

LOK SABHA

Thursday, June 17, 1971/  
Jyaistha 27, 1893 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

मध्य प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि

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\*541. श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :  
श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जनवरी, 1971 के पश्चात् मध्य प्रदेश में खाद्यान्नों के मूल्यों में वृद्धि हो गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) क्या राज्य-सरकार ने मूल्यों में कमी करने के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार से सहायता माँगी है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) There has been some rise in the price of Maize during the period January to June 1971. The prices of rice and jowar have shown a mixed behaviour, whereas the prices of wheat, gram and bajra have fallen during the period.

(b) The rise in price of Maize is seasonal in character.

(c) No, Sir.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अभी बताया गया है कि चावल और गेहूँ के भावों में मिश्रित वृद्धि हुई है। काफ़्तकारों का अनाज बहुत सस्ते दामों में ले लिया जाता है। उन से जब खरीदा जाता है तब तो मूल्य घटता है लेकिन ग्राम जनता को जब खाने के लिए अनाज लेना पड़ता है, उसके दामों में काफी वृद्धि हुई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय को जानकारी है कि प्रति क्विंटल दस और पंद्रह रुपये से अधिक दाम मार्केट में बढ़ गए हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : It would not be correct to say that there has been a general price rise in the case of foodgrains ; in fact, as compared to last year, the prices of cereals all over the country, including Madhya Pradesh, are broadly lower by 5 per cent. Therefore, there is no cause for anxiety as such. In certain centres difficulty does arise. In the case of maize, for instance, as I said, there has been some marginal increase in price in certain centres, not all over the country, but the Food Corporation of India has procured

so much maize that we are not finding any market for that maize. So, there is no difficulty. I do not think the fears expressed by the hon. Member are justified by the situation.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि मक्का के दामों में कुछ वृद्धि हुई है। यह भी उन्होंने बताया है कि हमारे पास मक्का इतना भरा हुआ है कि हमें पता नहीं चलता है कि हम उसे कहाँ बेचें, किए मार्किट में जायें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस मौसम में जबकि दाम बढ़ गए हैं, ग्राम जनता को खाने के लिए उचित दामों पर यह मिले, इसकी आपने कोई विशेष व्यवस्था की है या करने जा रहे हैं? मौसम के कारण जो दाम बढ़ जाते हैं वे न बढ़ें इसकी आपने कोई विशेष व्यवस्था की है?

मार्किट में तो दाम बढ़ जाते हैं परन्तु जो कार्तकार पंदा करता है उसको जो दाम मिलते हैं, उन में कोई वृद्धि नहीं होती है। जो दाम आपने बांध रखे हैं उन से भी कम दामों पर आप उससे खरीद लेते हैं या व्यापारी खरीद लेता है। व्यापारी कम दामों पर न खरीदे और आप भी उचित मूल्य पर और पर्याप्त मात्रा में उसे खरीदें, इसके लिए आपने कौन सी व्यवस्था की है?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As I submitted earlier, maize prices, as compared to last year, are lower by 21 per cent. But we have got reports that in one centre in Madhya Pradesh and one centre in Bihar, there has been some rise in the market price. We are thinking whether we can unload some of the maize held by the Food Corporation in those centres so that the price rise is checked.

In regard to the complaint of the hon. Member that foodgrains are purchased at much cheaper prices from producers, the hon. Member knows that we have given an assurance to the farmers of this country that

as far as wheat, rice, etc., are concerned, we are purchasing them at procurement prices. It is a good thing for us that the Food Corporation is having a commanding position in the Indian market as far as food purchases are concerned.

SHRI K. MALLANNA : Production of foodgrains has risen. Blackmarketers with their black money and hoarders purchase foodgrains in the harvest season at lower prices and create an artificial scarcity of foodgrains by hoarding. May I know what action has been taken against these people?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I cannot say that black money is not invested by some people in the purchase of foodgrains etc. But I examined the position recently and I found that out of the total market arrival of wheat in Punjab, 95 per cent is purchased by the Food Corporation and very limited quantities are purchased by the food trade. The reason is that the element of speculation has come down. In the good old days it used to happen that in the post-harvest period prices used to slump and in the lean period prices used to rise, with the result that the speculator used to make profiteering. But because of a very comfortable position of Food economy and commanding position of the Food Corporation in the Indian market and the large-scale procurement by the Corporation, this speculative element has come down very much. I do not think the fears expressed by the hon. Member are, in and way, true in the present set of circumstances.

SHRI S. B. GIRI : The hon. Minister has said that the price of maize has gone down. May I know whether the Government is prepared to compensate farmers where the price has gone down?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We are procuring at the procurement prices. The general price level has not increased, as I said. On the contrary, it has gone down as compared to last year.

Verification of membership of central trade union Organisations

\*542. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND RE-