

کہ دام کرہن گھٹا کی ہارٹی کی وہل
 پر ہندو ہزار روٹ سے ہار ہوئی ہے
 کہا اسکا اس پر کوئی اہلیکت پوتا ہے -

Shri D. R. Chavan: It is not correct to say that I said that three complaints have been received from Bahadurgarh constituency. What I said was that from all over the country, three complaints have been received by the Election Commission.

Prices of Fertilisers

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- *452. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri S. Kandappan:
Shri Ramavtar Shastri:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of fertiliser whether manufactured in India or imported one, are exorbitantly high;

(b) whether ordinary peasants are unable to buy it because of high prices;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce the prices; and

(d) the present prices of fertilisers in India and how these compare with the prices in 1965?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (**Shri Annasahib Shinde**): (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-619(87)]

سہی مچھ لیکری: خیتی دام کمیशन کے ذرات समय समय पर دام निश्चित किये जाते हैं और यह دام निश्चित करते समय किसानों के लिये जो आवश्यक चीजें कारखानों

में पैदा होती हैं उनके कामों को नष्ट नजर रख कर या पैदावार के खर्च को घटे नजर रख कर यह काम नहीं किया जाता। उनके काम कम रहते हैं। क्या सरकार इनके बारे में सोच रही है कि किसानों को बहुत सस्ते में और कर्ज के रूप में फटिलाइजर दिया जाये बिना सूद के, तथा उनको छूट दी जाये ऐग्रीकल्चरल कमीशन द्वारा निश्चित किये गये दाम पर। यह जो कर्जा है वह घनाज के रूप में सरकार को वापस कर दें ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As far as the prices recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission are concerned, the procurement prices which the Government of India have determined recently in consultation with the State Governments are much higher. Necessarily the available data about cost of production is taken into consideration by the Agricultural Prices Commission. The question of making fertilisers available at a cheaper rate was examined by the Government of India and we were providing subsidy to the tune of Rs. 50 to Rs. 57 crores on the basis of the last year's prices. Even with the increased prices, there is an element of subsidy to the tune of Rs. 19 crores. So, we are actually subsidising fertilisers even now. The incidence per acre is Rs. 10.55 in the case of bajra, Rs. 15.42 in the case of jowar and in the case of wheat, paddy and maize it is 20.30....

Shri Vasudevan Nair: It is all on paper.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Fertilisers are mostly distributed through co-operative and as per arrangements made by State Governments. As compared to this, the procurement prices which have been recently increased as compared to 1965-66....

Mr. Speaker: The answer is very much longer. It should be pertinent to the question.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The question was so wide. Had I not replied

in detail, the hon. member would have complained. So far as procurement prices of wheat are concerned, in Punjab there has been an increase of between 20 to 30 per cent this year. In UP the increase is 40 to 50 per cent and in MP it is 10 to 20 per cent.

श्री मधु लियये : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक्त जहाँ अकाल की स्थिति है जैसे बिहार का इलाका है, पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश का इलाका है पश्चिम बंगाल का पुरलिया का इलाका है या मध्य प्रदेश का मरगोजा का इलाका है, कम से कम उन इलाको में आप ज्यादा सब्सिडी देकर काश्तकारों को फर्टिलाइजर देने का इन्तजाम केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा करवायेंगे ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: At the moment, our approach is, in the case of Union Territories where agriculture is backward, we are continuing to give some element of subsidy. Regarding the regions mentioned by the hon. member, they are backward and kisans are having difficulties, but the remedy appears to be to provide liberal crop loans so that even poor farmers would be able to purchase the fertilisers.

Shri S. Kandappan: In the statement, he has given a very strange logic for reducing the subsidy:

"In spite of the recent increase in prices, the demand for fertilisers still exceeds the available supply."

It is a strange logic and if it is to be extended to wheat also, I think the Government can as well stop subsidising wheat. Even at this exorbitant rate fixed by Government, fertilisers are not available to the farmers. The minister said that the distribution is being made through cooperatives. But in Madras, from the Neyveli fertiliser factory, they give it to their coal agents. They sell it at exorbitant prices and there is quite a racket going on. I would like to know, in view of the exorbitant price that has already been fixed, whether the Gov-

ernment would see to it that least the farmers get fertilisers at the rate fixed by the Government and no racketing is allowed to go on?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Two-third of the nitrogenous fertilisers are imported and they are distributed through the fertiliser pool at pre-determined prices. Only 30 per cent of indigenous production has been allowed free market in the country since 1-10-1966. That much quantity is only sold perhaps at the discretion of the manufacturers. As far as Indian Potash is concerned the prices are determined in arrangement with the STC, and in regard to phosphatic fertilisers the Fertiliser Association of India fix the prices on the basis of weighted average cost of raw material.

Shri S. Kandappan: What about urea from Neyveli?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As I have already mentioned, urea is a nitrogenous fertiliser and two-third of the total requirements of this fertiliser are imported. Out of the one-third that remains, only 30 per cent is allowed to be sold freely by the local manufacturers including the manufacturer to whom the hon. Member is referring.

Shri S. Kandappan: Sir, my question has not been answered. I am raising a specific issue about racketing in retail prices. The Minister has said that 30 per cent could be sold by the manufacturers as they like and there is no fixation of price for that.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: They are free to sell. They are also free to select the areas in which that fertiliser is to be sold. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member may not agree, but the Minister has made it clear.

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री : पटना में कोआपरेटिव भण्डारों की जो स्थिति है उसके आधार पर मैं प्रश्न कर रहा हूँ क्या मंत्री महोदय यह जानते हैं कि खाद का दाम एक बोरे का, जिसका भार 100 किलोग्राम होता है, 41 रु० कुछ पैसे में बढ़ा कर 51 रु० कुछ पैसे किया गया है ? क्या इस तरह कीमत बढ़ाने से किसानों को अधिक अनाज पैदा करने में प्रोत्साहन और सहायता मिलेगी और क्या किसान ज्यादा तादाद में खाद खरीद सकेंगे ? क्या इससे किसानों का कोई फायदा होगा, खाम कर हमारे बिहार में जहाँ अकाल की भयावह स्थिति है ? ऐसी स्थिति होते हुए भी आपने उसकी कीमत 10 रु० बढ़ा दी है। मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि कीमत बढ़ाने के बाद बिहार में खाद की खपत कम हुई है या ज्यादा या जितनी पहले होती थी उतनी ही हो रही है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As far as the prices are concerned, I have already mentioned them in the statement that has been laid on the Table of the House. About the question of demands, the demand is much more than the availability. Even with the increased prices there is adequate demand in the country. It will be a good thing if we are in a position to meet the demand with the increased prices. I have already mentioned that in the drought affected areas the difficulties of the farmers can be solved by making easy credit available for crop loan.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : खाद के मूल्य जितने प्रतिशत बढ़े हैं, क्या सरकार ने कोई अनुमान लगाया है कि खाद्यान्नों के मूल्य भी उसी अनुपात से बढ़े हैं अथवा उस से अधिक या उससे कम ? क्या राज्य सरकारों अथवा कांग्रेस संगठनों के द्वारा भारत सरकार को कोई इस प्रकार के प्रतिवेदन मिले हैं जिससे खाद्यान्न के मूल्य कम किये जा सकते हों ? यदि हाँ, तो सरकार की उस पर क्या प्रति-किया है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Views are being expressed through the Press and otherwise that the prices have been increased. As far as I am aware, we have not received any representation as such. I will see whether any State Government has made any representation.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : जिस अनुपात से खाद के मूल्य बढ़े हैं क्या उसी अनुपात से खाद्यान्नों के मूल्य भी बढ़े हैं, इसके बारे में क्या उत्तर है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Sir, I have already mentioned and explained these facts. I have said that per acre the increase in cost of fertilizer for bajra would be Rs. 10.55, for Jowar Rs. 15.42 and for wheat, paddy and maize Rs. 20.30. This has been brought about only from 1st April, 1967. This input has to go in the production next year and this will affect the cost of production only next year.

श्री शिवकुमार शास्त्री : क्या मंत्री महोदय का जानकारी है कि किसान को खाद भी ब्लैक मार्केट में खरीदना पड़ता है और उसमें मिलावट भी होती है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have no specific information about that complaint. We do hear complaints here and there but, by and large, fertilizer distribution arrangements are made by the State Governments through co-operatives.

Shri Supakar: From the statement it appears that the prices have gone up in some cases by more than 50 per cent and yet the subsidy has been reduced and in some cases, specially in the case of phosphates and phosphatic fertilizers, where the increase in price has been the maximum the subsidy has been altogether withdrawn. May I know the specific reason for this? May I also know whether it is a fact that on account of the total capacity of the fertilizer factories not being utilized the prices are going up?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: No, Sir. The question regarding fertilizer capacity not being utilized fully and consequent under production may be addressed to the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. As regards prices I have already explained the position to the House.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether there is any difference in price charged to the big landlords who are entitled to get agricultural loans etc. and the prices which are charged to small land-owners who are not eligible for any loan? I would also like to know whether there are any complaints that for the 30 per cent production allowed to be sold by the manufacturers the prices charged are not according to the prices fixed by the Government?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: In regard to the first part of the hon. Member's question there is no discrimination whatsoever between a big farmer and a small farmer in regard to the prices at which fertilizers are made available. In regard to the second part of the hon. Member's question, I have already explained the position that 30 per cent of the indigenous production is allowed to be sold freely by the manufacturers.

Shri Shri Chand Goel: In view of Government's determination to increase agricultural production and in view of the shortage of fertilizer I would like to know whether the Government has any plan to augment the supply of fertilizers, because the prices certainly depend on demand and supply and if supplies are augmented the prices are likely to come down. I would also like to know the plan of the Government to increase fertilizer production in the next Plan so that the farmers are in a position to get the required quantity at reasonable prices.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I can understand the anxiety of the hon. Members to increase the availability of fertilizers. But may I submit for the information of the hon. House that

this year the availability of fertilizer is much more than it was ever before? We have made larger quantities available to the farmers this year? For instance, we are making available nitrogenous fertilizer to the tune of 13.5 lakh tons, phosphatic fertilizers to the tune of 5 lakh tons and potash to the tune of 2.17 lakhs tons. I think the availability is 50 to 60 per cent more than that of last year.

Decontrol of Sugar

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*453. **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri P. Ramamurti:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

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

(a) whether the sugar mill owners have asked for decontrol of sugar as a measure to boost sugar production;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered their demand; and

(c) the steps Government have taken in the matter?

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

(b) and (c). Decontrol does not seem to be feasible in the present sugar situation.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं कृषि मंत्री जी को इस बात के लिये बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने मिल मालिकान को आगाह किया है, उन्हें बड़ी जवदस्त वार्निंग दी है। हम लोग जो गन्ना पैदा करते हैं हमारे देश का हफ्ता दो दो साल बाद तक दिया जाता है और मिल मालिकान अपनी इंडस्ट्री बढ़ाते रहते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपके इस ध्यान के बाद भी मिल मालिकान ने कहीं पर पेमेंट शुरू किया है या नहीं किया है यदि नहीं किया है तो कब तक उनके खिलाफ आप ऐक्शन ले लेंगे ?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी सवाल
क्या है, सप्लीमेंटरी क्या है।