

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 22, 1960/Pausa
1, 1882 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Fertilizer Distribution Enquiry Committee

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- *1054. {
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Punnoose:
Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav:
Shri P. K. Deo:
Shri Kalika Singh:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Shri Rami Reddy:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri B. Das Gupta:
Shri Kodyan:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Halder:
Shri Achar:
Kumari M. Vedakumari:
Shrimati Renuka Ray:
Shri Damani:
Shri Maniyangadan:
Shri N. R. Muniswamy:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 165 on the 5th August, 1960 and state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Distribution Enquiry Committee appointed to review the system of distribution of fertilisers in various States and to suggest measures, if any, for improving the system has, since submitted its report; and

1685 (Ai) LS—1.

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Details are given in the Report, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the Sabha.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: In reply to a previous question the hon. Minister said that where co-operatives exist, distribution will be done through co-operative societies. May I know, where there are no co-operative societies, what methods have been suggested by the Committee?

Mr. Speaker: Is not the report available to the Members of Parliament?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is available, it has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members may like to have more copies. I have no objection to that. But if they go on asking with respect to a report that is available in the Library, as to what are the contents of that report, it is not right. The hon. Minister will make some more copies of the report available.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to allow it. Hon. Members must bear in mind that it is not right to ask questions relating to matters with respect to which books or reports or other things are available in the Library or outside. If it is a text-book we cannot ask what are the contents of the text-book. The hon. Minister has placed a report on the Table of the House or in the Library. Hon. Members must make every enquiry to find out whether this is available, exhaust all that and then come to the House with questions.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Is it a fact that the Committee has said that the price of nitrogenous fertilizer in India is very high, compared to other countries and, if so, what steps are Government taking to bring down the price?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The Committee has considered that the price...

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will consider the Committee's report first, and then I will allow them.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: This is a question which the Committee has recommended. I want to know what steps Government is taking to implement the Committee's recommendation. The Committee has said that the price of nitrogenous fertilizer is very high as compared to any other country.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: All these recommendations are under the consideration of Government. They have all been forwarded to the State Governments. After getting their views these recommendations will be considered.

Mr. Speaker: When was the Committee's report received?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In the month of August, on 31st August, I think.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. I will allow, God willing, a half-an-hour discussion on this.

Shri Kalika Singh rose—

Mr. Speaker: We will have a discussion in the next session. Hon. Members will come prepared with all this.

Shri Kalika Singh: One question about the distribution of fertilizers.

Mr. Speaker: I will allow him an opportunity. I will ask the Office to note down the name of Shri Kalika Singh and give him top priority.

Shri Kalika Singh: Sir, it will benefit the hon. Minister also for the half-an-hour discussion if he knows my question. The question is about

co-operatives. In my district of Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh, 43,000 bags of fertilizers worth over Rs. 1½ lakhs were found missing from the district cooperative federation godown and the police enquiry has been launched, and the concerned co-operative officer has been suspended. So, will the hon. Minister look into the matter and see that when the district co-operative federation are charged with the distribution of fertilizers such things do not take place?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is within the State's jurisdiction and it is for the State to take any action they want.

Som Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not know where we stand so far as Parliament is concerned. So far, in the previous Government we thought with regard to subjects like Food and Agriculture, Education and Health, that the Centre may have no concern at all except for the purpose of co-ordinating. Here, they take all the responsibility. When it comes to the question of passing it on to the villager they say it is all a State concern. I am afraid the hon. Minister must also make enquiries and see to it that such complaints do not come. The ordinary man complaints against this Government and that Government. He does not make a difference between the one Government and the other Government. When it is a question of distribution, when somebody takes it from here and does not distribute it properly, the hon. Minister must enquire whether really effect has been given to what has been sent from here. Now, grants are given. I am going to ask the Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee hereafter to look into it as to how the grants are spent, whether they are spent properly or not. Therefore, it is rather an unfortunate matter; almost every day we are having something or the other here. Therefore, hon. Ministers must see to it that these complaints are passed on with their

own remarks to the State Government. Why should such a complaint come in?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That was exactly why the Central Government appointed this committee. There were several complaints about maldistribution, about commissions and all sorts of things. And the Committee has gone into these details. My hon. friend has referred to a particular co-operative society misbehaving....

Mr. Speaker: I agree. What I wanted to tell the hon. Minister was this. Instead of mentioning it casually here he may write to the Minister in the State. I request Ministers in charge of portfolios which are essentially State subjects, not merely to say "yes, I have done my duty here", but to pass on such individual complaints to the Ministers in the States. If they send, it will have a greater value than an hon. Member taking it up.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: May I know whether the hon. Minister knows that fertilizer allotted to the Orissa Marketing Co-operative Society is being sold in the black market and farmers are not getting it in Orissa?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Minister will write to the Minister in the State; he will make enquiries during the intervening period and then come here so far as the implementation of the report is concerned.

I am not going to allow any more questions on this hereafter.

Shri Yadav Narayan Jadhav: May I know how far this report has been accepted by Government?

Mr. Speaker: This hon. Member is persisting. The hon. Member evidently did not follow what the Minister has said. The Minister has said that the report is being considered. I asked him myself the question as to when the report was received. He said it was received in August. He also said that he has sent it round to the various States for gathering

information. What is the meaning of putting this question "how far it has been implemented"?

Next question.

Syllabus of the Orientation and study Centres of Training Officers

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*1055. { Shri R. C. Majhi:
 { Shri Subodh Hansda:

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

(a) whether the proposal to appoint a study group to go into the existing syllabus of the orientation and study centres of the training officers has been considered; and

(b) if so, whether study group has been appointed?

The Deputy Minister of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes.

Shri R. C. Majhi: May I know whether their recommendations have been made to the Government?

Shri B. S. Murthy: The recommendations are now being examined in the Ministry.

Shri R. C. Majhi: What are the main recommendations made by the study group?

Shri B. S. Murthy: It will be better, after examination of the recommendations....

Mr. Speaker: It will be placed on the Table of the House. Next question.

Country Boat Co-operative Societies

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*1056. { Shri S. C. Samanta:
 { Shri Subodh Hansda:
 { Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) which of the States have come forward to organise pilot Country Boat Co-operative Societies;