

about the probable loss of foodgrains on account of heavy floods in the river Godavari and also the heavy rains in the West Godavari and Krishna districts and, if so, whether the hon. Minister will be able to state the extent of the loss?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I do not know whether the Andhra Government has written anything. But the floods necessarily do not mean that all crops are destroyed. Sometimes floods are good and as a result of them even the crops come in. But so far as the particular need of Andhra is concerned, I do not think there is any grave need in Andhra and that such a contingency will arise.

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** May I intervene, Sir. I went to Andhra the other day and I was told that there has been undoubtedly loss in certain areas, but it is more than made up by the very good crops elsewhere.

**Shri Tangamani:** In view of the loss sustained in West Bengal, may I know whether the Government have made fresh allocations for agricultural loans and whether there was any such demand from the West Bengal Government?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** Surely any demand that is coming from West Bengal on this particular score is being attended to. There is no difficulty on that score.

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members are putting questions as if this is the first Assembly to which directly these matters ought to be addressed. Hon. Members will get into touch with their counterparts in the State legislatures and find out what has been done in regard to these matters. Every hon. Member assumes that some demand has been made and the hon. Minister here says that had any demand been received he would have taken it up. Next question.

Some Hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** I am sorry. Hon. Members must get into touch with the

Governments of their own States. These are State Governments also. I cannot allow any more questions.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** Our fear is that the prices may go up because of the damage to crops.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Next question.

#### Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

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Shri Panigrahi:  
 Pandit D. N. Tiwary:  
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:  
 Shri Keshava:  
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:  
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:  
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:  
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:  
 Shri A. M. Tariq:  
 Shri Surendra Mahanty:  
 Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:  
 Shri Kodiyan:  
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:  
 Shri Dhanagar:  
 Shri D. C. Sharma:  
 Shri Sarju Pandey:  
 Shri Hem Barua:  
 Shri Narayanankutty Memon:  
 Shri Punnoose:  
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:  
 Shri Ramakrishna Reddy:  
 Shri N. R. Muniswamy:  
 Shri Rameshwar Tanta:  
 Shri Anirudh Sinha:  
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:  
 Pandit J. P. Jyotishi:  
 Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to build a buffer stock of foodgrains in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) whether there is a proposal to request the United States Government to store 5 million tons of their surplus foodgrains in India as a sort of Bank from which this country could draw during an emergency,

(d) whether any formal request in this regard has been made to the United States Government; and

(e) if so, the reactions of that Government?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b) Yes. It is proposed to build up and maintain a larger reserve stock of foodgrains than it has been possible so far. The method by which this may be done, the size of the reserve and other details are under consideration.

(c) Yes, one of the possible methods would be for the United States Government to store in India on their own account a part of their surplus foodgrains but it is for them to consider the practicability of this method from their point of view.

(d) No formal request has yet been made to the United States Government.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether this proposal to build up a buffer stock was discussed in the Food Committee and whether the hon Minister of Food, during his tours in the western countries, met any of the representatives of those Governments and had any talk with them in respect of this proposal.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): It has been our policy to build a sizable reserve in those countries. That does not need any discussion at all. It is very necessary. Whether it should be done from the internal resources and whether those resources are just now available is a point to be considered. Until then, surely, these reserves have got to be built from the food that comes from outside for sometime, and I am quite sure that that could be done. There would not be any difficulty about it.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi  
and Shri Sarju Pandey } rose—

Mr. Speaker: Shri Sarju Pandey

श्री सरजू पांडे . मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अमरीका से जो अनाज लेंगे और उसका जो स्टॉक किया जाएगा तो यह मुल्क के किन भागों में इसका स्टॉक रखने की योजना सरकार के विचारधीन है ? मुल्क के किन हिस्सों में स्टॉक करने और किन शर्तों पर दे रहे हैं ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल मैंने जो आपका सवाल समझा है उसमें कह सकता हूँ कि उसमें कोई शर्त नहीं है, अभी तक जैसे आ रहा है उसी तरीके से भायेगा और कोई नई शर्त उसके पीछे नहीं है ।

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: I was under the impression that those who have tabled the question would be given chances first to put supplementaries.

Mr. Speaker: The hon Member must see all the names. Shri Sarju Pandey's name is also there.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: Mine is first in the order.

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अमरीका की सरकार नया या और किसी सरकार ने ऐसे फुड रिजर्व बनाने में मदद करने और उसमें इमदाद देने के लिये वायदा किया है या कोई प्रीफर किया है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल फायदा करने या प्रीफर करने का सवाल नहीं है अभी तक हमारे फुड रिजर्व बन रहे हैं और हमारी इच्छा यह है और कोशिश यह है कि वह रिजर्व ज्यादा बने ताकि हमारे फुडवेन माइनेज पर अच्छा असर पड़े ।

श्री स० सा० द्विवेदी अमरीका ने माना है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल वह तो मान ही है और हमारे पास है ही ।

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** What is the present position of buffer food stocks in our country and what kind of insurance does it provide against losses due to floods and drought, taking into consideration the present conditions?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** It was understood that the stocks in Central reserves is not to be generally given out to the public. It is not in public interest to divulge it. With regard to the other point, it is with the idea of providing for any emergencies that this larger reserve is intended to be built up.

बैठक अध्यक्ष सिंह क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि यह जो बफर स्टॉक बनाये जायेंगे वह डेफिसिट स्टेट्स में बनाये जायेंगे या और भी स्टेट्स में बनाये जायेंगे ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल बफर स्टॉक तो तमाम देश के लिये होता है और जहाँ जहाँ डेफिसिट होगा वहाँ वह काम में लायेगा।

**Shri M. E. Muniswamy:** May I know whether the hon. Minister had given thought to the question of providing modern warehouses whereby the food-grains could be stored to avoid pest infection and damage by rodents and also increasing the existing capacity of the warehouses?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Certainly, we have got a very ambitious programme. The present target has been the construction of 2 million ton storage capacity, which we hope we will be able to achieve within a few years. For the other idea to materialise, we will have additional construction too.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether Government has assessed the quantity of foodgrains which it can procure during the coming harvest season and what will be the percentage of the larger stocks which Government propose to build out of this procurement?

**Shri A. M. Thomas:** Our present system of procurement that has been followed by the Centre will still continue. With regard to procurement in deficit States, the scope is very limited. Our idea is to continue procurement in the surplus areas.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** We read in the papers that the hon. Food Minister has made certain proposals in the last FAO Conference about requesting the United States Government to store 5 million tons of food-grains in India. We want to know what actually emerged out of it.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** This request has nothing to do with the FAO Conference. We do require a stock of 5 million tons. That is in my view a safe and reasonable margin. Whether it should be built up out of internal resources or outside resources depends on us. If it is possible to do it with internal resources, we can do so. So far as USA are concerned, they gave us 3 million tons last year and surely, they will continue to give it as long as we are in difficulty.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** That is under PL 480, this is entirely different.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** I have said this has nothing to do with the FAO Conference. It is an independent proposal. This stock of 5 million tons is not only of wheat, but of rice also. So, it is not confined to one country. It can be from our resources plus USA plus a few more countries.

**Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:** The statement is attributed to the Minister that he discussed this matter at the FAO Conference. Is that report not correct?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** What was discussed at the FAO Conference was the proposal for a World Food Bank and not about requirements of 5 million tons.

**Shri B. K. Galikwad:** Government have imported foodgrains from the foreign countries in the past and they are going to import foodgrains from

foreign countries in future. May I know whether it is a fact that over 2 crore acres of cultivable land is available in this country and, if so, why it has not been given to the poor agriculturists for cultivation and grow more food in the country and solve the problem.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** My information is not that. After careful study, we have come to the conclusion that there is what is known as oasar land or wasteland, but it would not be as much as 90 million acres, as the hon. Member says. Every effort is being made to bring those lands under the plough.

**Shri Tyagi:** After the stock is built up and completed and it is also sent to the deficit States off and on, may I know what will be the procedure for replenishing the buffer stock? Will Government also be prepared to buy surplus grains from local peasants at the same rate at which they are importing from outside?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The idea of a buffer stock seems to be quite different in the minds of some hon. Members. What we require for annual consumption is not the buffer stock. It means whenever prices fall, Government will go and buy and whenever prices rise, release it. That is my conception of buffer stock. When this stock is built up, that same stock would not remain year after year, because grain is a perishable commodity, which has got to be replenished. That will be mostly done by our internal resources.

**Shri Narayanaikutty Menon:** May I know whether this idea of building a stock of surplus foodgrains in India was put to the United States Government formally, informally or in any other way? What is the initial reaction of the U.S. Government?

**Shri S. K. Patil:** The reaction is bound to be good because any buffer stock or any large quantity of stock in India will positively have an effect on the spiral of prices. For that we need not depend on the opinions of people.

**Shri Narayanaikutty Menon:** The hon. Minister has been avoiding one question viz., whether this idea has been formally put to the U.S. Government. That is the original question I tabled.

**Shri S. K. Patil:** We have replied to that. He has not read the printed answer. We have said that it has not yet been formally put.

#### Irrigation Potential

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 \*37. { **Shri Subodh Hananda:**  
**Shri Ram Krishna Gupta:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
**Shri E. C. Majhi:**  
**Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**  
**Shri Sarju Pandey:**  
**Shri Hem Barua:**  
**Shri E. Madhusudan Rao:**

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 205 on the 7th August, 1959 and state.

(a) whether Government have since examined the report of the officers appointed to report whether irrigation potential in the country is fully utilised or not, and

(b) if so, the decision taken?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Government of India have since examined the reports of the Special Officers with regard to Bombay, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Madras, Orissa, Mysore and Rajasthan.

(b) Important recommendations of the officers regarding utilisation have already been communicated to the State Governments for taking necessary action.

**Shri Subodh Hananda:** May I know whether it is a fact that due to heavy taxation of the canal waters, the potentiality could not be used in West Bengal?

**Shri Hathi:** Not in all cases.