

Help to Film Producers

325. Shri Himatsingka:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri R. S. Pandey:
Shri Rajeshwar Patel:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to subsidize film producers in deserving cases;

(b) if so, the main features of this scheme; and

(c) how far this scheme will help the film industry in the country?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): (a) to (c). The question of giving subsidies, besides the loans advanced by the Film Finance Corporation, to selected producers to encourage the production of quality films is under consideration.

12 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MAT-
TERS OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

(i) SITUATION ARISING OUT OF
SCARCITY AND RISE IN PRICES OF
FOODGRAINS

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The situation arising out of scarcity and rise in prices of food-grains.”.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): Sir, I am placing a statement on the Table of the House with regard to this.

Mr. Speaker: Is it a long statement?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It will take a few minutes.

Mr. Speaker: He may read it out because hon. Members may want to put some questions on it.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, India still depends on timely and adequate rainfall for its agricultural out-turn. 80 per cent of the cropped area is dependent on rainfall. The South-West monsoon has been erratic during the current crop year and the rainfall has been inadequate particularly in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The production of rice is likely to show a decline from last year's record out-put of 38.7 million tonnes. The production of coarse kharif cereals has also been adversely affected due to want of some showers in September. The North-East monsoon has also not been adequate so far. The unsatisfactory state of the current crops has affected the availability of foodgrains in the market and their prices.

The all-India index number of wholesale prices of cereals, which came down to 137 in May, 1965, started moving up since then and touched 152 in August, 1965. The upward rise of prices between May and August is, however, a seasonal phenomena. Since the out-break of Indo-Pakistan conflict, there has been an improvement in market arrivals and the prices of foodgrains also started to decline. The index number of wholesale prices of cereals moved down to 147 in October. The index number of wheat also showed a decline from 144 in August to 138 in October. The decline in wheat at this time of the year is an unusual feature.

The expected shortfall in domestic production and the uncertainty about imports made it necessary for the Government to take a policy decision of maximum internal procurement and controlled distribution of available resources through a system of rationing and fair price shops.

Though the methods of procurement vary in intensity and pattern from State to State, broadly speaking, the

principle of compulsory levy either on producers or traders/millers has been generally accepted. In some States like Maharashtra, West Bengal and Assam, the system of monopoly procurement is being adopted. The levy on paddy producers is being introduced in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Mysore and Bihar. Madras has adopted the system of levy on producers and is also regulating its trade. In other States like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Punjab, levy on millers/dealers is being continued.

It has been decided to cordon off all towns and cities with a population of 1 lakh and above and to introduce statutory rationing in these areas. The exact timing of introduction of statutory rationing in these areas will depend on the availability of stocks with the Government. Attempt is being made to introduce rationing in a phased manner starting with cities having a population of 1 million and above and in areas having a high concentration of industrial labour. Greater Calcutta has already been under statutory rationing since the beginning of 1965. Since 1st October, 1965 statutory rationing has also been introduced in Madras and Coimbatore. It is expected that Delhi will be brought under statutory rationing from 1st December, 1965.

To make the available resources go as far as possible, it is necessary to reduce wastage of food. All the State Governments have been advised to introduce austerity in parties and functions and also to control the services of food in hotels and restaurants. Statutory orders have been issued by most of the State Governments in accordance with the Central Directive. The Prime Minister has recently made an appeal to the people to help in reducing consumption of cereals by missing a meal once a week and substituting as far as possible cereals by other foods.

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है

Shri C. Subramaniam: Kindly put the question in English please.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that in some places in Rajasthan, in the Eastern Districts of Uttar Pradesh, Rayalaseema and other places there is almost famine condition because of the scarcity of foodgrains and high prices and, if so, what steps have been taken to see that foodgrains reach those pockets as early as possible and the prices are also brought under control? The hon. Minister has stated that to counteract the situation he is introducing statutory rationing. At the same time, he said that the Prime Minister has...

Mr. Speaker: Then the question becomes too long.

Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur): Not so long.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sometimes I put long questions but not now. The hon. Minister has referred to two measures—one is statutory rationing and the other, an appeal by the hon. Prime Minister that those who are non-vegetarians should not take foodgrains for four days a week. Perhaps the Prime Minister thinks that meat and eggs are readily available and they are within the means of poor people.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow such a long question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know (a) whether steps have been taken to send foodgrains to the famine-stricken areas, and (b) whether adequate steps have been taken to supply foodgrains to those States where statutory rationing has been introduced or is likely to be introduced.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry, I have completely lost the trend of the question.

Mr. Speaker: When more questions are clubbed together, I would request the hon. Minister to answer only one question, whichever he chooses.

Shri C. Subramaniam: This question has been discussed with the Chief Ministers only yesterday. I am again meeting them today after this calling attention notice is over to consider measures for meeting the situation.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about my first question?

Mr. Speaker: I have been asking him to put only one question and yet he has been putting so many questions together. Therefore, I cannot help him.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about the famine conditions? Does he agree?

Shri Nath Pai: Sir, on a point of order. I would submit that we bow down to your ruling that questions must be pertinent, pointed and brief. But I am afraid that in this process members' rights very often get curtailed. May I humbly invite your attention to a question in the House of Commons last week which runs to one whole long page? So, I think we are far more briefer. I cannot ask a question of the Minister in the dock to which the reply will be either "yes" or "no". The functions of Government are so complex; so are our duties.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Nath Pai would agree that when there are not so many names clubbed and when questions are asked we have departed from that practice. If it were only one name, probably I might also have allowed greater latitude. But on this question I have got so many names.

Shri Nath Pai: Shri Banerjee has a predilection for making questions a

little more involved. But I must say in all humility that the functions of Government are so complex that we cannot put simple questions. These rules were framed 25 years ago.

Mr. Speaker: Then we can sit together and discuss it.

Shri Nath Pai: I would like you to be a little more lenient.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: As you will kindly see, the Calling Attention Notice is about the situation arising out of scarcity and the rising prices. So, when a statement is made by the hon. Minister in response to the calling attention notice, it will certainly make reference to scarcity and rising prices. My supplementary arising out of that statement was about the first, scarcity.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered that question. He said that he has discussed this matter with the Chief Ministers and that steps are being taken to send supplies.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What steps?

Mr. Speaker: The whole subject cannot be covered by a question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Then you should kindly allow a discussion.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different thing. There is a set procedure for raising a discussion.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Rice is being sold at Rs. 3 a kilo.

Mr. Speaker: He could have asked for information on that.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: People are committing suicide.

श्री बसवन्त (याना) : क्या यह सही है कि सितम्बर मास से बरसात न होने के कारण अभी रबी की फसल के लिए खेतों में नमी भी नहीं है। इस वजह से खेती में काम करने वाले खेतिहरों और किसानों के लिए खास कर महाराष्ट्र में बहुत कठिन समय आ गया है ? क्या इसके लिए सरकार कोई कार्रवाई कर रही है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I thought, I answered that also. It is true, in Maharashtra there has been widespread scarcity and even the north-east monsoon required for the rabi season has not come in. This is the exact situation which we are discussing with the Chief Ministers and I hope to formulate some definite steps to be taken for this purpose in the next meeting which we will be having.

श्री द्वारका दास मंत्री (भीर) : जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि महाराष्ट्र में 26 जिलों में से 23 जिले इस अकाल पीड़ित अवस्था में से गुज़र रहे हैं, केवल धनाज की ही परिस्थिति वहाँ खराब नहीं है वरन जानवरों के धारे का भी प्रश्न वहाँ पर निर्माण हो चुका है तो ऐसी विषम अवस्था में सरकार चारे के लिए क्या कर रही है और जैसे कि मोनोपली प्रो-क्योरमेंट गेहूँ और धान का उसने अपने हाथ में लिया है तो उसी के साथ बाक़ी जो दूसरे धनाज हैं जैसे बाजरा आदि क्या उनका भी मोनोपली प्रो-क्योरमेंट उसी तरह से किया जाने वाला है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Monopoly procurement is not being taken up on an all India basis; it is being taken up only in a few States. As far as fodder is concerned, that question also is under consideration.

Shri K. L. More (Hatakanangle): In view of the fact that due to a complete failure of rains there is a gloomy development of widespread drought and famine conditions in Maharashtra which is a chronically deficit State, may I know what concrete and urgent steps Government proposes to take with regard to the supply of seeds and fertilisers to the farmers....

An hon. Member: And fodder.

Shri K. L. More: ...and with regard to the credit facilities to the agriculturists and landless labour specially belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have to repeat the same answer. We are considering the whole situation and are evolving steps for that.

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): In view of the acute famine conditions in the western districts of my State, Orissa, particularly Kalahandi, the rice bowl of the State, from where we get grim reports of mass exodus of people after disposing of all their belongings including children, ornaments and cattle at a nominal price, may I know what steps are being taken by Government to mitigate the precarious condition of the people specially by starting relief work and cheap grain shops or fair price grain shops in various places?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The report I have received from Orissa is not as bad as the hon. Member has represented.

Shri P. K. Deo: Question. You are wrong.

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is all right; I am talking on the basis of the information I have. No doubt, there have been difficult conditions because of scarcity of rains; but there also we have to consider the various steps which will have to be taken taking into account the overall all-India picture.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharya (Serampore): May I know whether the Minister is aware of the fact that during the food debate on the 4th of this month the Chief Minister of West Bengal made a statement in the West Bengal Assembly that the abnormal rise in the prices of food-grains and the near-famine condition in West Bengal could have been avoided if the assured quantity of foodgrains had reached West Bengal in proper time from the Centre?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There should be somebody to take the blame and I am prepared to take the blame. I have done my best to deliver what-

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

ever I had to the various State Governments and if that has resulted in difficulties, I could not avoid it.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhury (Berhampur): May I know whether a firm assessment has been made of the total quantity of grains available and the quantity that we shall have to get from abroad and whether any firm assurances have been obtained from other friendly countries to get the grains without any political strings attached?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We are making an assessment with regard to what has been the *kharif* production and what is the prospective *rabi* production. I have called for statistics and figures from the various State Governments; I have received from some of the States and am awaiting the statements from a few others. As soon as the statements are available, it is my intention to find out the All-India picture and on that basis evolve a national plan of action to meet this emergency.

We have to get as much as possible from outside also and I do agree that, whenever we import, we should also see that there are no political strings attached.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय (रसड़ा): अभी घाज ही उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री ने कहा है कि अगर केन्द्रीय सरकार पूरे गल्ले का प्रबन्ध नहीं करेगी तो पहली जनवरी से जो राशन होने जा रहा है उसकी व्यवस्था उत्तर प्रदेश में नहीं हो सकेगी, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रीय खाद्य मंत्री उत्तर प्रदेश के लिए पूरे राशन की व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं या कर चुके हैं ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Some State Governments seem to think that they are obliging me by introducing statutory rationing. It is in their own interest, when there is a shortfall and there is a known scarcity, to have controlled distribution. Therefore, I cannot be delivering to every State

Government whatever they require; I do not have so much of stock. It is a question of internal procurement and distribution of whatever is procured in a rational way.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास): हमारी सरकार विदेशों से अनाज नहीं मंगाना चाहती है और यह भी हो सकता है कि अब की वर्षा कम होने से अनाज का उत्पादन कम हुआ हो, तो क्या सरकार यह जो कहती जा रही है कि हमको त्याग करना चाहिए, कम खाना चाहिए उसको छोड़ करके कोई ठोस कदम उठाना चाहती है, कोई इसके लिए खास योजना बनाना चाहती है या सभी राजनैतिक दलों से बातचीत करके और सलाह लेकर कोई एक व्यापक योजना की व्यवस्था करना चाहती है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am consulting the other Parties. Only the other day I had the advantage of meeting all the Party Leaders and some prominent Members of this House and I am having another meeting with them tomorrow. I am greatly benefited by the suggestions made by them.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): In view of the national consensus to obtain emancipation from dependence on imports from abroad, is the Government in a position to tell us as to whether the P. L. 480 imports would be made during this year and what would be quantum of imports and whether these imports would be used exclusively for building up buffer stocks from henceforward?

Shri C. Subramaniam: So far the commitment has been made only for 2 million tonnes. How much more we would be able to get during this year, I can only speculate. As far as buffer stock is concerned, that is also very much in our mind because more difficult days are ahead, particularly from March to June, and we have to conserve foodstuffs, whether imported or internal, to meet those difficulties.

Shri Linga Reddy (Chikballapur): On account of the failure of South-West and North-East monsoon in the south, in Kolar district in particular, adjacent to Rayalaseema, and Mysore State in general, there is total failure of crops; people have no work; there is no drinking water for the people and for the cattle; all the tanks are dried up. It is, therefore, very urgent that food is rushed there and made available in the depots in rural areas. It is very urgent that help is rushed to the State by way of both relief works as well as foodgrains.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I would like to impress upon the hon. Member that these responsibilities are of the State Governments. No doubt the Central Government comes into the picture for giving necessary assistance and also taking into account the overall picture in the country to evolve a plan of action. I am sure the Mysore Government is conscious of its responsibilities with regard to these areas where no doubt scarcity conditions prevail today.

Shri Narasimha Reddy (Rajampet): I have received many letters and communications from Chittoor and Cuddapah districts that recently the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the president of the A.P.C.C. were camping at Tirupati in connection with some marriage functions and after they were over, they immediately went to Hyderabad without caring to look into the countryside, i.e., Chittoor and Cuddapah districts which present a scorched earth appearance and in some parts of which not even a green blade of grass is standing. Would the hon. Minister in the conference which he is going to have with the Chief Ministers this evening advise the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to immediately go to these parts and inspect and take necessary steps (i) to open as many fair price shops as possible, (ii) to take up minor irrigation projects, especially the Bahuda project which has been abandoned on account

of political squabbles inside the ruling party, (iii)

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should stop his question somewhere.

Shri Narasimha Reddy:... (iii) to immediately declare full remission of assessment, (iv) to give up or forgo this year's instalment of loans due from the ryots to Government

Mr. Speaker: The question should not be so long.

Shri Narasimha Reddy: I am concluding it.

The hon. Minister in his statement has said....

Mr. Speaker: Now, he has begun to comment on it.

Shri Narasimha Reddy: No, I am asking a question.

Mr. Speaker: Three or four questions have already come.

Shri Narasimha Reddy: Advice has been given by the hon. Prime Minister to all people to forgo a meal. Similarly, would Government give advice to all the hon. Ministers not to attend marital functions and if the wolf in them is so insistent

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There should be some end to the question. I cannot allow it to go on indefinitely. I am not allowing it any further.

The hon. Minister may answer any part of the question that he likes.

Shri C. Subramaniam: My answer is positively 'No'. I am not going to take the role of an adviser to the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. He is quite a competent person and a responsible person and he knows his duties and responsibilities, and I am not here to advise him. If the hon. Member has any political quarrel with him he may take it up separately with him, not in this House.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): May I submit that Shri Nath Pai should withdraw his plea in the face of these disastrous consequences of his advocacy for long questions and answers?

Mr. Speaker: Instead of suggesting it to me, he cou'd have advised his hon. friend Shri Nath Pai.

श्री सु० अ० पाडिल (उस्मानाबाद) : भ्रवर्षण के कारण सारे देश में, खासकर महाराष्ट्र में, भ्रकाल की परिस्थिति निर्माण हुई है, तो क्या इसका सामना करने के लिए सरकार काश्तकारों को सस्ते दामों पर भ्रायल इंजन, खाद और बीज सप्लाई करने की सोच रही है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, this is one of the schemes which we have formulated, namely that we should supply oil engines and also supply water at concessional rates, so that whatever water is available can be used beneficially.

(ii) IMPOUNDING OF INDIAN SHIPS AND CONFISCATION OF JUTE, TEA ETC. BY PAKISTAN—contd.

Mr. Speaker: Now we shall take up the calling-attention-notice on Impounding of Indian ships and confiscation of jute, tea etc. by Pakistan, which was held over on Friday. Hon. Members may put their questions on it now.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : क्या सरकार वह बता सकती है कि हमारा जो सामान रोका गया है, उसमें हमारा डिफेंस का कितना सामान है ? स्वीज कैनाल की कोर्ट ने हमारे खिलाफ जो फौसला दिया है, क्या हमने उसके खिलाफ अपील इंटरनेशनल कोर्ट में कर दी है ?

परिवहन मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : यह बताना तो कठिन है कि उसमें वास्तविक रूप से कितना डिफेंस का सामान है । जहां तक भावनीय सदस्य के दूसरे प्रश्न का सम्बन्ध है,

हमारे खिलाफ कोई फौसला देने की बात नहीं है । कोर्ट के सामने वह एविडेंस नहीं था, जो कि वह चाहती थी । इस केस में मेन एविडेंस था मैनिफेस्ट, जो बाले-कश्मी के कप्तान ने भ्रदालत को नहीं दिया और इस लिए भ्रदालत कोई फौसला करने में मजबूर रही ।

श्री योगेश्वर झा (मधुबनी) : कुछ इनाम भ्रदालत (वार प्राईज कोर्ट) की स्थापना करके पाकिस्तान ने यह सिद्ध कर दिया है कि उसने हमारे खिलाफ इकतरफा युद्ध की घोषणा कर रखी है । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने इस बात पर गौर किया है कि पाकिस्तान के साथ हुए सभी पुराने समझौतों को—खासकर के नहरी पानी समझौते और कच्छ समझौते को—भंग कर दिया जाये ।

श्री राज बहादुर : इन समझौतों को भंग करने का प्रश्न दूसरा है । किन्तु जहां तक इक्ष प्राईज कोर्ट का प्रश्न है, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक एक व्यवस्थित ढंग से युद्ध की घोषणा न हो—पाकिस्तानी विधान के अन्तर्गत भी जब तक वह भ्राइडेन्स जारी करके युद्ध की घोषणा न करें—, उस समय तक वह युद्ध घोषित नहीं माना जा सकता और उस समय तक कोई भी प्राईज कोर्ट स्थापित नहीं की जा सकती ।

Shri Alvares (Panjim): After the first and second world wars, the Allied Powers asked for compensation from Germany for illegal seizures of Prize Courts and the damage caused. Because of illegal seizures by Pakistan prize courts and the damage caused, have the Government of India asked for reparations from Pakistan? If not, do they propose to do so?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question will certainly be taken into account and consideration and in the fullness of time, we shall do that. But I may say that so far as the proceedings of