

is being undertaken with the help of the World Bank. I would like to state that recently diplomatic relations between India and Israel have been established and Israel is very advanced in this field. Has the Government any plan to seek any such help from Israel?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Now it is just a beginning. So every thing can be taken up later on. *(Interruptions)*

"Ibtadaye iskha hai Rota hai kya,
Age-age dekhna hota hai kya."

Let us see what happens. If the outcome is negative, we may defer it. But when it is for a good thing, we will acquire it at all costs. There is a couplet in Hindi-

"Uttam vidya lijje, yadyapi kisipe hoi,

Paro pawan thour men kanchan tajat na koī."

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is very important. At present Maharashtra is likely to be affected by severe drought. Large number of cattle heads are likely to fall prey of drought. Farmers are selling their cattle to butchers at throwaway prices. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : This is not an important question and it is not related to the main question.

SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: It is an important question. Is this Government going to give some help to the Maharashtra Government to protect the livestock there *(Interruptions)*

It will be better if he answers this question. *(Interruptions)*

Wheat Production

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*131. **SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI:**
SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of wheat in the country falls short of its requirement;

(b) if so, the extent thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MAL-LAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) To increase the production of wheat, Special foodgrains Production (SFPP) is being implemented in 131 identified districts of 7 major wheat growing states viz. Punjab, Haryana, U. P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has said that the country is self-reliant in foodgrains and for that the farmers should be congratulated. But I would like to know why in spite of that 10 lakh tonnes of wheat is being imported. Will it not affect the interests of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of affecting the interests of the farmers and it will never be allowed. About importing wheat, we will have to peep into the history. Our predecessors

sors who are sitting here.....(*Interruptions*)

We have to ask them why they had taken a decision of importing wheat. I am proud of the Indian farmers who toil hard so that we can keep our heads high.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he did not reply to the question but evaded it. In reply to the parte (c) of my question, it is stated that special foodproduction programme is being implemented in 131 districts. I would like to know whether special facilities are being given for accelerating production under this programme and since when this programme is under operation has to what extent you have got success in it.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Programmes like agricultural research, improvement in the quality of seed and high yield varieties are in progress. Prior to coming here, I have just inaugurated a Krishi Mela. I saw the progress of extension service which publicises new types of seeds along with new agricultural techniques. We want this extension service in each district so that it can reach the farmers and production can be accelerated.

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to know whether this Government has decided to import wheat inspite of being self reliant and in view of low wheat production in Uttar Pradesh during the last season does the Government propose to provide seeds of improved quality, insecticides and fertilisers to the farmer at subsidised rates for accelerating the production of wheat.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, procurement is less, not the production. During last two years, the shortfall in procurement was to the tune of 4 million tonnes. Production was never less and this year too the production will not be less. This year, we had a bumper crop. We provide knowledge to the farmers properly and through our

resources, we provide them other things too. We already provided them subsidy, on fertilisers. We are also trying to ensure supply of improved seeds to them.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Is it not true that even today a large quantity of foodgrains is lying with the farmers. They are not selling it because they are not getting remunerative prices even to meet the cost of production. Is it not true that if we procure the entire stock of foodgrains from the farmers there will be no need of importing it?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Everything is done after considering all the aspects and a balance has to be struck. There is an Agricultural Prices Commission on which not only formulates policies but also determines prices. Last year, we estimated the production of paddy and considering it we raised its price by Rs. 25. I have a detailed data of the cost of production and the expenditure on farmland, manpower, labour and other agricultural inputs. Keeping this in view, the remunerative price is fixed. Today, prices are high in the market. We did not restrict anybody to sell their produce. The farmer is free to sell his produce anywhere. He may sell it in Bombay, Madras or anywhere else. Today, prices are attractive.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Sir, I would like to submit to you that during the last two years, the production of wheat has registered a sharp fall in the States from where you have been elected, whereas the production of oilseeds has increased. It is not true that the prices of oilseeds and specially that of mustard are falling sharply? You have been awarded the title, of Krishi Pandit. Are you making any efforts to give remunerative price to the farmers?

MR. SPEAKER: Ask about wheat. I will allow you to ask about wheat.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I would like to reply to his question. I would like to tell him about wheat as well as about oilseeds. The

prices of oilseeds increased last year was the highest. Accordingly, there is record production this year. We can import as well as export. We can grow the crop that have high yield and give us more money and in turn we can also export that. We can also import in the interest of farmers.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. SPEAKER: You are getting reply to your questions. Please sit down.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDELWAL: The Government have exported wheat at cheap and imported it at high prices ...(*Interruptions*) ...

MR. SPEAKER: Other members are also asking the same questions which you intend to ask. Please listen carefully and will get the reply...(*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

SHRIMATI BASVA RAJESWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, May I know from the hon. Minister that apart from the nine States which are mentioned...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Mirdhaji.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BASVA RAJESWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is to be replied.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I have called you too many times, you are not asking the question. Okay. Let the lady Member ask the question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI BASVA RAJESWARI: I

have been standing Sir. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Please ask the question now. You will have to put the question.

SHRIMATI BASVA RAJESWARI: Sir, my question is it is. Apart from nine States which are mentioned where wheat is grown, will you supply the same kind of seeds which are free of rust and more production to other States like Karnataka and Maharashtra where wheat is also grown?

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly he will do that.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: There is no bar, there is no discrimination at all. I am going to do it throughout the country.

MR. SPEAKER: You have been doing it, yes.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, not like this. You allow other also to ask the questions Not like this. I have not allowed you. Don't impose yourself on the entire House as such.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHURAM MIRDHA: Sir, would the hon. Minister clarify why the procurement price for wheat has not so far been announced as the Rabi crop is likely to come in the market. When are prices going to be announced?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Hon. Member has rightly said that the prices have not been announced yet. Last year due to change of the Government prices of Kharif crops were announced late and now the prices will be announced before the crop is harvested...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PIYUS TIRKEY: Sir, through you,

I would like to ask the hon. Minister the rate at which the Government is importing 10 lakh tonnes of wheat. What is the total amount involved?...*(Interruptions)* ... I was asking about the rate at which 10 lakh tonnes of wheat would be imported?...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You can ask if sufficient item is left. Shri Tirkey, please ask the question.

...*(Interruptions)*...

[*English*]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: I have asked what is the price we are going to give for 10 lakhs tonnes of wheat which is coming to India.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has made very tall claims that we can export wheat and we can import wheat. The hon. Member is asking what as the import rate and what is the export rate? Is it true that you have exported wheat much cheaper and importing it on much higher prices? The Minister should answer this question.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This does not concern my Department, but I can still answer the hon. Member that this is something which was decided earlier. We have even curtailed the import. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government seems to be in the habit of taking shelter on the plea that it was decided earlier. I shall like to know from the Government at what stage this agreement had been arrived at by whom and at what time. Personally, do not see any rationale for importing wheat in this country. If any decision had been taken by the Government when I was heading, he should cancel that or he should put the record where we are for the import of wheat. This type of total distortion of facts should not be the habit of this Government. They should not indulge in this type of gossip and distortion.

(Interruptions) Sir, I do not want to join issue, but Minister after Minister get up and say that this was decided earlier. The hon. Minister said that the procurement was less year. My Government went in June; the procurement season last in June. It was his failure; it is not my failure, but he wants to give publicity in the Press because he thinks that a captive Press can create a situation different than what the reality is.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, the Press is absolutely free and not captive all. If the Indian Press is captive then none else can be free. Certainly, whatever is said on the floor of the House, we will prove it here on the floor of the House and secondly, I did not mean that the procurement was less when he was there; procurement was less due to certain other reasons; who so ever in the Government does not matter; procurement depends upon the price or the availability of wheat.

[*English*]

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HBJ Pipeline Project

- * 132. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Times of India" dated January 23, 1992 regarding sale of the sensitive blueprints of the HBJ pipeline project completed by the Gas Authority of India Limited in 1987 as waste-paper;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?