

SHRISUKHRAM: Mr. Speaker Sir, that the country is self-sufficient in foodgrains is evident from the fact that last year when the country was in the grip of a severe drought nearly 24 million tonnes of foodgrain, buffer stock was released and supplied in the country. We did not import foodgrain from outside. This proves that we are self-sufficient foodgrains.

As far as free trade is concerned, we give a support price so that the farmer does not resort to 'distress sale' of his produce. We buy at minimum prices so that farmers do not suffer a loss.

Others are free to sell wherever they wish to.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Movement of foodgrain is restricted in many States. With free trade it can move anywhere.

SHRI SUKH RAM: There is no zonal system anywhere. It can move everywhere. There is no ban on the movement of foodgrains.

[*English*]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: It is very wise of Mr. Shahabuddin to have asked this question. Certain figures have been given in the statement attached to the answer which give us an opportunity to understand the things. When I went through them I found that the percentage of lifting of foodgrains by the States varied from 14 to 105; certain States lifted only 14 per cent while some others lifted 105 per cent. In the matter of rice and also in the matter of wheat Kerala had lifted 105 per cent and 65 per cent respectively. The quantum has been reduced in some cases. For the last three years 145 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were given by the Public Distribution System but it has been reduced to 115 lakh tonnes only. That marks a reduction. And the question is by how much the consumption has gone up and what the ratio is. Here the ratio of lifting is given. It brings out certain startling facts.

Firstly, I would like to know the reasons for reducing the allocation for the States. Secondly, will the Government consider allotting rice in place of wheat if wheat is not required by a particular State as per their demands and re-allocate the quota of rice in respect of each State?

SHRI SUKH RAM: The Public Distribution System is only supplemental. It is not a substitution to the shortfall of the entire State's production. As a matter of fact, food is a State subject. We supplement the activities of the State Governments. As far as the allocation is concerned, as the hon. Members are aware, a year ago we had a very severe drought and there was a lot of off-take as I just now told the House and the food production also suffered on account of that and as a result of it, the procurement was also not to the extent we estimated; and with the coming down of the stock level and with a bumper crop we had in the Rabi and Kharif also, lot of foodgrains are available in the open market and we had to reduce the allocation of rice to the States by 20 per cent. It is not in the case of Kerala only but in all the States we have reduced it and I think we are meeting the demand of all the States to the maximum extent and as far as Kerala is concerned, 105 is only a percentage. That is on account of some carry-over stock or some balance of the previous months which was given to Kerala and members should feel happy that Kerala has been given the highest percentage. Kerala is the biggest lifter as far as the rice is concerned.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will you restore the earlier quantity?

Public Distribution System for tribal Areas

*738. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fair Price Shops opened so far in the tribal areas in different States, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to further strengthen

the Public Distribution System in the tribal areas?

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

STATEMENT

(a) The number of Fair Price Shops functioning in tribal areas of different States, as per available information, is given below:—

<i>State</i>	<i>Number of FPSs in Tribal Areas</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1. Andhra Pradesh	1442
2. Arunachal Pradesh	496
3. Assam	4573
4. Bihar	9954
5. Gujarat	4773
6. Himachal Pradesh	143
7. Karnataka	1668
8. Kerala	20 (opened since 1.4.1987)
9. Madhya Pradesh	5000 (approx.)
10. Maharashtra	2897
11. Manipur	558
12. Meghalaya	2786
13. Mizoram	788
14. Nagaland	305
15. Orissa	4401
16. Rajasthan	1137
17. Sikkim	209
18. Tamil Nadu	151 (in ITDP areas)
19. Tripura	367

1	2
20. Uttar Pradesh	473
21. West Bengal	2210 (In I.T.D.P.)
22. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	40
23. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	55
24. Daman & Diu	16
25. Lakshadweep	27

No tribal areas/ITDP areas exist in Goa, Haryana, J&K, Punjab and Union Territories of Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry.

(b) The States and Union Territories have been advised from time to time on the need to strengthen the P.D.S. in general, and particularly in tribal areas. They have been advised that in areas which cannot be covered by static fair price shops, mobile vans may be introduced to cover the consumers residing in tribal areas, etc. It was also suggested that sales centres could be opened to provide essential commodities at fixed price at the weekly haats in such areas. The implementation of Public Distribution System, however, is the responsibility of the State Governments.

The Central Government is also operating a Plan scheme to provide financial assistance to States/UTs for purchase of mobile vans for supply of essential commodities in tribal, remote, far-flung, desert and inaccessible areas. The Government has also launched a scheme for supply of concessional foodgrains to the people in the ITDP areas at specially subsidised rates (lower than the general PDS rates) in November, 1985.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister in the last para of his reply has stated that the Central Government is also operating a Plan scheme to provide financial assistance to States and Union Territories for purchase of mobile vans for supply of essential commodities in tribal areas. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that I come

from a tribal area of Orissa, where there are very few mobile vans and they visit 'haats' hardly once in fifteen days, that is two times in a month. It is very difficult for the tribals to purchase their monthly quota of rice in a month. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would try to double the number of mobile vans so that they can visit the market atleast once in a week and the tribal people can purchase their quota of rice four times a month.

SHRI SUKH RAM: The Orissa Government has been provided assistance for 22 mobile vans for catering to the needs of the tribal and other inaccessible areas. If there is a request from the Orissa Government, we will definitely consider it in order to solve the problem of the tribal and other difficult areas of Orissa...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA: He has asked for increase in the number of mobile vans...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, we provide the vehicle to the State Government. It is the duty of the State Government to ensure that they are utilised in the difficult, inaccessible areas and in the tribal areas. And this monitoring has to be done by the State Government...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA: You advise them.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Sir, my second supplementary question is this. In view of the fact that most of the tribals live below the poverty line and they could not afford to purchase rice or wheat from the ordinary public distribution shop, the subsidised scheme has been introduced to enable the tribals to purchase rice at subsidised rate to meet their daily requirement, to have two simple meals a day. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there was any increase in the price of delivery price in both P.D.S. and tribal areas. The increase of price in ordinary distribution shop was five paise per kg. from 25.1.89, whereas in tribal areas, the increase was thirty-four paise per kg. for common rice. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why the price of common rice has been increased from 160 paise to 194 paise in Tribal area and in ordinary shop the increase is from 239 paise to 244 paise.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Sir, as the hon. House is aware, the Prime Minister has introduced a special scheme for the tribal areas in 1985, under which highly subsidised foodgrains are issued to the tribal areas, which comes to about 191 blocks in the country catering to the population of 57 million [1981 Census]. The original assessed requirement, before the introduction of this scheme, was hardly five, six lakh tonnes a year. But now, we are issuing more than two million tonnes. In the last year, it was 22 lakh tonnes for this area. That itself shows to which extent we are meeting the demand of the tribal people in the country.

As far as the increase in price is concerned, there was a big difference between the issue price under the PDS and the issue price under the ITDP. So it had to be reduced so that there was not much misuse of the foodgrains we are issuing to the tribal areas. There is still a difference of Rs. 50/- per quintal between ITDP and PDS. The issue price of common variety of rice in the ITDP is Rs. 194 per quintal whereas under PDS it is Rs. 244 per quintal. The issue price of fine variety is Rs. 254 under ITDP whereas it is Rs. 304 under the PDS. Similarly, for the superfine variety, it is Rs. 275 per quintal

under ITDP and Rs. 325 per quintal under PDS system. So still the foodgrains are highly subsidised in these tribal areas.

SHRIBASUDEBACHARIA: Subsidised foodgrains are given only in tribal areas which are covered under ITDP scheme. The ITDP scheme covers only 45 per cent of the tribal population and 55 per cent of the tribals are outside the ITDP areas. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to extend the scheme to non-ITDP areas to cover the entire tribal population?

SHRI SUKH RAM: Only that block is covered under this scheme which has got tribal population of 50 per cent or more. And the block which has got less than 50 per cent of the tribal population is not covered under this scheme. The blocks which are covered under this scheme, there even the non-tribals are given the same facilities which are given to the tribals. It is not possible to extend the scheme to other areas where tribal population is less than 50 per cent because in that case other non-tribals also will have to be covered under this scheme. Let hon. Member take into consideration the magnitude of the financial assistance which the Government of India has to bear in this regard. Only when we can go into that.

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Mr. Speaker Sir, people from urban areas set up these shops in tribal areas. Although there are educated people in tribal areas, yet these shops are not given to them. As to the former, 90% of their business is conducted in the black market. People who could not even make their both ends meet are owners of two trucks today. I would like to know whether educated Adivasis will be given these shops.

The second thing I want to know is whether any action would be taken against black marketing about which I have written several times. Today people travel 100 kilometres to do business in our area. Will the local people be entrusted with the business activity over there?

SHRI SUKH RAM: I agree with the hon.

Member that in tribal areas, tribals should be given these shops and goods should be sold through them. For this purpose, we repeatedly write to State Governments and also hold meetings of the Advisory Committee. Those indulging in blackmarketing are liable to be severely punished. The State Governments have been given the authority to enforce the laws. The role of the Central Government is limited to supplying foodgrain to States. It is really the State Government's responsibility to keep the system free of such hassles. If any specific complaint has come to the notice of the hon. Member he is welcome to write to us and we shall take it up with the concerned State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: He has cited an instance which has come to his notice.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: We often hear of sub-standard food being supplied through M.R. Shops. They work in connivance with other shopkeepers taking rotten foodstuffs from them to distribute them particularly through centres in tribal areas. There are a large number of unemployed youth in my constituency. Will the Government allot M.R. Shops to them? Will the Government provide credit facilities in backward areas where people are unable to pay cash for purchases?

SHRI SUKHRAM: Mr. Speaker Sir, the Centre has asked State Governments to give priority to co-operatives and the educated unemployed. All work related to allotment and functioning of fair-price shops is the responsibility of the State Government. Priority has already been accorded to back-

ward areas. The hon. Member can bring complaints to our notice and we will write to the State Governments.

[English]

Setting Up of Unified Hospital Authority

*741. **SHRI RAMPYARE PANIKA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new hospitals under construction in Delhi;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a unified hospital authority to streamline the functioning of all the hospitals and to provide better medical care in Delhi; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The details of progress of new hospital construction in Delhi are given in the statement below.

(b) and (c). A proposal for reorganisation of medicare facilities in the Union Territory of Delhi, which inter-alia, includes the possibility of establishment of a Delhi Hospital Authority is under consideration. The suggestion envisages that a Delhi Hospital Authority should be set up to regulate, control and plan all activities related to provision of medical care in Delhi.