

Shri S. K. Patil: Since the export market for sugar is becoming very positive, it will be in the national interest to increase the capacity by 5 lakh tons as the hon. Member suggested. But it is rather premature to say how much of it will be in the co-operative sector.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: Is it a fact that the increase in the price of gur is not so much because it is being used by the poor sections but because it is going for illicit distillation? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to stop it?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is causing very great concern to Government because a lot of sugar is going for that purpose. We are making inquiries about the extent of the drain.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या यह सही नहीं है कि जब सरकार गुड़ पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाएगी तो गांव का गुड़ बनाने का व्यवसाय मर जाएगा और केवल चीनी का व्यवसाय चलेगा ?

श्री स० झा० पाटिल : वह कभी मरने वाला नहीं है क्योंकि देश में जितना गन्ना पैदा होता है वह सब शुगर फैक्टरीज नहीं क्रश कर सकतीं । दो तिहाई गन्ना गुड़ और खंडसारी के लिए रहेगा ।

श्री बड़े : क्या यह बात सच है कि अक्टूबर और नवम्बर में शुगरकेनू से शुगर नहीं बनायी जाती । इसलिए मध्य प्रदेश में उसका गुड़ बनाया जाता है । क्या इस प्रकार की रिपोर्ट सरकार के पास आयी है ?

श्री स० झा० पाटिल : अभी तो कम कुछ न कुछ कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि १५ अक्टूबर से ही चीनी बनाना शुरू किया जाए और उसमें जो कुछ नुकसान होगा वह सरकार देगी ।

श्री क० न० तिवारी : गुड़ और खंडसारी में जो गन्ना जाता है उसका दाम

किसान को दो और ढाई रुपया मन मिलता है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार मौजूदा कीमतों में कितना बढ़ाने का विचार कर रही है ?

श्री स० झा० पाटिल : वह तो खाली एक बरस चला, हमेशा चलने वाला नहीं है । उस साल दुनिया में चीनी का उत्पादन कम हुआ था इसलिए भाव बढ़ गए । इस साल तो इतने नहीं बढ़ेंगे ।

श्री त्यागी : वह गुड़ जो कि मिलों से बहुत दूर के फासले पर बनता है, जहाँ कोई मिल नहीं है, और जिसके बनाने से चीनी पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ता, क्या ऐसे कोल्डुओं पर भी टैक्स लगाने की राय है ?

Shri S. K. Patil: Not at all.

Scarcity conditions in States

+

*304. {	Shri Shree Narayan Das:
	Shri Vasudevan Nair:
	Shri Warrior:
	Shri Yashpal Singh:
	Shri D. C. Sharma:
	Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:	

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

(a) the precise nature of the areas in various States where scarcity conditions prevailed in the past or where they are still prevailing;

(b) whether starvation deaths have been alleged from any of these areas;

(c) if so, the results of investigations made, if any, into these alleged deaths due to starvation; and

(d) the steps taken to tide over scarcity conditions so prevailing?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1565/63].

(b) and (c). Certain allegations about deaths due to starvation in the States of Assam, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Tripura were made. Investigations made in each case by the State Government concerned established that the deaths were not due to starvation.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it appears that a large number of States are affected, especially Gujarat and West Bengal. I would like to know whether any of these States has asked for any help, financial or otherwise, to ease the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): With regard to financial help, there is a pattern laid down by the Finance Ministry, that is, every State Government has to provide in its Budget an amount for meeting natural calamities such as famine, and after exhausting that amount, up to Rs. 1 crore, there is a share that would be borne by the Central Government; above Rs. 1 crore, another percentage would be borne by the Central Government. With regard to supplies, the request of each State Government has to a large extent been met.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: It has been stated just now that investigations were made by the State Governments into allegations of starvation deaths. What were the findings, what were the deaths due to?

Shri A. M. Thomas: They were all due to natural causes. I may inform the House that in free India there cannot be any starvation death, because if not rice, it will be wheat or bajra or jowar as the case may be. Nobody in India should die of starvation. They may not get at a cheap rate rice of the requisite variety.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : खाद्यान्न के भावों में वृद्धि हुई है, ८ रुपये से लेकर

१० रुपये तक उनके भाव बढ़े हैं, किसान से जो गहूँ १३ रुपये मन लिया गया उस में ६-७ रुपये मन तक दाम बढ़े हैं तो उस प्राफिट में किसानों को भी प्रपोरशनेटली कुछ हिस्सा दिया गया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल तो इस से बिल्कुल अलहिदा हो गया ।

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, as I have stated on the floor of the House before also, there are 53,000 fair price shops functioning in the States in which both rice and wheat are being distributed at subsidised rates, so that the vulnerable population, about four to five crores of people, are looked after by these fair price shops.

Shri D. C. Sharma: From the statement I find that there are certain areas in certain States of India which suffer from scarcity and near-scarcity conditions in a chronic way—for instance, Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh....

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): Chattisgarh is surplus.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Jaisalmer and Jalore in Rajasthan, Basti, Deoria, Gorakhpur, Azamgarh and Ballia in U.P. Similarly I can produce other names also. May I know if besides giving this temporary relief, Government has thought out a plan of overcoming these scarcity conditions in these chronically affected districts in India?

Shri S. K. Patil: All these districts that the hon. Member has stated are generally from surplus States.

Shri D. C. Sharma: They are in the statement.

Shri S. K. Patil: A State can be surplus, but a district or two districts in it may not be. Therefore, it is not a question that the State has not got enough. Whether in these particular areas irrigation facilities etc. could be

provided is the question. That is really important, and the State Governments must include such schemes in their plans, particularly for these areas—for instance, Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh, which is in Rayalaseema. Rayalaseema has been chronically deficient in rain etc., but efforts are being made in order that irrigation water may be taken there.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अभी मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि कुछ लोगों की तरफ से शिकायत आई थी कि स्केयरसिटी की वजह से लोगों की मृत्यु हो गई लेकिन उन की यह शिकायत निराधार साबित हुई, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि किन क्वार्टर्स से ऐसी शिकायत आई थी और जब यह निराधार साबित हुई तो क्या उन क्वार्टर्स को यह बतला दिया गया है ?

Shri S. K. Patil: Generally, these arguments are used for political purposes.

Shri Ranga: Are the Government aware of the fact that though the districts of Basti, Gorakhpur and Bahraich are within the scarcity areas, the Uttar Pradesh Government, with the consent of the Government of India. I suppose, have postponed their irrigation projects there, giving the existence of this emergency as an excuse?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is not correct. The hon. Member has also written to me about the necessity for these projects there. It has received our consideration and we are allotting some amounts for carrying out those works.

Shri Nath Pai: Reports of starvation deaths which appeared in a section of the press were attributed to leaders of public opinion in those States who claimed to have made on-the-spot investigations, and with a flourish of rhetoric they have denied them. May I

ask the hon. Minister, if the deaths were not due to starvation, were they the result of prolonged, sustained malnutrition and starvation which have debilitated the resistance capacity of the persons concerned?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Now, it has come down from starvation to malnutrition and other things. In fact, when these reports were made, we had addressed the various State Governments and they have made the necessary enquiries and their reports are to the effect that these are all due to natural causes and not due to starvation.

Shri Nath Pai: Not due to over-eating

डा० गोविंद दास : क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को लिखा है कि जिस छत्तीसगढ़ में कभी भी फसल बरबाद नहीं होती थी, इस वर्ष बर्बाद हो गयी है और क्या मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार उस क्षेत्र के लिए कोई सहायता चाहती है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In Chattisgarh it was an abnormal year for that particular area; it has been our rice bowl; we have authorised the State Government to open as many fair price shops as they can and the requirement of the fair price shops has been met. The day before yesterday we received a letter from the Madhya Pradesh Food Minister, and he is satisfied with the arrangements and he has asked for 10,000 tons of grains for October which, I think if necessary, we will meet.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Nambiar: This is a very important question for which we want more time.

Mr. Speaker: We have already taken 35 minutes on four questions.