

निर्देश हुआ है कि वे जंगलों को खाली कर दें। उनमें एक प्रकार से भय की स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। मैं मंत्री महादय से जानना चाहता हूँ क्या आप मध्य प्रदेश शासन को ऐसा निर्देश देंगे कि जब तक नई फारेस्ट पालिसी नहीं बन जाती है उनको वहाँ से विस्थापित नहीं किया जाय ?

श्री जगपाल सिंह : कभी नहीं निकाला जाय ?

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना : जो ट्राइबल्स वहाँ रहते हैं उनका पूरा प्रोटेक्शन किया जाय और जो नई फारेस्ट पालिसी बन रही है, उसमें खास कर ट्राइबल्स के राइट्स के लिए काफी लिखा गया है।

It is about the protection of the rights of the tribals in the forest area. Government is aware of the problem.

We have made a specific provision under the new forest policy which is under preparation. Earlier, I mentioned about encroachment to the tune of 6 million hectares; it is not 6 million hectares; it is 6 lakh hectares.

More Fair Price Shops in Inaccessible Areas

*369. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether it has been stressed that more fair price shops should be opened in inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted; and

(c) the areas which have been identified in each State, particularly in Orissa ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND

IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (DR. M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) to (c) The primary responsibility for administering the public distribution system in their respective areas, including identifying areas for opening of additional fair price shops lies with the States/Union Territories. Under the New 20-Point Programme, State Governments have already been asked to take effective steps to expand, strengthen and streamline the public distribution system with particular attention being given to opening of more fair price shops in rural, hilly and remote areas. States/Union Territories have also been asked to lay special emphasis on the opening of mobile shops for giving coverage to inaccessible areas or hitherto unserved/underserved areas.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : The Hon. Speaker can kindly see that the Union Government have shifted their responsibility to the State Governments and the Union Territories. May I know whether it is a fact that the essential commodities are not available at fair price shops in inaccessible areas where the poorest of the poor in the society and specially the tribals are living eliminated and they are not getting the essential commodities ? In this connection, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether they have given the responsibility to the State Governments and the Union Territories for the distribution of essential commodities ? Whether any criteria have been fixed or any guidelines have been issued by the Centre to the States like the minimum population where a fair price shop could be opened and the distance from one fair price shop to another; whether such types of guidelines have been issued or not; if so, how many State Governments are implementing them; if not, what the Government of India is doing to implement the guidelines and the instructions issued by the Centre ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : We are not shifting the responsibility, but in the federal system we have out responsibility clearly allocated. I have said about it many times and I repeat it again that in certain commodities like 7 commodities, we supply essential commodities from the Central

Government to the State Governments; and for the rest, the States are free to add to their list. For example, the Government of West Bengal, the Government of Orissa, the Government of Tamilnadu have done a good job in this by adding a large number of commodities in their fair price shops.

(Interruptions)

Therefore, it is not shifting the responsibility. What we do is that from time to time we have been requesting the State Governments how, according to the guidelines, they should do. The Hon. Member has asked about the guidelines. We hold every six months Advisory Council meetings in which all the State Governments' Ministers incharge come; there we review the system. On 7th November, 1983, we did that in which we particularly, as he said, emphasised the fact that shops should be opened in tribal areas, in far away distant areas so that members in that areas are able to get them.

(Interruptions)

It would be clear from the evidence that about non-availability, the fact speaks for itself.

In 1979 the supply of essential commodities like foodgrains to the States was to the tune of 17.94 million tonnes, and in 1982 it has increased to 25.69 million tonnes. That means, in terms of value from Rs. 2,668 crores we have increased the supply to the State Governments through the public distribution system, to Rs. 5,738 crores. I do not think all of them evaporate in the air. That is a huge supply made to the State Governments. The public distribution system, from the point of growth has increased from 1979 to 1982 in these four years 14.4 percent; in terms of value of the goods distributed to 38.85 percent. whether it is a question of food grains, whether it is a question of sugar, whether it is a question of edible oil in October this year it has come to 73,160 tonnes compared to April when it was 27,000 or 28,000 tonnes. So in every sphere the quantities are being increased and in terms of growth and value

are increasing abnormally, in the first six months of 1982 we gave only eight lakh tonnes, and in the first six months of this year we have given them 14 lakh tonnes. Of course, it may be true, as the Hon. Member says that in some shops they are not available. But let that not be a general reflection. The drought of 1979 has proved that the public distribution system has held the State Governments. They have appreciated this in the last meeting. In Orissa there are a large number of shops in the hilly areas. Unlike many non-Congress Governments, in addition to these seven commodities, they have added a large number of commodities for distribution through the public distribution system.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : The Hon. Minister has not replied to my first supplementary that essential commodities are not available in the fair price shops in inaccessible areas.

AN HON. MEMBER : He has replied. You listen to him.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Transportation also is very difficult in these areas.

I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to a news item which has appeared in the *Hindustan Times* dated November 9, 1983, which says — I quote :

“More items planned for FP Shops

“State Ministers of Civil Supplies attending the fourth meeting of the advisory council on public distribution affirmed at the concluding session yesterday that all-out efforts would be made to open more fair price shops — particularly in the inaccessible areas.

It was decided that the State Governments would endeavour to widen the commodity, coverage as West Bengal and Tamil Nadu had achieved.”

May I know from the Hon. Minister, after this meeting how many State Governments had opened more fair price shops in inaccessible areas whether the Union Govern-

ment have any information about it and may I know whether it is a fact that in many areas, which are inaccessible, or in hilly areas the fair price shops are not opened or they are not allowed to be opened even today even after these guidelines and the decision has been taken by the Ministers of the Civil Supplies of all the States and the Union Government. May I also know what the Government intends to do so that foodgrains are supplied to inaccessible areas and hilly areas.

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right now, they are also saying the same thing.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : As I have emphasised in the answer to the last Question, in the fourth meeting, as the Hon. Member said, the necessity for opening of fair price shops in a inaccessible and tribal areas, especially in the areas where Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are heavily populated, was emphasised.

Not only that. It has again been emphasised on the State Governments that if necessary mobile shops should be opened. Out of 2.93 lakh fair price shops, 2.28 lakh shops are in the rural areas and only 64,000 are in urban areas. The rural areas also constitute inaccessible areas, tribal areas, scheduled castes areas, industrial locations and all that. What we have to do is that we have to ask the State Governments and we have asked the State Governments. They are aware of it. It is not that they have not opened any shops there. They have opened shops. And whatever areas are left out, we are constantly emphasising on that.

The Hon. Member asked about the 7th November meeting. In that meeting, we discussed about further strengthening of PDS through planned expansion, proper management facilities in remote and sparsely populated areas. That was the first consensus that was arrived at in the meeting. The second was coverage of essential commodities in the PDS by arranging procurement and supply of essential commodities of mass consumption by the States. The

Hon. Member asked about the number fixed. 2000 per fair price shop is our ideal. And half of the States have almost reached this ideal. Another half say that it is not viable. The fair price shop can be viable only when the State Governments do not depend upon seven essential commodities but also add some commoties from their side as Tamil Nadu, Orissa and West Bengal have done. The public distribution system over the years has gone a long way—the number has increased, the volume has increased and the value of their distribution has increased.

MR. SPEAKER : Before I call Mr. Balan I would like to draw the attention of Mr. Daga to para 40, sub-section 9 of the Handbook for Members of Lok Sabha. Please read it and then come to me.

SHRI A.K. BALAN : Distribution of essential commodities through ration shops is one of the main programmes of the 20-Point Programme. This programme is not working properly especially in Kerala. During the Left Front Government rule this system was working properly. I want to know whether there is any arrangement to assess the administration of public distribution system particularly in rural areas?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : In my last three supplementaries I have emphasized on this aspect not generally but by giving facts and figures that we do emphasise that these shops should be opened in rural areas because of the fact that India lives more in rural areas than in urban areas. And out of 2.98 lakh shops, more than 2 lakh shops are in rural areas.

In Kerala the same guidelines, the same principles are there as in other States. The same commodities will go from the Central Government and other commodities will have to be made available by the State Government. And the Kerala Government is doing that.

MR. SPEAKER : Question hour is over.