

श्रीर रिकार्ड रखा जाता है। क्या धरम ने सतना में इस का पता लगाने की कोशिश की है? यदि नहीं है, तो उस आदमी के खिलाफ कार्यवाही की गई और भविष्य में कोई ऐसा कार्यवाही न हो इस के लिये धरम को वही कदम उठाते जा रहे हैं?

श्री श्री० पी० सी० शर्मा : इस प्रकार की रिक्तियों के विदेश भेजे जाने पर पूर्ण रूप से रोक लगी हुई है। इन को विदेश नहीं भेजा जा सकता लेकिन यदा कदा चोरी से कुछ लोग ले जाते हैं—ऐसी शिकायतें आयी हैं। जहाँ तक ए० गफूर का सवाल है मैंने विवेचन किया था कि यह पार्सल सतना रेलवे स्टेशन से भेजा गया था और वहाँ से ए० गफूर ने दिल्ली में ए० गफूर के नाम भेजा था। न तो सतना में इस तरह के नाम के किसी आदमी का पता लगा और न दिल्ली में पता लगा ऐसा लगता है कि यह फिक्टोशस नाम से भेजा गया था।

श्री बलंत साठे : ऐसा लगता है कि आरक्षण में लेने वाला ए० गफूर होगा।

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : क्या सरकार यह बतलाने की कृपा करेगी कि इन का इतने सस्ते दामों पर नीलाम करने के बजाय क्यों न स्वयं इनको विदेश भेजती और विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित करती जैसा कि अभी अध्यक्ष महोदय ने संकेत किया है कि विदेशों में इस का दाम बहुत ज्यादा है।

MR. SPEAKER: When I was abroad, I saw these skins in some people's houses and they told me that they had bought them for Rs. 50,000 or Rs. 60,000. That was why I had referred to it.

श्री श्री० पी० सी० शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय जैसा कि आप ने आदेश दिया है मैं स्वयं इस की जांच-पड़ताल करूँगा। लेकिन मैं यह विज्ञापन करूँ कि इस का पड़लक आरक्षण

हुआ था और पड़लक आरक्षण में 20 हजार रुपये आये थे।

Support Prices of Agricultural Products

*494. SHRI TARUN GOGOI;
SHRI RAMSHEKHAR
PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Prices Commission had recommended that the support price of Kharif and Rabi should be announced before the seeds are sown;

(b) whether Government have not announced so far as Kharif and Rabi support price;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have called the meeting of the Chief Minister to discuss the issue; and

(d) when the prices are likely to be announced?

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

(a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Whether support prices of food-grains should be announced or not before the sowing season is generally decided by Government. While making their recommendations, the Agricultural Prices Commission have been sometimes expressing views about the desirability or otherwise of announcing support prices.

On the basis of the recommendations made by the Agricultural Prices Commission, minimum support prices of wheat for the rabi marketing season, 1974-75 were announced in September, 1973. The question of announcement of support price for kharif cereals for

1974-75 is being examined. The price and procurement policy for kharif cereals for 1974-75 season, will be decided in consultation with the Chief Ministers before the commencement of the marketing season. However, no date has been fixed for the meeting of the Chief Ministers.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: May I know whether in 1973, the Agricultural Price Commission had recommended that the price of wheat should be announced before the sowing season, and if so, why this year Government are still waiting to make such an announcement because the marketing is already on?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The Agricultural Prices Commission have been expressing views from time to time that the support prices should be announced. It is well known to hon. Members that recently, the Government of India have been announcing procurement prices at a much higher level than the support prices; but because of the present price level, the support prices have lost their relevance. That was why the Government of India did not think it proper to announce support prices.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: May I know whether the support prices for wheat announced in 1973 were found to be a non-incentive to the agriculturists, since there was a large difference between the market price and the support price, and if so, what steps Government are going to take in the future to see that the agriculturists—get remunerative prices?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: One can have different views on this. As far as the Government of India are concerned, they did take into consideration various factors and—they have announced prices higher than those recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission.

श्री चन्द्रशेखर सिंह : अध्यक्ष जी इस प्रश्न के दो भाग हैं। जो स्टेटमेंट अभी

माननीय मंत्रों जी ने दिया है उस के दो भाग हैं। एक भाग में उन्होंने बताया है कि सितम्बर 1973 में यह गेहूँ का भाव निश्चित किया गया था, एनाउंस किया गया था और दूसरा उन्होंने यह बताया है कि खरीफ के बारे में और क.मंत्रों के बारे में क्या नीति होगी, इस को तय नहीं किया है। इस सम्बन्ध में जानना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा कि अभी माननीय सदस्य ने भी पूछा कि जो भाव निश्चित किया गया था 1973 में उस के मुकाबले में बाजार में बहुत ज्यादा कीमत पर गेहूँ बिका। इस विषय में भी क्या सरकार सोच रही है ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि खरीफ की फसलों की कीमत निश्चित करने के लिए नीति निर्धारित करने के लिये मुख्य मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन अभी तक नहीं किया है और खरीफ की फसलों को बोने का समय धा गया है। अगर किसानों को कीमतों का पहले पता नहीं होगा तो उन को अपनी लागत लगाने में या उस को कम करने में काफी परेशानी होगी और बाढ़ बर्बर हो से भी दिक्कत बढ़ गई है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कदम उठाये हैं ? चीफ मिनिस्टर्स के पास पत्र भेजे गये हैं या उन की कोई मीटिंग हुई है और विभिन्न मंत्रियों के क्या विचार हैं और उन विचारों को कब तक सरकार कार्य रूप में परिणत सोच रही है। अगर देर हुई तो खरीफ का सीजन भी समाप्त हो जाएगा और फसलों की स्थिति देश में खराब हो जायेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: There is no question of announcing support prices. Now, as I submitted earlier, since the kharif crops have already been sown, the question would now be of announcing procurement prices. There is a reference in the statement that the Chief Ministers' Conference would be convened. Normally, it is convened at the end of September, when crop prospects become

known and we are in a position to take realistic decisions on the basis of crop prospects. Though the date has not yet been fixed, it would be by end of September or so. As far as the earlier part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, we are now to announce the procurement prices. As far as open market selling prices are concerned, they depend upon supply, demand and the gap between production and requirement and a number of other factors.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been seen that both the peasants and the consumers have been cheated by the Government's policy of divide and rule. The procurement price is Rs. 150/- per quintal and it was to be sold in Delhi and other places at Rs. 161 per quintal. I would like to know, why foodgrains procured in Punjab, Haryana as well as in Rajasthan, at the price of Rs. 150/- per quintal are being sold in Delhi and other places between Rs. 192—Rs. 275 per quintal. Now it is Rs. 300/- per quintal. The price of rice in Delhi today is Rs. 4.30 per kilo, good rice. The price of wheat is also Rs. 3/- per kilo. Within a period of three months, it has risen from Re. 1.10 to Rs. 3 per kilo. I would like to know, whether Government has evolved any policy by which there is some ratio between the procurement price and the selling price to the consumers, and if they have not done so, are they going to do it or not?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, I would like to correct the hon. Member. The procurement price, as far as wheat is concerned, is not Rs. 150 but Rs. 105 per quintal. The issue price, which is a uniform price at all places throughout the country is Rs. 125 per quintal. As far as Government grain issue is concerned, there is no change. The only thing is, over and above this Rs. 125, which is the wholesale price to the State Governments they add Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 depending on the margins of the fair price shops and other expenses. This is as

far as issue prices are concerned. In regard to the other part of the hon. Member's question, I would seek your guidance because this question relates to the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission. I have no objection in discussing the general price problem. I would seek your guidance, whether this would come under the question under consideration. I am at your disposal.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: My question was about the support price given to the farmer. Sir, I want your guidance in the matter. My question is about the proportion.

MR. SPEAKER: His question is whether there is any proportion or ratio between the price recommended by the Commission and the actual price in the market.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: There are two parts to this question. As far as the foodgrains procured by government are concerned, there is a definite ratio. This time a decision has been taken that to the extent possible the subsidy element should not be there, though some marginal subsidy is involved. As far as the open market price is concerned, it is governed by a number of factors like production, demand, supply, hoarding and so on.

श्री नाचूराम अहिरवार : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मामनीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि जब रबी और खरीफ की फसलों के भाव एग्रीकल्चर कमीशन फिक्स करता है तो खेतों में जो लागत लगती है उस खर्च को महेंज्वर न रखते हुये सरकार एक तरफा फैसला करती है और उसी के कारण सरकार को प्रोक्वोरमेंट में कम गल्ला मिलता है और क्या यह बात सही है कि पिछले साल सरकार ने जो 76 रुपये के हिसाब से गल्ला खरीदा वह सरकारी दुकानों पर 140 और 145 के भाव से बेचा गया ? इतना फर्क क्यों रखा गया और क्या सरकार इस को उचित मानती है ? अब आप जो मुख्य मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन करते वाले हैं क्या वह

इस बात की ध्यान में रखेगा कि फिटलाइक्स के भाव दुगने हो गये हैं और उस को ध्यान में रख कर ही भाव तय किये जाएंगे। इस के अलावा सरकार ने जो सिबाई दरें बढ़ा दी हैं, बिजली की दर बढ़ा दी है उन सब बढ़े हुए खर्चों को ही ध्यान में रखकर सरकार कोमतों के बारे में अपनी नीति निर्धारित करे ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Government give considerable thought to all these problems and the decisions about prices are not announced arbitrarily. Our general approach is that remunerate price should be paid to the farmers. We get the cost of production data and we consult the Agricultural Prices Commission, who consult the agricultural institutions and so on. But, ultimately, in this country we have to arrive at a decision on the basis of an equitable balance between the consumers, whose purchasing capacity has to be taken into consideration while fixing the prices, though we would not like the producers to incur losses in regard to this. He said that wheat was purchased at Rs. 76 and sold at Rs. 140. That is not correct.

MR. SPEAKER: He was referring to last year not this year.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am referring to last year, when we purchased wheat at Rs. 76. But what is distributed through the public distribution system is what is procured indigenously as also what is imported, which costs round about Rs. 200. Therefore to say that government is profiteering at the cost of public distribution would not be a correct statement to make.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The support price recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission to be paid to the farmers is not sometimes conducive too the farmers and that does not give them any incentive. In view of the food shortage will the government announce a definite policy of

are more anxious to grow more food, will not be compelled to reduce production because of the frequent change in the policy of the Government?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Even though we announce a support price, generally the procurement prices are higher than the support price. The approach of the Government of India is to give a very remunerative price to the farmers. It is not correct to say that the decline in food production is because of the policy of the Government. An analysis will show that production has gone down during the last two years because of the erratic behaviour of the monsoon and during 1972-73 because of drought.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री जी ने बताया कि जो बाहर से गेहूं मंगाया वह 200 रुपये क्विंटल के भाव से मंगाया जब कि यहां काश्तकारों से प्रापम 76 रु० के भाव से खरीदते हैं। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यहां के काश्तकारों को बाहर से मंगाने जाने वाले गेहूँ की तुलना में प्राप क्यों कम दाम देते हैं ? प्राप 76 रु० क्विंटल यहां काश्तकार से खरीदते हैं और 150 रु० के भाव से बेचते हैं, यानी दुगना लाभ कमाया और अगार व्यापारी 10 रु० प्रति क्विंटल का मुनाफा ले कर गेहूँ बाजार में बेचता है तो वह प्राप की दिगह में चोर है और उस को जेल भेजा जाता है। तो यह जो प्राप ने बाहर का और यहां का अन्तर रखा है उस को खत्म करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: This has been raised a number of times here and I have replied to it. I do not think it will be a practical proposition to accept that our prices should be related to international prices. Sometimes international prices are very low as compared to the prices we pay to our farmers. Our economic and social conditions are different. We will have to take decisions with relevance to our