

(c) whether it is also a fact that the firms have refused payment of the principal amounts and stopped paying monthly interest to the depositors for the last several months; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint an Administrator just as they have done in the case of M/s. Anand Finance (P) Ltd. for the above firm also to protect the interests of the depositors?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) and (b). The Company has accepted deposits from the public to the tune of several lakhs of rupees, but the exact amount of such deposits could not yet be ascertained, as the accounts of the company have not been audited since 1961.

(c) Complaints received by the Company Law Board indicate that the management have refused payments to depositors in several cases.

(d) On a petition under Section 391 of the Companies Act, the High Court, Punjab have appointed a Board of Directors of Anand Finance Private Limited. Government had no hand in the said appointment.

Reserve Bank Loan to Bihar Cooperatives

2606-D. Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha: Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India propose to sanction a loan of Rs. 4 crores for short term to Bihar Cooperatives;

(b) if so, the conditions of the loan;

(c) the steps to be taken so that the conditions of loan are fulfilled; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for conversion of short term loans into medium term loans?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED LIKELIHOOD OF SUSPENSION OF U.S. GRAIN SHIPMENTS

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha (Barh): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

Reported likelihood of suspension of U.S. grain shipments.

श्री बागडी (हिसार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस पर मेरी एक व्यवस्था है। इस घनान आकर्षण से बिहार राज्य के अनाज का सम्बन्ध है, इसके बारे में जो काल-एटेंशन और काम रोको प्रस्ताव दिये गये हैं, क्या उनका जवाब इसी के साथ आयेगा और उन पर सवाल-जवाब होगा, जैसा कि बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री ने अपने बयान में कहा है कि इसकी सारी जिम्मेदारी केन्द्र पर है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह मैंने शाम को 6 बजे रखा है, इस वक्त एक से ज्यादा नहीं ले सकता हूँ।

The Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri C. Subramaniam): At present the bulk of our requirements of imported foodgrains are imported from USA under P L 480. The balance of funds still available under the September 1964 Agreement, as amended by exchange of letters from time to time, would enable a shipment of about 3.5 lakh tonnes of wheat and milo from U.S.A in December, 1966 With the quantities which have al-

ready been shipped or are expected to be shipped in December, 1966, the firm availability of wheat, milo and rice in January 1967 would be about 5.6 lakh tonnes. Our requirement of food grains at the present level of distribution from the Central stocks is about 8 lakh tonnes of imported foodgrains per month. We have, therefore, to fill in a gap of about 2.4 lakh tonnes in January and also provide for necessary imports for arrival during the month of February, 1967 onwards.

In August last, we had requested the U.S. Government for an additional allotment of two million tonnes of wheat and 0.25 million tonnes of rice under PL 480 for shipment up to December, 1966. The U.S. Government allotted additional funds under PL 480 in October, 1966 for purchase of about 2 lakh tonnes of foodgrains.

We had also made a proposal to the U.S. Government at the end of September, 1966 for the import under PL 480 of foodgrains for the calendar year 1967.

The delay in the finalisation of a new agreement appears to be due to the low state of the U.S. wheat reserves and the enactment of the new legislation amending the United States PL 480, which has been completed only recently. The U.S. Government have also been anxious, since their wheat reserves at present are very low, and some other important wheat producing countries have had bumper wheat crops, that these countries should take a larger share in meeting the food shortage in India and in providing a wider base for food assistance to this country.

We have no information about the alleged likelihood of suspension by U.S.A. of grain shipments to this country. So far as we are aware, no such decision has been taken, by the U.S. Government.

If a new agreement with the U.S. Government is not entered into with-

in the next few days, there would undoubtedly be a break in the continuity of shipments in December resulting in a shortfall in supplies in January. In order to meet this eventuality, we are taking steps for the purchase and timely import of some quantities of wheat on a commercial basis to cover this gap in the availabilities of foodgrains in January, 1967. In view of our extremely difficult foreign exchange position, we cannot naturally embark on any large scale imports of wheat on a commercial basis and we are hoping that a new agreement with the U.S. Government would be possible very soon.

We have also made approaches to certain other countries for supply of wheat on special terms.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the reported new agreement of which mention has been made in the call attention notice is on the basis of the insistence of the US Government that foodgrains would be supplied only on the basis of cash and carry and whether a deadlock had been on that issue with the result there is the discontinuation of the supply which was already committed by the US overnment?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No, Sir; that is not a fact.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Two questions are allowed, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Only one.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: You have been allowing two questions to the Member who gives notice.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; she is mistaken; only one question is allowed for each Member.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): The Bell Mission that has enquired into our requirements for food have recommended the necessity of procuring food and at present there is another Committee or Mission sent from Washington that has enquired into

(Shri Hem Barua).

necessity, and from Washington it has been said that it was only in October that our Government have requested Washington to send us foodgrains and all that. In that context, may I know how far it is a fact that the stand our Government have taken on the Vietnam issue has affected the US decision to impose a freeze on sending foodgrains as required by us?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as I am aware, I do not think that it has anything to do with the decision with regard to the PL 480 arrangements.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): Now that this crisis has arisen, and the Minister himself has said that during January and February we are likely to run into great difficulties, although many warnings had been given that we should not allow our food position to become dependent on PL 480 precisely for this reason, may I know what steps, in view of this new emergency, the Government propose to take during these intervening months to mobilise more fully whatever is available internally in this country, so that it may be properly procured and evenly rationed out, instead of—as is reported—the tendency of the Government to relax its policy of procurement and rationing and go in the opposite directions?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We are intensifying our efforts at procurement and I am hoping that the State Governments' performance would be satisfactory in this respect.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): The question of import under PL 480 has become a question of national humiliation for the country. I would like to know whether it is a fact that this dillydally tactics of the US Government is due to the fact that they would supply regularly under PL 480 they will delay it till the elections are over—only if they get a Government of their own choice after the elections.

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is rather an embarrassing question for me to answer with regard to the policy of another government. I do not think that is the policy of the US Government.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They are delaying matters.

Mr. Speaker: He has answered it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has not referred to the recent statement of President Johnson.

Mr. Speaker: He has replied that he does not think that is the policy.

Shri Alvares (Panjim): The hesitancy of the US Government on the issue of foodgrains is similar to the hesitancy on the Bokaro crisis and also in the matter of setting up the fertiliser complex, in the fertiliser deal, where the US Government refused to concede our demand unless certain conditions favourable to the industry there were conceded. Now that the special agricultural Mission of the President of the US has come and says that the agricultural programmes are now of a serious nature, may I know whether the Minister holds out a better prospect of US food and than before?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I really could not follow the trend of the question.

Mr. Speaker: Whether the Minister holds out better promise now than before.

Shri Alvares: Now that the Mission has said that our agricultural programmes are of a most serious nature than previously, does the Government hold out better prospects of US food aid than before?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have given main statement.
whatever prospects are there in my

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : श्रीमन्, सरकार एक तरफ अपने को तटस्थ कहती है, दूसरी तरफ मांगने के लिये दूसरे देशों के दरवाजे पर जाती है। तटस्थ के मायने हैं— दरिया के किनारे पर बैठा हुआ, दरिया पर वही बैठा है जो घरवालों से नाराज हो या जो खुदगामी बनना चाहता हो। एक तरफ तो हिन्दुस्तान के नागरिक को दक्षिण विद्यतनाम जाने की सुविधा नहीं दे रहे हैं, दूसरी तरफ शिकायत करते हैं कि हम को वह खाने के लिये नहीं दे रहा है, दोनों में से कौन सी पालिसी चल सकती है, भोज्य मांगने की चल सकती है या तटस्थता की चल सकती है ?

प्रध्यक्ष महोदय : आप क्या चाहते हैं ?

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जो दाम्त को दास्त न कह सके, प्रार दुश्मन का दुश्मन न कह सके, वह क्या जिन्दगी है।

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah (Adoni) : Whatever may be the real facts about the supply of foodgrains by the USA, the foreign press has been playing up this aspect of the matter and attributing motives of political pressure on our Government; in view of this fact, may I know whether the Government is serious about the building up of the buffer-stock which they have given out previously, and whether they would like to enter into bilateral agreements with such countries as USSR, where there is reported to be a bumper wheat crop and if so, what steps do Government propose to take in this direction in right earnest first for building up, buffer stocks and also for negotiating with countries where foodgrains are available?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Buffer stocks cannot be built up when there has been continuous drought for two years. That can be done only when there is normal production and it would be our endeavour to do so. Regarding bilateral agreements, we are trying to get foodgrains from whatever sources they are available. But unfortunately no other country except USA has got

quantities of such magnitude which we require.

श्री विश्वनाथ पाण्डेय (सलेमपुर) : श्रीमन्, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका में अनाज का लदान स्थगित किये जाने की सम्भावना के आधार पर क्या सरकार ने कानूनन राजनिग क्षेत्र में राशन की कटौती करने का विचार किया है और किया है तो किस मात्रा में किया है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: On this we have not taken any decision yet. The whole position will be reviewed by about 15th December.

श्री नव लिये (मुर्गैर) : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय का अनाज अमरीका सिनेटर जीर्ज मेक्गवर्न के इस मापण को प्रार गया है जिसमें उन्होंने कहा है :

I think any freeze at this time is a politically hazardous operations on our part. The Indian Government is faced with an election in February and any acute shortage on the eve of that election might very well bring down the Government that is friendly to us.

श्रीर अने टाइटन-क्रॉक उद्योग के महापुरु का यह वाक्य है। टाइटन-क्रॉक उद्योग के प्रतिनिधि कौन हैं ?

While none is sure of the President's current intentions he appears determined to give India a jolt both on account of his impression of inadequate performance and also on account of her unhelpful Vietnam policy.

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन यह राय का मसला न केवल अमरीकी राजनीति का बल्कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय राजनीति का प्रश्न भी बन गया है, इसलिये इसकी रौशननी में मुल्क को बाध के बारे में जल्द से जल्द एक निश्चित समय के अन्दर, आत्मनिर्भर बनाने के लिए सरकारी चतुर्थ योजना में कौन से उपाय करने जा रही है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I have dealt with this on very many occasions. We have a plan and we hope to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains by the end of the fourth plan.

Shrimati Renuka Rey (Malda): In view of the Minister's reply that these 2 million tonnes will not in any case arrive in time and the fact that USA have been very concerned about the fertiliser conditions which the private interests in USA want to their own benefit and also other political factors, I would like to know whether the minister has taken a firm decision to procure 2 million tonnes within the country and inform the US Government that while we appreciate their help very much, this two million tonnes is not necessary?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think we are in a position to take that attitude. First of all, it is not merely question of 2 million tonnes. We have to tide over the whole of 1967 till we get the normal kharif crop. Therefore, if it is not available from USA on those terms, on other terms we should get it either from USA or other countries.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्रुखाबाद): मुझे कन्नौज में दो दिन पहले एक देहाती ने कहा :

“खायें खसम की, गायें यार की” ।

मेहूँ खायें अमरीका का, गीत गायें रूस का ।

श्री त्यागी (देहरादून) : यह श्रीरतों की बात है ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : जनाब आप की सरकार भी तो श्रीरतों की सरकार है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस हाजस में श्रीरत, मदं बराबर हैं ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : ख़ास तौर से महावीर त्यागी जी, आप तो जानते ही हैं । ख़ैर, इस अवस्था में मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या अमरीका की सरकार या उनसे जुड़े हुए

किन्हीं तत्वों ने भारत सरकार को सलाह दी कि वे रूस से भी अन्न मंगवायें और अगर ऐसी बात हो तो भारत सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया हुई है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Sir, as I already stated, we are trying to find out whether foodgrains will be available from other sources also. We have also contacted USSR in this connection.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल का जवाब आना बाकी है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने कहा तो है कि उनसे बातचीत की है ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अमरीका सरकार या उससे किन्हीं जुड़े हुए तत्वों ने क्या उनको सलाह दी कि आप रूस से गेहूँ मांगें; हाँ या ना में जवाब दें ?

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether USA advised this Government?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No such advice has been given.

श्री मधु लिमये : यह अखबारों में है ।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : मैं समझता हूँ जवाब वह समय कर ही दे रहे हैं क्योंकि विशेषाधिकार का सवाल हो जायेगा ।

Shri P. E. Chakraverti (Dhanbad): May I know whether during our Prime Minister's visit to USA and her talks which the US President there was any indication given about US's anxiety for other countries to take the largest share of food supplies to meet the food shortage in India; if not, whether the latest communique signed by the two Presidents of UAR and Yugoslavia and our Prime Minister has created this trouble?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think this communique has anything to do with this.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): The Minister in his earlier reply stated that he does not know if there is any decision with regard to freeze on the part of USA. May I draw his attention to the Press interview given by the Prime Minister—day-before-yesterday's papers have published it—in which she calls for austerity because there is a freeze? I would like to know: (a) if there is a freeze on the part of USA or not, and (b) whether that contact with the USSR has been made and what is the response? He simply stated that they are in contact with the USSR Government. I would like to know what has been the response of the Government of USSR which allegedly has a bumper crop this year?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As I have already stated, we have formally approached the USSR Government to find out whether they can spare any foodgrains for us, particularly wheat. We have not had any response as yet.

Shri Nath Pai: What about the "freeze"? Sir, I quoted the Prime Minister.

Mr. Speaker: He says that there has been no response.

Shri Nath Pai: I am satisfied with that. He said that there has been no response. It is an understandable, intelligible answer. What about the first part of my question, about the "freeze" on the part of USA?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No, Sir. As I have already said, there is likely to be a gap, particularly in January-February, in regard to meeting up that gap we have to take certain steps and that is what the Prime Minister has referred to.

Shri Nath Pai: "Freeze" is the word, Mr. Speaker.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Judging by the past and present attitudes of other countries, to what extent is the appeal for near global aid likely to bear fruit and to what extent all the troubles that are envisaged in

January-February likely to affect the election schedule, and may I know whether Government are in a position to categorically state in the House that their efforts, feeble as they were, to unearth hoarded food grains have met with ignominious failure?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As far as January-February is concerned, as I have already stated, we are making arrangements to get foodgrains for January-February.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: To what extent will they bear fruit?

Shri C. Subramaniam: We will see that it bears fruits. As far as unearthing of hoarded foodgrains is concerned, in certain States our efforts have been successful and in certain other States they have not been successful.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is a very vague answer. Let us have a categorical answer.

Mr. Speaker: He has asked so many questions in one. He has asked about the election schedule also, whether it will be affected.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think the food situation is likely to affect the elections.

Shri Maheshwar Nalk (Mayur-Bhanj): It is reported in the newspapers that India's request for food has been dealt with by the Departments concerned of the US Government and is pending with the President of USA and that the US President has asked the Indian Government to secure foodgrains from different countries. What is the attitude of the Government to this position?

Shri C. Subramaniam: The US President has not made any suggestion at any time. The position is that our requirements are of a certain magnitude and those quantities are available only from USA. We have to make arrangements for foodgrains from other sources also.