

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, November 18, 1974/Karrika
27, 1896 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WELCOME TO SPEAKER AND SECRETARY-GENERAL OF NOR- WEGIAN PARLIAMENT

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement. On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Guttorm Hansen, President of the Norwegian Storting—it is not called Parliament—Mrs Hansen, Mr. Gunnar Hoff, Secretary-General of the Storting and Mrs. Hoff, who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament, Government and the people of Norway.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Take over of trade in foodgrains and
other essential commodities

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*81. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA
GOWDA:
SHRI M. S. PURTY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE
AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal
under the consideration of Govern-

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ment to take over the trade and distribution of foodgrains, edible oil and sugar; and

(b) whether take-over will ensure equitable and judicious distribution of grain and other essential commodities which would be in short supply because of floods and drought in many regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNA-
SAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:
May I know from the hon. Minister whether there are any other proposals under the active consideration of the Government to ensure equitable distribution in view of the mounting high prices and short supply so far as these commodities are concerned?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:
As far as the kharif season is concerned, the kharif procurement policy has been formulated in consultation with the Chief Ministers and the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture. Some of the hon. Members are also members of that Committee. It is our policy to have a sizeable procurement from the producers' levy and also in the case of rice from the millers' levy. But, if the hon. Member's contention is that the take-over will provide a solution to all the problems, I wish to say that the Government do not agree with it

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA:
My question pertained to equitable distribution. Anyway, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry would consider, with their past experience, the taking over of the foodgrains trade once again.