

LOK SABHA

*Thursday, July 8, 1971/
Asadha 17, 1893 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Food Supplies for Bangla Desh Refugees
by Centre**

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*991. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA :
SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) what quantities of rice and wheat have been supplied from the Central Store for relief work among the evacuees from Bangla Desh ; and

(b) whether the demand made by the Government of West Bengal in this behalf has been entirely met ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) :**

(a) and (b). Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

SHRI S C. SAMANTA : If this is the state of affairs, I wonder how the Government is running. Food is to be supplied to the refugees. Some quantity has been sent. May we at least know the approximate quantity that has been supplied ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : May I inform the hon. member that this information is available with the Food Corporation, that is the Food Ministry ?

We have depots at several places. Therefore, we have to collect the information from several depots and sub-depots. However, I have some information and if the hon. member is interested, I would like to share it with the House.

For West Bengal, the total requirement of rice, as reported by the West Bengal Government, for the current crop year commencing 1st Nov. 1970 is as follows : 5,25,000 metric tonnes for normal requirement, 3,00,000 metric tonnes for refugees—total requirement 8,25,000 metric tonnes. Against this, an allocation of 8,07,000 metric tonnes has so far been made. But as I said, this is not up-to-date information.

According to the information received from the Government of West Bengal, upto the 26 June 1971, a quantity of 47,233 metric tonnes was issued from the FCI depots for some of the refugees. Wheat is issued, as usual, to millers and fair price shops. These are not up to date.

Regarding Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura, the total requirement of rice from the central pool for 1971, as estimated by the Government of Assam, was a little more than 75,000 metric tonnes. So far an allotment of 27,000 metric tonnes of rice has been made to the Government of Assam, in addition to 1,000 tonnes of basumati rice. About Meghalaya also I have some information.....

MR. SPEAKER : It may be laid on the Table.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I said, we will collect it from the various depots and then lay it on the Table.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : To the original question asking for information, the reply is that it is not readily available. But in reply to a supplementary, so much information has been given. How do we reconcile the original reply with this ? You may kindly order Government to give us the full information.

MR. SPEAKER : I was also about to say that.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I said, the entire information is available with the Food Ministry. We will collect it. But I am not in a position to give the correct information up to date just now. I will lay it on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER : If that is the position, this sort of piecemeal supply of information should have been avoided.

SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : I would like to know whether the Central Government had consultations with the various State Governments about the surplus of food that may be available with them for West Bengal, and whether Government is going to import food also for the refugees ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : The question of import at the present juncture does not arise because we are drawing from our food stocks. The State Governments are in day to day contact with us about the requirements of refugees and others. Orders are there and financial arrangements have been made with the Food Corporation, and whatever is required is issued by the Food Corporation.

Price of Wheat in Delhi

*992. SHRI N. S. BISHT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the wheat procurement price which has been fixed by Government at Rs. 70/- per quintal is being sold in Delhi in the retail market at Rs. 98 to Rs. 100/- per quintal ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this respect to ensure that middlemen do not cause an increase in the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) The facts stated are not correct. A statement giving the correct position is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) Does not arise.

Statement

The procurement price of all varieties of wheat excepting the indigenous red variety is Rs. 76 per quintal throughout the country. The issue price fixed by Government for all imported and indigenous varieties of wheat including amber coloured varieties of indigenous wheat is Rs. 78 per quintal. The retail price of wheat sold through fair price shops in Delhi is Rs. 81 per quintal. There is no statutory control on open market prices of wheat. The open market prices are held in check by adequate distribution of wheat through the fair price shops. Open market prices of wheat during the current marketing season (April—June 1971) ranged between Rs. 80.00 and Rs. 90.00 per quintal for dara variety, and Rs. 90.00 and Rs. 100 per quintal for farm variety. The prices for these two varieties of wheat in the corresponding period of the previous season ranged between Rs. 85.00 and Rs. 107.00, and Rs. 100.00 and Rs. 120.00 per quintal respectively.

श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह बिष्ट : स्टेटमेंट में कहा गया है कि :

"There is no statutory control of open market prices of wheat."

मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या बाजार भाव को नियन्त्रित करने के लिए वह स्टेटुटरी कंट्रोल लागू करने जा रही है ? यदि हाँ, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं तो क्यों ;

श्री शेर सिंह : कंट्रोल करने की अभी कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। प्राइस को ठीक रखने के लिए हमारे पास बहुत स्टॉक है, जरूरत पड़ने पर हम उसको इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं।

श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह बिष्ट : सरकार ने कहा कि प्राइस को कंट्रोल करने के लिए हमारी चीप ग्रेन शाप्स हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि नई दिल्ली में कितनी हैं और पुरानी दिल्ली में कितनी हैं और उनमें से कितनी खुलती हैं ?

श्री शेर सिंह : इस समय 1663 फेयर प्राइस शाप्स हैं, और यह बात सही है कि फेयर प्राइस