

Shri Karsmarkar: That will be very helpful.

12 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Rise in Price of Foodgrains in Eastern U.P.

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S.N.Q. No. 16. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:  
Shri Tangamani:  
Shri Panigrahi:  
Shri Muhammed Elias:  
Shri Prabhat Kar:  
Shri Khushwaqt Rai:

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

(a) whether the prices of Foodgrains have gone up in the Eastern Districts of U.P.;

(b) if so, whether this is due to failure of Rabi crop;

(c) the steps taken by Central Government to check the prices and avoid famine in these districts;

(d) whether subsidised of foodgrains are being issued; and

(e) if so, the prices of foodgrains at subsidised rates?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). There has been some rise in the prices of rice in the Eastern Districts of U.P. but the prices of wheat, jowar, and Bajra have been more or less steady. It is yet too early to indicate the position regarding production or rabi foodgrains.

(c) There are adequate stocks of foodgrains and the Central Government have offered to meet any further requirements of the U.P. Government.

(d) and (e). Yes, the foodgrains are being issued at the following subsidised wholesale prices:

wheat—Rs. 15 per maund;

gram—Rs. 9.60 nP. per maund;

bejhar—Rs. 11.38 nP. per maund;

maize—Rs. 10.93 nP. per maund.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the recommendation of the Foodgrains Inquiry Committee for the appointment of a Price Stabilisation Board has been accepted and, if so, whether that Board has been formed, and if not, whether the Board is likely to be formed soon?

Shri A. P. Jain: This question has hardly any relevance to the main question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: It is relevant. The prices are going up. The hon. Minister has said that the prices have gone up, especially the price of rice in all the States.

Mr. Speaker: The recommendation was that the prices from time to time may be watched and the prices may be controlled when necessary. Is there a proposal to implement that recommendation made by that Committee?

Shri A. P. Jain: The recommendation is under consideration. We have not come to any final conclusion as yet.

Shri Tyagi: The hon. Minister has stated that in the eastern districts of U.P. the price of wheat, jowar and bajra is stationary. That is a sort of alarming news, for, the price of wheat was expected to go down slightly. I wonder why the price of wheat has not come down, as the harvest of the crop is now coming in.

Shri A. P. Jain: This is a somewhat disquieting phenomenon no doubt but the prices of wheat, bajra and maize are considerably lower than what they were last year.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the fact that in these eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, where there has been a continuous drought at least in ten out of the 14 districts, and in view of the fact that . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is "in view of the fact"? All views and facts are known. What is the question?

**Shri Tangamani:** In view of the fact that these areas are also rice-eating areas . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Everybody knows that the hon. Member comes from a rice-eating area.

**Shri Tangamani:** I have got information from these areas . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member has not yet come to the question.

**Shri Tangamani:** May I know what is the subsidised price of rice, at which it is being sold in these places?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I cannot give the exact amount of subsidy in each case, but . . .

**Shri Yajnik:** The price at which it is sold in the cheap grain shops, the fair price shops.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** They might be adding anything between eight annas and 12 annas per maund over and above the prices which I have given.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** What is the subsidy on the price of rice? What is it that the hon. Minister is saying?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I did not say that.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Members want to know the price at which rice particularly is sold in the fair price shops, since they say that the prices have gone up.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** That is exactly what I am saying.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Minister has said that it is 8 annas and 12 annas per maund over and above the prices mentioned.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I said the foodgrains are being issued at these prices: wheat at Rs. 15 per maund; gram at Rs. 9.60 nP per maund; bejhar at Rs. 11.38 nP per maund and maize at Rs. 10.98 nP per maund. These are the wholesale prices.

**Shri Tangamani:** What about rice?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I am coming to that. Now, the retail price has been higher by eight annas to one rupee over and above these prices. So far as rice is concerned, no rice is being sold through fair price shops.

**Shri Yajnik:** Any subsidy is given?

**Shri Tangamani:** No rice is available in the fair price shops.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Members must put questions one after the other. If all of them put questions together, nobody can understand what the question is. The hon. Minister has definitely stated that rice is not sold in the fair price shops.

**Shri Yajnik:** May I know if there are any fair price shops dealing with the sale of maize, wheat and other grains and if these are sold at reduced prices, may I know what subsidy is being given to them?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** There are about 2,000 fair price shops in the eastern districts of U.P. and all these foodgrains are being sold at subsidised prices.

**Shri Yajnik:** At the prices the hon. Minister mentioned?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Yes.

**Shri Yajnik:** Adding the amount as expenses?

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** The hon. Minister has stated that the price of wheat has not gone up, but the spokesman of the Uttar Pradesh has said that the price of rice has gone up by Rs. 2 per maund and the price of wheat by 12 annas per maund. May I know which statement is correct?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** My statement is correct.

**Mr. Speaker:** We will proceed to the next item.