

About the code of conduct, we are strictly following that.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: There should be an enquiry made by the Home Ministry to find out whether those conditions which are laid down in the code of conduct were fulfilled or not.

Shri Vidya Charan Shukla: We shall find that out.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath rose—

Mr. Speaker: He says that he would enquire into it.

13.25 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. INFORMATION
GIVEN BY FOOD MINISTER ON
PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MATTER
IN FOODGRAINS FROM U.S.A.
UNDER PL-480 AND MINIS-
TER'S REPLY THERETO

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंबेर) : अध्यक्ष महो-
दय,

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ये दो स्टेटमेंट्स हैं।

श्री मधु लिमये : जी हां, एक मेरा अपना
है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ये दोनों टेबल पर
रख दिये गये हैं।

श्री मधु लिमये : मैंने इसको बहुत संक्षेप
में कर दिया है, बहुत घटा कर छोटा कर दिया
है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह रिकार्ड में आजाये-
गा, कल पेपर्स में भी सब लोग पढ़ लेंगे,
दोनों के स्टेटमेंट्स आजायेंगे और अगर
कहें तो मैंम्बरों के पास भी सर्कुलेट करा दूंगा।

Statement by Shri Madhu Limaye

Under Speaker's Direction 115, I wish to bring to your notice several misleading remarks and inaccurate statements made by the Minister of Food and Agriculture, Mr. C. Subramaniam, in response to my calling

attention motion on the discovery of iron pieces and stones and other foreign matter in PL 480 imported foodgrains.

1. *Liberty ships:* The Minister said "no" when asked whether at least part of the foodgrains that are being imported into India under PL 480 are coming from the Liberty ships in the United States. These ships are part of the "mothball fleet" and, among other uses, are being used for storing grains and other commodities.

2. *Old Stuff:* The bulk of the foodgrains that are being imported under PL 480 are at least 4 or 5 years old, if not more. The statement of the Food Minister that these foodgrains represent production of last year or year before is wrong.

3. *Gift or Purchase:* Mr. Subramaniam's statement that the flour and maida imported during the last few months came as a gift from various countries and that most of it has already been consumed is not entirely correct. At least two consignments of maida have come under PL-480. It may be that initially they came under PL-480 imports but the United States later decided to treat it as a gift, I do not know. Whether gift or imports under PL 480, the question is why should we try to sell something that is patently unfit for human consumption.

4. *Bakers coerced:* Bakers in Maharashtra and Delhi have been complaining that the Food Ministry is forcing them to buy this rotton weevil-ridden flour and maida. He had no answer to the charge that bakers have rejected it outright. When it was pointed to the Centre by Maharashtra State that this maida was perhaps all right for making spaghetti but that it was unfit for making bread, the Centre suggested that it should be mixed with Indian-made flour and used for making bread.

5. *Fumigation of maida:* When I expressed surprise at the fumigation

[Shri Madhu Limaye]

of maida the Minister agreed with me and said "I think, maida or atta as such cannot be fumigated". But he did not answer my specific question as to whether maida stored in a Delhi godown had been fumigated or not. I even mentioned that the Director of Storage and Inspection, Food Ministry Delhi had fumigated maida in order to kill the weevils, and other worms that were making this maida unfit for human consumption. This fumigation took place on 22nd July, 1966 or thereabouts. His statement that most of it has already been consumed is incorrect. Even today flour is rotting in Government godowns and the bakers in Maharashtra are being forced to take at least some percentage from this imported maida and the rest of it from the imported wheat ground in this country.

6. *How Weevils Breed:* The Food Minister also did not answer Dr. Lohia's question about the breeding of these weevils during their journey from the place of export in the United States to their actual sale to the consumer or to the flour mills. The fumigation process destroys the weevils but not the eggs. Obviously the Minister is unaware of what makes the American 'B' grade wheat deteriorate so fast that by the time it is stored in our godowns and sold to the flour mills and the consumers it becomes 'C' grade or even 'D' grade.

7. *Inspection at loading point:* Mr. Subramaniam's statement that both "before their loading at ports in the U.S.A. and at the time of their unloading at the Indian ports, these foodgrains are subjected to detailed inspection in regard to their suitability for human consumption according to the prescribed standards" is patently wrong. I can say that for the last 5 or 6 years, the Indian Supply Mission has had no inspection staff whatsoever and that the work of inspection and giving certificates about quality and suitability of the foodgrains is done by American firms of licensed surveyors if we agree to pay them

fee for the services rendered. As far as inspection at the point of loading is concerned this is done only in the case of rice imports and that too in Burma and not in the U.S.A.

I understand from a reliable source that grade and quality are determined for the entire shipment on board a single vessel, and grain sales being made on small margins, American exporters keep the quality down to the barest minimum. The Government of the importing country has the option of having its own inspection arrangement of engaging American Superintendment Corporations for this purpose, the cost being 1½ to 2½ per cent of the Freight Board Ship cost of the shipment, the cost having to be paid in dollars.

8. *Foreign matter in PL 480 Foodgrains:* The Food Minister's statement that foreign matter such as iron pieces have come from the 'rusted walls of the vessels' carrying foodgrains is not wholly correct. The fact is that steel pieces and scraps, including motor car parts, have been found in the imported grains. His conjecture about iron pieces entering the foodgrains from the rusted walls of the vessels does not explain this amazing phenomenon. It is obvious that this foreign matter does not 'enter' but is deliberately inserted by certain crooks in these shipments.

Statement in reply by the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation,
Shri C. Subramaniam

Sir, in reply to the points raised by Shri Madhu Limaye and Shrimati Renu Chakravarty, I would like to place the following facts before the House seriatim:—

1. *Liberty Ships:* In my reply given in the House on 1st August, 1966 in this connection I had agreed to enquire into the matter. It has since been ascertained that wheat being loaded on vessels for shipment to India is supplied from elevators and,

in no case, wheat stored in Liberty Ships is being supplied for loading.

2. *Old Stock:* Tests are carried out in our laboratory to estimate the age of the foodgrains imported by us and the results indicate that the bulk of the grains, as I stated earlier, represent production of last one or two years.

3. *Gift or Purchase:* During the last few months nine shipments of Atta (flour) and Maida were received by the Government and these were all gifts. None of these came from U.S.A. under PL-480. Possibly, the Honourable Members are under the impression that the small parcels being received by some voluntary organizations in India under Title III of PL 480 for their own distribution programmes are being received by the Government as gifts. Such parcels are only handled at the ports by our Regional Directorates; but further distribution is the responsibility of the concerned organisations.

I may assure the House that every consignment of Atta and Maida received by the Government is analysed and it is released only after ensuring that it is fit for human consumption. We have so far received about forty eight thousand tonnes of Maida and flour as gift. There is now a balance only of 779 tonnes with us.

4. *Bakers Coerced:* It is not a fact that the flour and maida were either rotten or weevil-ridden. Bakers were reluctant to take Italian maida because of its low water absorption capacity which, during the course of baking, did not allow sufficient rising of the bread. Tests conducted in Delhi and Bombay showed that when this flour was blended with locally produced flour, the bread produced was normal. Therefore, in the issues made both the varieties of flour were simultaneously released.

5. *Fumigation of Maida:* With regard to fumigation of maida I have obtained the technical opinion and I am informed that maida or flour can

be fumigated. Bulk of the maida in Delhi was fumigated between the 18th and the 20th of June, 1966. About the maida in Central Storage I have already explained the position earlier.

6. *How Weevils Breed:* All the wheat received from the U.S.A. is of 'A' category. During the last few years there has been no consignment of 'B' category as stated by the Honourable Members. It will also not be correct to say that fumigation does not destroy the eggs. Some of the fumigants, such as Methyl Bromide, Phostoxin and Ethylene Dibromide, all of which are in use with us, destroy the eggs of the insects also. In our storage the quantity of wheat which slid down to categories 'C' and 'D' is very insignificant.

7. *Inspection at Loading Points:* It is correct that in the United States, our Supply Mission has no staff for carrying out quality inspection of grain at the loading ports. When it came to my notice that some inaccurate information had been given by me in answer to one or two supplementary questions in the House on 1st August, 1966, I had sent to the Lok Sabha Secretariat on 19th August, 1966 a statement I proposed to make in the House with the object of explaining the factual position in this regard. If the Chair permits I will place a copy of that statement on the Table of the Sabha now. In that country all the grain sold for export is examined in relation to the official grain standards. Further, under the U.S. Grain Standards Act, the grain is to be sampled and inspected by persons licensed for the purpose by the U.S. Government. The work of the licensed inspectors is also supervised by a federal agency of the U.S. Government. Loading of a particular grade of grain, inspection of quality and certification of the grain loaded in respect of foodgrains exported to India under PL-480 are the same as in respect of any other exports of foodgrains from the U.S.A. The standard procedure of inspection involves continuous sampling of the grain as it moves on the conveyors to the ship,

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thus maintaining the representative character of the sampling. It cannot be said that the American exporters keep the quality to the barest minimum since against contracts for supply of Grade II, they have also supplied wheat of Grade I. The question of appointing officers of the Government of India for inspection of quality at the loading points in the U.S.A. was fully considered. It was felt that our own inspection arrangements were unnecessary in view of the existing arrangements which had been found to be satisfactory.

8. *Foreign matter in PL-480 food-grains*: The samples of foreign matter brought to our notice so far support the presumption that these have come from the vessels and not from outside. I may also mention that in the United States grain is loaded through automatic weighing and loading machines and these cannot allow passage of heavy metal parts through them. The contention that this foreign matter is deliberately inserted by certain crooks appears to be without any substance.

13.26 hrs.

RE: RAIDS ON THE PREMISES OF ORR DIGNUM & CO.

Mr. Speaker: Then we take up further consideration of the....

Shri Daji (Indore): Before we proceed further, I want to seek clarification. Yesterday a very serious question was raised and you were good enough to take the papers and you said that you would give the ruling about Mr. Sachindra Chaudhuri....

Mr. Speaker: I have read that. Certain doubts have been raised—naturally they do arise—from the statements that were made. Probably some interference was made in the process of proceedings or enquiry that was made. I have asked the Minister that he should make a full statement on all the events that have happened. He should make that statement on Monday. The Finance Minister might be informed that he should make that statement on Monday.

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब वह बयान देने वाले हैं तो एक बात आप उनके पास भेज देने की कृपा करें। वह जो दस्तावेज टेबिल पर रखा था.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप जो चीज चाहते हैं, वह मुझे लिख दें।

श्री मधु लिमये: मैं चाहता था कि सदन को भी पता चल जाय। मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा।

वह जो दस्तावेज रखा था, उसमें एक बात है। जो सचिव श्री आर० सी० दत्त साहब हैं, उन्होंने एन्फोर्समेंट डायरेक्टोरेट से मांग की कि वह निम्न बातों की रपट दे—

“The specific provisions of the law under which the searches were conducted to the extent, if any, to which the approval of the Headquarters was obtained.....”

इसका अर्थ हुआ कि इस छापे के लिये मंत्रालय की इजाजत ले ली गई है या नहीं। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि डा० तेजा को वे गिरफ्तार कर सकते थे, लेकिन डर के मारे उन्होंने मामला मंत्रालय के पास भेजा, जब कि कानून के अनुसार उनका पूरा अधिकार है। इस बात पर भी वे प्रकाश डालें।

13.28 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker: We shall now proceed with the further consideration of the motion for reference of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill to a Joint Committee.

Mr. P. K. Deo.

Shri Sezhiyan (Perambalur): I want to make a submission. There is a printing error in the motion that has been circulated. In the last paragraph it has been stated:

“that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 members....”