

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 2nd June, 1952

*The House met at a Quarter Past Eight
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Purushotamdas Tandon (Allaha-
bad District-West).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FOOD SUBSIDY

*337. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total amount of money which was given to different States as food subsidy in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 26.]

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: By what percentage the prices of rationed cereals have increased as a result of the withdrawal of the food subsidy and may I know whether these increases have been uniform throughout the country?

Shri Kidwai: The other day I laid on the Table as also read out a statement regarding the rise in prices of different commodities in different districts. I would refer the hon. Member to that statement.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Could the hon. Minister tell us by what amount the offtake has decreased due to the withdrawal of the food subsidy, in the different States?

Shri Kidwai: I have not got the figures before me, but they differ from State to State. In some States the

prices have been maintained at the rates before the withdrawal of the subsidy. In other States the rise has been very small. In certain States the prices have gone up by 50 per cent. and in such States the offtake has gone down. For instance in Delhi the offtake has now been reduced to 80 per cent. of the level before the withdrawal of the subsidy.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What are the States which have reduced their demands of foodgrains as a result of the withdrawal of the subsidy?

Shri Kidwai: Not necessarily as a result of the withdrawal of the subsidy. It seems that in every State or almost in all the States locally produced grain is coming more and more into the market and therefore such States have reduced their demands.

Shri S. N. Das: Out of the total subsidies given what proportion was given to urban population and what proportion to the rural population?

Shri Kidwai: In 1951 the subsidy was confined to 22 industrial cities. Besides some subsidised coarse grains were provided at reduced rates. There was some special subsidy for Travancore-Cochin.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: How is the withdrawal of the food subsidy going to affect the progress of the Grow More Food Campaign?

Shri Kidwai: Some people say that because the market price is high, perhaps it would prove an encouragement to the peasant to produce more and more.

Shri Badshah Gupta: What are the States that received the maximum subsidy and what States received the least?

Shri Kidwai: Bombay received the greatest amount and Assam received none.

Shri B. E. Bhagat: What is the population that is still enjoying the benefit of the subsidy?

Shri Kidwai: The people who are purchasing imported milo are still enjoying the subsidy.

FAR EASTERN TRAVEL COMMISSION

*338. **Shri Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether any meeting of the conference of the Asian and Far Eastern Travel Commission has taken place?

(b) If so, what are the countries that participated and what were the decisions taken?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes, the first meeting of the Asian and Far Eastern Travel Commission of the International Union of Official Travel Organisations, was held in New Delhi on the 24th and 25th March 1952.

(b) Delegates and observers from the following countries attended the meeting:—

Australia, Cambodia, Ceylon, India, Japan, Philippines, Viet-Nam, Burma and Thailand. The decisions taken and recommendations made at the meeting are contained in the report of the Commission a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix II, annexure No. 27.]

Shri Hukam Singh: Who was the Indian representative at this conference?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Mr. Chakravarti, Joint Secretary, Transport Ministry.

Shri Hukam Singh: Are experts put on the Commission on a regional basis or on any other grounds?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Other factors are also taken into consideration.

Shri Hukam Singh: What are the main functions of this Commission?

Shri L. B. Shastri: There are several functions like collection and dissemination of information on the present state of tourism in the countries of the region, simplification and standardisation of frontier formalities, publication of information on frontier formalities and training facilities for hotel personnel, etc.

Shri Hukam Singh: Was the report published about the deliberations of and the decisions taken by this Commission?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The report has already been laid on the Table of the House.

Shri Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether this Travel Commission is based on an inter-governmental level or on an unofficial level?

Shri L. B. Shastri: Various tourist organisations of Governments are represented among others on this Commission but it is more or less a non-official organisation.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

*339. **Shri Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of additional production of foodgrains for the year 1951-52 under the "Grow More Food" Campaign has been achieved; and

(b) what amount was sanctioned for the additional production for the year 1951-52 and what was actually spent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The hon. Member may kindly refer to my reply to parts (a) and (b) of Question No. 237 on 28-5-52.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 17.82 crores was sanctioned by the Government of India as grants and loans during 1951-52. The information regarding actual expenditure will not be available till some time after 30th June, 1952, since the schemes are still in progress as explained by me in reply to Question No. 237 on the 28th May, 1952.

Shri Hukam Singh: What was the amount given as grants and what was the amount given as loans?

Shri Kidwai: Rs. 10,18,96,925 was granted as loans and Rs. 6,65,42,171 was given as grants.

Shri Hukam Singh: What was the total number of tube wells drilled this year under the Grow More Food Campaign?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice.

Shri Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that a firm was given a contract to dig 965 tube-wells whereas during the whole year it drilled only 57?

Shri Kidwai: As I said, I will require notice about the question of how this grant was to be spent on different schemes, as also about the details.