

श्री राम विलास पासवान : मंत्री जी ने कहा कि लाखों की संख्या में लोग केसरी दाल खाते हैं।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : आपने खाई है या नहीं ?

श्री राम विलास पासवान : बारह साल तक खाई है।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : आपको क्यों कुछ नहीं हुआ ?

श्री राम विलास पासवान : इस लिए कि मैं दाल के साथ दूसरी चीजें भी खाता था। लेकिन ये लोग तो नमक रोटी ही खाते हैं। जब तक लोगों को मालूम नहीं था कि यह जहर है तब तक तो ठीक था। लेकिन जब आप कह रहे हैं और आपकी सरकार कबूल करती है कि यह जहर है फिर आप कहते हैं कि पहले से थोड़ा रिफ़ाइन्ड वे में जहर पैदा करेंगे ? अभी भी सरकार कम जहरीला खाद्य पदार्थ पैदा करने पर विचार कर रही है।

मंत्री जी ने पिछले सत्र में कहा था कि रेडियो और समाचार पत्रों के माध्यम से यह बतलाने का काम करेंगे कि यह पायजनस है, लेकिन मेरी जहां तक जानकारी है, एक दिन भी इन माध्यमों से इसका प्रचार नहीं हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार का प्रचार करने का माध्यम क्या है ?

पश्चिम बंगाल और बिहार सरकार को जो इन्होंने पत्र लिखे, उनका क्या उत्तर आया ? यह बताने की कृपा करें।

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : स्पीकर साहब, मैं आशा रखता हूँ कि जो कुछ माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है, वह आज अखबारों के अन्दर आ जायेगा और खूब प्रचार हो जायेगा केसरी दाल के बारे में। पालियामेंट में सवाल और जवाब हो रहे हैं, फिर प्रचार न हो, यह कैसे हो सकता है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप स्पेशल और करवा दाजिये।

(व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं कहता हूँ कि इसके प्रचार का स्पेशल कार्यक्रम बनाइये जिससे लोगों को इसके बारे में पता हो, पूरा प्रचार रेडियो से भी और दूसरे तरीके से भी किया जाये।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपको तो हमें प्रोटैक्ट करना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : कर तो रहा हूँ, मैंने मंत्री जी को कहा है।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : आज आप कह रहे हैं मंत्री जी को, यहां एक साल पहले मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि प्रचार करवा रहे हैं, लेकिन आज तक कुछ नहीं हुआ ?

राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह : अखबारों में केसरी दाल के बारे में लेख निकले हैं।

कपास के लिए समर्थन मूल्य

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153. श्री उत्तम राठौर :

श्री नरसिंह मकवाना :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1981-82 के लिये कपास का कितना समर्थन मूल्य निर्धारित किया गया था और किस तारीख को निर्धारित किया गया था;

(ख) कपास की उत्पादन लागत तथा निर्धारित किए गए समर्थन मूल्य में कितना अन्तर है और क्या सरकार इस अन्तर को समाप्त करने के लिए कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ; और

(ग) सरकार ने यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए किसानों को उसका लाभकारी दाम मिले और विचौलियों द्वारा उनका शोषण न हो, क्या योजना तैयार की है ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The Government of India did not fix minimum support price for raw cotton for the 1981-82 season.

(b) Does not arise. The Government has consistently been following a policy of providing remunerative prices to the farmers and compensating them for upward movement in input prices. The terms of reference of the Agricultural Prices Commission were modified to the effect that the Commission should take into account the changes in the terms of trade between the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. The cost of transport from the field to the purchase or processing centre is also to be taken into account.

(c) In order to ensure that cotton growers are not compelled to sell their produce at unremunerative prices, market support operations are being undertaken through the Central and the State Agencies like the Cotton Corporation of India, the Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federation and other State Cooperative Marketing Federations. About 40 per cent of cotton produced is being purchased by these agencies.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: If you recollect, last year, while this question was raised through Calling Attention, I had said that the A.P.C. did not fix the cotton price for 1981-82; the reason being that A.P.C. considers the cost analysis on the basis of P.A. 320 F—an irrigated variety of Punjab. The prices of 1980-81 were continued in the next year and the same was applied to all the areas which grow cotton. There is a demand from Maharashtra where the cotton is grown in the rain-fed area. This particular cost analysis is not beneficial to them. That is why they have appointed their own A.P.C. for Maharashtra State.

Sir, last year, the prices which were recommended by the A.P.C. as support prices were Rs. 359 and the State Government had recommended as Rs. 638. May I know, what the Government has done in this regard? why did the Government continue the 1980-81 prices till these days?

I would like to bring to your notice that the A.P.C. has played a hoax on the cotton growers because the reason that they had given in their report which was submitted late in September was that during somewhere in the month of May, when growing of cotton in Punjab was done, there was no rise in the prices of fertilizers and therefore there was no question of revising the prices. At the same time, the old prices were continued and the cotton growing States were asked to take this into account and determine their prices. I want to know why this act of the A.P.C. was allowed to continue by the Ministry of Agriculture and the agriculturists to suffer?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, Maharashtra has a scheme of monopoly purchase of cotton and if the Government has appointed some agencies to go into the costing of cotton production, I think, the interests of farmers will be looked after as the hon. Member desires. The Government did not announce any price for cotton because it was considered that the prevailing prices in the market for cotton were much higher than the prices recommended by the A.P.C. and we thought the announcement of a price on the basis of the A.P.C.'s recommendations would not help the farmers but it may help to reduce the prices in the market and it may have an adverse effect thereby. It was all done in the interest of farmers and wherever the Government feel that the prices are crushing down, the agencies, as mentioned, are already there to move into the market and make the purchases

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, how does he justify reply to Question (a) & (b)? In Question (b), he says, he has asked the A.P.(C) to take into consideration all the factors including the non-agriculture produce and all that which are to be used as inputs. How does he justify his present statement? Will he ever consider the present fate of those cotton growers who grow cotton in rain-fed areas and allow the prices of cotton like PA 320F to be treated with the market prices?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am doubtful if what the hon. Member wants to know would be in the interest of farmers. After the A.P.C. were asked to revise their previous recommendations taking into account the cost of fertilizers on the basis of increased price, the A.P.C.'s recommendation, to my mind—if I remember it correctly—was for Rs. 380 whereas the prices prevailing at the time were over Rs. 500. Therefore, we thought that it would not be right to announce the price on the basis of the A.P.C.'s recommendations.

Now, if the hon. Member wants to know the basis for my reply in Parts (a) and (b), I think, it has become very clear to him.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to put one short question. Now, my hon. friend, the Minister of Agriculture is convinced that there must be something wrong with the A.P.C.'s calculations because its recommendations were far below the market price. But I am glad, the Government has done one sensible thing in not announcing the artificial figure, the unreal figure that was recommended by the A.P.C. Certainly, there is something wrong which I would like my hon. friend to look into.

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Program of Irrigation Projects

*146. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the projects taken under 20-Point Programme pertaining to irrigation in different States particularly how they have progressed;

(b) whether it is necessary to augment the financial and administrative backing for such projects as those are vital for rural agricultural economy;

(c) if so, how the different States are faring; and

(d) steps taken to accelerate the process where the implementation is slow?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) The irrigation programmes and progress achieved have been assessed with reference to New 20-Point Programme and are being continuously reviewed and monitored by various organisations in the Ministry of Irrigation including Central Water Commission.

(b) In order to achieve additional irrigation potential as envisaged in the New 20-Point Programme, it is not only necessary to have additional financial resources to augment the plan outlay, but also other various measures are required to be taken such as strengthening the organisation wherever necessary supply of scarce material, timely preparation of detailed designs and estimates and fixing agencies for construction etc.