

Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, may be even in the form of an example....

MR. SPEAKER: I have explained it.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: But it was derogatory.

MR. SPEAKER: There was nothing derogatory from me. I never intended that. I respect him. He is known to me personally. At two meetings I did not mention it. They had asked me to comment on it. Unfortunately I had drawn the name; otherwise, all that I have said is that it does not look nice... (Interruption)

Shri Kakodkar.

श्री मधु लिमये : मेरे प्रस्ताव का क्या हुआ ? मेरा प्रस्ताव लीजिए और आडिनेंस पर वहम कराइए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह बाद में देखेंगे । अभी तो क्वेश्चन आवर है ?

I have been asked by a number of friends in the Conference that the speed of coverage of questions should be more; more questions should be covered. Therefore, at the very beginning of the Session I would request my dear hon. colleagues to put only questions and not make speeches.

Shri Kakodkar.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Food aid from U.S.A.

\*1. SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR:

SHRI M. M. JOSEPH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India had approached the Government of U.S.A. for food aid to India; and

(b) if so, the response of U.S.A. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The Governments of U.S. and other food-grain surplus exporting countries have been approached for finding out how much of foodgrains can be made available by them to India and on what terms. The response of those countries is awaited.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: May I know from the hon. Minister when the first approach was made and whether it was repeated and if it was repeated what was the reason and when was the last approach made.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I have not got the date-wise information with me. But recently the U.S. Government has been approached by us to explore the possibility. As I have replied, there has been no specific response from them.

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAKODKAR: In the past we have received foodgrains and other commodities from the United States. Is there any difficulty in the terms? What is the reason for the delay?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is for the U.S. administration to respond. We have only suggested to them that we are interested in having foodgrains from them and that we would like to know the terms on which they are likely to offer and what would be the quantity that they would be able to offer. There has been no specific response from them. I think, today our national situation demands that such a possibility should be explored from all food-grain surplus exporting countries.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us whether foodgrains are being imported at concessional rates and whether PL 480, title I, on Egyptian model, based on deferred payment system, is being revived and the substance of the discussion that he had with Mr. Henry Kissinger and also how much food is going to be imported and on what terms and conditions?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** As far as USA is concerned, I have said that so far they have not specifically responded to our request and, therefore, it will be too premature for me to mention what will be the conditions and what will be the terms, etc.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** I have asked a number of questions, whether the talk is about import of concessional items on the lines of PL 480 Title I on Egyptian model based on deferred payment and what was the subject matter of discussion with Dr. Henry Kissinger. Please do not try to run away so soon on the first day itself.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** We have already approached Canada, Australia, EEC and UK for giving us food aid. All these four countries have made offers and given us some foodgrains.

As far as USA is concerned, there is no such specific offer so far. They have their own laws and naturally, the hon Member is interested to know them and whether they will be under Title I or Title II of PL 480. But, unless the offer comes, it will not be possible for us to say anything and we will consider whatever is consistent with our national interest.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** What was the subject matter of discussion with Dr. Henry Kissinger? Why are you trying to evade? Why are you trying to make a fool of us in the matter of importation of food from

America? Let him be directed to answer this question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Kindly sit down. Please do not continue it.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** I would not. But, let him reply.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** When Dr. Henry Kissinger visited India, this was not a specific item for discussion between the Government of India and the USA. But this issue did come up in the discussion and we repeated the same think that we are interested in getting food from USA. But there was no specific offer.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:** You are trying to get one million tonnes through US multi-national corporations. Why are you hiding that, Mr. Shinde?

**SHRI R. S. PANDEY:** With regard to the question of import of foodgrains, is it not true that India approached certain countries which have been mentioned by the hon. Minister rather late when a large quantity of food had already been purchased by many other countries and prices have gone up? Is it also true that the countries which are involved in this international trading in foodgrains said, 'No. We have not got the stocks.'? Will you please explain?

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** He is giving information.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The world food situation is somewhat difficult and is well-known to the hon. House. But I must say that the countries, for instance, Canada, Australia, EEC and UK have offered altogether a million tonnes and out of that, 3 lakhs tonnes are by way of grants and the remaining 7 lakhs tonnes are still under negotiation. Sweden has also made an offer. Canada has given us 1,37,000 tonnes.

Australia—20,000 tonnes and UK—30,000 tones. These are the quantities and it would not be correct to say that no foodgrains are available.

**SHRI R. S. PANDEY:** My question was quite a specific one: whether India has gone to the international foodgrains market quite late when other countries had made large purchases and the prices had gone up and we could not get the quantity we wanted because the quantity was exhausted?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** That is not correct.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE** *rose.*

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** *rose.*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Gupta. This is the convention I have developed.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** I have no objection. You can call me after Mr. Indrajit Gupta.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** In view of the recent public statements made both by the Prime Minister and the newly-appointed Food Minister whom I do not see here, to the effect that large quantities of foodgrains are admittedly available in this country but are hoarded and that these foodgrains, if they could be made available, would at least prevent starvation deaths from taking place. In view of these statements may I know from the hon. Minister whether they are now going into the market for imported foodgrains without any kind of limit, upto any limit that we are able to get, or are they in a position to assess how much we could get from hidden stocks and thus assess the minimum that is necessary to be got from outside? In other words, what is the demand which they have projected, is it an unlimited quantity, I would like to know.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** As far as de-hoarding campaign in

this country is concerned I think this has been taken up vigorously as never before against hoarders, against hoarding of foodgrains and strict action is taken against economic offences and even MISA is applied in these cases by the State Governments. We will get whatever is available in the country and whatever is in our country's interest we will do. We are, as the House is aware, making all efforts to mop up whatever is available in the country and then whatever reasonable quantities are required from the international market, we should go in for that.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** My question was, they must have made their own calculations. What is that calculation? After that only they can go in for imports from America or Canada or anywhere else specifically, apart from what they may be able to land or give us. That is a different question. But, what are we going in the market for? What is the minimum which we have projected to get from abroad? What is the estimate and how much do we require?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** We make assessment from time to time. In all these matters, as the hon. Member is aware, and as the House is aware we take the national interest into consideration and do accordingly. If there is a good rabi crop for instance, it is not good to go in for large quantities of imported foodgrains. Therefore, as the hon. Member knows, our assessment is naturally dependent upon the crop prospects. The position is being reviewed from time to time and necessary action is being taken. It would be every difficult for me to mention a specific quantity at this stage as the position is being reviewed from time to time. During the last 7 months from 1st April, near about 2.5 million tonnes have been imported.

**SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI:** Is it not a fact that we

have approached for the last 2 years all Governments abroad about our difficult food problems except the USSR which responded to us immediately in time of crisis? Has the United States announced any special system in connection with the visit of Dr. Henry Kissinger? I would like to know from the Minister what terms and conditions they have placed before the USSR when he got their food imported into our country? What are the specific terms and conditions of the USA now?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The terms and conditions of the USA are not very clear and it would be very difficult for me to make any comparison with the offer the Soviets made to us. They lent us some wheat to be returned within a specified period on certain terms and conditions. It will not be possible for us to compare both terms and conditions.

**SHRI SYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** Is it not a fact that during the last session of Parliament the Minister had made a statement to the effect that we would not be obtaining food grains against concessional rate? We would like to know whether that position stands today or not.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** I would like to make it clear that we take into account the overall food situation in the country, the foreign exchange position and our national interest. If there are terms and conditions which are favourable, I think, it would be right to accept those terms and conditions.

**SHRIMATI MUKUL BANERJI:** I would like to know what is the percentage of foodgrains imported by India in comparison with the percentage of foodgrains imported by countries like USSR, Canada, etc.?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** In terms of percentages I can say our total import; are always somewhere 4-6 per cent of our total requirements.

So, it forms a small quantity of our total requirements. As far as other leading countries are concerned they import a very large quantity but they, perhaps, can afford to pay.

**SHRI P. K. DEO:** In spite of public utterances of the Food Minister that not a single person will be permitted to die of starvation, we are getting reports that thousands have died of starvation in the country, especially a few hundreds have died in my own constituency. I would like to know when they are going to bring an improvement and streamline the distribution system. Also when the foreign foodgrains would be available in our stocks so that they can assure two meals a day to the starving millions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I do not controvert your position but this is not relevant to this. When the relevant question is fixed later on, I will allow it. There is another question on it.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** Imports are continuing and every month 5-7 lakh tonnes of wheat and other grains are coming in the country.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Whether it is a fact that on earlier occasions the Members in this House, in a mood of anxiety, raised many questions before the Government to know whether the Government has any plan to import foodgrains from outside? You will remember, Sir, they replied that they have not taken any decision as yet. As a result of this delay in not having an early decision in regard to food imports not hundreds but thousands of starvation deaths have been recorded all over the country and the Government is responsible for that. I want to know from the Government when did they take the decision to import foodgrains and why did they delay in entering into negotiations with the country that could provide

foodgrains? When Russia and China could get foodgrains from USA and Canada what stood in the way of India to get foodgrains from U.S.A. or from anywhere, in this globe? What stood in their way in taking the decision earlier? Why was there inordinate delay in taking that decision? I want a reply from the Government.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** We have been purchasing foodgrains in the international markets. And a number of times the House was taken into confidence about the quantity which had been purchased in the international markets. We have been purchasing the foodgrains though our foreign exchange position is very difficult. Despite that, we spent a very large amount of foreign exchange for purchasing foodgrains from the international markets. Last year, we purchased more than four million tonnes of foodgrains. (*Interruptions*).

**MR. SPEAKER:** There is going to be a debate on it and I shall certainly accommodate. I shall give to you one minute each. I shall call you Mr. Bhagat after this hon. Member.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, let there be no impression in this country that starvation deaths can only be there by not importing foodgrains from unfriendly countries like U.S.A. That impression should not go. (*Interruptions*). They are not your mother or father.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** They can go anywhere else for this purpose. (*Interruptions*).

**MR. SPEAKER:** Kindly do not make such remarks.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** There are starvation deaths not only by not importing foodgrains. By dehoarding the foodgrains from the hoarders in the country, this can be avoided.

I would like to know whether the foodgrains that are already available—imported quantity of foodgrains

or our own foodgrains—have been properly distributed to avoid the starvation deaths. I do not want a brief either from Dr. Kissinger or from any other country. We will not take the foodgrains from them. We shall save the honour of our country by making use of the foodgrains available in India.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** What national honour is involved in this.

**MR. SPEAKER:** We have already to get through many questions.

**SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT:** Sir, I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether with the marginal import of foodgrains that they are proposing to make and with the production in the country and also the steps that they are taking against the hoarders and for proper distribution, do the Government feel quite confident about facing the food situation in the country and whether there is any cause for panic or not. I want to know this categorically from the hon. Minister.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** I do not think there is any cause for panic at all. We feel quite confident in facing the situation. In fact, recently there has been a downward trend in the price also in drought hit areas. (*Interruptions*). Nobody should try to make any political gain out of this.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** वह कह रहे हैं कि इस मामले में राजनीति नहीं लाई जानी चाहिये। लेकिन मंत्री महोदय ला रहे हैं। श्री भगत उन से जैसा जवाब चाहते थे वैसा जवाब उन्होंने दिया है। वह कहते हैं कि खबराने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। हम स्थिति पर काबू पाने में समर्थ हैं। जब ऐसी बात है तब फिर यह भुखमरी की खबरें क्यों आ रही हैं? मैं यह सवाल नहीं उठाना चाहता था लेकिन चूंकि यह उठ गया है इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि असम की सरकार ने

कहा है कि 400 से ज्यादा लोग पीस्टिक-  
 आहार न मिलने के कारण मरे हैं। इनका  
 क्या जवाब है?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:**  
 There are other questions on starva-  
 tion deaths and it would be diverting  
 from this question if I reply to them  
 now. I have already replied in writ-  
 ing to those questions and I would not  
 like to go into them now. We have  
 naturally enquired from the State  
 Government. I would appeal to Shri  
 Vajpayee not to help create panic.  
 There are certain international ele-  
 ments which want to create a feeling  
 of panic in this country.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** What type  
 of answer is this when people are dying  
 in thousands? In my constituency  
 alone—I challenge the Government—  
 700 people died of starvation. The  
 total figure for West Bengal is 4,000-  
 5,000. This is not my statement but  
 the statement made by the President of  
 the ruling Congress in West Bengal.  
 Yet he calls it panic when people are  
 dying in thousands....

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have already  
 spoken. Shri Kachwai.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** मंत्री महोदय  
 ने उत्तर में बताया है कि रूस से जो अनाज  
 भारत को मिला था वह उधार मिला था  
 और उन अनाज को हमें लौटाना है। लेकिन  
 जिस समय मिला था उस समय बड़े जोर शोर  
 से यह प्रचार किया गया था कि भारत को  
 दान में बीस लाख टन अनाज उमने दिया है।  
 रेडियो तथा अखबारों में यह प्रचार किया  
 गया था। अब अमरीका से जो अनाज मंगाया  
 है वह कितना मंगाया है और किस दाम  
 पर और उसके कब आने की सम्भावना  
 है तथा दूसरे देशों में कितना मंगाया है  
 और उनके आने की कब सम्भावना है? देश  
 में आपने कितना एकत्र किया है, कितने की  
 आवश्यकता है और कितने अनाज की कमी है?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:**  
 Very large quantities of foodgrains  
 have been purchased from the US

market and they are arriving. The  
 impression should not go round that  
 foodgrains are not being purchased  
 from the US. They are being purchas-  
 ed in the market on commercial  
 account.

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** How much?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:**  
 I can give the figures also. Broadly  
 Two-thirds of our total purchases are  
 from the USA. I do not think the  
 question of the Soviet Union is rele-  
 vant here. I have already explained  
 the position as regards that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I propose that we  
 pass on to the next question.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** मैंने पूछा था  
 कि कितने अनाज की आवश्यकता है और  
 कितना आ रहा है और किस दाम पर आ  
 रहा है। इनका जवाब नहीं आया है।

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:**  
 Would you like me to say anything?  
 I have already replied to the question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Yes; next question,  
 Shri Sambhali.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HAL-  
 DER:** Sir, I would like to put just one  
 question within a minute. I would  
 like to know from the hon. Minister—

**MR. SPEAKER:** When the debate  
 comes, I will give you another oppor-  
 tunity.

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** अध्यक्ष महो-  
 दय, मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया गया है।  
 मैंने पूछा है कि हमें कितने अनाज की आव-  
 श्यकता है, हम ने अमरीका से कितना अनाज  
 मंगा है और वह किस दाम पर आयेगा।  
 आप मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर दिलवाइये।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** जब इस मामले पर  
 बहस होगी, तो आप के प्रश्नों का उत्तर मिल  
 जायेगा।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** मैंने पूछा है सरकार ने अमरोका से कितना अनाज मांगा है ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** उन्होंने पहले बना दिया है। शायद आप ने सुना नहीं है।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** उन्होंने नहीं बताया है। (व्यवधान)

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** Sir, with your permission, I would like to know from the hon. Minister—

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have called another hon. Member. I have told you that I will give you another opportunity some other time, but not now.

#### Remunerative price of sugarcane

\*2. **SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that even though the price of sugar has almost doubled over a year, the price of sugarcane has come down by half by this time; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to ensure a remunerative price for cane-growers?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government have increased the minimum cane price for 1974-75 season from Rs. 8/- per quintal to Rs. 8.5 per quintal with corresponding increase in the premium for higher recoveries. Further, the factories have been required by a statutory order to pay 50 per cent of their higher realisations from sale of free sugar to the cane growers by way of additional cane price.

**श्री इसहाक सम्भली :** आप को मालूम है कि शक्कर के दाम कहां से कहां पहुंच गये हैं। पिछले साल जिस वक्त गन्ने के दाम 7-45 रुपये मुकर्रर थे, उस वक्त चीनी के दाम बाजार में 2-80 रुपये किलो से 3 रुपये किलो तक थे। अब चीनी के मिल-मालिकों ने चीनी के दाम फ्री मार्केट में 5-80 रुपये से ले कर 6-15 रुपये किलो तक कर लिये हैं। उन्होंने चीनी के दाम पहले के मुकाबले दुगने से भी ज्यादा कर लिये हैं। मिनिस्टर साहब खुद किमान हैं। वह जानते हैं कि केन-ग्रोअर्स को खाद, बीज और आबपाशी वगैरह के सिलमिले में कितनी परेशानियों और तकलीफों का सामना करना पड़ता है। इस हालत में बूढ़े गन्ना पेरने वालों और शूगर इस्टीट्यूशन वालों ने यह मांग की है कि गन्ने के दाम 12-50 रुपये मुकर्रर किये जायें। किसान सभा और शूगरकेन फेडरेशन ने, जिस के लीडर, श्री डी० के० पंडा, यहां मौजूद हैं, यह मांग की है कि गन्ने के दाम 17-25 रुपये तय किये जायें।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** आप मुक्तिमिर सवाल करें।

**श्री इसहाक सम्भली :** जब चीनी की कीमत दुगनी हो चुकी है और जब चीनी के मिल-मालिकों ने 12 रुपये से ज्यादा देने के लिए कहा है, तब सरकार ने गन्ने की कीमत 8-50 रुपये क्यों मुकर्रर की है ? मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इन दामों पर फिर से गौर करेगी।

**श्री शाहनवाज खां :** मैं माननीय सदस्य को बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो स्टैंडर्टी मिनिमम कीमत सरकार मुकर्रर करती है, वह 70 फीसदी लेवो शुगर को भी एप्लाइ करती है। लेवो शुगर की कीमत 2-15 रुपये किलो है। इस लिए यह कहना मुनासिब नहीं होगा कि चूंकि 30 फीसदी चीनी की कीमत बढ़ी है, इस लिए गन्ने की कीमत बढ़ा दी जाये। सरकार ने जो कीमत मुकर्रर की