हेण्डन स्वीकार करेंगे ?

Assessment of Food Situation

+

*426. **Dr. P. N. Khan:**

Dr. M. M. Das:

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:

Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Shri S. C. Samanta:

Shri Subodh Hansda:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have no machinery of their own to find out whether a State is surplus or deficit in food; and

(b) whether Government have considered the desirability of such a machinery for making an independent assessment of the situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (**Shri Govinda Menon**): (a) Government of India determine whether a State is surplus or deficit by assessing the figures of production and the estimates of distribution requirements as reported by the various States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Dr. P. N. Khan: May I know whether Government have ever thought of the fact that part assessments were never correct and were giving out all the time a total deficit of 10 to 12 million tons?

Shri Govinda Menon: It is a matter of opinion whether the assessment is correct or not. In a matter like this, the assessment can only be approximate.

Dr. P. N. Khan: May I know what the machinery at the lowest level is which assesses the food situation, whether it is a single machinery or whether there are different machinery to assess it?

Shri Govinda Menon: If the reference is to the machinery referred to in part (b) of the main question, I may inform the House that the Planning Commission was requested by Government to take up this question . . .

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (**Shri C. Subramaniam**): I would like to say this that as far as the assessment of the area under any particular crop is concerned, that is on the basis of the village accounts which are submitted to the State Government; on the basis of this, the area under a particular crop is assessed. Then, with regard to the actual production, it is done on the basis of random sample crop-cutting experiments. It is on that basis that the average yield per acre is fixed, and then taking into account the area, the total production is arrived at.

Dr. M. M. Das: Recently, the opinion was expressed by no less a person than the Prime Minister herself that the surplus States of this country had not been behaving properly in helping the deficit States. In view of this statement of the Prime Minister, may I know whether this particular matter was discussed at the last meeting of the Chief Ministers' Conference, and whether any steps