

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** देखिए 17 मिनट इस सवाल पर हो गये हैं । इस तरह से तो सारा बक्त एक ही सवाल पर जाया हो जाएगा, दूसरे सवाल को डिस्कस नहीं किया जा सकेगा ... (ब्यवधान) .. आप ऐसा कीजिये, आधा घन्टे की बहस के लिए लिख कर दे दीजिये ...

**श्री जगपाल सिंह :** छोटे शहरों के तो एक्सचेंज हमेशा ही बन्द रहते है ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** हाफ एन आवर डिस्कशन के लिए लिख कर दे दीजिये ।

#### Rapeseed Oil as Gift from U.N.O./ F.A.O.

\*82. SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 420 MT of rapeseed oil was given as a gift by UNO/FAO to India in early 1979;

(b) if so, when the above consignment reached this country; and

(c) how was it disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a): The World Food Programme (WFP) set up jointly by the UNO/FAO supplied about 420 M. T. of rapeseed oil as a gift to India during July—August, 1978.

(b) The consignment arrived at the Calcutta Port during July/August, 1978, as follows:—

Name of vessel	Quantity (M.T.)	Date of arrival
"STATE OF MAHARASHTRA"	232.762	29-6-78
"KIRIRIBILLI"	187.142	8-7-78
Total:	419.904	

(c) A loan of 425 M. T. of palmolein oil was taken from the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. for meeting the urgent requirements of relief of flood victims in the country on a tonne to tonne replenishment basis. It was, therefore, decided to give 420 M.T. of W.F.P. oil to the S.T.C. towards the settlement of the outstanding loan.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: This is the usual cover-up story that I expected from this Ministry.

Is it a fact that since March, 1979, the Calcutta Port Trust authorities had been asking the Government of India to lift this stock of 420 metric tonnes of rapeseed oil received from the F.A.O. and stacked in the godowns of the Calcutta Port Trust?

Is it also a fact that in June, 1980, the Calcutta Port Trust wrote to the Ministry of Agriculture that if by September, 1980, the stock of this 420 metric tonnes of rapeseed oil was not lifted, it would be sold in public auction?

It is also not a fact that the appropriate authorities on behalf of the Government of India wrote to the Calcutta Port Trust authorities that after investigation they had found that a substantial part of the stock of rapeseed oil stacked in the godowns of the Calcutta Port Trust had already been pilfered, and there was no point in taking delivery of that stock?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): It is not correct that the whole of this oil was not lifted from the port. From June to July, 1980, the STC had already cleared 178 metric tonnes out of the total quantity of over 400 metric tonnes. I do not know if the Calcutta port authorities, after giving notice to the Government of India have auctioned this oil or not, but the fact remains that this oil was given to the STC by the Ministry of Agriculture in return for the palmolein oil that was taken from the STC for distribution in the drought affected

areas, and STC had agreed to take this quantity to clear that loan. The STC was reminded several times during the past one year and more that they should clear the quantity that remained there.

Another hitch in the way was that the port authorities did not clear this oil from the port earlier because they said that it was not fit for consumption. That matter lingered for a long time, and ultimately it was decided in consultation with the Health Ministry that this oil could be refined and used for soap-making and some other purposes, and not for human consumption. That is where the matter had been resting in the past, and further information I am trying to obtain from the STC to know the latest facts. Whatever information I can gather I have given to the House.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA:** The hon. Minister has admitted that the oil was landed in August/September, 1978 and that in 1980, out of 420 metric tonnes, only 178 metric tonnes were lifted by the STC. I want to know the reason for this unusual delay. It is because there are some interested persons in the Ministry of Agriculture or the STC who did not want that these 420 metric tonnes of rapeseed oil should go to the flood-affected people of the different States. Four hundred and twenty metric tonnes means 4,20,000 kg. That means, roughly if a family consists of four persons, monthly consumption of nearly more than one lakh of people was wasted. Was it because there were some interested persons who wanted to see, in connivance with the traders, that these 420 metric tonnes of rapeseed oil was not released in the market, otherwise the prevailing rate in the market would come down? Will the Minister get the investigation made, apportion the blame, pinpoint the responsibility and take severe action against the culprits?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** I have no hesitation in saying that if there is anything suspicious in the matter, we will hold an enquiry. But

from what information I have got, I would like to give the statement of events so far, if the hon. Member could be satisfied with what we have been trying to do.

The oil was received in July to August 1978. Then it was not this Government. In September, 1978, an agreement was signed and S.T.C. agreed to release Palmolive oil for flood victims. In November, Port Health Authorities rejected this World Food Programme oil as it contained colouring matter and it was not found fit for human consumption.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** What did it contain?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** Colouring matter. It must have been some toxic matter that they objected to. That was also during the previous regime.

During December, 1978, the Health Ministry relaxed conditions for colouring material. Then in February, 1979, the Port Health Officer informed that per oxide content had gone up in this. In March 1979 the Port Health Officer indicated that oil can be released for Vanaspati and Soap industry. In March 1979 Civil Supplies Department requested S.T.C. to lift and utilise this oil. In May 1979, that was again the same Government for which most of my friends on the other side were responsible. All this was going on during those days.

**SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:** Because they were fighting.

**SHRI SUNIL MAITRA:** What has happened for the last ten months?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** In May, 1979, when we were not on these benches, S.T.C. was reminded to take delivery of this oil. In June—July 1979 S.T.C. agreed to take delivery of this 420 metric tonnes of oil on certificate that it will be refined before issue. Then in September last i.e. on 24th September, 1979, S.T.C. agreed to clear this oil within a week. That was again a different Government. On 14th

of November last year, Ministry of Health asked the Port Health Officer to clear WFP Oil as decided in July 1979. From 25th of June 1980 to July, 1980 i.e. after we took over, this Government was formed, it was only then that S.T.C. cleared 178 metric tonnes of this oil.

**श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण :** क्या बात है ?

**श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव :** क्या बात नहीं, जो हम ने कारगुजारी की है वह भी बुरी लगती है और आप की कारगुजारी सारी मैंने बताई है।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** 420 मीट्रीक टन था, कोई पहाड उटाना नहीं था।

**श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव :** अब वह 420 पहले की थी, हमारी नहीं थी। हमारे टाइम में 420 नहीं रही, 178 टन घट गई।

**SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE (Alluri):** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the oil which was presented to this country by the U.N.O. and F.A.O., was bad oil or unusual for human consumption or was it found to be so fater it reached India?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** I have stated that because of some colouring material, this was not declared fit for human consumption. Later on, after it had been stored for a long time, the toxic matter had also gone up, as reported.

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRA-BORTY:** In the light of the statement of the hon. Minister, I would like to ask one question. The whole thing was supplied by the United Nations Organisation and, as per the statement of the hon. Minister, the whole thing was not found fit for human consumption. Is the Government of India going to write to the U.N.O. as to why

this thing was sent to India which was not fit for human consumption? That is absolutely necessary.

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** I have noted the suggestion. But the material supplied to us by World Food Council was absolutely free, as a gift, and, as was decided by the authorities then, it could be used for other purposes....

**SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRA-BORTY:** Are we such beggars that we cannot choose? Are we to get only a poisonous gift?

**SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO:** Not only we are not beggars but our standards of food are higher as can be proved in this case that because of colouring material, a thing which was probably thought fit for human consumption by the advanced countries was not considered fit for human consumption here.

वर्ष 1979-80 के दौरान राजस्थान नहर परियोजना के लिये धनराशि का उपयोग किया जाना

\* 82<sup>क</sup>. श्री कुम्भाराम शर्मा : क्या सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राजस्थान सिंचाई परियोजना (राजस्थान नहर परियोजना) के लिये वर्ष 1979-80 के बजट में नियत की गई राशि में से 8 करोड रुपये की राशि का उपयोग नहीं किया जा सका।

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है ;

(ग) क्या उपरोक्त राशि उपयोग न किये जाने के कारण इस परियोजना को पूरा करने की निश्चित अवधि पर प्रभाव पड़ने की संभावना है ; और