

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 It is as a result of that that the situation has arisen, and, therefore, surely, that part of it would not be withdrawn.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 Chintamani 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 very 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

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*654. { Shri R. C. Majhi:
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].