3708

Dr. P. Subbarayan: That was what I said. All the same, we have got to think of everything that can be done to keep the Calcutta port alive.

Mr. Speaker: He may make enquiries.

Food Supply in States

*653. Shri Subodh Hansda: Shri Chandra Shankar: Shri R. C. Majhi: Shri S. C. Samanta:

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

- (a) whether austerity measures for food supply in States have been withdrawn completely;
- (b) if not, whether any relaxation has been given; and
- (c) if so, the nature of relaxation given on the restriction order?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). Except for Jammu and Kashmir, the austerity measures have been completely withdrawn in all the States. In Jammu and Kashmir also all austerity measures other than the Guest Control Order have been withdrawn.

Shri Subodh Hansda: Since the austerity measures have been withdrawn, may I know whether free movement of foodgrains will be allowed from State to State without putting any zonal restrictions?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is no control on the movement of any food-grains, except rice in certain places, and that too is going to be removed very soon.

बी घ० मु० तारिक: मैं वजीर खूराक श्रीर जराश्रत से जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या उन्होंने रियासत जम्मू श्रीर काश्मीर के वजीर खूराक श्रीर जराश्रत का यह वयान पढ़ा है कि जिसमें उन्होंने यह कहा है कि हमारी पैदावार श्रव इतनी ज्याटा हो गई है कि हमें हिन्दुस्तान से मुफ्त खुराक की जरूरत नहीं रहेगी और अगर यह दरस्त है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि अगले साल से जो मदद यहा से दी जा रही है उसको रोकने के लिये क्या इकदाम किए गए हैं?

[میں وزیر خوراک اور زراعت سے جاننا چاھتا ھوں که کیا انہوں نے ریاست جموں اور کشمیر کے وزیر خوراک اور زراعت کا یہ بیان پڑھا ھے کہ میں انہوں نے یہ کہا ھے که ماری پیداوار اب اتنی زیادہ ھو کئی ھے که همیں هندرستان ہے منت خوراک کی فرررت بہیں رھے کی اور اگر یہ درست ھے تو میں جاننا چاھا ھوں که اگلے سال سے جو مدد یہاں سے دی جا رھی ھے اس کو روکنے کے لئے کیا اندام کئے : ھیں -]

Mr. Speaker: As far as possible, words may be used which I also may be able to understand.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): Long back, I had written to all the State Governments that there was absolutely no reason for any control or any restriction whatsoever. In spite of it, if anybody has kept it, it is his choice, not mine.

श्री विभूति मिश्रः आस्टैरिटी मैशर्ज को हटा देने से फुंड का कितना खर्चा बढ़ आएगा श्रीर इनके रहने में कितनो बचत होती थी?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : कुछ खर्चा बढ़ जाएगा, यह ठाक हो सकता है। बचत कितनी हुई होगी: इसका हिसाब नहीं है। लेकिन फुड इतनी काफ: है देश में कि इस प्रकार के बंबन रखने की कोई जरूरत नहीं रह गई इसलिये उनको हटा दिया गया।

Shri Balraj Madhok: The Minister of Agriculture in Jammu and Kashmir has stated that the food production there has increased so much that they do not need any import from the rest

of the country. In view of that statement, may I know whether we shall still be sending subsidised food there?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has already replied to the question saying that except in regard to rice in some cases, the control on movement has been removed.

Shri Balraj Madhok: That is a different question altogether. My point is that we are sending subsidised food there. But the hon. Minister of Jammu and Kashmir says that they do not require anything, because they have surplus production. I want to know what the situation is.

Shri S. K. Patil. That is the statement of the Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, who is different from me.

Shri Balraj Madhok: The point is that they have surplus and still we are sending subsidised food there at the cost of others.

Shri Ranga: Probably they want to keep down the prices.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: The hon. Minister is reported to have made a statement some time back that Government feel that there is no longer any scarcity of foodgrains and very soon it would be a problem of export of surplus foodgrains. May I know whether that statement was made in view of the immediate surplus that he has in hand or whether it was a long-range thing which he envisaged?

Shri S. K. Patil: I do not know what statement the hon. Member is referring to. But, surely, I have always said, and I would repeat it now, that the problems of surpluses are more difficult than even the problem of shortages. We have in one or two sectors of foodgrains, the problems of surpluses they are very difficult. It was in a general sense that statement was made and I do not think that it was made in particular sense.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Apparently, it appears that we are reaching a state of self-sufficiency. I want to know whether as a result of this, there will be cut in the imports and if so, to what extent.

Shri S. K. Patil: This question has often been asked. The imports that are there and which are scheduled to continue for three or four years would be there. It is as a result of that that the situation has arisen, and, therefore, surely, that part of it would not be withdrawn.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: May I know whether in view of this position Government have decided to abolish also the West-Bengal-Orissa food zone so far as rice is concerned?

Shri S. K. Patil: I would much like that even the rice zone becomes one zone for the whole of the country. But the trouble is that we have to wait for three or four years. Unless the situation stabilises, it is no use taking this step. The crops were good in West Bengal for a year or two, and even this year, they have been extraordinarily good, but I am not sure that that would be the case next year. Further, rice is not in such abundant supply anywhere in the world. Therefore, so far as rice is concerned, I think that we have got to be a little more careful.

Agricultural Implements

*654. Shri R. C. Majhi:
*654. Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Subodh Hansda:

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to replace existing agricultural implements at present:
- (b) if so, what steps Government are taking to replace them; and
- (c) by what time the new and modern implements such as garden tractor and walking tractors will be available to the agriculturists?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 58].