

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: In regard to Haldia a Study Group was appointed which went into the whole matter thoroughly and made a recommendation that Haldia Port Project should be finalised. So, why was another Sub-Committee appointed to finalise the matter? Secondly, when the sub-Committee will finalise its findings in regard to the Paradip Port?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: There is no question of formation of a separate Sub-Committee. The Working Group itself set up its own Sub-Committee to go into the technical details. The report of the Sub-Committee as well as the recommendations of the main Working Group have been received and they are under the consideration of the Government. But the setting up of the ship-yard comes within the range of the proposals that have to be adopted or accepted for the Fifth Plan. So, when the Fifth Plan proposals are accepted, we shall be in a position to say that.

Loss of Foodgrains during Storage, Procurement and Transport

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*809. **SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:**

SHRI SAMAR GUHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that quite a large quantity of foodgrains are lost in shortage and during procurement and transport;

(b) if so, the approximate amount in rupees of which the foodgrain is lost per tonne; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to minimise such wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SIINDE):
(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

When handling a large quantity of foodgrains borne losses in the procurement areas, storage and transit and operationally inescapable. No precise estimates of monetary losses per tonne caused to foodgrains in these post harvest handling are available. Available data collected as a result of a few sporadic surveys conducted are extremely meagre and it cannot be used for making an overall estimate of foodgrain losses in the country. The conditions under which foodgrains are thrashed, transported and stored are such that an appreciable loss of foodgrains must be occurring in the post harvest period.

Some of the steps taken to minimise these losses are enumerated below:

I. Losses in Storage

(i) The Government of India have systematically formulated plans for developing the storage facilities in the country to meet the storage requirements. A series of "crash programmes" for construction of godowns have been drawn up and these programmes are under implementation;

(ii) A scheme of Rs. 40 lakhs for improving the storage facilities in the rural areas at farmers' level is under way in Punjab, U.P., Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. Under this scheme, the farmers are supplied improved storage bins on deferred payment basis, which is free of interest.

(iii) A country-wide Save Grain Campaign has been launched by the Food Department under which extensive training, demonstration and publicity programme for popularising scientific techniques of storage and pest control are being implemented.

II. Losses in Procurement areas

(i) In the procurement of grain from the mandis and from the Rice

Mills, samples are drawn and analysed according to the standard procedure prescribed by the Indian Standards Institute to ensure that the purchases are strictly in accordance with the specifications, prescribed by the Government of India. Purchases of foodgrains of good quality minimise loss in storage and transit;

(ii) Vigilance squads to conduct surprise checks at the various loading, unloading and weighment points have been set up; and

(iii) Proper packing and weighment of foodgrains bags is being ensured.

III. Losses in transit

(i) When moved by road, proper truck chits/convoy notes are prepared for an effective check on the consignment at the railhead and/or the godown;

(ii) Sufficient and reasonable care is being exercised in handling the foodgrains bags at the loading and unloading points;

(iii) Covered wagons are being used for transporting foodgrains to the extent available. When block rakes of open wagons are used necessary precautions are taken for the proper protection of foodgrains by using tarpaulins of the proper size and the railway protection force escorting the consignment throughout in rail transit. Checks on the conditions of tarpaulins are also exercised at intermediate points to position them or to replace them, if necessary.

(iv) Movement by rail are being so planned as to avoid long haulage and transshipment, as far as possible.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : मैं आपकी मार्फत मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सारे स्टेटमेंट में इस बात का जिक्र है कि यह कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं जिससे फूडग्रेन्स खराब न हों

लेकिन मेरा क्वेश्चन बहुत साफ था और सीधा था कि अब तक कितना नुकसान, कितने रुपये का नुकसान आपके स्टोरेज में मुकम्मल इन्तज़ाम न होने की वजह से हुआ है और उस बात का स्टेटमेंट में कहीं जिक्र नहीं किया गया है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The question was not clear to us. All the same, we have tried to reply to the question to the best of our ability. If the hon. Member wants to know what is the storage loss and transit loss, our general information so far as the grains of the Food Corporation is concerned is that it comes to about one per cent.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : मैं आपकी मार्फत एक तजवीज करना चाहता हूँ मिनिस्टर साहब को कि सात मई से आल इंडिया फूडग्रेन्स डीलर्स एसोसियेशन ने एक एलान किया है कि वह कोर्स ग्रेन के व्यापार को अपने हाथ में नहीं लेंगे बल्कि हड़ताल करेंगे तो क्या सरकार इस तजवीज पर गौर करने के लिए तैयार है कि होलसेल व्यापारियों के जितने स्टोर्स पड़े हैं उन पर सरकार अपना कब्जा कर ले ताकि गन्धूम और दूसरे अनाज बर्हां रखे जा सकें क्योंकि वे हड़ताल तो कर ही रहे हैं ? क्या सरकार इस पर गौर करने के लिए तैयार है कि उन तमाम पहले से बने हुए स्टोर्स पर कब्जा कर लिया जाये ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I can only say that it is a suggestion for action.

श्री सतपाल कपूर : मैं तो सरकार का एटीट्यूड जानना चाहता हूँ ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने आपकी राय को माना तो नहीं है लेकिन कहा है it is a suggestion for action.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: A very strange reply has been given because the statement says:

"No precise estimates of monetary losses per tonnes caused to foodgrains in these post harvest handling are available."

How can Government come to some conclusion unless they have made a sample survey or a bigger survey? Is it a fact that the Agricultural Commission went in depth into the whole problem of the handling of foodgrains and stated in their report that about 26 per cent of the cost is due to handling charges only? Secondly, is it a fact that the Committee on Public Undertakings also made a survey of the wastage in transport as well as in storage? What are the findings of that Committee? To what extent is the loss during the process of transport and storage?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: A number of committees have gone into this problem. Even there was a special committee appointed by the Government of India to go into various post-harvest handling problems. Unfortunately, very conflicting views have been expressed by various committees. As far as the P.U. Report is concerned, that is the property of the House and the hon. Member can go into the Report and its recommendations. As far as the Agricultural Commission is concerned, I am not aware whether they have gone into that.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Sir, in the reply given by the hon. Minister, he has himself used the expression "post-harvest handling". About the post-harvest handling, the Agricultural Commission has categorically said that 25 per cent expenditure on account of that. I want to know exactly whether that is a fact and, about the P.U. Report, I want to know what

it has said about wastage. That figure can give.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As I have said, I am not aware of it. I will enquire from the Agricultural Commission whether they have gone into such matter and, if there are any recommendations, we can use those recommendations in examining the whole matter.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ट्रक्स से या रेलगाड़ियों से जो गेहूँ लाया जायगा तो क्या ऐसा इंतजाम करेंगे कि जिससे रास्ते में बोरी में से गेहूँ परखी लगा कर न निकाला जा सके। जैसे सीमेंट में ग्राज कल प्लास्टिक बैग्स इस्तेमाल होते हैं जिसमें अगर कोई लोहे की परखी लगा कर सीमेंट निकाले तो बोरे को देखते ही पता लग जाता है कि किसी ने इसमें से सीमेंट निकाला है, इसी तरह से जो बोरी में खोंप लगा कर गल्ला निकाल लेते हैं उसके लिये कोई फूल फूफू ढंग निकालेंगे, अर्थात् प्लास्टिक की बोरी इस्तेमाल में लायेंगे, ताकि बोरी में जो सामान भेजा जाय वह नष्ट न हो, और जहां तोल होती है और जहां माल रखा जाय वहां दुबारा तोल करायेंगे यह देखने के लिए कि पूरी तोल बोरी की है? ऐसा कोई इंतजाम आप के पास है या करने का विचार है?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: What the hon. Member says is right. When the private trade was purchasing foodgrains in the market, they used to push in a knife to find out the samples, etc. That used to cause a lot of damage. Now, after the take-over of wholesale trade, this problem will not arise as far as wheat and rice is concerned. As far as other foodgrains are concerned, the Government is seized of the matter that there are losses at various stages.

श्री अन्नसाहेब शिंदे भोरा : मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आप को पता है कि गोंडान में जो आप का कनक जाता है कुछ समय बाद प्रोटोमेटेकली उसका एक किलो पर क्विंटल वजन बढ़ जाता है, क्या उसका हिसाब कभी आप ने मांगा है क्योंकि जो बढ़ा हुआ कनक होता है वह अफसरों के घर चला जाता है। क्या आप समझते हैं कि उसका हिसाब किताब लिया जाय ताकि बढ़ा हुआ वजन भी सरकार के ही हिसाब में आये ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The question of pilferages and losses is engaging the attention of the Government. We will welcome any suggestions from the hon. Members. In fact, there are shortages also sometimes due to moisture, drying, etc.....

श्री सतपाल कपूर : माइस्चर से तो वजन बढ़ता है, घटता नहीं है।

MR. SPEAKER: Moisture increases the weight also.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As a result of drying, the weight decreases. If the weight is taken in Bombay or Calcutta where humidity percentage is high, during rainy seasons, it increases. It differs from place to place. But this loss is causing concern to the Government. We are attending to this problem.

Heun Tsang Memorial at Nalanda in Bihar

*810. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Heun Tsang Memorial was constructed at Nalanda in Bihar;

(b) if so, the cost of the construction of this memorial; and

(c) the main activities and functions carried on at this memorial?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) and (b). The main construction work of the Heun Tsang Memorial at Nalanda in Bihar, which is being executed by the C.P.W.D., was completed by 1970-71. The remaining work consists of a false ceiling of plaster of paris and an altar for embedding the relics of Heun Tsang, the electrical fixtures, horticulture work, etc. the progress of work on these items has been slow. C.P.W.D is being requested to arrange for the completion of the work as early as possible. The expenditure on construction so far has been about Rs. 9 lakhs.

(c) At present no activity is being carried on at this Memorial since the building has yet to be handed over by the C.P.W.D.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: May I know the date on which this project was sanctioned and how many years it has taken for completion?

SHRI D. P. YADAV: So far as the date is concerned, in the year 1957 His Holiness the Dalai Lama presented on behalf of the Chinese Government to the late Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the sacred relics of Heun Tsang as also a cheque for Rs. 5,74,000 for the construction of the Heun Tsang Memorial.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: In view of the fact that 14 years have passed and the project has not yet been completed, as it is stated now, may I ask further whether it is contemplated to integrate the activities of the memorial at Nalanda with the Nalanda Pali Institute and an early