

का जो जमुना त्रिज है वहां से जो कर्मचारी उधर जाना चाहते हैं उन के लिये एक साथ इतना स्थान उपलब्ध नहीं हो पाता है। ये जो दो पुल आपके बरसों से बन रहे हैं—इन के पूरे होने में क्या कठिनाई है। और ये कब तक पूरे हो जायेंगे ताकि सड़कों की भीड़ कुछ कम हो सके।

श्री भक्त बर्दान : श्रीमन् जमुना के पुल पर यात्रियों को जो कठिनाई होती है उस से सरकार पूरी तरह से भ्रवगत है। इसी लिये दो पुल बनाये जा चुके हैं तथा दो पुल और बनाये जा रहे हैं और अगली गर्मियों तक उनके बन जाने की आशा की जाती है।

Extension of Statutory Rationing

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*1650. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri George Fernandes:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to extend statutory rationing to new urban centres;

(b) if so, which centres;

(c) the position in respect of working of rationing in the various States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Centre and States to bring about equitable distribution of foodgrains throughout the country?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The position is generally satisfactory.

(d) Broadly, steps taken are to arrange public distribution of foodgrains under both statutory and infor-

mal systems of rationing. At present 242 million people representing 48 per cent of the total population is covered by the system of public distribution.

श्री मधु लिमये : ग्रह्यक्ष महोदय, जिन शहरों में इस वक्त कानूनी और अनौपचारिक राशनिंग की व्यवस्था है, उन शहरों में इस वक्त कितना अनाज नागरिकों को दिया जा रहा है। क्या उसके संबंध में—क्योंकि आपने कहा है कि सन्तोषजनक राशन की व्यवस्था है—क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस वक्त कितना राशन, कितना अनाज, नागरिकों को विभिन्न केन्द्रों में दिया जा रहा है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I can give the city-wise figures also but it is a long statement. There has been some shortfall in the supply of rice to various rationing areas but the total quantum, whether in terms of wheat or coarse grains in certain cities in Maharashtra, has remained the same. I may refer to some of the important cities. For instance, in Calcutta industrial area it is 1,750 grammes of rice husked and wheat in husk atta flour/suji in the case of an adult who is not a heavy manual worker, 1,950 grammes in the case of an adult who is a manual worker and 875 grammes in the case of a child. The maximum quantity of rice husked or in the husk allowed is 420 grammes per person. In Kanpur it is 8 Kg. both of rice and wheat but at present only wheat is being issued in Kanpur. In Greater Bombay it is 2 Kg. of rice and 7 Kg. of wheat per adult per month and half the quantity per child below the age of 6 years.

श्री मोल्हू प्रसाद : यह सरकार 420 का रास्ता क्यों ले रही है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Heavy manual workers are allowed an extra ration of 3 Kg. per head per month in terms of wheat. The local quantum, whether it is 420 grammes or anything, is determined by the State

Governments on the basis of availability.

श्री मधु लिम्बे : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इस बात का पता लगाया है कि इस वक्त छोटे कस्बों में और देहातों में अनाज के दाम, फुटकर दाम, बहुत ज्यादा हो गये हैं। क्या इन दामों को रोकने के लिये सरकार ने कोई इन्तजाम किया है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde : As the hon. House knows, because of the steep fall in production during the last two years and because of the drought, there has been a rise in prices both in rural and urban areas which are not covered by rationing. That is why I have explained in the statement that a very well organised public distribution system is functioning. It is not possible to meet the total requirements of the rural areas but the vulnerable sections in the rural areas are being served to a certain extent by the informal rationing system throughout the country. About 210 million people are covered under this system at present.

Shri S. M. Banerjee : May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that in a place like Kanpur, where there is statutory rationing, on this side of the Ganges there is rationing and on that side of the Ganges there is no rationing with the result that the people cross over the Ganges to get some wheat or rice and they are arrested, unless he gives 1 kilo to the policeman who then does not arrest him—this is actually going on—and, if so, whether modified rationing system will be started in the adjoining areas so that the statutory rationing system in Kanpur is made successful or whether the statutory rationing system should be changed to the modified rationing system so that foodgrains can be procured in the open market?

Shri Annasahib Shinde : At present, about 14,50,000 people are covered under formal rationing system. As far as other areas are concerned, to which the hon. Member has made a reference, it will depend on the availability of foodgrains and the discretion of the State Governments. After all, the State Governments can decide on the basis of availability of food whether formal rationing system can be extended to other areas.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न केवल कानूनी राशन व्यवस्था से है—अनौपचारिक से नहीं, और किसी भी प्रकार के अनाज से है। क्या सरकार ने कभी कोई योजना सोची है कि जिसके अनुसार सम्पूर्ण देश की जनता को एक बराबर अनाज यानी संख्या में बराबर अनाज दिया जाय: समझिये—4 छटांक या ढाई सौ ग्राम मिल जाय। यदि ऐसी कोई योजना नहीं सोची है तो उसके क्या कारण हैं? यदि सोची है तो वह कब तक कार्य रूप में लागू हो जायेगी ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde : The suggestion of the hon. Member may perhaps be a very ideal one. But we have to come to a decision on the basis of the situation prevailing in the country. At present, the informal and the formal system is sustaining mainly on imports. Such a big responsibility can be undertaken only if most of the marketable surplus that is available in the country is procured and only then alone this will be possible. This is possible if only the State Governments exert themselves to have the maximum procurement out of the marketable surplus.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : आप इन से मेरा जवाब दिलाइये, अध्यक्ष महोदय। मैंने यह नहीं कहा है कि ये कल या परसों या दो वर्ष में या चार वर्ष में इस काम को करें। मैंने खाली इतना कहा है कि जैसे ये कागज पर दस हजार योजनाओं बनाते रहते हैं,

बैंस हो इन्होंने इस योजना को क्यों नहीं बनाया ? अगर नहीं बनाया तो इस के क्या कारण हैं, अगर बनाया है तो वह क्या है ?

Mr. Speaker: He has said that it is an ideal one.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : इस सरकार के लिये आइडियल कुछ नहीं है। इस सरकार के लिये तो खाली कुर्सी पर बैठे रहना ही आदर्श है और कोई आदर्श नहीं है। मैं तो आपसे केवल यही चाहता हूँ कि मुझ को मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर दिलवायें।

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have explained the position.

Mr. Speaker: He will examine it.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : जरा आप इन के ऊपर डंडा चलाते रहें तो शायद हो जाय।

श्री जार्ज फरनेंडीज : एक तरफ तो मुल्क में अनाज के जोन बनाकर कई सूबों के लोगों को ज्यादा अनाज और कई लोगों को कम अनाज दिया जाता है, दूसरी तरफ—शहर में रहने वालों को ज्यादा राशन और देहात में रहने वालों या छोटे शहरों में रहने वालों को कम राशन दिया जाता है। जो प्रश्न डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया साहब ने पूछा है, उसी को लेकर मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या सरकार जहाँ जहाँ स्टेचूदरी राशन है, वहाँ के सभी लोगों को एक ही प्रमाण से राशन देने की व्यवस्था करेगी ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I hope the hon. Member will appreciate that formal rationing system has been introduced in big cities because big cities are considered to be areas where high purchasing power is concentrated. If these big cities are not isolated from the rest of the rural areas, naturally all the foodgrains that are available in the rural areas will be drained away to the cities, and that would

result in greater hardship to the rural population. So, the big cities have been isolated from that point of view. Whether an equal quantum can be distributed both in rural and in urban areas, will depend on the market arrivals, production and procurement carried on by the State Governments. In regard to that I have already explained the position.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : क्या मंत्री महोदय को इस बात की जानकारी है कि जिन शहरों में कानूनी राशनिंग की व्यवस्था है उन शहरों में एक नागरिक और दूसरे नागरिक के बीच में और खास तौर से जो पुलिस के लोग हैं, पी० ए० सी० और ग्राम्बं पुलिस के लोग हैं, उन को शरीरों की अपेक्षा-कृत अधिक राशन दिया जाता है ? दूसरे क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह जानकारी है कि उत्तरप्रदेश में गावों में जहाँ पर सस्ते अनाज की दुकानें थीं और उन पर मोटा अनाज जाता है वहाँ पर राशन के वितरण की व्यवस्था ठप्पे है क्योंकि मोटा अनाज नहीं भेजा जा रहा है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: In regard to the first part of the hon. Member's question, whether different quantum of ration is provided to different categories of persons, I have already mentioned in my reply that heavy manual workers have necessarily to be issued some additional quantity of ration. The question as to what categories of persons come under heavy manual workers is left to the local administration and on the basis of their own. (Interruptions).

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Central Reserve Police Force also?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The local administration takes a decision with regard to this matter.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : चूँकि वह डंडा चलाते हैं, डंडा मारते हैं इसलिए तो यह उन को अधिक राशन नहीं दिया जाता है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: In regard to U.P., the hon. Member says that

in some cities there have been some difficulties. I think, there have been difficulties in many parts of the country; I appreciate that. But with the procured grains at the disposal of the U.P. Government, I think, it should be possible to overcome the temporary difficulties.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji: Is the hon. Minister aware that in West Bengal, in non-rationed areas rice is sold at different places, and at a very high price at some places where the purchasing power is low, causing distress to the people in those areas? Is he also aware that in rationed areas the qualities of rice and wheat supplied are sometimes not fit for human consumption; the qualities are so bad. Certain irregularities are also there in certain parts of the rationed area, leading to dissatisfaction among the people, particularly among the working class. Is he aware of these?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I will refer to the second part of the hon. Member's question first, whether any foodgrains unfit for human consumption are being issued. In fact, there are checks at various places. The local administration is also, to a certain extent, responsible; if any stuff is there which is unfit for human consumption, they should not issue. I do not think that there should be any difficulty in this regard.

About the first part of the hon. Member's question, there has obviously been some upward tendency in prices in different parts of the country during the last two or three months, but recently there has been—about West Bengal, I have no information at the moment—some downward tendency, though it is not material, as a result of the favourable monsoon conditions in the country.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: The hon. Minister has stated that the present statutory rationing has been maintained mainly depending on imports. In view of the uncertain im-

ports and in view of the shortage in the internal procurement, I would like to know whether the Government, in the coming three months, can maintain this statutory rationing.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: During the next two or three months, there should not be any difficulty in maintaining the existing facilities of providing foodgrains through public distribution system, though there would be some difficulties in regard to the quantum of rice. But broadly, the formal and informal public distribution system should operate satisfactorily in the coming three months though with occasional strains here and there.

Shri S. Kundu: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that, by introducing this statutory rationing in a few urban cities, two types of citizens have been created, one the privileged class and the other, the unprivileged class. After the harvesting season, in the rural areas where there is no work for the landless labourers, the price goes up and the landless labourers remain almost in starvation because they cannot afford to buy at that price....

Mr. Speaker: He may put his question.

Shri S. Kundu: The price go up and they cannot afford to purchase it. Is the hon. Minister considering any suggestion that in the rural areas of the deficit States some sort of modified statutory rationing may be introduced so that the landless labourers could get paddy or rice at a fair price after the harvesting season?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I agree with the hon. Member that the rural folk, especially landless labour suffer most when the prices go up. But as far as internal distribution in any particular area in any State is concerned, the State Government should take care to see that the needs of the vulnerable sections of the society are looked after first if necessary through a modified rationing system.

Shri S. Kundu: Is he prepared to send a note to the State Governments on this important topic and also call a conference?

Shri Bedabrata Barua: In those areas where informal rationing system is in force, there is no manner of checking whether the people who are to be benefited are really benefited, because the shopkeepers take advantage of a lot of loopholes, and this leads to corruption. Will Government devise some methods to check this or would they see that informal rationing is regularised and the people really benefit from it and the supplies do not get choked up between corrupt officials and businessmen and petty traders?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The State Government should look into this. If a properly organised distribution system with cards is there, I think many of the malpractices can be removed, but if a regular card system is not there then there is more scope for maldistribution or misdistribution. The State Government should really take care of this aspect of the problem.

श्री श्री० प्र० त्यागी : अन्न की कमी और गरीबों की संख्या का ध्यान करते हुए अधिक से अधिक गरीबों को राशन दिया जा सके, क्या सरकार ऐसा विचार कर रही है कि जो लोग धोपन मार्केट में अनाज खरीदने की क्षमता रखते हैं ऐसे धनिक लोगों का राशन बन्द करके सरकार गरीबों को अधिक से अधिक राशन देने का प्रयत्न करे ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have already replied to this question. It is entirely at the discretion of the Government as to how the quantum through the informal rationing system should be distributed among the various sections of the population.

Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait: I hope the Central Government are aware

that in the Kerala State, the rationing system is completely breaking down because of the failure of the Central Government to keep up the promised rice supply to the State; consequently, the law and order situation in the State is deteriorating. Considering this very serious situation, what steps do the Central Government categorically wish to take to rush rice supplies to Kerala and to save Kerala from the breaking down of the law and order situation and also the rationing system? Considering the present situation, may I also know whether the Central Government are envisaging or thinking about the dissolution of the single-State zones and creating separate multi-State regional zones like the Southern Zone, for instance, to save Kerala from this disaster?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I do not think that there is an imminent danger of the entire distribution system in Kerala collapsing... (*Interruptions*). I know the strong feelings of hon. Members from Kerala. Recently, the Chief Minister of Kerala had been here, and he had discussed it in *extenso* with the prime Minister and the Minister of Food and Agriculture. I may say that there will be some difficulty in regard to rice, but in regard to the total quantity of food-grains including wheat etc. there should not be any difficulty in meeting the minimum requirements of Kerala.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I wanted to supplement this answer. As the House is aware, there has been a shortfall in the supply of rice....

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: This awareness is not helping us.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: When the Chief Minister came here, we made arrangements and saw to it that 33,000 tonnes of rice were assured....

An hon. Member: He wants 75,000 tonnes.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We are making efforts, whether by import or by indigenous procurement to see whether this quantity cannot be raised to 40,000 tonnes at least. At present, some quantities have moved from Andhra Pradesh and some from Madras; a ship carrying 10,000 tonnes of rice has already started discharging there, and another ship carrying 7,000 tonnes of rice is arriving today or tomorrow or within two days. That will add to the availability for the present of rice in the State. Wheat also has been supplied there. Therefore, though there has no doubt been a temporary difficulty, we have taken steps to see that for the present the situation is tided over.

Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Salt: What about the zonal system?

Mr. Speaker: Short Notice question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

बिहार के चीनी के कोटे में कटौती

SNQ 42. श्री बिभूति मिश्र :

श्री क० ना० तिवारी :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पटना से निकलने वाले 29 जुलाई, 1967 के दैनिक समाचारपत्र "संचलाइट" में "कट इन दि शूगर कोटा आफ बिहार" (बिहार के चीनी के कोटे में कटौती) शीर्षक के अन्तर्गत प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर सरकार का ध्यान दिलाया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या बिहार सरकार के पूर्ति मंत्री ने यह कहा है कि बिहार के चीनी के कोटे में भारी कटौती की गई है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इन बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि इस वर्ष लोगों को विवाहोत्सव आदि अवसरों पर चीनी नहीं दी गई है ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Newspapers reported such a statement.

(c) Due to limited availability, the quotas of all the States including Bihar have been reduced.

(d) No such complaint has been received. However, distribution of allotted sugar within the State is arranged by the State Government.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार के मिनिस्टर ने जो बयान दिया है उस के संबंध में बिहार गवर्नमेंट के साथ केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कोई लिखा पडो की है या किसी तरह की कोई बात चीत की है कि शूगर का कोटा घटाया जायेगा, और क्या बिहार सरकार ने जो कोटा घटाया गया है उस को मंजूर किया है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Yes, the position, if I may be allowed to explain, is like this. First of all, a reduction in the quotas of all States was made in May. It was a proportionate reduction all over the country. By and large, it was a 40 per cent reduction from the quota of February in all the States, but in the case of Bihar it was 38-39 per cent. So it is more or less on par with the reduction in other States. Then the Bihar Government represented that it was the marriage season. Though it was not the practice so far as the Centre is concerned to make adjustments in future allotments, the Bihar Government wanted some sort of adjustment in the sense that they wanted more sugar to be allotted in a particular month which could be deducted from their quota in the later months. They indicated that for April instead of