

same experience. This is a long-standing complaint running over years. Express telegrams are received much later than ordinary telegrams. People are being compelled to spend more on express telegrams and at the same time get less convenience.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I am perfectly aware of it. That is why I said that I am trying to get it corrected.

Dr. M. S. Aney: I brought to the notice of the hon. Minister some time ago the case of an express telegram sent by Professor Ranga to me. Has he been able to take it up?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: The hon. Member being an older gentleman than myself I am not inclined to lose my temper as he seems to have done.

Shri Goray: That is his natural voice.

Dr. P. Subbarayan: I do admit that these delays do occur. We are trying to see how we can correct it so that the service is better than what it is today.

Seth Achal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the telegraph staff has adopted go-slow tactics after the general strike?

Dr. P. Subbarayan: No, Sir. As a matter of fact, I think we have taken back most of them and I have impressed upon them that they should do their duty better than they did before.

Dr. Vijaya Ananda: May I know whether some express telegrams are not delivered at times?

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Enough questions have been asked.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I request that Question Nos. 46 and 83 may be taken up along with Question No. 44.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): We have no objection.

खाद्य का उत्पादन

†

*४४. { श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री :
श्री गोरे :
श्रीमती इला पालचौधरी :
श्री साधन गन्त :
श्री सूपकार :
श्री हेम बरुआ : }

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इस वर्ष पिछले वर्षों की अपेक्षा खाद्यान्न का अधिक उत्पादन होने की संभावना है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इसका प्रभाव खाद्यान्न के मूल्यों पर पड़ा है ?

कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री मो० वें० कृष्णप्पा) :
सभा की टेबिल पर एक विवरण रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) १९६०-६१ के खाद्य फसलों के उत्पादन के अनुमान अभी उपलब्ध नहीं हैं । देश के कुछ भागों में प्राकृतिक संकटों द्वारा खरीफ की सफलों को नुकसान होने के बावजूद, हाल के लक्षणों के अनुसार उत्पादन की संभावना सन्तोषजनक है ।

(ख) जी हां । पिछले कुछ सप्ताहों से भाव साधारणतया मुलायम हो गये हैं ।

फसलों की क्षति

+

*४६. { श्री राजेन्द्र सिंह :
श्री लुशवन्त राय :
श्री श्रीनारायण दास :
श्री राधा रमण :
श्री हेम बरुआ : }

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विभिन्न राज्यों में बाढ़ और सूखा

से खरीफ की कौन कौन फसलें नष्ट हो गईं ;
और

(ख) बाढ़ और सूखा के कारण खरीफ की फसल का उत्पादन कितना कम हुआ ?

कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री मो० बं० कृष्णप्पा) : समा की टेबिल पर एक विवरण रख दिया गया है ।

विवरण

(क) और (ख) अभी यह जानकारी उपलब्ध नहीं है, क्योंकि फसलों के मखिल भारतीय अन्तिम अनुमानों के प्रकाशित होने के बाद, विभिन्न खरीफ फसलों की पूरी जानकारी केवल मई-जून १९६१ में उपलब्ध होगी ।

Mr. Speaker: He wants Q. No. 83 also to be taken up.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is not our question.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : कुछ दिन पहले खाद्य मंत्री, डा० पंजाब राव देशमुख, ने खाद्यान्नों के संबंध में यह भाषा व्यक्त की थी कि इस बार फसल बहुत अच्छी हुई है और अभी कल परसों खाद्य मंत्री ने भ्रमरीकी खाद्यान्नों का बोरा उपहार में ग्रहण करते हुये बम्बई में कहा था कि इससे हमारे खाद्यान्न के मूल्यों पर अच्छा प्रभाव पड़ेगा । क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जनता को इसका व्यावहारिक रूप कब तक देखने को मिलेगा ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री स० का० पाटिल) : प्राइस तो घट जाती है और घटी है । और ज्यादा घट जायेगी, तो डेंजर है किसानों के लिये । और ज्यादा नहीं घटना चाहिये ।

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In areas where loans and subsidies are promised to be advanced to growers with a view to fight the vagaries of nature

it is invariably noticed that they are not given in time. Will Government take any appropriate step to see that they are not delayed?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The Community Projects agency is now doing that liaison work. There was some shortage of manure this year because it did not reach in time. Otherwise all other necessities of the farmers, that is, seeds, manure and all these things are given to them before ploughing or sowing starts.

Shri Goray: In view of the downward trend in prices, what steps are Government contemplating to take to see to it that the peasant does not suffer unnecessarily from the adverse prices?

Shri S. K. Patil: The situation is being very carefully watched. That point has not yet come up because there is a trend only. But if we feel that the trend is positively coming, the farmers will certainly be protected.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Deputy Minister referred to the Community Development agency. I do not know whether Government are aware of the recent discussion which was held on the Plan for three days. During that discussion several hon. Members repeatedly charged that without giving certain obligations no bill was passed by the Community Development overseers and engineers who deal with agriculture. May I know whether Government will direct that particular department to see that this is not done?

Shri S. K. Patil: That refers to another Ministry, but I could quite understand that. In the interests of agriculture, we would draw the attention of that Ministry to this.

Shri Goray: May I refer to the answer given just now by the hon. Minister to my previous question and ask him whether, if prices go below a particular point, Government will enter the market and see that grain is purchased at a particular price?

Shri S. K. Patil: I said that the farmers would be protected. There is more than one way of doing so. One of the ways has been pointed out by the hon. Member, but there are quite a few other ways also. We have not yet finalised that because that stage has not been reached. But we are very much aware of that fact and we shall see to it.

Shri Jaganatha Rao: May I know whether Government has made an assessment of the loss of food crops caused by the locust invasion?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There was locust invasion. There were floods and drought. But still the overall situation seems to be better than last year, specially of the major *kharif* rice crop. Nearly 80 per cent of the rice crop falls under *kharif* crop and the rice crop in the whole of India this year seems to be better than last year in spite of floods, drought and locusts. We are expecting a better crop than what it was last year.

Shri Shivananjappa: How far has the failure of monsoon in the State of Mysore affected food production?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is only in parts of Mysore and Andhra that there is some damage to the millet crop because of drought. But even in Andhra, specially in the rice-growing pocket and the granary of South India in the delta area we have got a good crop this year.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know the level to which the hon. Minister would like the prices to go down and which he will consider to be safe before he thinks of doing anything?

Shri S. K. Patil: That level also has not been fixed. As I said, it is a fluid situation. We have been constantly watching it. But when there is such a danger, at that time, we shall enter into the thing and see that the farmer does not suffer. We cannot fix that level.

Shri Subbiah Ambalam: In the light of the answer given by the hon. Deputy Minister and also the fact that we have sufficient food stocks due to the imports from America, will Government consider the question of abolishing the food zones?

Mr. Speaker: That is a separate issue.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: The Deputy Minister has stated that in spite of the flood and the drought in Orissa and some other States the crop position is better this year. What is the estimate, may I know?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The estimates or the final forecasts have not yet come. But we get reports often as soon as the floods occur. Especially in Orissa, from where the hon. Member comes, this year we had very serious floods twice. But in spite of that in other parts of Orissa and West Bengal there is a very good crop to compensate what has been lost in the flooded area. And we ourselves go round and see. For instance during the last two and a half months I have extensively toured in all these areas—I went by car, by road, by train and by jeep. I could see with my own eyes the standing crop, and I say this year we have a better rice crop in the country than last year.

Shri Hem Barua: In spite of the optimism of the Deputy Minister, may I draw the attention of the Government to the Report for 1960 released by the F.A.O. to the effect that there would be a decrease in the yield of cereals and pulses in India; and, if so, what steps Government have taken to increase their production?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The F.A.O. gives figures of last year's crops, that is for 1959-60, not for 1960-61. The 1960-61 figures have not yet come to us. Only when they come to us we will supply them to the F.A.O. and the F.A.O. will then forecast. Whatever forecast the F.A.O. has made is with reference to last year, not to the coming year.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: As the Government is aware, the farmer has been able to get very spectacular prices for jute this year. The jute prices were not so good last year. So he did not cultivate as much jute this year. Now, with the spectacular prices obtained, he is likely to cultivate very much more jute next year. What does Government propose to do to prevent this? Because he did not cultivate jute, the crops are good.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is not food.

Shri Supakar: What is the basis of the estimate even in those areas where there have admittedly been devastating effects. Is it the falling down of prices that is the basis of the estimate by the Government to say that the production will be good this year?

Shri S. K. Patil: Surely, when the prices fall down, everybody knows more or less that there is enough food. And so far as Orissa is concerned, I could go further and state that even the stocks they have got now they are anxious to dispose, because they cannot hold on to them for a long time when there is plenty of food.

Shri Supakar: May I know whether that is the only criterion?

Shri S. K. Patil: The actual figures have not yet been published, and would be published, as my hon. colleague has said. Just now the prospect is that when prices fall that is the surest indication that there is no dearth of it.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि फसल के अच्छे उत्पादन और अमरीकी खाद्यान्न के आयात के आरम्भ हो जाने से जो खाद्यान्न के मूल्यों में गिरावट आयेगी, उसको देखते हुये अन्न के अन्तर्प्रान्तीय यातायात के ऊपर जो प्रतिबन्ध लगा हुआ है, उसको भी हटाया जा सकेगा ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : अभी कुछ ज्यादा प्रतिबन्ध तो नहीं हैं। मध्य प्रदेश की बात तो ठीक है। वहाँ पर भी चन्द रोज में प्रतिबन्ध

में थोड़ा तो फर्क होगा जिससे कि वहाँ का खाद्यान्न दूसरी जगह पर जा सकेगा। पंजाब में भी है लेकिन इतना बड़ा नहीं है कि उसका धरर हमारे खाद्यान्न के ऊपर हो।

Shri Sadhan Gupta: In view of the fact that the holding power of the farmer is very limited, and in view of the possibility of the prices going down, have the Government thought out in advance any scheme for fixing floor prices, as well as ceiling prices of course? Because, if it is done at the time things go out of hand, the benefit will not go to the farmers but to the middlemen.

Shri S. K. Patil: I have answered it more than once.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are taking advantage of the question relating to food. This relates particularly to drought and floods, that is the only question here, and the consequent food prospects. There is no question about prices, so far as I can see.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: There is, about prices.

An Hon. Member: Part (b) of question No. 44 refers to it.

Mr. Speaker: "Whether it has affected the food prices"—all right.

Shri Sampath: May I know how far the package programme that has been tried in some selected centres have been found to be effective, and whether Government is considering the question of extending this programme to other centres also?

Shri S. K. Patil: Yes, there have been programmes for seven districts in seven States, and we propose to extend it to all the States, including one of the areas of the Centrally governed territory.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Sadhan Gupta's question relating to prices may be answered.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: My question was this. The hon. Minister said that

when the situation arises and when the prices are going down too far, then they will think of fixing minimum prices—something to that effect. My question was, in view of the fact that when the situation actually arises, at that stage it may be too late to give relief to the farmer, have Government thought out any scheme for fixing minimum prices, that is floor prices in advance, as well as ceiling prices.

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of the question? The hon. Member has only put down a question as to how far the food production this year has affected the prices. And the Minister has already said 'yes' or 'no'.

Shri S. K. Patil: Even this question is under examination. And if we feel that such a situation is going to arise, well in advance of that we shall take measures. I have promised that.

Shri Heda: May I know whether Government has taken into calculation the situation in certain water reservoirs like Nizam Sagar, where water did not come to the full capacity owing to the drought or less rains in the catchment area?

Shri S. K. Patil: That is true. That also goes to the Irrigation Ministry, but we are vitally interested in it. But that adds to that problem which faces them.

Shri Tyagi: Is it a fact that owing to the recent fall in the prices of foodgrains, some of the State which had bought quite a lot of foodgrains for stock-piling purposes are facing a great loss, because they cannot sell it at the price at which they bought it?

Shri S. K. Patil: That is so. Therefore, as I said, in Madhya Pradesh, I think, in the next few days we shall have some form of modified zone system where much of the quantity of the stored grain would be available outside, and possibly that would be done in Punjab too.

Shri Tyagi: Who will meet that loss?

Shri S. K. Patil: The loss has to be met either by that Government or the Central Government.

Anti-Sea-Erosion Works in Kerala

+

*45. **Shri Kunhan:**
Shri Kodiyan:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 541 on the 19th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Government have submitted the overall long range plan for anti-sea-erosion works to be undertaken;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government of India have accepted the proposals?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The Government of Kerala have not submitted, as yet, their over-all long range plan for anti-sea erosion works. They have, however, furnished an outline of their programme for anti-sea-erosion works to be undertaken in the Third Plan period. This programme envisages the construction of 25 miles of protective walls with the requisite groynes, to arrest encroachment of the sea at the following places:

- (1) Warkala
- (2) Neendakara
- (3) Chavara and Panmana
- (4) Ayiramthengu
- (5) Thrikunnapuzha
- (6) Chellanam
- (7) Nayarambalam
- (8) Pazhangad
- (9) North of Pazhangad
- (10) Manassery
- (11) Kozhikode and Beypore
- (12) Tellicherry
- (13) Azhikal and Cannanore