

Shri S. K. Patil: The idea of buffer stock here is not as in the case of rice or wheat. Sugar is now distributed on quotas. Whether it is in one State or another, it remains with the mills, it does not go and remain in Kerala or somewhere else. But when it is wanted and the stock has to be supplemented, we take it from anywhere, just as we are having it now.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Apart from the problem of stocks, the main problem in the matter of sugar has been the problem of retail distribution. May I know whether any measures are proposed to be taken linked with the building up of buffer stocks for improving distribution to the consumers generally and avoiding black-marketing in that field?

Shri S. K. Patil: It has no relation really with buffer stock, but the hon. Member is right that if the distribution is defective, then in spite of our holding the buffer stocks, this might happen, but I can tell him that the buffer stock is a great disincentive to blackmarketing etc. Why are the prices of wheat not rising just now? Not because we have produced enough wheat, but there is so much fear that if the price goes up, immediately the wheat will be blown in. If that position is reached, then the other difficulties will end.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Apart from the very welcome step of increasing the sugarcane price, what other steps is Government intending to take....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are not concerned with sugarcane price, we are concerned with buffer stock.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: I am coming to the main question. What other steps is Government intending to take to see that sugarcane is not diverted to gur production?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is a separate question.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: May I know if it is the intention of the Govern-

ment to give more incentive to the sugar industry which is hoarding at the cost of the agriculturists in the country?

Shri S. K. Patil: There is no such intention. When the productivity of sugar in general increases, there is indirect benefit to the mills also. No direct benefit is sought to be given.

Shri Basumatari: May I know what steps are being taken to keep the price of sugar uniform throughout the country, because at present the price in Assam is higher than anywhere else?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is a different question.

Development of Subsidiary Foods

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*151. { **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**
Shri Warrior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri M. N. Swamy:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a scheme for better utilisation of available foodstuffs, and the development of subsidiary foods in order to check the increasing consumption of cereals in the country; and

(b) if so, the main features of this scheme, and the steps being taken to implement it?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) The nucleus of a scheme for better utilisation of available foodstuffs and development of subsidiary foods has been drawn up with a view *inter alia* to promote the reduction of the preponderance of the cereal content of the average Indian diet.

(b) The main objectives of the scheme are: conservation and effective utilization of the existing food resources, the diversification of the

Indian diet and its improvement from a nutritional point of view by the development and popularisation of new, nutritive and improved foods as well as subsidiary foods and the education of the people through different media in regard to various aspects of food technology and applied nutrition.

A Nutrition Division with a nucleus staff has been set up in the Department of Food for drawing up and implementing suitable programmes. Staff has been posted in the four Regions also for assisting the State Governments and others in this direction, and for undertaking the programmes of the Department in the Regionals. A number of programmes, such as the development of high protein foods, the establishment of Institutes of Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, the operation of mobile food and nutrition extension vans, the setting up of Community Food Preservation Centres, the development of meat technology, are already in different stages of implementation.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Since the consumption of cereals is the heaviest in the villages, would Government consider the desirability of launching this scheme in the rural areas first?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): This scheme cannot be merely confined to this area or that area. This is a vast country, and this is of a pilot nature. If you want to have it spread in all the 650,000 villages, it will mean a very big expenditure, which cannot be taken.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether Government has included any scheme in this to encourage the production of more of the foodstuffs other than cereals, and if so, what are the steps Government is going to take?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): I do not exactly understand what the hon. Member says.

Shri Warrior: I refer to the steps taken to produce foodstuffs other than the usual cereals.

Shri A. M. Thomas: This scheme contemplates the promotion and diversification of diets, with a view to correcting the existing dietary excesses and deficiencies. In this scheme are included the propagation of methods for dehydration, use of preservatives, encouragement to consumption of processed foods, etc.

Shri Warrior: My question is about encouragement or incentives given to produce supplementary foodstuffs other than usual cereals.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Encouragement is given to production of vegetables and such other foodstuffs.

Shri Warrior: Banana plantation, fish production or eggs....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. It cannot go on like this.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I do not think that with regard to banana price, there is any complaint nor it is so with regard to fish. In fact the price of fish is going up or that of banana is going up. No incentive is necessary. For fisheries there is the mechanisation scheme and for bananas also we supply fertilisers at concession rates.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: May I know whether in the research stations any research has been conducted to see whether tapioca can be made use of in the production of subsidiary foods because we have plentiful supply of tapioca?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Researches conducted in the Mysore Technological Institute have been satisfactory. Tapioca contains carbohydrates and we cannot say that it contains protein. Along with that, edible groundnut flour can be mixed and can be utilised.

Shri Tyagi: For the last tens of years we are hearing stories of synthetic rice and tapioca bread and today we hear the technical name: subsidiary food. I do not know what it comprises of.

Is it available in the market? If by which times does the Ministry think

that the subsidiary food will be available in the market?

Shri S. K. Patil: I think the hon. Members know that subsidiary food is not a new expression; it has been in vogue all along; it means: food other than cereals such as: poultry, fish, meat, fruits and other things. That is why we are talking about it. Wheat contains protein. Our diet in general lacks protein very much and it is a dangerous point which has got to be taken notice of.

Dr. Gaitonde: In view of the fact that various departments do the work done by one department previously, may I know whether proper use is being made of the scientific research conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research as regards changing the food habits and balanced diet?

Shri S. K. Patil: So far as scientific knowledge is concerned, there is always an attempt to co-ordinate it and make the maximum use of it.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार को पता है कि आजकल विभिन्न स्टेटों में आम के दरख्तों, जामुन के दरख्तों, कटहल के दरख्तों, अर्थात् हरे दरख्तों को काटा जा रहा है जिसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि सब्सी-डियरी फूड कम होता है। इसके लिये सरकार क्या उपाय सोच रही है कि उनका काटना बन्द हो जाये ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : यह बात तो ठीक है कि इस प्रकार के पेड़ नहीं काटने चाहिये। और आम और जामुन के पेड़ तो बिलकुल ही नहीं काटने चाहिये अगर कहीं पर यह होता है तो यह भयानक बात है। यह स्थिति नहीं होनी चाहिये। सरकार कोशिश करेगी कि ऐसा न हो।

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What expenditure is proposed to be incurred on this scheme and what portion of it will go in payment of salaries to the staff?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As has been stated by my senior colleague, only a small beginning has been made on

pilot projects basis. Rs. 2.5 crores have been provided in the Plan for the schemes. I cannot give the break-up of this expenditure, what expenditure is on staff and what expenditure on others.

Shri Tyagi: Is it for experimentation?..... (Interruptions).

Shri A. M. Thomas: Consistent with the vastness of our country, Rs. 2.5 crores in the period of five years is not much. However, it is not on an experimental basis.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What about this year?

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: In order to make up the deficiency of protein in the Indian diet, we understand that the Government have set up some research centres in the country who are probing the possibility of extracting protein from leaves for human consumption. May I know how far that research work has progressed?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact that is being undertaken and the results obtained are also being utilised by these mobile extension units.

Foodgrain Prices

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Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Tridib Kumar

Chaudhuri:

Shri Warrior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Shri Daji:

*152. Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Hem Raj:

Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Sarjee Pandey:
Shri Dighe:

Shri Baswant:

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Shrimati Jyotima Chauda: