

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: What is your own monitoring method?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: We have very strict monitoring system. We call for reports from them. Our officers go and visit them from time to time. We hold meetings where the Command Authority people are called and we fully know what is the lag behind in all this.

श्री मनीराम बागड़ी : अध्यक्ष जी क्या मैं आ सकता हूँ ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बेलकम सर । हमने तो उस दिन भी आपको कुछ नहीं कहा था, आप ही ताराज होकर चले गये ।

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: He has put on a black coat. We must protest against that!

Seizure of Edible Oil in Delhi

*310 SHRI M. V. CHANDRA SHEKARA MURTHY:

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether imported edible oil worth lakhs of rupees was stocked in an unauthorised godown on February 19, 1983 in Delhi;

(b) if so, the total quantity recovered;

(c) any action taken against those held responsible;

(d) whether many such cases have been found in the Capital during the last three to four months; and

(e) if so, the total quantity of edible oil so far recovered and action taken against all of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) to (c). On 18.2.1983 during the conduct of a raid by Delhi Administration, 446 tins of 15½ kgs each of edible oils, were seized from a

go down in village Badli. An F.I.R. was lodged on the same day and 3 persons have so far been arrested by Delhi Police.

(d) and (e). On 10th March, 1983 Delhi Police raided another godown, in village Samepur, and recovered about 5600 kgs of imported edible oils. A criminal case has been registered against 5 persons. One person has since been released on bail and two persons were remanded to judicial custody, till 27-3-1983.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: By conducting frequent raids and checks, may I know, whether Government is satisfied that edible oil in the Capital is freely available and that its price is steadily maintained. Secondly, I want to know whether, other than criminal action on the hoarders, Government has taken any other action such as suspending or cancelling of licences and if so, the details thereof.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Regarding the first part of the question, as is known to the House, we have a gap between the indigenous production and our demand and, therefore, in the last three years, and in the other years also, we have been importing oil from outside both for edible purposes and also for production of vanaspati. That way, we are trying to make up the demand, and we have a satisfactory position.

So far as the second part of the question is concerned, we have rounded up the criminals, FIRs have been lodged against them, and investigations are going on. The Delhi Administration, immediately after the raid, also inspected about 47 fair price shops to check them and they found irregularities in 28 and against those 28 shops where irregularities were found during the course of check, actions are being taken.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: My second question is this.

As has rightly been said, the total demand of our country is nearly 46 lakh tonnes as against 40 lakh tonnes of indigenous supply. The rest should be covered by only imports. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is prepared to formulate a national policy on oilseeds and oil to make the country self-sufficient.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Yes, Sir. Without that, we cannot do better. The national policy consists of two parts. One, where we have to give a lot of incentives, some kind of incentives, for the production of oilseeds in the country, and that is being looked after by the Agriculture Ministry, and about the second, in the oil policy area, actual indigenous oil plus the import plus its distribution, so that there should be a reasonable level of price in the market. We have a policy in the Ministry where we try to allocate according to the necessity both for the P.D.S. and also for the production of vanaspati.

SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL: On the one hand we are importing edible oil to meet our domestic requirements and on the other hand, thousands of tonnes of groundnut oil go beyond our boundary, beyond Kutch, they are being smuggled out. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that thousands of tonnes of edible oil are going outside the country beyond the boundary of Kutch, etc.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: I have no such information.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: The Minister has just mentioned that in two raids—in one about 446 tins and in another 5600 kgs of edible oils—were recovered. May I know from the Minister—how can imported oil, bulky as it is, could have found its way to any unauthorised godowns and whether there is any control over this and also if searches were conducted, under what law were they conducted?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Actually I also join the hon. Member, Why should it go to unauthorised godowns? That is why raids sometimes are conducted as there are still unscrupulous persons in our country. The case is being investigated by the Police. After the investigation is complete, we shall be in a position to know why, where and who did it.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: I have asked under what law the raids have been conducted and whether there is any such control for keeping this oil in godowns?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Yes, Sir. There is control. This are unauthorised persons who have no licence to keep imported oil with them and, therefore, under this offence, these raids were made.

SHRI B. R. NAHATA: Will the hon. Minister tell us what was the source of import and how and who is the person who transferred these oils to other persons? Has any action been taken by the investigating agency to properly bring them to book?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: As I have said, after the raids, all these things are being inquired into—who did it, how it passed on to unauthorised persons, and how these persons who were not licensed did it, etc.

Gap in Demand and Supply of Inputs/ Fertilisers for Agricultural Production

*311. SHRI MOHAMMAD ASRAR AHMAD:

SHRI BHEEKHABHAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that inputs/fertilisers required for agricultural production have fallen far short of actual requirements in the county;