

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, May 16, 1997/Vaisakha 26, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Three Minutes Past
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, atrocities are being committed in Uttar Pradesh on large scale. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not now, after the questions Hour.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : No, not now.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance after the Question Hour.

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIUR RAHMAN BARQ : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter.

MR. SPEAKER : Even if it is a serious matter, can you not wait for an hour ? What are you saying ?

[English]

When I am saying that I will allow you, I will allow You, I will allow you after the question hour.

[Translation]

Would it make any difference if it is taken after an hour.

(Interruptions)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Cotton Production

+

*581. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cotton is more than its demand;

(b) if so, the details of production, demand and consumption of cotton during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(c) whether the Government have launched any incentive scheme in the past to promote optimum consumption of cotton in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the date of its launch and the future plan of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :
(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of production, demand and consumption of cotton are given below :

(In lakh bales of 170 Kg.)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Production	121.50	138.50	160.00
Demand & Consumption	127.00	135.04	151.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maharashtra is considered to be the highest cotton producing state. There has been a production of 138.50 lakh bales of cotton during 1994-95 and 160.00 lakh bales during 1995-96.

When the production of cotton is 47 lakh bales in Maharashtra, the permission to export the cotton has been given for four lakh bales only. The hon. Minister's reply is very brief. It does not convey full sense. Maharashtra is the foremost state among the 18 cotton growing states. Maharashtra has produced 30 lakh bales of cotton during 1996-97 whereas the permission to export it has been given only for one lakh bale. In 1995-96, 47 lakh bales of cotton were produced and permission was given to export 4 lakh bales. My request is that even after so much production in 1995-96, permission has been given to export four lakh

bales only and this year too production of cotton is 30 lakh bales whereas permission has been given to export one lakh bales only. I would like to know through you, Sir as to what are the reasons for this? I request the hon. Minister to give permission to export five lakh bales.

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : For Maharashtra, last year we had given an allotment of 4,20,000 bales, but they had not exported all the quota. So, this year we have given them only 1,00,000 bales. In addition to that, I have permitted them, as a special case, to export the previous spillover also up to 28th February. If any further request comes, I will consider. I am told that the cotton is not coming to the market. . . (Interruptions) If a request comes, we will consider it. . . (Interruptions) We will consider it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Whether or not you want to ask another question ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Does Bihar not produce cotton ?

SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Whether keeping in view large production there, Govt. propose to extend some facilities to farmers? Permission to export more cotton is not given and as a result thereof Federation has to face great difficulties for making payments to farmers. What are the views of Govt. in this regard ?

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, this is inevitable when they have got the monopoly procurement policy, they may have some problems.

[Translation]

I do not know fully but.

[English]

This is inevitable. Sometimes, they have to face problems.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAOSAHEB PUNDLIK FUNDKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, First of all I would like to say that the hon. Minister had earlier replied that the export quota given last year to Maharashtra has not been used by that state. In this way the hon. Minister is misleading the House. The quota given last year has been released fully by Maharashtra and the entire quantity of cotton was exported. Maharashtra is the largest cotton growing state in the

country. This year, Maharashtra has produced 32 lakh bales of cotton and the central govt. has decided export quota of 15 lakh bales, out of that lowest percentage of quota has been allocated to Maharashtra. The cotton corporation of India has allotted quota of 4 lakh bales to those states, which produced only nine lakh bales whereas Maharashtra has produced 30 lakh bales and its export quota of only one lakh bales has been fixed. Gujarat Federation has got export quota of one lakh bales as against its production of one lakh thirty five thousand bales. Pubjab has been allotted export quota of 25 thousand bales against its production of 35 thousand bales. Rajasthan has produced 15 thousand bales and has been given export quota of 15 thousand bales. Similarly, Madhya Pradesh has produced 15 thousand bales and it has also been allotted export quota of the entire 15 thousand bales. In addition to this, Karnataka has produced three thousand bales only and it has been allotted export quota of 25 thousand bales. On what basis Central Govt. has arrived at this conclusion? There is a cotton monopoly scheme in Maharashtra where cotton is produced in abundance. Maharashtra Govt. provides more rate for cotton to farmers in comparison to the Central Govt.

Last year, we purchased the cotton worth Rs. 2600 crores and paid entire amount due to farmers. About 32000 bales were produced. The farmers have been paid all their dues at the rate fixed by the Central Govt. Besides, this, Maharashtra Govt. has also paid bonus at the rate of Rs. 300/- per quintal. Due to not getting export quota and despite the production of 32000 bales, Central Govt. do not give us the export order for one lakh bales.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the question now. Otherwise, I am going to call the next member.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAOSAHEB PUNDLIK FUNDKAR : Is the Central Government adopting such a policy that Maharashtra state should not be given more quota as there is a coalition government of the BJP, Shiv Sena. Injustice is being done to the farmers of Maharashtra. We have made a demand of five lakh bales for export. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra and our Council have requested several times that we should be allocated five lakh bales quota for export. Will the Hon'ble Minister give us an assurance in this regard ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Mr. Minister, have you got an answer ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, I am sorry that the figures that have been provided by my friend are not entirely true. He was talking about Karnataka as if I have done favour to Karnataka. . .(Interruptions) Sir, this is not the way. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Shri Purohit. I have not allowed you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you interested in hearing the answer or not ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you not want to listen to the Minister's answer ? Why cannot you have patience for one minute and listen carefully to the Minister ? If you are not satisfied, then you can stand up later on. But you are not allowing the Minister to answer. What kind of behaviour is this ?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, if you do not mind, I would like to say something. Let the Minister reply but Shri Fundkar is the Chairman of the Maharashtra State Cotton Growers Association.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why, I have allowed him four minutes to frame a question. Therefore, he is entitled for four minutes to frame a question.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, last year, there was a demand for release of three lakh bales. When I took over charge, there was a demand twice and both the times, I had given it. It is very uncharitable to say like this. When I spoke to your Chief Minister, he was also satisfied with the exports that I had allowed during last year. Actually, during 1995-96, 4,20,000 bales were allowed to be exported but they did not export the entire quota. Only for these people. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : First of all you reply in regard to Maharashtra. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Please listen. Sir, this is not the way to get an answer from a Minister. They should allow me to speak and then they can say whatever they want to say. They are seasoned Parliamentarians. This is not the way, Sir. They do not allow me to speak. They were telling something about Karnataka. What is the quota I have given to them ? It is 25,000 bales and not 25 lakhs bales. But their production is over 9 lakh bales. This year,

in addition to the backlog, I have allowed them to export one lakh bales and out of one lakh bales, they have exported only. . .

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I think the simple point which they want to know is whether the export quotas are proportionately done according to the production or not. Is it correct or not ? I think this is what you want to know.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes Sir.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : No, Sir. That is not done in proportion to the production. . .(Interruptions). Please listen.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Why don't you provide proportionate quota. . .(Interruptions)

There should be no politics in it. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BHAOSAHEB PUNDLIK FUNDKAR : He is giving a wrong reply. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am helping you. I am trying to help you.

If it is not given, what is the reason for it ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I want to give full details.

MR. SPEAKER : you are compelling the Speaker to put the supplementary.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The Gujarat Federation have been given one lakh bales and they have exported only 43,700 bales. The AP Federation have been given one lakh bales and they have exported only 13,500 bales. . .(Interruptions) If this is the position, I do not want to answer. Let the Members listen first. If I am not allowed to speak, what can I do ? I am giving the details, Please wait and see.

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen carefully.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : The Punjab Spinning Federation have been given 25,000 bales and they have exported only 300 bales. The MP Federation have been given 20,000 bales and they have exported nothing. The MP Export Corporation have been given 5000 bales and they have exported nothing. The Karnataka Federation . . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : How much export has been done by Maharashtra. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : I am coming to it. You may wait.

The Karnataka Federation have been given 25,000 bales and they have exported nothing. This year the Maharashtra Federation have been given one lakh bales and they have exported only 60980 bales. They have not completed their export quota. The Haryana Federation have been given 5000 bales and they have exported 4,900 bales. The Rajasthan Federation have been given 15,000 bales and they have exported only 5100 bales. NAFED have been given 50,000 bales and they have exported only 19,000 bales. No federation is given more than one lakh. Almost all of them are given. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am helping you.

I agree with the sentiments being expressed by the Members from different States. Will you help Maharashtra in case other States are not able to fulfil their export quota ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Even otherwise, ever since my taking over charge, I have twice made allotments to them. This quota would be available to them up to the end of September. Even for last year, I had extended their time up to February this year. I cannot understand why they are so much agitated.

MR. SPEAKER : It is quite enough. The Minister is prepared to consider it even otherwise.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : The Minister has replied giving details about the quota allotted to different States and has said that the State of Maharashtra has exported only 60980 bales. Maharashtra has a surplus production. Today, substantial stocks are available with the marketing federation of the State.

If you have to supply our product in the international market, the main problem today is that the purchasing agencies insist on commitment for a longer period. The Government of India decides quota on a yearly basis. This is the reason why we are not getting good response in the international market. Will the hon. Minister accept the suggestion, which has already been made by the Government of Maharashtra, to give a quota of five to ten lakh bales for a longer period ?

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, that is not possible because we are not sure of the production each year. The hon. ex-Chief Minister of Maharashtra knows that two-thirds of our cotton production depends on rainfed areas. If, unfortunately, there are no good rains, we would not be

able to fulfil the commitment undertaken with the foreign buyers. When the quota is more than the performance, what shall we do with that ? In spite of our giving 12,2,000 bales this year, 10,55,000 bales before December, why are we not able to fulfil the quota ? In the previous year, only two lakh bales were given before December. This year I have given 10 lakh bales to see that the farmer gets his price. We are giving encouragement. In spite of our encouragement, why is it that exports could not catch up with the quota ?

In 1994-95 the cotton price was 100 cents per bale and in 1995-96 it was 83 cents. Now it is rating at 72 to 73 cents. It is not remunerative. That is why they are not exporting. If Maharashtra Government wants a quota of one lakh bales I will give it to them provided they give an undertaking that they would export it within two months.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion given by Shri Sharad Pawar.

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : That may not be possible.

MR. SPEAKER : You can examine it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 11 states of the country are producing cotton in large quantity and Maharashtra state is also one of them. In regard to the question of exporting cotton, you and also the hon. Minister have said that its quota should be increased, but the responsibility to procure the cotton lies with the Cotton Federation of Maharashtra Government. Maharashtra has produced a large quantity of cotton this year. . . (Interruptions) In spite of producing so much cotton, no procurement centre has been opened in my constituency as yet. Therefore, I request the Central Government, through you, that export quota may be increased.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already said that he is willing to increase it. I think this has already been answered.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE : Mr. Speakers, Sir he should give clear answer with regard to cotton. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.