

**SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU:** Last time when you were examining the objectives in the corporate plan of the shipping industry we found that there was no corporate plan. There was just a projection of figures given upto 2000 AD. In fact, Shipping has not been given any encouragement whatsoever in terms of converting loan into equity. What are the steps that are going to be taken by the government to see that shipping is further encouraged and these trends do not appear again?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT:** I cannot answer this question as it is a separate question. I can only tell what the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas has to do.

**SHRI ANADA GAJAPATHI RAJU:** It is not audible.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There is another question on shipping and the other Minister will answer it.

[*Translation*]

### **Foodgrain Reserves**

- \*3. **SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** †  
**SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:**

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state:

a) the latest position of foodgrain reserves in the country;

(b) whether keeping in view the present drought situation, Government have adequate stock of foodgrains to meet the requirements of the country; and

(c) if not, the measures proposed to be taken by Government to deal with the situation?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM):** (a) The total stock of foodgrains with the public agencies as on 1st January, 1988 was estimated at 14.14 million tonnes.

(b) and (c). The stocks available are adequate to meet the present requirement of the public distribution system. There is also regular replenishment of stocks through procurement operations. Further, the Government is also keeping open the option to import foodgrains as and when considered necessary.

**SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:** Is it a fact that the reserves of foodgrain have declined from 23 million tonnes to 15 million tonnes during the month of July 1987; if so, what are the steps which the government propose to take to fulfil this deficit of foodgrains? Is there any target fixed for rice and wheat during the Rabi season?

My second question is how much foodgrains have been allotted to Karnataka during these three years of drought. I would like to know whether India has lost much foodgrains due to non-availability of storage capacity and not having proper storage capacity and proper transit arrangements. If so, what steps the Government propose to take to have proper storage and transit facilities? These are my two questions.

**SHRI SUKH RAM:** Sir, as far as the availability of the foodgrains is concerned, the requirement of the buffer stock is 20.1 million tonnes as on 1st January 88. Against that, 14.14 million tonnes of foodgrains is available in our stock and the shortfall is only about 6 million tonnes. I hope this will be offset in the next rabi season and ongoing kharif season. As far as the storage capacity is concerned, there is a policy that we are

constructing additional storage capacity also so that whatever is the requirement of the buffer stock is stored at different places. If you want to know about the present storage capacity, I can supply it to the hon. Member. This is a long list of godowns situated at different States.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Sir, I have asked another question what is the total allotment of foodgrains to Karnataka during these three years of drought?

SHRI SUKH RAM: As far as the supplies to Karnataka is concerned, if the hon. member gives a separate notice, I will furnish the required information.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, I would like to know whether because of the shortage of stock in foodgrains, have you supplied the rice and wheat which is not good for human consumption? Such stores have reached Kerala and complaints were made to the Government and Government were compelled to sell it on auction and then again that came back to the market through the private channel when it was auctioned and taken by the people instead of destroying it. Has it been noticed by the Government that such an instance has taken place and what steps you have taken in this matter? This was reported in the press that because of the shortage of food, a lot of unconsumable food was supplied especially to the South. This was objected, and subsequently it was auctioned and private parties took it and they brought it to the market through their own channel which was supposed to supply through the ration shops of public distribution system. Has the Government noticed this and what steps the Government has taken in this matter?

SHRI SUKH RAM: The hon. Member has supplied this information. I will look into it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, he may be having the information with him because this is connected with shortage of food.

SHRI SUKH RAM: The hon. Member has supplied this information. I am not aware about this complaint. He has supplied this information. I will definitely look into it.

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, for the past number of years, we have been producing more foodgrains that we require for domestic consumption and today we are in very happy position as we have a large buffer stock. May I know what effect such a happy situation has had on the per capita consumption in the country? Has that increased or remained static?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Because it is less, their buffer stock is less.

SHRI SUKH RAM: As far as the per capita consumption is concerned, the information is not available with me at the moment. But I agree with the hon. member that in view of this buffer stock available with us, we could tide over the very difficult situation on account of severe drought and flood this year and we could supply the foodgrains to all the States according to their requirement.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is the worst drought affected State. The public Distribution System is in vogue in our districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur. I had visited Shergarh area of Jodhpur where from 5 kg. to 7 kg. wheat is being supplied to each person every month. Rajasthan is the worst affected area and has been facing grave scarcity conditions, but the Central Government is not supplying wheat according to the requirements of the State. What are the reasons therefor?

**SHRI SUKH RAM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Public Distribution System is the state subject. The system has to be run and monitored by the State Government. We keep on contacting the states every now and then and also try to monitor the system. So far as allotment of foodgrains to Rajasthan is concerned, I think that, though the exact figures are not available with me, Rajasthan has been allotted the maximum quantity of foodgrains. Keeping in view severe drought conditions there, Rajasthan has been allotted the maximum quantity of foodgrains. The per capita allotment to Rajasthan is more than that made to any other State.

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the quantity of foodgrains needed is available in the Government godowns, I want to ask the hon. Minister, through you, that what arrangements have been made and what plans have been formulated to save the foodgrains in storage which is eaten away by the rats and mongooses or get rotten due to other reasons. May I know whether the Government proposes to do something in this regard? The area effected by drought is inhabited by poor people who are very much worried and facing starvation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are supplying foodgrains to such people at concessional rates. May I know whether the government of India has only plan to supply foodgrains at concessional rates? May I also know whether the Government has formulated any such plan and if not, the time by which the Government proposes to do so?

**SHRI SUKH RAM:** So far as the anxiety of the hon. Member regarding foodgrains getting rotten is concerned, I may submit that the loss position of foodgrains in transit and storage has improved from 2.3 per cent in 1982-83 to 1.63 per cent during 1986-87. But still, if any sort of wastage or other irregularities are brought to the notice of the Government by the hon. Members of this august House, concrete action will be taken and

proper attention will be paid to the matter.

As regards the point regarding the supply of foodgrains at concessional rates raised by the hon. Member, it is submitted that the Government is already supplying foodgrains to the vulnerable sections and the poor people through Public Distribution System and the Government is subsidising to the extent of Rs.2000 crores. I do not understand what more is expected to be done by the Central Government. We are giving foodgrains to the poor people at concessional rates.

[*Translation*]

#### **Price Fixation of Sugarcane In U.P.**

\*4. **SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of sugarcane in Western and Eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh have been fixed at Rs.27.00 and Rs. 26.50 per quintal respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons for this disparity;

(c) whether he has taken any initiative with the State Government to bring uniformity in the prices of sugarcane; if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether Government are considering any proposal to ensure in future uniformity in sugarcane prices; and

(e) whether prices of sugarcane have been increased in proportion to the recent hike of Rs.25 per quintal in sugar prices; if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM):** (a) and b). The