

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 12, 1973/ Phalguna 21.
1894 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Raids on Rice and Flour Mills and Wheat Traders in Delhi

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*286 SHRI SATPAL KAPUR:

SHRI D. K. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of raids conducted during the last three months in Delhi on rice and flour mills and wheat traders;

(b) the amount of rice, wheat and flour found unaccounted in their possession; and

(c) the action taken against the owners of these mills and business houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNASHAHEB P. SHINDE):
(a) During the past three months, the enforcement staff of the Food and Supply Department of Delhi Administration conducted raids on 10 rice mills operating in rural areas, 2 flour mills and 11 foodgrains dealers.

(b) About 639 quintals of unaccounted stock of rices, paddy, wheat, atta and maida were found, besides 4133 bags of wheat, which have not been weighed.

(c) A statement showing the action taken against the mills and the traders concerned is laid on the Table of the Sabha (Placed in Library. See No. LT-4452/73).

श्री सतपाल कपूर : स्पीकर साहब, मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहता हू कि कुछ केसेज में किसी के पास 50 हजार बोरे, किसी के पास 45 हजार बोरे मिले, बड़े बड़े भ्रामदमी पकड़े गए और उनपर धापने की धाई धार लगाया लेकिन फिर बाद में विद्ड़ो क्यों कर लिया ? जैसे मोदी का केस है या दूसरे जो लोग इसमें धाते थे उन पर भी धाई धार क्यों नहीं लगाया ?

SHRI ANNASHAHEB P. SHINDE:
About the application of D.I.R., I would request the hon. Member to put the Question to the Home Ministry. I think, our colleague, the Minister of Home Affairs has replied to some of the queries earlier on a call-attention notice.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : स्पीकर साहब, ज्वान्ट रेस्पॉसिबिलिटी का सवाल है इसलिए मिनिस्टर साहब की तरफ से जो जवाब दिया गया है वह तमल्लीबक्शा नहीं है। मिनिस्टर साहब को बाकायादा जवाब देना चाहिए कि फ्लां फ्लां केसेज में जो धाई धार लगाया गया वह क्यों विद्ड़ो किया गया ? उसकी बजह क्या थी ? और कितने केसेज में यह किया गया ?

SHRI ANNASHAHEB P. SHINDE:
In one case, action was taken for issue of an order of detention. Later on, as the information has been given, it was decided to prosecute the party under the Essential Commodities Act

and since the party has apologised, the detention order was withdrawn. That is the information received.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: The list supplied to us giving the information about the raids on various mill-owners and traders reveals two things. Firstly, action has been taken against some under the Essential Commodities Act while in case of others, action was taken under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act and as far as Modi Flour Mills is concerned, 4133 bags remain still un-weighted.

So, I put it to the hon. Minister:

(a) why that has not been weighed?

(b) When action was taken further under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, why that was dropped and he was charged under the Essential Commodities Act and why he was bailed out?

As it has got some social aspects, some exemplary punishment should be given to such persons who dealing with the lives of men. As the very social existence of the human-beings in India is being jeopardised by such acts, why not exemplary punishment be meted out to such persons? Why should there be a difference in treatment? With regard to the Mahabir General Mills, Narela also, action was taken under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act but as far as the rest are concerned....

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly finish your question. You are making a regular speech.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: Because it is a very long statement.

So, I put it to the hon. Minister specifically why action is not being taken against these big four mill owners like Modi Flour Mills and the Mahabir General Mills under the

Maintenance of Internal Security Act and why should they be released on bail bringing them under the Essential Commodities Act?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: These powers are to be exercised by the State administration and State Governments. As far as the Government of India is concerned, we have given them full authority to deal with the matter, particularly, those who indulge in profiteering, hoarding etc. The State Governments have full authority to deal with them. Naturally, reporting the information we have received, in this particular case, as I have already said earlier—I am referring to the Mahabir General Mills, the premises of the mill were seized and one of the partners of the said rice mills surrendered on 24th January, 1973 and was arrested. On his tendering an unconditional apology, the detention order was revoked on 4th February, 1973 and it was decided that action should be taken against the defaulting rice mills according to law under the Essential Commodities Act and the Rice Milling Industries Regulation Act of 1958.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: My question remains unanswered. I asked as to why action was not taken against them under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act? Why should it be dropped? The hon. Minister says, 'As we have given instructions to the State Governments it is left to them.' My question to the hon. Minister was: why under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act, action should not be taken and exemplary punishment awarded? Why not specific instructions on those lines be given to the States?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We cannot give instructions in individual cases. In fact, in a number of other States, even the provisions of Maintenance of Internal Security Act have been made applicable for persons who are trying to do these things. It

is within the discretion of the State Governments and Administrations concerned. The record shows that they have decided to take action under the Essential Commodities Act and it was done by the State administration.

श्री शशि भूषण : मंत्री महोदय से मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश में अभी अमरजैसी लागू है और इंसेशियल कमोडिटीज ऐक्ट में जितने व्यापारी पकड़े गये उन को फिर छोड़ दिया गया, और उन्हीं आड़तियों की बहुत बड़ी कानफ्रेंस हुई है। जितने लोगों को आप ने छोड़ा है, जो बिना लाइसेंस के राइस मिल चलाते हैं ब्लैक करने है। वही हडताल की घमकी देते हैं, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स को बड़ावा कब तक दिया जाता रहेगा ? इस को रोकने के लिये आप क्या कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I have already submitted about this. All the necessary powers are with the State Governments and State Governments have to take action in individual cases. My advice to State Governments is that they should not hesitate to take strongest possible action in all such cases.

SHRI B. R. SHUKLA: I would like to know how the seized stocks have been disposed of in view of the emergency situation on the food front in the country. I want to know how those stocks which have been seized during raids are finally disposed of, have they been auctioned, or given to ration shops etc.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is for the courts to issue directions. We have to take action as per the direction of the courts. We cannot exercise any arbitrary powers.

श्री राम रत्न शर्मा : मंत्री महोदय ने अपने स्टेटमेंट में बताया कि पिछले तीन

महीनों में राइस और फ्लोर मिल्स पर छापे मारे गये हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली के अन्दर कुल कितनी राइस और फ्लोर मिल्स हैं, और शेष के बारे में क्या कोई शिकायत नहीं थी इसलिये कोई छापे नहीं मारा गया ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: For total number of rice mills etc. I will require separate notice. Many of the rice mills were found to be operating without licence. In the registers they were not there. In a sense they have violated both the laws, that is of having foodgrains in contravention of the law as well as running the rice mills in contravention of the Rice Milling Industry (Regulation) Act.

श्री मुहम्मद जमीलुर्रहमान : मोहतरम म्पीकर साहब, मैं आप के जरिये दो बातें सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ। यह बात सरकार जानती है कि फूड सिप्लेशन मुल्क में किस कदर खतरनाक हालत में पहुँच गयी है, और यह जानते हुए आप को मालूम होगा कि इंसेशियल कमोडिटीज ऐक्ट में जितनी कार्यवाहियाँ की गयी हैं उस में सेक्शन 7 वेलेबिल है इसलिये इन के आगे कोई आल्टरनेटिव नहीं है सिवाय इस के कि पकड़ने के बाद उन को छोड़ दिया जाय। तो क्या यह विभाग इस बात के लिये रिबमन्ड करेगा कि इंसेशियल कमोडिटीज ऐक्ट के सेक्शन 7 को नान-वेलेबिल बनाया जाय ताकि इस किस्म के ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स जो पकड़े जाएं वे छोड़े न जा सकें ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It can be considered.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: In view of the fact that we are not quite happy with the way these cases are dealt with, I want to know whether he is prepared to give some categoric assurance to the House that no licence will be granted to business-

men who have violated these conditions, and that their licence in future will be cancelled.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is a good suggestion; we will consider it.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: The Minister has stated in the answer that about 639 quintals of unaccounted stocks of rice, paddy, wheat, atta and maida were found besides 4133 bags of wheat which have not been weighed. Why have these 4133 bags of wheat not been weighed even though several weeks have passed?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The godown has been sealed. Naturally the matter is now with the court. This can be done according to the court's orders. I think the procedural part of it will naturally be done. It is under seal; nobody is allowed to touch it.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Under whose custody are these bags at present?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It must be either in the custody of the police or of the court. I will have to find out the precise position as to who is in charge.

फसल बीमा

*288. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या कृषि मंत्री सामान्य बीमा कम्पनियों को फसल बीमा करने संबंधी अनुदेशों के बारे में 13 नवम्बर, 1972 के अंतरांकित प्रश्न संख्या 105 के उत्तर के संबंध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या फसल बीमा के संबंध में सरकार ने इस बीच कोई निश्चित कदम उठाये हैं; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उनकी मुख्य बातें क्या हैं?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b). On the basis of the Government decision, the General Insurance Corporation was requested to undertake a pilot scheme, on a voluntary basis, for selected crops in selected areas, as is being tried by the L.I.C. for Hybrid-4 cotton in Baroda district of Gujarat. The matter is now engaging the attention of the General Insurance Corporation.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि दुनिया के किन किन देशों में फसल बीमा चालू किया गया है या चालू है, इस के साथ ही भारत में क्या यह सम्भव है या नहीं? और अगर सम्भव है तो क्या बतायेंगे कि कब तक फसल बीमा की योजना हमारे यहां लागू हो सकेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The names of all the countries are not with me. But Ceylon, Japan, and USA are some of them where the crop insurance scheme is there. There are a few others, but not many.

Moreover, in most of these countries the element of compulsion is not there; it is a voluntary system. Now as far as our proposition is concerned, I have explained that now the General Insurance Corporation is expected to take up pilot projects. Already the LIC has taken up a scheme in Baroda district for cotton. The General Insurance Corporation has recently written to the States. They would be selecting some special crops in certain areas in the country on a pilot basis. If necessary, institutions like the Fertiliser Corporation are prepared to come forward to help in this project.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : मान्यवर, हमारे यहां 80 प्रतिशत प्राबावी कृषि पर निर्भर करती है, और औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में लोग खुद भी प्राग लगा कर इन्सोरेंस से