

**Compulsory Foodgrains Procurement**

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- \*545. Shri S. C. Samanta:  
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
 Shri Subodh Hansda:  
 Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad:  
 Shri P. C. Borooah:  
 Dr. M. M. Das:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have asked the State Governments for compulsory procurement of a percentage of producer's crops on the arrival of new crops; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b). In the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 16-11-66, it was decided to lay down a minimum programme of procurement for each State. As a part of this programme levy at the producer level was generally accepted, although the States would have flexibility in regard to methods of procurement.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that in some of the States the compulsory procurement of foodgrains system has been found to be defective in the sense that the grains procured from the peasants at the time of the harvest has to be resold to them later in the year?

Shri Govinda Menon: That is not uniformly so, because procurement is spread over all the months of the year.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the voluntary procurement system is prevalent anywhere and, if so, in which States?

Shri Govinda Menon: In most of the States there is one system of levy or the other. There are certain States where there is monopoly procurement. But there is no State where it is fully voluntary.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether the procurement would be based upon the price that would be ruling in the market so that the peasants need not have to suffer or lose, in view of the fact that the procurement price that has been fixed so far has always been much lower than the prevailing market rate, even at the harvest time?

Shri Govinda Menon: I would say that the market price is sometimes higher than the procurement price, but the procurement price has been fixed with due regard to the cost of production and a margin of profit.

Shri Ranga: When was it ever fixed on the basis of the cost of production? Has the Agricultural Prices Commission ever admitted it? Never.

श्री ए० सा० द्विवेदी : लंबी की जितनी योजना सरकार ने पिछले साल बनाई थी उस के अनुसार सभी राज्यों ने अपना-अपना कोटा पूरा नहीं किया और कुछ राज्य ऐसे हैं जहाँ पर अब भी उतना गल्ला लोगों से नहीं मिल सका जितना सरकार ने चाहा था तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार उस की तदवार का अनुमान नहीं लगा पाई थी या फारमर्स ने डिफाल्ट किया है तो सभी राज्यों में एक ही नीति बर्ती जाय उस की दिशा में सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है।

Shri Govinda Menon: Each State lays down the target of procurement at the beginning of the year. Later on, some errors may be found in the assessment made, but if you compare finally the quantity which is procured, it is sometimes less than what was laid down in the beginning of the year. Still, last year the procurement has been significantly good.

Shri Subodh Hansda: While the States have their own procurement staff, at the Central level the Food Corporation is going to enter into business in the States. Will these two organisations not duplicate the work

of procurement of paddy in the States?

**Shri Govinda Menon:** No, Sir. Where the Food Corporation is carrying on procurement there will be no State staff which will be surplus to requirements.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The hon. Minister has just now said that the Food Corporation has been entrusted with the work of collecting the levy. May I know whether there has been a difference of opinion between some State Government, I mean, West Bengal, and the Food Corporation, regarding the amount that is to be paid? Have there been some difficulties recently?

**Shri Govinda Menon:** The quantity to be surrendered by the producer is determined by the State Government and not by the Food Corporation.

**श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्त :** जब कि किसान को मालगुजारी और आबपागी तथा अपने अपने परिवार का खर्च चलाने के लिये विवश हो कर मंडी में अनाज को बेचना पड़ता है, तब फिर उन्होंने किसानों से सरकार अनिवार्य रूप से किस आधार पर और किस अनुपात से अन्न लेना चाहती है। क्या उन की वार्षिक आवश्यकता का ध्यान रखा जायेगा, जिस से वह दुखी न हो सके ?

**Shri Govinda Menon:** Certainly, Sir. The levy orders and schemes perfected in the States do lay down that there will be some surplus left to the producers taking into account the domestic requirements, the agricultural requirements and other requirement of the farmer. A certain portion alone is procured.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** क्या सरकार के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि पिछले साल विहार में लेवी और प्रोक्योरमेंट का जो काम चलाया गया उस में उन किसानों से भी वसूली की गई जिन के नाम पर जमीन नहीं है, और जहाँ पर वह किसानों के नाम पर थी भी

वहाँ वह विविध भाइयों में बंट गई है या किसानों ने उसे बेच दिया था। ऐसे किसानों के पास लेवी का नोटिस आया और उस की वसूली के लिये उन को तंग किया गया जिस की वजह से यह लेवी सिस्टम अनपाबुलर हो गयी। क्या इस कांफरेंस में इस के ऊपर भी कुछ विचार हुआ कि इस के लिये कोई फुलप्रूफ फार्मूला निकाला जाये ताकि लेवी सिस्टम के साथ किसानों की उचित दाम दिया जाये।

**Shri Govinda Menon:** Such instances have not come to our notice. In Bihar there is a levy of 60 kilograms in certain districts and 40 kilograms in certain other districts per acre over five acres and millers have to give 12½ per cent of production and stocks in rice mills. That is the system prevailing in Bihar. It may be that there might have been individual cases which may have come to the notice of the hon. Member; none has come to our notice.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र:** जिसके पास पांच एकड़ से ज्यादा जमीन है उसके ऊपर भी 60 किलो लेवी लगाई गई और वह जमीन किसान के नाम पर नहीं है तब भी उस को तंग किया गया और वसूली की गई। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने क्या इसके लिये कोई फुलप्रूफ फार्मूला कायम किया है। वह कहते हैं कि यह सिस्टम है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** वह कहते हैं तो मैं क्या करूँ ?

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** उनसे पूछिये कि वह राज्य कैसे चलायेंगे।

**श्री बड़े :** पिछले समय में जो लेवी या प्रोक्योरमेंट हुआ है उसके सम्बन्ध में क्या शासन की नजर में यह आया है कि प्रोक्योरमेंट का जो बेसिस रहा है वह यह रहा है कि कितना एरिया बोया गया है। वास्तव में ड्राउट के बाद बेसिस यह होना चाहिये कि कुल कितना उत्पादन हुआ है। इसकी वजह

से जिन किसानों के पास अनाज नहीं था उनसे भी कलेक्टर ने आ कर जबर्दस्ती वसूली की। इसीलिये बस्तर और मध्य प्रदेश के दूसरे क्षेत्रों में झगड़े हुए।  
The basis was wrong. It was not to be on the sowing of the land.

**Mr. Speaker:** First in Hindi and then in English he is repeating the same question.

श्री बड़े : मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप ने स्टेट्स को कोई डाइरेक्शन दिया है कि जिन राज्यों में डाउट पड़ा है वहाँ पर जबर्दस्ती नहीं करनी चाहिये और प्रोक्योरमेंट का बेसिस या सिद्धान्त जमीन नहीं होना चाहिये बल्कि उत्पादन होना चाहिये।

**Shri Govinda Menon:** The procurement operations are conducted by the State Governments. There may be individual or stray cases of lapses but they have not come to our notice.

**Shri Bade:** There are so many cases.

**Shri Govinda Menon:** Where crops have been lost on account of drought, I am certain that the State Government would not have had procurement for those areas.

**Mr. Speaker:** One thing very important he has said, namely, that the basis that is relied upon is the area that is under cultivation and not the produce that goes to the producer. He says that they do not take into consideration whether actually the cultivator has received so much amount out of which that levy can be taken. He says that they take only the area into consideration.

**Shri Govinda Menon:** So far as I know, the lands are classified and the procurement is not uniform.... (Interruptions).

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** He is side-tracking the issue. You, Sir, put the question and even then he did not answer it. What is this?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Shri Tyagi.

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिद्धान्त : पूरा उत्तर तो देना चाहिये।

श्री हुकम चन्द कल्याण : उनको जानकारी नहीं है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो पूछा गया उसका उत्तर उन्होंने दिया। अगर उनको जानकारी नहीं है तो मैं क्या करूँ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कल्याण : वह सवाल को टालना चाहते हैं, यह कहाँ तक उचित है।

श्री बड़े : उनका कहना यह नहीं है कि जानकारी नहीं है . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री हुकम चन्द कल्याण : उत्तर तो पूरा करवाइये।

**Shri Tyagi:** With a view to facilitating procurement of foodgrains, having the Government advised the State Governments to realise their repayment demands from the cultivators of their loans or other inputs given to them in kind rather than in cash?

**The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam):** That is one of the schemes which we are working out to link crop with marketing. Therefore, when we deliver fertilisers or seeds or pesticides, to that extent, they deliver grains instead of paying in cash.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** In view of the unprecedented drought and cyclone in some parts of the country, may I know whether the Government proposes to intensify procurement not only in surplus States but also in deficit States by giving the incentive price which the Government has failed to do so far—it has arbitrarily been fixing the prices—and, if that is so, whether there is any integrated programme of not

only procurement of foodgrains from the people but also of providing the necessary inputs?

**Shri Govinda Menon:** The idea is that there should be procurement not only in the surplus States but also in the deficit States because it is necessary to have under the control of the Government the largest quantity possible. With respect to price, I have already answered that prices are fixed in consultation with the State Governments and on the advice of the Agricultural Prices Commission. The Government are trying to give to the maximum extent possible the inputs which are required for intensive cultivation.

**Shri Ranga:** Question.

**Shri Nath Pai:** Whereas it is possible to agree with the desirability of procurement, it is the mechanical and unimaginative enforcement of it that causes all the inconvenience. Taking this into consideration, will the Minister ensure that the directives or the guiding principles with regard to procurement will be such that the cultivator has enough for his own and for the next harvest and may I know whether in the cyclone-affected areas of Madras and the western coast of Maharashtra, Konkan, this levy will not be collected this year?

**Shri Govinda Menon:** The levy is collected from only those producers who have an excess over their domestic and agricultural requirements. It does not matter whether it is a drought-affected area or not because the levy is not from an area but from individuals. The State Governments, to the best of our knowledge, are seeing to it that the levy is made only after ample provision is made for the domestic and other requirements of the producers.

**Mr. Speaker:** Shri Sheo Narain.

**Shri Nath Pai:** What about the cyclone-affected areas? I want to know what would be the guiding principles in the case of Madras

where crops have been destroyed by the present cyclone and the same has happened in Konkan. What will be the guiding principles for the authorities in an area like this? I did not say, drought-affected areas but I asked about cyclone-affected areas.

**Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:** It is quite the opposite.

**Shri Govinda Menon:** Where the crops are destroyed, certainly there would be no procurement.

**श्री शिव नारायण :** आप गल्ला किसान से लेना चाहते हैं प्रोक्योरमेंट के द्वारा या खरीद कर। लेकिन आप देखें कि किस भाव पर आप अमरीका से गेहूँ खरीदते हैं। आप फारेन कंट्री को पैसा इसका देते हैं। जितना एक्सपेंस होता है उसका हिसाब लगा कर अगर किसान से गल्ला लें और जो कीमत बढती है वह उसको दें तो क्या आप नहीं समझते हैं कि गेहूँ की पैदावार हमारे यहां बढ़ सकती है? लगान जो आप किसान से लेते हैं वह भी गल्ले के रूप में लें तो क्या दिक्कत है? सरकार इस पालिसी को अख्तियार क्यों नहीं करती है?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** बड़ी अच्छी सजेशन है।

**श्री शिव नारायण :** जवाब आना चाहिये, बड़ा क्लीयर सवाल है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** इसीलिए जवाब की जरूरत नहीं है कि बड़ा क्लीयर क्वेश्चन है जिस में जवाब भी शामिल है। उनको चाहिये कि इस पर ध्यान दें। आपका सवाल बहुत साफ है।

**श्री यशपाल सिंह :** सरकार ने यह नारा लगाया था कि लैंड मस्ट गो टू दी टिल्लर। सरकार ने कहा था कि जमीन का मालिक किसान होगा। आज किसान का मोनरशिप कहाँ रह गया है जबकि उसकी मर्जी के खिलाफ आप प्रोक्योरमेंट कर रहे हैं? क्या आप किसान से आशा रखते हैं कि वह पैदावार करेगा इन हालात में जबकि उससे

प्रोक्वोरमेंट किया जा रहा है ? वह हर्गिज नहीं कर सकता है। या तो आप अनुरक्षण के अधिकार को न मानियेगा या फिर प्रोक्वोरमेंट करना बन्द कीजियेगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री आर० एस० पाण्डेय ।

श्री राम महाय पाण्डेय : वे कौन कौन से प्रान्त हैं जहाँ प्रोक्वोरमेंट आपका सफल हुआ है ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सच नहीं है कि अभी भी कुछ ऐसे किसान हैं, कल्टीवेटर हैं जिन के पास अनाज है और वे उसको मंडी में भी ले जाते हैं लेकिन जो एजेंसी इसको प्रोक्वोर करने वाली है या खरीदने वाली है वह उसमें सफल नहीं हो रही है और किसान को अपना अनाज वापस ले जाना पड़ता है ?

**Shri Govinda Menon:** There have been such cases also where some producers escape.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Now that the Government is trying to evolve a national food policy, I would like to know what will be the procurement policy in the so-called national food policy.

**Shri Govinda Menon:** That is what I have stated in the answer. That is to say, there should be a programme of procurement for each State. As far as possible, it should be a levy on the procedure, but there will be some flexibility with respect to the performance of each State.

**Shri D. N. Tiwary:** May I know whether Government has sent any instruction to the State Government not to send levy notices in those areas where the crop has been considerably damaged and each cultivator has produced less than 25 per cent of the crop. May I also know whether the Government is aware that levy notices are being sent indiscriminately to the cultivators in Saran District of Bihar?

**Shri Govinda Menon:** We are not aware of any case where crops have been destroyed and there have been levy notices issued by any State Government. That is something which has not come to our notice.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next Question.—546.

**Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Question. 549 can also be taken with this.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, if it is possible

**Shri Govinda Menon:** Yes. I shall answer both of them.

#### Damage to Foodgrains in Transit

\*546. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a consignment of nearly 3,000 bags of wheat sent to Madhya Pradesh and of 2,000 bags of milo also sent to Nagpur, were found to be damaged during transit, as commented in the editorial column of the *Times of India* of the 11th August, 1966;

(b) if so, the circumstances in which this happened;

(c) whether those responsible for this have been brought to book;

(d) whether it is also a fact that storage capacity at all the Indian Ports where imported foodgrains are unloaded, is not sufficient; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to make up the deficiency?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon):** (a) A quantity of about 1,128 quintals of wheat and about 72 quintals of milo was damaged by rain in the course of transit to Raipur and Nagpur respectively during July last.

(b) and (c). Owing to shortage of covered wagons for the unprecedented movement by rail of foodgrains