

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is talking of remote control. ...*(Interruptions)* Let us decide today as to who is holding their remote control? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Without Ms. Jaya Lalitha, they cannot live even for one day, their Government will fall. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh, please do not disturb.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : If he is allowed to speak. I should also be allowed to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh, please take your seat.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : I want to know from the Government whether they foresee any contradiction that on the one hand, they accuse the State of terrorist activities—within our own country people are getting killed everyday—and on the other, they are going on negotiating with them as if they are a normal neighbouring State. I would like to know whether they see any contradiction or they are going to continue with this contradiction.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : No, Sir. We do not see any contradiction.

Sale of Pulses

[Translation]

*243. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the pulses are sold at the rates which are three times more than their support prices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reasons for giving less support price to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The prices of pulses are generally ruling higher than the minimum support prices (MSPs), primarily due to gap in demand and supply.

(c) The Government fixes each season the MSP of major agricultural commodities including pulses (Arhar, Moong, Urad and Gram), on the basis of the report of the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP), views of the State Governments and the Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors which, in the opinion of the Government are important for fixation of prices.

While formulating its recommendations on price policy, the CACP considers all important factors, viz., cost of production; changes in input prices; input/output price parity; trends in market prices; demand and supply situation; inter-crop price parity; effect on industrial cost structure; effect on general price level; effect on cost of living; international market price situation; and terms of trade. Thus the trends in market prices are taken into account in determining the MSPs.

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is related to pulses. My question is that the farmers are getting low price for the pulses whereas the prices of pulses are very high in the market. The Minister has admitted in his reply that there is a big gap in demand and supply of pulses. The Government was aware that there was a big gap in demand and supply and the pulses were hoarded by the hoarders. Pulses worth Rs. 250 crore were recovered during the raids made against a Congress M.L.A. in Delhi. Whether the Government is aware that the pulses worth Rs. 250 crore were recovered in Delhi? I would like to know from the Government as to what efforts are being made by the Government to pay the higher prices to the farmers? Whether the Government will make an inquiry instituted by the C.B.I. against such hoarders who are earning a huge amount in this manner, so that the hoarding can be stopped.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that the prices of pulses have increased unnecessarily during the current year and I have admitted this in the reply. Generally, 30.4 per cent prices of the pulses have been increased i.e. 85 per cent and the maximum in the prices of Arhar, 42.7 per cent in Masoor, 26.2 per cent in Urad and 22.2 per cent in Moong have been made. This is a

fact that generally it happens because of imbalance in demand and supply. The second question of the Hon'ble Member is that the farmers are getting less prices. So far as getting less prices by the farmers are concerned, the Government of India declares the minimum supporting price for four types of pulses viz. Arhar, Moong, Urad and Gram on the basis of the recommendations of the commission for Agricultural costs and prices. While formulating its policy on price the C.A.C.P. considers all important factors viz., cost of production, changes in input prices and the price of the other items in the market and the international prices?

How much prices will be fair for the consumers? Keeping in view of all these things, the minimum support price is declared. If the prices fall below this level, the Government will intervene and help the farmers by giving them support price. *...(Interruptions)*. So far as raids are concerned, we have also read in the news papers about them. Even if it is, inquired by the C.B.I. the farmers will not be benefitted by it. It is a different matter. Even then the hon'ble Member will be furnished the information. *...(Interruptions)*. So far as the prices being given to the farmers are concerned, the minimum support price. *...(Interruptions)*

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (A.V.S.M) : What is it? The Government should take action against the hoarders. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither the farmers get the price nor consumers get relief. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has not completed his reply. Let him complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SOM PAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pulses should be made available to the consumers on fair price and no

can have two opinions about this. The production that is available in the country at present is certainly less in comparison to our needs. About two Million tonnes production of pulses is less than our needs.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM : This is not good. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAIWAL : How will the consumers get relief when the stock worth of Rs. 250 crore is seized from the hoarders. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Why do you not take action against the hoarders, blackmarketeers?

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Action has been taken against the hoarders, benefiteers and the blackmarketeers, it has been proved by the raids. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Let the Minister complete his reply. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister be pleased to ask for the report from Delhi Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please, take your seat.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Why you not take action against the hoarders and blackmarketeers? You are giving patronage to all of them. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : You want to protect your people. The Congress M.L.A. who has been caught, you are not speaking against him. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : You should take action against all whether they are hoarders or blackmarketeers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhuria, let the Minister complete his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI : Why are you protecting the hoarders, black marketeers and profeteers. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please try to understand. The Minister may now complete his reply.

SHRI SOMPAL : Sir, I am yet to complete my reply
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL : The raid has been made against Congress M.L.A. It has been figured in the newspapers in much bold letters. Will the Minister be pleased to ask for the report from the Delhi Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Goel, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : See the pulses worth of Rs. 68 crores have been seized from a place. Why is action not being taken against the hoarders.
...(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

SHRI AJIT JOGI : What action have you taken against the hoarders, profiteers and blackmarketeers?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give reply.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete it now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajit Jogi, please take your seat, what is this? Shri Bhuria, you also take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to give a reply if the hon'ble members are in a mood to listen to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

*[English]***Crop of Soyabean**

1. SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) whether the crop of Soyabean has been damaged upto 80% this year in Madhya Pradesh due to the disease of 'Rust';

(b) whether the Soyabean producers of Madhya Pradesh have suffered heavy loss due to it;

(c) the compensation or the financial assistance proposed to be provided by the Union Government to the farmers growing Soyabean in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) whether the Union Government would make an arrangement to provide the Soyabean seed to the farmers in Madhya Pradesh next year at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per information furnished by Government of Madhya Pradesh, there is no major damage to soyabean during Kharif 1998 in Madhya Pradesh. This has been corroborated by the National Research Centre for Soyabean, Indore. The 'rust' disease was only localised in Betul and Chhindwara districts. Timely 'rust' awareness campaign was undertaken by Department of Agriculture, Madhya Pradesh alongwith National Research Center for Soyabean, Indore and the Centre on Integrated Pest Management. The disease was controlled by fungicidal sprays by farmers. There was recurrence of 'rust' in later stage around maturity but it was not of consequence with respect to productivity.

(d) Distribution of certified/truthfully labelled seeds to the farmers is organised by the State Government. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that they are taking adequate steps to provide seeds to the farmers for 1999 Kharif. The Central Government is providing Rs. 300/- per quintal for distribution of certified seeds and Rs. 200/- per quintal for production of seeds as subsidy under the scheme of Oil Seeds Production Programme.