

LOK SABHA

Monday, 20th May, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri C. Bhatt (Broach).

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other hon. Members who have not taken the oath? I see none.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: The question on food scarcity will be given top priority. A number of hon. Members have tabled that question.

Shri Anirudha Sinha: Question 169 may also be taken up along with this question.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; the two may be taken together. Any other similar questions? I see none other.

Food Scarcity

†  
Shri Kasliwal:  
Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
Shri L. N. Mishra:  
Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha.  
Shri Radha Raman:  
Shri D. C. Sharma:  
Shri M. B. Bhargava:  
Shri Bishwanath Roy:  
Shri Bhakt Darshan:  
Pandit D. N. Tiwary.  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Shri Damar:  
Shri Hem Barua:  
Shri Wodeyar:  
Shri P. C. Bose:  
Shri Jhulan Sinha:  
Shri Anirudna Sinha:  
Shri H. C. Mathur:  
Shri Jangde:  
Shri Sarjoo Pandey:  
Shri A. C. Guha:  
Shri T. Sanganna:  
Shri Rup Narain:  
Shri Kalika Singh:  
Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:  
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:  
Shri Narayanankutty Menon:  
Shri V. P. Nayyar:  
Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:  
Shri Subiman Ghose:  
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:  
Shri S. A. Dange:  
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:  
Shri A. K. Gopalan:  
Shri S. N. Dwivedy:  
Shri B. K. Gaikwad:  
Shri S. L. Saksena:  
Shri Khadilkar:  
Shri Nagi Reddy:  
Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Yagnik:  
Shri Tangamanl:  
Shri Ramji Verma:  
Shri H. C. Sharma:  
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:

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

(a) whether scarcity conditions have appeared in any State; and

(n) if so, the names of the States and the steps Government have taken to alleviate such conditions?

**The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) and (b). A detailed statement about the food situation in the country has already been made in the Sabha on 14-5-57.

#### Rise in Foodgrain Prices

\*169. **Shri Anirudha Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) in what proportion the prices of foodgrains have risen in the country since January last;

(b) the maximum increase so far in the prices of rice, oil-seeds and wheat; and

(c) the name of the State in which the rise in prices of foodgrains has been the highest?

**The Deputy Minister of Food (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 36].

**Shri Kasliwal:** There are all sorts of conflicting reports appearing in the Press about the foodgrain prices. May I know what is the price of wheat and the price of barley recently prevalent in the mandis?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** What mandis does the hon. Member refer to? Generally speaking the price of *dara* wheat today is between Rs. 13-4-0 and Rs. 15; the price of barley is near about Rs. 10.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** In Bihar, while the supply of foodgrains has improved to a considerable extent, no adequate provision has been made for transporting the foodgrains to the fair-price shops. May I know whether the Government have any scheme for co-ordinating the supplies with the transport system?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** The Central Government will see that the foodgrains reach the rail-head destination; after that, it is the responsibility of the State Government to do the internal distribution and to see that the foodgrains reach the fair-price shops.

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know what steps the Government are taking in order to prevent hoarding, because I think all these difficulties are to some extent due to the hoarding of foodgrains?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** The Government is very much alive to this question. I would not like to discuss the steps which we propose to take in this regard.

**Shri Shree Narayan Das:** There are always transhipment difficulties between North Bihar and South Bihar. The hon. Minister has just now said that he will take the foodgrains to the rail-head destinations. I would like to know what steps, in consultation with the railways, the Government have taken to see that supply of foodgrains to North Bihar is maintained?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Since last year, we have been following the practice that before the rains start, we stock sufficient quantities of foodgrains in North Bihar. This year we propose to stock 15,000 tons of wheat in North Bihar. This quantity will be supplied by the end of this month or by the beginning of the next month.

**Shri H. C. Mathur:** Is it a fact that prices of foodgrains had been going down in all the places except in certain places, and if so, what are the places where the prices are going down?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** The prices of wheat and gram have been going down. We have been collecting figures from a large number of mandis and in more than 60 per cent of the cases the price of wheat is going down. Similarly we have been collecting figures for gram from a fairly large number