

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 9, 1984 | Chaitra 20,
1906 [Saka]

*The Lok Sabha met at Seven minutes
past Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : तीन दिन की छुट्टी के बाद में मेरे ख्याल में आर सबका मन काम करने को नहीं होता है। मालूम होता है तबियत बिगड़ गई है।

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Shivdutt Upadhyaya who was a Member of First to Third Lok Sabha during 1952-67 and was later elected to Rajya Sabha in 1967.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Upadhyaya actively participated in the freedom struggle and suffered imprisonment several times.

An able Parliamentarian, he served on several Parliamentary Committees as well as Consultative and Standing Committees of the Government of India. A keen social and political worker, he was recipient of Padma-shri. He took keen interest in the uplift of the downtrodden.

Shri Upadhyaya passed away on 7th April, 1984, at new Delhi at the age of 84 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House would join me in

conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the Memory of the deceased.

The Members then stood silence for a short while

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Acute Shortage of Foodgrains in A and N Islands

*622. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) whether there is unprecedented acute shortage of foodgrains in A & N Islands and the present position has reached an alarming stage ;

(b) if so, the release of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India for the last 12 months, month-wise, and stating the present stock position ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the A & N Administration is hard pressed for getting allotment from FCI from time to time ;

(d) Whether Government will consider to open a FCI depot at Port Blair for supply of foodgrains to A & N Islands immediately ; if not the reasons thereof ;

(e) Whether Government had assured that three months stocks of foodgrains would be kept in A & N Islands ; and

(f) if so, the reasons why it was not being complied with ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, a statement indicating monthwise allotment and offtake of foodgrains in respect of Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the year 1983-84, is laid on the Table of the Sabha. The stock Position reported as on 1st March, 1984 was 1625 tonnes of rice, 280 tonnes of wheat and 44 tonnes of paddy.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Considering the administrative and other problems, it will be a desirable and satisfactory arrangement for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to have their own storage godown, as is the system at present.

(e) and (f) In Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the stocks are kept by the Administration in their own godowns. Special attention is paid to ensure full and timely supply to Andaman and Nicobar Islands because of its geographical location and the logistics involved.

Statement

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from the Central Pool for Andaman and Nicobar Islands during April, 1983 to March, 1984

Month	Allotment			Offtake		
	Rice	Wheat		Rice	Wheat	
		PDS	RFM		PDS	RFM
1983						
April	—	0.5	—	0.5	0.5	—
May	3.0	0.5	—	0.3	—	—
June	—	0.5	—	0.4	—	—
July	—	0.5	—	1.1	0.2	—
August	3.0	0.5	—	0.5	0.1	—
September	—	0.5	—	—	—	—
October	—	0.5	—	—	0.3	—
November	3.3	0.5	—	1.4	0.4	—
December	—	0.5	—	1.9	0.5	—
1984						
January	3.0	0.5	—	0.2	0.5	—
February	—	0.5	—	—	0.5	—
March	—	0.5	—	1.2*	0.5*	—
Total	12.3	6.0	—	7.5	3.5	—

*Provisional.

PDS=Public Distribution System.

RFM=Roller Flour Mills.

Note : Allocation of rice to Andaman and Nicobar Islands is made quarterly and wheat monthly.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is very much sympathetic to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, but unfortunately his replies are very unfortunate to the people of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. He has stated that there is no unprecedented acute shortage of foodgrains in the Islands. I can mention before this august House that there is an acute shortage of not only foodgrains but all essential items, including sugar. Even a match box is costing Rs. 5/- in that part of the country. The point is that, due to the port and Dock workers' strike—because shipping line is the only life line for supplies to that part—an unprecedented situation has arisen in that part of the country. If the hon. Minister kindly looks at the statement that he has given, he will find that the total allotment to the Islands since the last one year, that is, twelve months, is about 12,300 tonnes of rice and 6,000 tonnes of wheat. And what was the offtake? It was 7,500 tonnes of rice and 3,500 tonnes of wheat. Even if you look at the present stock position as he has intimated, that is 1,625 tonnes of rice and 280 tonnes of wheat. Where as the three months, *i.e.* quarterly allotment of rice is 3000 tonnes of rice and 5000 tonnes of wheat. As such you can imagine that it is only one month and a few days stock was there. That is the position as on 1st March. So after 1st March we are now on 9th April and if all these days are taken into account, then there is hardly 10 days stock left in the island. In this regard, there was a commitment in this august House by the then Civil Supplies Minister that there would be a stock of 3 months reserve in that island. I do not know why this was not ensured. So, I would ask the hon. Minister what is this monthly requirement of rice and wheat in that part and (b) why three months' stock was not kept in that island which is geographically ...

MR. SPEAKER : That is understood.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : ... in a different position compared to other parts of the country. This is what I want to know.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : It is true that due to the port and dock workers' strike there has been difficulty not only in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands but in some parts of the mainland as well. On 1st March 1984 we get a message from the Chief Secretary of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands that they have difficulties in the supplies due to not loading at the Calcutta port due to strike. Immediately we made arrangements and we asked the Food Corporation of India on 1st March itself to arrange for the loading, from Madras you know the Andaman & Nicobar Islands themselves have to arrange for the ships—we asked them to despatch 500 tonnes of wheat to the island F.C.I, reported on 20th March 1984, that a vessel sailed from Madras for Port Blair on 19.3.84 with 3133 bags of wheat weighing about 281 tonnes and 2600 bags of rice. Also on 23.3.84 we sent 13,509 bags of raw rice weighing about 999.666 metric tonnes. They were shipped ex Akbar which sailed from Kakinada for the Islands on 23.3.84.

It is true that there was difficulty in loading at the Calcutta port and this had been reported to us and we had tried to meet it and we have already shipped the requirements.

About the arrangements for a longer 3 months' stock to be kept in the Islands, I have not seen any assurance. The hon. Member also once asked this question and I tried to find out if there was any assurance but I am not able to find it. But, assurance or no assurance, it is our responsibility that in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and also, for example, in the north eastern region where we have difficulties, we keep sufficient stocks so that there may not be any trouble. That is why our allotment to the Andaman and

Nicobar Islands is on a quarterly basis for rice and monthly basis for wheat. Then there is no bar on their lifting the stocks we have on the mainland. Even if they do not lift it in the same month, they can do so in the entire year in case of rice and within 3 months in case of wheat.

Therefore, we are taking special care about these Islands and we would like that there is no difficulty caused to them in their lifting of the allotment.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY :
What about Greater Nicobar ?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : I want to know the monthly consumption of the island both with regard to rice and wheat.

MR. SPEAKER : He wants statistics regarding the monthly consumption. Have you got ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : In 1980 if you want statistics I should give from 1980 to 1984 the demand for rice was 11000 tonnes and for wheat it was 4040 tonnes and we allotted the same 11,000 and 4,000 tonnes. But the offtake was 4,400 tonnes of rice and 3,500 tonnes of wheat. In 1981 they demanded 10,400 tonnes of rice and 5,000 tonnes of wheat. We gave them full 10,400 tonnes of rice but they lifted 4,800 tonnes and wheat 4,900 tonnes. In 1982 they demanded 10,400 tonnes of rice and 6,000 tonnes of wheat and we allotted what they wanted but they lifted 13,000 tonnes and 7,000 tonnes respectively. In 1983 they demanded 12.3 thousands and 6.0 thousand tonnes wheat; we gave them the same amount, that is 12.3 and 6.0 thousand tonnes. They lifted 8.2 thousands and 2.7 thousands tonnes respectively.

In 1984, upto March 1984, they demanded 3,000 tonnes of rice and 1.5 thousand tonnes of wheat. We allotted them 3,000 tonnes of rice and 1.5 thousand tonnes of wheat. The offtake is 1.4 thousand and 1.5 thousand tonnes respectively. So, I think this position is satisfactory from this point of view.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
Just now the Minister has stated about the position in this regard. I would only like to stress this point, Why not have better arrangements ? It is a fact that statistics-wise and allocation wise all these things are there. We have no wagons. There is so much difficulty of getting ships.

MR. SPEAKER : How can they give you more if you demand less ?

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
We asked for more.

PROF. N G RANGA : They have lifted less.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
That is why this problem has arisen. I know practically what happens. When we get FCI's release order the ship is not there; when we get the ship they are not in a position to supply us. The order is there. But they say we have no stock; they say you take something and then take the balance later on, like that it happens. All these are the problems. Therefore I would like the minister to consider a proper solution to the problem. Throughout the country there are FCI godowns and stocks are there. Why not have sufficient stocks in that remote isolated territory ? Godowns should be constructed there and FCI should keep its own stocks. The whole Islands are involved and not only port Blair; there are different island. Campbell Bay, Great Nicobar, Car Nicobar and other islands. Frequently people are sending telegrams to me that there are no stocks; So, how can this problem be solved, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : More godowns.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : As I have replied in the main part of the question the present arrangement that we have with their godowns there is sufficient storage capacity and therefore we have none of the FCI. If you see the figures, in Port Blair there are 13 godowns, with capacity of 3,320 tonnes. We have got another at Rangat 250 tonnes. We have got at May abunder 200 tonnes. We have got at Diglipur, 250 tonnes, etc.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
There is no capacity ; there is no room in the godowns.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : That is another matter. He asks why not have the FCI godowns. I have replied to that part of the question. I have said only this time, on the first of March, this problem arise because of the strike. Therefore that difficulty had to be solved. Therefore we tried to supply from Madras and a small port at Kakinada. Therefore, that part of the question, I have replied to. Now he is saying about the arrangement by the FCI. I am only saying, at present we have got 9 places ; right from port Blair we have Rangat. Mayabunder, Diglipur, Neli Island, Hut Bay, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, and Campbell Bay. There is a total of 5755 tonnes of storage capacity. Apart from that and in addition to that the work for construction has started at Haddo, Diglipur and Katchal for a total of 700 tonnes. So this capacity is enough. I have told Warehousing Corporation that if the Andaman and Nicobar Administration need our assistance to construct more, it will be possible. But it will be always advisable for them, to have their administrative control over that thing rather than that of the FCI. Therefore, storage capacity is enough and there is no need for alternative arrangement. It is working satisfactorily.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
Present arrangement is not adequate. Why the Minister is not considering to have F C I godowns there ?

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Next question.

Rehabilitation of Tribals Displaced by Irrigation Projects

*623. **SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO :**
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs for rehabilitating tribals displaced due to medium and major irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to implement the guidelines by his Ministry;

(c) the guidelines issued by his Ministry to the States regarding the rehabilitation of the displaced tribals therefor;

(d) whether the cost of rehabilitation is taken into account while calculating benefit cost ratio of a project; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Home Affairs have circulated draft Guidelines to State Governments for comments in February, 1984 regarding rehabilitation of displaced tribals on account of location of irrigation, industrial and mining projects and other development activities. An extract of the draft guidelines issued is enclosed in Statement—I.

The Government of India has also circulated some broad suggestions for rehabilitation of displaced persons which are given in Statement—II.

(d) and (e) While calculating the benefit cost ratio of an irrigation project the cost of rehabilitation is taken into account. Therefore reply to question (e) does not arise.

Statement

(i) In no case tribals should be evicted without making payment of full compensation for the land;

(ii) In view of the operation of various protective enactments, open transactions in land are not many and, in any event, do not reflect its market value or even its potential. Hence, a new formula needs to be devised to provide Satisfactory quantum of compensation to the tribals for land required. This could be based, inter-alia on capitalised income value. The compensation amount might be deposited in banks preferably in