

Dairy Projects in Punjab

3610. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state the total amount allotted by the Central Government for the Dairy Projects in Punjab during the Third Five Year Plan period?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shinde): Rs. 180.00 lakhs.

One hundred and eighty lakhs of rupees only.

12.15 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF ORISSA

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The extreme shortage of foodgrains in certain parts of Orissa, arising out of drought and control over the movement of foodgrains."

Mr. Speaker: Yes, the Minister.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Before the Minister replies, may I point out that we have also given a calling attention notice, specifically drawing attention to the statement of the Chief Minister in the matter?

Mr. Speaker: That would also come under this.

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri C. Subramaniam): Orissa is one of the States which have been affected by drought in 1965-66. The rainfall over some of the areas in the State has been deficient and according to the estimates made by the State Government, in the kharif crop area, the crops have been damaged almost

completely in about 16 per cent and partially damaged in about 36 per cent of the total area. The districts that are either wholly or partially affected are Bolangir, Koraput, Kalahandi, Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Dhenkanal and Cuttack. A Study Team led by an Adviser to Planning Commission which visited the State, has reported that the main problem in the State is one of finding employment for the low income groups than of finding food. Even in this difficult year when production has been less than last year, the availability of foodgrains within the State is such as to provide food to the people at a reasonable level. There is no necessity for any supply of rice from the Centre and there has been no demand for the supply of rice from Orissa. But the Centre has been allotting wheat to Orissa and the allotments of wheat have been increased to 13,500 tonnes per month for the last two months and a further 5,000 tonnes is being allotted this month as asked for by the Orissa Government.

There is no inter-district ban on movement of rice in Orissa up to a limit of 5 quintals at a time. Larger quantities will have to be moved by permits issued by the district authorities and these permits are being issued quite liberally. The Orissa Government are running 695 fair prices shops in the affected districts and the weekly oftake from these shops is about 10,600 quintals. The State Government would be opening more shops as and when the need arises.

Orissa Government are quite aware of the situation in the State and have been taking all steps necessary to meet the situation. Procurement of rice has been undertaken by Orissa Government and upto the end of March a total quantity of 1,76,000 tonnes in terms of rice has been procured. The bulk of this quantity is being used by the State Government for feeding the people within the State. Thus, every effort is being made by the State Government to see that foodgrains are available in reasonable quantities wherever the need arises.

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। मंत्री महोदय गोल-मोल जवाब दे देते हैं। जब कोई इस तरह का घ्यानाकरण प्रस्ताव आता है तो उसका जवाब देने के कुछ नियम होते हैं। कुछ जो बुनियादी सवाल हैं उनका जवाब ही नहीं दिया जाता है। इन्होंने यह नहीं बताया है कि खाद्य की कितनी कमी है। यह कह दिया है कि इतना भेजा है। यह भी नहीं बताया पहले जो सदन में . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठ जाइये। कोई प्वाइंट ऑफ आर्डर नहीं है।

Shri P. K. Deo: Recently I have been from that area and in spite of the so-called every effort being made by the Government, daily reports are pouring in that even in Kalahandi which is supposed to be the second surplus district in the State and which used to export 50,000 tons of wheat every year, there are daily reports of starvation deaths or you may call deaths due to mal-nutrition from every part and that there has been mass exodus of people to different areas leaving the helpless children and old people in the villages. The Chief Minister has come out with a statement which I quote:

"Unless the Centre gave adequate financial assistance and supply of foodstuffs to meet the grave situation in the State, you will not find me here."

He has threatened to resign. Under these circumstances, may I know what definite financial aid and specially the food supply has been made to that State to meet this abnormal situation?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The Chief Minister was here and has gone back to Orissa. The very fact that he has threatened that he will not be found there if he is not satisfied and the very

fact that he has returned back to Orissa shows that he has been satisfied to the extent necessary.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Question.

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as the other assistance is required, 6,744 relief works have been started in the various parts of the State and by the middle of March the total number of persons employed on these relief works is 3,82,381 and it is expected that during this month it will increase to more than 5 lakhs of people. In addition to that, we have given financial assistance for the purpose of meeting the requirements of these relief works. 1000 tonnes of wheat have been allotted for distribution as gratuitous relief to the old and infirm people in the drought-affected areas. Instruction for allotment of another 1000 tonnes of wheat are being issued. 1000 tonnes of milk powder has been allotted for supply to children and expectant and nursing mothers. Further quantities will be allotted shortly. 9,96,500 vitamin tablets have been supplied for distribution to the vulnerable population in the drought-affected areas. 175 tonnes of biscuits have been allotted for distribution to children between the age of 2 to 5 years in the scarcity-affected areas of the State. Therefore, whatever assistance is required by the State Government is being made available. The Chief Minister was with me....

Shri P. K. Deo: It is adding insult to injury.

Shri C. Subramaniam: The Chief Minister was with me for two hours discussing the various things. He never expressed any dissatisfaction with regard to the assistance from the Central Government.

Shri R. Barua (Jorhat): The scarcity conditions must have been anticipated in due time by the Government. The Chief Minister of Orissa expressed his helplessness. It shows that there must

have been the lack of communication between the two Governments. Why was it that the Government could not take timely steps to rush in food there before the Chief Minister could come out with such a statement?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not know whether the statement has any basis because he never expressed a view in conformity with the supposed statement and its publication in the newspaper. As a matter of fact, in the Chief Ministers' Conference he wanted to correct the impression which has been created by the wrong report in the newspaper.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद):
22 फरवरी को श्री मुन्नहाण्यम ने श्री किशन पटनायक के सवाल का जवाब देते हुए इसी सदन में कहा था कि उड़ीसा में धान और चावल की कमी नहीं है बल्कि बहुतायत है। इसलिए सब से पहले मैं आप से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि 22 फरवरी के बाद से तो कोई पानी और बरसात का सवाल ही नहीं सकता है, 22 फरवरी में और आज में यह दो बिल्कुल मुश्किल बयान है। इस से साफ है कि एक बात झूठी है। तो क्या इस आधार पर लोक सभा की कार्रवाई चल सकती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मेरे लिये इस का जवाब देना मुश्किल है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: मैं आप का ध्यान इस पर खींचना चाहता हूँ कि 22 फरवरी को श्री मुन्नहाण्यम ने यहाँ पर कहा था . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय: अब आप सवाल कीजिये, उस को मैं देख लूंगा।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: सवाल तो मैं कर लूंगा लेकिन अगर इसी तरह से लोक सभा की कार्रवाई चलती रहे झूठ के आधार पर तो इस का लाभ क्या है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप सवाल कीजिये। मैं देख लूंगा कि उन्होंने क्या कहा था।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: आप की बड़ी मेहरबानी होगी अगर इस का पता लगाइयेगा। इस के साथ साथ . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय: अब आप सवाल करें।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: मुन्नहाण्यम साहब ने यहाँ पर एक बार कहा था—बैसे तो उम के खिलाफ बातें उन्होंने कई बार कही हैं—लेकिन एक बार यहाँ कहा था कि जो अंग्रेजों ने अकाल संहिता बनाई थी वह खत्म हो चुकी है और अब उस के लिये अलग से नियम बनाये गये हैं। मैं ने बहुत कोशिश की कि मैं उन की अकाल संहिता को कहीं देख पाऊँ। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या श्री मुन्नहाण्यम आजाद हिन्दुस्तान की नई अकाल संहिता यहाँ मेज पर रखने के लिये तैयार हैं। आप उन से वह अकाल संहिता यहाँ पर रखवायें। फीमिन कोड, जो अंग्रेजों का था वह खत्म हो चुका है, यह वह कह चुके हैं इसी सदन में तो उन का कोड कहाँ है वह बतनायें।

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether that can be placed on the Table of the House.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: है ही नहीं, रखेंगे क्या जो है नहीं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: यह उन को कहना है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: वह रख ही नहीं पायेंगे।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: उन को जवाब तो दे देने दीजिये।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: आप ने कहा कि "मे बी लेड धान दि टेबल आफ दि हाउस"।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैं उन से पूछ रहा हूँ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: बहुत अच्छा, आप की बड़ी मेहरबानी है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: The past famine code laid very rigorous conditions for relief works and also in regard to payment of wages, it was almost a starvation wage. We have removed all those restrictions. Whenever there is scarcity and there is distress, we now start relief works. With regard to payment of wages, it is not the starvation wage that we are paying now; we are paying roughly 75 to 90 per cent of the normal wages. In addition to that, we open fair price shops there and sell to these people foodgrains—10 kilograms per month—at controlled rate. All these were certainly not contemplated in the British Famine Code. These are the new changes that we have brought about.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह विन्तुन गलत जवाब दे रहे हैं उस किताब के बारे में जो कि फीमिन कोड है। उस वक्त उन्होंने ठीक उल्टा जवाब दिया था। कांग्रेसों के जमाने के फीमिन कोड में लिखा हुआ था कि अकाल मुख्यतः राज्यों की जिम्मेदारी है, इन के फीमिन कोड में यह मान लिया गया है कि अकाल मुख्यतः केन्द्र की जिम्मेदारी है। तो वह फीमिन कोड कहाँ है यह बतलायें, या कि सब जबानी जमाखर्च है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: I never said that it is the responsibility of the Centre to work the famine relief code, that it is the responsibility of the States. The hon. Member may look into the Constitution.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या आप इस से सन्तुष्ट हो गये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जी हाँ। श्री मीर्य।

श्री मीर्य : (अलीगढ़) : सूखा के कारण उड़ीसा में अकाल पड़ गया है, और उस अकाल से वहाँ की जनता को बचाने के लिये केन्द्र बहुत सी खाने की चीजें भेज रहा है। जो अकाल वाले जिले हैं वहाँ पर दूकानें बगैरह

खोली जा रही हैं। जब कहीं अकाल पड़ता है तो बदनसीब इन्सान बदइन्तजामी से मारे जाते हैं। इस में सरकार की सीधी सीधी जिम्मेदारी आती है। तो क्या इस की व्यवस्था की गई है और देख-रेख रखी गई है कि जो सस्ते गल्ले की दुकानें और राशन की दूकानें खोली जा रही हैं और जो सहायता की जा रही है वह खेतिहर मजदूरों तक पहुँच रही है या नहीं क्योंकि जो भी आप की तरफ से सहायता होती है, जो दूकानें खूलती हैं, जो प्रोग्राम चलते हैं वह शहरों तक ही सीमित रह जाते हैं और खेतिहर मजदूर बेमौत मरते रहते हैं। क्या इस की व्यवस्था की गई है, और साथ साथ क्या आप इस बात की देख-रेख कर रहे हैं कि आप की सहायता खेतिहर मजदूरों तक पहुँच रही है या नहीं।

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes, Sir, all these relief works and fair price shops are for the benefit of the rural areas and in the rural areas.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The hon. Minister stated in reply to a Short Notice Question that nine small children died in some of the districts; he did not use the word 'starvation', but he said, "long malnutrition". I would like to know whether it is a fact that, in the district of Kalahandi and other districts, which are supposed to be surplus areas, 27 or 28 more children have died and some more are facing starvation deaths because of non-availability of food and if so, whether any inquiry will be made into the mis-handling of the food situation and the bungling by the Centre and the State alike.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have not heard about the death of 27 children; I am hearing it for the first time from the hon. Member.

As far as the supply is concerned, we have taken note of the scarcity conditions in certain areas and we are, to the extent possible, making all necessary supplies—wheat, vitamin

tablets, milk powder and various other things.

Shri Banga: The question is whether there is proper distribution of the things which are being made available.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I make a submission?

Mr. Speaker: He might pass on the information to the Minister.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The second part of my question has not been answered, i.e., whether there is going to be an inquiry into the bungling of the Centre and the State alike.

Shri C. Subramaniam: We do not contemplate instituting any inquiry.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): According to the statement of the Chief Minister of Orissa, about six million people, almost one-third of the population of Orissa, need immediate relief and there are starvation deaths which have been admitted by the Deputy Minister in the State Assembly. The Sarvodaya workers have even published the names of 30 persons who have died on account of starvation. In view of these conditions, may I know whether Central Government is thinking of sending there any team to know the conditions themselves, whether any special assistance will be given so that the people there are able to carry on their agricultural operations and there is no crop failure next time, and whether any special attempt is made to ensure proper distribution of whatever help is given there.

Shri C. Subramaniam: We periodically send teams from here for the purpose of finding out whether proper distribution arrangements have been made and if there are any defects, to point out to the State Governments to remove those defects. I also intend visiting Orissa very soon and I shall visit the areas to find out whether the distribution arrangements are satisfactory.

Dr. U. Misra (Jamshedpur): I want to know whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the picture in *The Samaja*, one of the leading papers of Orissa, of as late as 10th April, 1966...

Mr. Speaker: He might put his question.

Dr. U. Misra: The picture shows that there is starvation—only bone and skin...

Mr. Speaker: It can be passed on to the Minister. Now he might put his question.

Dr. U. Misra: The earlier statement of the Minister that the Orissa Government is doing what is necessary is not in conformity with this picture. So will the Government at the Centre take the responsibility without leaving the fate of the people to be decided by the Orissa Government?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There is a responsible government functioning in the State and we have to depend on that for the purpose of making the various arrangements, unless we think that it is necessary for the Centre to take over the administration. I am sure the Orissa State Government would have looked into the picture and would have looked into those publications. As I have already informed the House, only yesterday I had long discussions with the Chief Minister with regard to the various steps to be taken and I hope that satisfactory arrangements will be made.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Barrackpore): A little while ago, quite a large amount of rice was sent from Orissa to Kerala. In view of the fact that...

An hon. Member: Her State has got it.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: We have not yet got it; we have just got the promise.

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.]

My point is this. If there has been so much non-availability of food in Orissa, why has this been allowed? I want to know whether the whole affair is arising out of mal-distribution or is arising out of hoarding. What is the position? Why is the Government not taking any steps?

Shri P. K. Deo: It is a man-made famine.

Shri C. Subramaniam: Even in spite of the drought, there are certain areas where rice is in surplus and the State Government is procuring it and using the rice because there is demand for rice not only in Kerala but also in the State from which the hon. lady Member comes. We have to satisfy them also. In place of rice, we give them large quantities of wheat and various other commodities and the Orissa Government say that they are quite acceptable to take this heat. As a matter of fact, we have offered two tonnes of wheat for every tonne of rice which they would be giving to us.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: Surplus rice is available there, and that is taken away to the other States. The State Government do not supply rice to the scarcity areas, and now the hon. Minister comes forward and says that he would give them wheat. But the people there do not know how to prepare and how to eat this wheat.

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not as if they are not distributing rice there. Out of 1,76,000 tonnes procured there, they have given only about 60,000 or 70,000 tonnes. They are distributing the other one lakh tonnes there.

Shri A. V. Raghavan (Badagara): What is the view of the State Government in regard to the introduction of statutory rationing in Orissa?

Shri C. Subramaniam: At present, the Orissa Government do not intend to introduce statutory rationing.

Shri P. K. Deo: Four people died.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: It has been introduced in Rourkela.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Ambalapur): May I know whether it is a fact that the State Government had requested the Union Government to advance loans for the procurement of rice, and if so, whether the Union Government failed to advance the necessary loans to the State Government, and as a result of that, their procurement drive has failed? There was a statement to that effect.

Shri C. Subramaniam: This has not been brought to my notice. If there has been any failure of procurement because of finance not being available, certainly I am prepared to look into it.

Mr. Speaker: Now, papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon): on a point of order . . .

Mr. Speaker: I shall call him afterwards.

Shri Rama Chandra Mallick (Jajpur): I had written to you requesting for an opportunity . . .

Mr. Speaker: Mere writing does not give him that right.

12.43 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

UPSC (EXEMPTION FROM CONSULTATION) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Minister of Defence Supplies in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Hathi): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 1966, published in Notification No. GSR. 388 in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1966, under article 320 (5) of the Constitution, together