

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

Rise of Foodgrain Prices in Orissa

*1340. **Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the recent rise in prices of foodgrains particularly of rice in Orissa and acute shortage of supply at some places;

(b) whether the Central Government have ascertained facts regarding this abnormal situation; and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) to (c). There has been some rise in prices of rice in Orissa and it has been ascertained from the State Government that in some parts of coastal districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Phulbani the market supplies have been somewhat short of the demand. The State Government are moving to these areas stocks of rice available with them in the surplus districts, and distribution of rice through retail shops in these areas of coastal districts is being liberalized.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Is it not a fact that rice sells at Rs. 2 per seer in these areas, and this is due to the fact that most of the rice and paddy is exported to West Bengal on account of the food zone, resulting in shortage of supply and increase in prices?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas): There has been some rise in the price of rice, to the extent of about Rs. 4 per maund as compared to what was existing towards the beginning of this year. But this rise is, to a certain extent, a corrective, because after the formation of the Zone and after the bumper crop in West Bengal, there has been a fall to an extent which we did not really want. In fact, the State Government

is rushing stocks to areas where prices are high. It has got about 15,000 odd tons of rice in its possession. Fair price shops have been opened in these areas and distribution is made.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Is it a fact that people want paddy but there is no stock of paddy with the State Government? If so, are the Government of India going to give them paddy?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is not correct. The stock of 15,423 tons includes paddy also.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: How much of it is paddy and how much rice and what is the shortage?

Shri A. M. Thomas: A substantial quantity is in paddy.

Cultivation of Sea-Island Cotton

*1341. **Shri Warrior:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to abandon all schemes to encourage cultivation of Sea-Island cotton; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Warrior: Is it a fact that the field staff engaged in Sea-Island cotton cultivation has been served with notice of discharge and the entire staff is now without job?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: No, it is not correct. In Kerala, the cultivation of Sea-Island cotton is not proving so successful. Therefore, it is planned to extend this scheme to other States where it can be successfully grown.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether Government have ascertained the

reasons for the failure of this cotton cultivation in Kerala alone?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is because the people there are used to growing a particular kind of crop such as paddy etc, and they are not so conversant with cotton cultivation. Therefore, the desirability of extending Sea-Island cotton cultivation to other States is being examined, and it will be extended to other States.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: In the Third Five Year Plan for Kerala, Sea-Island cotton cultivation has been given a very prominent place. May I know whether any educational programme is carried on in the State for popularising and extending this cultivation?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The figures we have here indicate that despite the fact that it was given some prominence, the cultivation has not improved there. In 1960-61, the scheme was to produce this type of cotton in 30,000 acres, both in Kerala and Mysore. But it was actually grown only on 8,618 acres. This has been the case in other years also.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: Is it proposed to conduct an educational campaign among cultivators so as to increase the area under cultivation?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, that was being examined, not only to increase the area under cultivation but to increase the quality of the crop. So far as quality of the crop is concerned, we are not proving so successful.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: May I know whether notices terminating the services of the staff in two places in Kerala have been given? If so, will they be sent to some other place? The Minister has said that as far as Sea-Island cotton production is concerned, the scheme has not been stopped. What is the position of this staff?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We will examine the desire of the hon. Member in regard to the service of

the workers. But it appears that he also feels that the cultivation of cotton there will not be so successful. Even then, we will try to see that the cultivation is not actually terminated and the workers also are not put to any difficulty.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: Had the Andhra Pradesh Government formerly requested the implementation of this scheme in that State since climatic conditions in some places in the State compare with conditions in Kerala? If so, do Government propose to experiment the scheme in those areas.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes. We will do it not only in Andhra Pradesh, but also in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madras.

Shri Paramasivan: In view of shortage of cotton, may I know whether the Government has any proposal to increase the ceiling price of cotton so as to give encouragement cotton cultivation?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, there is no shortage of cotton. Therefore, that question does not arise.

Shri Bade: Is the Government aware that there is shortage of cotton because the State Governments are forcing the cultivators to grow a particular seed in a particular area under the Cotton Control Order?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I want to disabuse the notion that there is shortage of cotton. There is no shortage of cotton in this country. We also export cotton.

Some Hon. Members: There is shortage.

Mr. Speaker: Will that deficiency be made good by argument here?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: There is no shortage. That thing will be examined.

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order, Sir. *(Interruption)*

Mr. Speaker: Let us hear the point of order.

Shri Hem Barua: Very recently we have entered into a trade agreement with Pakistan and Pakistan proposes to supply us cotton because there is shortage of cotton in this country.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, the difficulty with the hon. Member is that all the time, without knowing the facts he goes on questioning. He does not know that there is no shortage of cotton. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. First the point of order. The hon. Member only wanted just to assert that the answer given was not correct. Is that a point of order? I put it to him.

Shri Hem Barua: It is for you to decide.

Mr. Speaker: The information that may be with the Minister, he gives that. If the hon. Member disputes that, either he might put some supplementary question or he might afterwards write to me that the answer that has been given is wrong. I will ask the explanation and the reply of the Minister as well. We can decide what is the correct answer to it or whether there was any mistake. How does the point of order arise?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Can a Minister say that the hon. Member goes on asking questions without knowing facts? Can he make a general remark? You must protect the Members. He cannot say that the Member goes on putting questions like this.

An Hon. Member: It is unparliamentary. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Hon. Members will allow me also. It is not fair just at that moment, in the heat of the controversy to say these words. I think hon. Ministers also would exercise some restraint when they are making this observation.

Shri Hem Barua: May I submit, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: He has said and I have answered it. Is there a point of order still?

Shri Hem Barua: No. My trouble is, whenever it strikes me that there is a point of order involved in a certain thing because of a wrong or mistaken statement of the Minister, I just want to draw the attention of the House and your attention also. It is always for you to judge whether a point of order is involved or not. It is farthest from my intention to raise a point of order....

Mr. Speaker: I have never imputed that intention to him. My difficulty is, if all the points of order that he has raised so far be put together, then perhaps, there would be dearth of any one being found in them. There would not be even one that was raised as a point of order. From that the conclusion is that he interferes and wants to put a supplementary but takes shelter under a point of order. That is the difficulty. Shri Warrior.

Shri Hem Barua: I am misunderstood. My submission is....

Mr. Speaker: If he has been misunderstood, it is his conduct that is at fault.

Shri Bade: My difficulty is, he has not given a complete reply to my question.

Mr. Speaker: He has given. He does not agree with the hon. Member.

Shri Bade: Whether the Governments in the different States have forced the cultivators to grow a particular seed in a particular area; that was my particular question.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is being done with a view to increasing production because that particular seed is found suitable for cultivation.

Mr. Speaker: Next question Shri P. C. Borooah.

Shri Warrior: I was called, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; then the intervention came.