

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, August 6, 1984/
Srayana 15, 1906 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आज तो बड़ी मुश्किल हो गई ।

श्री राम बिलास पासवान : हम लोग ही तो कोरम पूरा करते हैं ।

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : The ruling party have announced the election month, so they have all gone to their constituencies...

(Interruptions)

SHRI MM LAWRENCE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this day 39 years before, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the victims of nuclear bombs by United States of America, and lakhs of people died because of that. I request you that the House may observe a two-minute silence in their memory.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not like that. It can only be done by the Business Advisory Committee. It is for whole House to decide and only then we can do it.

Performance of Agriculture in Punjab

*208 PROF. MADHU DANDA-
VATE :

SHRI R.N. RAKESH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent crisis in Punjab has affected the performance of agriculture in the State ;

(b) if so, the difficulties encountered by the peasants in Punjab ; and

(c) what concrete steps are proposed to improve the performance of agriculture in Punjab ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) (a) and (b) : In spite of the difficulties faced by the farmers of Punjab due to disturbed conditions the performance of agriculture in general during 1983-84 in the State has been better than before.

(c) In order to help the Punjab farmers to harvest a good Kharif crop this year steps have been taken by the State Government and the Government of India as given in the statement which is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Some of the important measures taken for helping the Punjab farmers in Kharif operations during 1984 are as follows :—

- (1) The Government of India and the National Bank of Rural Development have agreed to extend the period of recovery of long-term loan to the 31st of December, 1984, and of short-term loan till the 30th September, 1984. This could be extended further, if necessary. This will help the Cooperative Bank to advance loans for the current season without being disqualified because of overduses.

(2) The Government of India and NABARD have agreed that the defaulting farmers who could not repay the earlier loan because of disturbed conditions, would be allowed to draw further loans for kharif within the maximum credit limit allowed to them. Such loan will be given in kind.

(3) The NABARD have agreed to sanction the full credit limit of Rs. 122.5 crores as asked for by the State Government. If any additional credit limit is required, that too would be considered if asked for.

(4) In view of their special circumstances, the Central Cooperative Banks of the border Districts of Ferozepur, Amritsar, would be allowed 'non-overdue cover' assistance by the Central Government which is normally allowed to the Cooperative Banks of weaker States and special areas.

(5) A relief assistance of Rs. 1.93 crores has been given to the Punjab Government for conversion of short-term loan into medium-term loan in respect of those whose cotton crops suffered last year. This will improve the liquidity of the State Cooperative Bank.

(6) The Commercial Banks operating in Punjab are being advised by the Reserve Bank of India to step up their advances as short-term agricultural credit.

(7) To improve the flow of credit from the State Land Mortgage Bank, their recoveries would be taken into account not as on 30th June, 1984, but as on

30th June, 1983, when the recovery was 90%.

(8) The National Bank of Rural Development (NABARD) will extend interim finance of about Rs. 10 crores to support the loaning programme for the next 3 months of the Punjab Land Mortgage Bank.

(9) Since the State Government does not have sufficient budget provision for debenture contribution for the Punjab Land Mortgage Bank, the NABARD and the Central Government have agreed to advance their shares of contribution coming to 95% of the total to the Mortgage Bank without waiting for State Government's contribution of 5%.

(10) NABARD also agreed to relax the condition of 75% recovery in favour of the Punjab Land Mortgage Bank in order to extend assistance to the Bank through share capital.

(As a result of this massive credit assistance, it is expected that the short-term cooperative credit for Kharif would exceed Rs. 160 crores this year as against Rs. 143 crores last year and long-term loans may exceed Rs. 56 crores this year as against Rs. 44 crores last year).

(11) It has been decided by the Government of Punjab that there would be no increase in the level of tariff during 1984-85 and even the 25% increase in coal prices which has been passed to other sectors by 12% additional fuel escalation surcharge from February, 1984, will not be passed on to the farm sector.

(12) With regard to the service connection charges, the Government of Punjab have decided that there will be a reduction from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 1000/- in Kandi areas and a reduction from Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 2000/- in general areas.

(13) The Government of Punjab have also decided that over and above the increased procurement prices of paddy announced by the Government of India, they will give, as a special case, to the farmers of Punjab Rs. 3/- per quintal extra in respect of all varieties of paddy offered for procurement by Government agencies in the 1984 Kharif season.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

Sir, it is expected that while the Minister replies to different parts of the question, there would be no contradictions between the replies to various parts. First, I would like to know from the Minister, whether it is not a fact that in his reply to part (a) and part (b) of the question and the statement which he has laid on the Table of the House, there is a clear contradiction. For your information, I may tell you that in part (a) he has said that the performance of agriculture in general during 1983-84 in the State, that is Punjab, has been better than before. You may be satisfied, Sir, but not I. Then, in part (c) of the question, he has laid on the Table of the House a statement, and a number of parts of that statement indicate that the things are not quite all right in Punjab; in fact, the economy is in a bad state and the agriculture is in a very bad state, and that is why they are required to take certain measures to alleviate the sufferings of the peasants. For instance, in this statement he has said :

"The Government of India and the National Bank of Rural Development have agreed that the defaulting farmers who could

not repay the earlier loan because of disturbed conditions, would be allowed to draw further loans for kharif within the maximum credit limit allowed to them. Such loan will be given in kind.

Obviously, I take it that because the conditions of defaulting farmers are difficult, that is why, this is being offered. Then at (5) it is mentioned :

"A relief assistance of Rs. 193 crores has been given to the Punjab Government for conversion of short-term loan into medium term loan in respect of those whose cotton crops suffered last year. This will improve the liquidity of the State Cooperative Bank."

Here, again it is indicated that the agriculture is suffering and that is why, these ameliorative measures are being taken.

Again at (10)

"The National Bank of Rural Development also agreed to relax the condition of 75% recovery in favour of the Punjab Land Mortgage Bank in order to extend assistance to the Bank through share capital."

This again indicates that the conditions are bad.

Then (11) :

"It has been decided by the Government of Punjab that there would be no increase in the level of tariff during 1984-85 and even the 25% increase in coal prices which has been passed to other sectors by 12% additional fuel escalation surcharge from February, 1984, will not be passed on to the farm sector."

This is because the conditions are bad.

Lastly at (13) it is stated :

“The Government of Punjab have also decided that over and above the increased procurement prices of paddy announced by the Government of India, they will give, as a special case, to the farmers of Punjab Rs. 3/- per quintal extra in respect of all varieties of paddy offered for procurement by Government agencies in the 1984 Kharif season.”

This is because the procurement is bad, you want to give incentives. Nothing wrong. That is the correct step that you have taken. But all this very clearly indicates that the conditions are bad. Fortunately, you are also a farmer, not only the Speaker, and, therefore, you will realise that all these replies in the statement that he has laid on the Table of the House clearly indicate that the things are not all right. Probably by some jugglery of figures, you may show that the production is slightly better than what was in the last year, but, Sir, you know as an economic agricultural expert that certain targets are fixed for the season, and the performance is measured by finding out whether those targets are fulfilled, not by comparing what happened in the past. Therefore, is it not a fact that actually the performance of agriculture because of the disturbances is bad, and there are so many hardships for the agriculturists ?

I welcome the steps that you have rightly taken to improve the condition of agriculturists, and, therefore, would you not concede that what you have actually concealed in part (a) has been revealed in the statement ? Therefore the statement is bad and the performance is bad.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
I do not agree with the hon. Member. The performance can be judged only by

the production figure and whatever we have given to the farmers of Panjab is because they were in difficulty on account of the agitation, transport and other things. I would request the hon. Member to see the production figures. The target fixed for 1983-84 was 147.82 million tonnes, whereas the production is 147.7 million tonnes. There is no fall in it. Previous year it was 141.7 million tonnes, so the production has gone up, it has not gone down. The production has certainly increased, there is no fall.

So far as the procurement is concerned, the procurement is 82.01 lakh tonnes upto 28.7.1984, whereas in the previous year, it was 83.96 lakh tonnes. There also the progress is very good ; the procurement is upto the mark. The only thing is that because of the disturbances, we have given certain concessions to the farmers so that they can maintain the tempo of production in the coming season.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
My second supplementary relates to the trade between Kerala and Punjab Government in respect of agricultural committees. The Government of Kerala has repeatedly announced that their handloom industry which depend on cotton coming from Punjab is badly hit and the reason given by the Kerala Government is that they are not able to get adequate supply of cotton from Punjab because of bad conditions there. They are on record. I would like to know whether this is the correct position, whether the Kerala Government has rightly stated the position. That means, the cotton position in Punjab is in a bad state, and as a result of that Kerala is not able to get adequate cotton and the handloom industry is suffering.

Further, is it not a fact that the power supply to the agriculturists has suffered to a great extent ? I would also like to know whether as a result of the recent Bhakra Dam breach further distortions and constraints have

taken place, and whether you are taking proper care to see that it will not further damage the agricultural production, and other facilities that are required by the agriculturists.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
I do not know what the Kerala Government has written to the Government of Punjab, but it is a fact that due to the ball worm, the cotton crop has suffered, and there is less production because of the ball worm. It has nothing to do with the agitation.

As far as electricity is concerned, all over the country there is shortage of electricity. And we have time and again stressed with all the State Governments that adequate electricity should be given to the farmers. During the Input Fortnight which we have observed during the recent past also, we have requested all the State Governments to provide electricity to the farmers and if necessary they may cut it from the industry.

PROF. MADHU DANDAYATE :
What about Bhakra ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :
With regard to the damage from the cuts on the main Bhakra Canal, Haryana areas have suffered mostly and we have asked the Haryana Government to assess the damages and send their detailed report. We shall see what can be done to help the farmers of Punjab also.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उसमें लगभग 70-80 गाँव पंजाब के भी आते हैं

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH :
Punjab areas also have suffered due to cuts.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL :
What about Rajasthan ?

श्री भीम सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कुछ इलाके राजस्थान के भी आते हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : राजस्थान के भी आते हैं।

श्री भीम सिंह : राजस्थान को तो ये भूल गए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हरियाणा, पंजाब और राजस्थान तीनों एक लड़ी सी जूड़ी हुई है। आपने कोटन प्रोअर्स को कुछ मुआवजा दिलवाया था, जिसमें से कुछ बाकी रह गया था, मुझे कल कह रहे थे वह भी दिलवाया जाय।

Do you want to ask a question, Mr. Sparrow ?

SHRI R.S. SPARROW : The point which the hon. member has brought out is about the damage as a result of the breach, which the Hon. Speaker has also mentioned just a while ago. The other point is that there has been considerable damage caused due to (1) flooding, and (2) shortage of irrigation. I would like to know specifically about Punjab, as to how much damage has been caused. Something came out in the *Tribune* of 28 July 1984. What is the damage and what arrangements are being made to compensate those somewhat agitated peasants, kisans and their co-workers who give a hand as farm labourers, on community basis ?

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH :
We have not received any reports of damage on account of canal cuts in Punjab.

AN. HON. MEMBER : Hundreds of villages are affected.

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH :
They might have been affected due to

floods for a short while. Wherever the cuts took place, the water mostly flowed into the rivers, and there was some flooding in the villages also.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL : Have you received any report from Rajasthan ?

SHRI RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Rajasthan areas were also receiving some irrigation waters from Bhakra, there is very little irrigation from Bhakra Main Canal in Rajasthan are and therefore I do not think that there is much damage.

गौवध पर प्रतिबन्ध

209 श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गौ और गौवंश-वध पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ;

(ख) किन-किन राज्यों में उक्त प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया गया है और किन राज्यों में यह प्रतिबन्ध नहीं लगाया गया है ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में प्रतिबन्ध लगाया है और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कृषि मन्त्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेश्वर मकवाना) : (क) पशुओं की सुरक्षा का विषय एक ऐसा मामला है जिस पर राज्य के विधान मण्डलों को कानून बनाने का पूर्ण अधिकार है। तदनुसार, विभिन्न राज्यों ने गाय तथा इसकी संतति के वध को रोकने के संबंध में उपयुक्त कानून बनाये हुए हैं।

(ख) उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार असम, मध्य प्रदेश, बिहार, गुजरात, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू व कश्मीर, कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, मणिपुर, उड़ीसा, पंजाब, राजस्थान, तमिलनाडु, सिक्किम, उत्तर प्रदेश, पश्चिम बंगाल तथा केरल में गाय तथा इसकी संतति के वध को रोकने के संबंध में कानून बने हुए हैं। मेवालय, नागालैंड तथा त्रिपुरा में ऐसे कोई कानून नहीं हैं।

(ग) पांच संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में गाय तथा इसकी संतति के वध को रोकने के लिए कानून बने हुए हैं। अन्य संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों में प्रचलित आहार प्रवृत्ति तथा लोगों की सामाजिक-सांस्कृतिक परम्पराओं की वजह से ऐसे कोई कानून नहीं हैं।

श्री सत्यनारायण जटिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय हमारे यहां कहा गया है गावो मानर : सर्वभूतानाम्। गोपाल कृष्ण की संस्कृति का यह देश गांवों का है, गांवों का आर्थिक विकास कृषि पर निर्भर है और कृषि गौवंश संरक्षण और संवर्धन पर निर्भर करती है। हमारे देश की विकासगति कहने के लिए तो पेकेनाइज्ड हो गई है किन्तु गांवों का विकास मुख्यतः कृषि पर निर्भर होता है। वहां गौवंश संरक्षण और संवर्धन महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। इसके लिए महात्मागांधी और आचार्य विनोबाभावे ने भी कहा है कि यह गांवों का देश है और इस आधार पर उन्होंने गौवध को निषिद्ध करने के लिये बारबार कहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से बताया गया है जिन जिन प्रदेशों में इसको प्रतिबन्धित किया गया है इस सारी