

rehabilitation of coastal shipping in the country.

Shri S. Kandappan: Considering the immense possibilities for the promotion of internal trade by coastal shipping, apart from international trade, I am afraid the Government has not even made a beginning. In spite of the creation of the Shipping Corporation long ago, why has the Government not made a comprehensive survey of its potentialities? I want to know what steps the Government are going to take in the shortest possible time to promote coastal trade?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I think some survey has been made. Apart from the report made by a sub-committee of the National Shipping Board, the Transport Committee appointed by the Planning Commission has also gone into this subject. Actually, the tonnage of coastal shipping has increased from 1.2 lakh GRT in 1947 to 3.5 lakh GRT in 1967. It is not that there has not been any progress. What we need is to modernise coastal shipping. Therefore, the whole subject of operation, the economics of it, the foreign exchange etc. is also under investigation.

Shri S. Kandappan: It is less than what it was during Imperial Choles' time.

Shri K. K. Nayanar: Instead of our building our own shipyard may I know whether the Government is going to sign an agreement with Poland and Yugoslavia for getting ships? Secondly, my information is that the Mitsubishi authorities of Japan have stopped work in the Cochin shipyard. Is it correct; if so, may I know what is the reaction of the Government?

Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao: I think we have entered into an agreement—the Shipping Corporation of India—with Yugoslavia for the purchase of two big tankers for the purpose of carrying oil to the Madras refinery when it comes into existence. Regarding the Cochin Shipyard—I do not know

how it arises out of this question—I am sure the hon. Member would not like the Cochin shipyard to become a shipyard only for small ships. (interruption).

Subsidy on Foodgrains

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Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

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

(a) whether Government have recently withdrawn the subsidy on food;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it will further increase the prices of foodgrains and adversely affect the consumers; and

(d) the steps taken in that direction?

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

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

श्री कबीर लाल गुप्त : क्या मंत्री महोदय बनायेंगे कि सरकार किलनी सबसिडी देती है और उस से कितने लोगों का लाभ पहुंचना है ?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: The amount of subsidy is fairly well known. Last year it was about Rs. 130 crores and this year we expect that it may be Rs. 119 crores. As is well known, in the rationed areas and also in the semi-rationed areas more than 21 crores of people are covered. They might be getting the benefit of this subsidy.

श्री कबीर लाल गुप्त : प्राइमिय बहन लेजी से बड़ रही है और इस महंगाई की वजह से फ़िफ्ट इनकम ग्रुप के लिए जिन्दा रहना बड़ा मुश्किल हो गया है। इस देश के लाखों बटोड़ों लोग ऐसे हैं, जो ख़र-क़र रहते हैं। मंत्री महोदय की जानकारी में यह बात होगी कि जो सबसिडी बड़ देते हैं, उस के बलामा स्टेट बवर्नमेंट के द्वारा और सबसिडी देने की योजना बनाई है, जैसे, एक स्टेट बवर्नमेंट

तीन ही रुपये से कम घाय के लोगों को और ज्यादा सब्सिडी दे रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सब्सिडी के जिन इन्कोस करोड़ लोगों को लाभ पहुँचता है, उन के अलावा बाकी जो लोग रह गए हैं, उन के लिए, सरकार ने क्या व्यवस्था की है। क्या सरकार कोई ऐसी स्कीम बना रही है, जिस से इन्हे अब को वर्तमान रियायतों से और ज्यादा रियायतें मिलें ?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: Our approach to this problem is fairly well known. As I said, last year subsidy to the extent of Rs. 130 crores was given and this year it is expected to be to the tune of Rs. 119 crores. That shows our concern for the vulnerable sections of our society. They mainly get the advantage of this subsidy that is being given. I do not think beyond this it is within the means of the Government of India or the State Government to undertake any further responsibility.

Shrimati Lakshankanthamma: May I know whether there is a proposal to stop subsidy in food except in famine areas so that this money may be spent on completion of irrigation projects so that it will add to the food production of the country?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: Suggestions are being received from time to time.

An hon. Member: And not implemented.

Shri M. L. Sondhi: Will the hon. Minister tell the House whether he has given any attention to the necessity for some long-term thinking on this subject, that is, how Government will bridge the gap between the prices which are necessary to encourage production and the sales price which must be kept lower down in order to prevent hyper-inflation in this country?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: We are leasing imported wheat at the price of Rs. 85 per quintal, milo at Rs. 40 per quintal and rice at Rs. 80 per quintal to the State Governments. From the

15th July we are subsidising to the extent of Rs. 18.01 for milo, Rs. 12.25 for wheat and Rs. 16.37 for rice. As I have already indicated, this is a substantial help to the vulnerable section.

श्री मधु लिम्बे : मंत्री महाशय ने प्रश्न का जवाब नहीं दिया है। माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा था कि

Mr. Speaker: He must get up and ask, if he is not satisfied. But Shri Sondhi did not get up.

श्री मधु लिम्बे : यह पूरे सदन का मामला है। अगर माननीय सदस्य नहीं पूछने, तो मैं पूछ रहा हूँ। माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न का जवाब आना चाहिये। सरकार का बिनरज का धर्चें और बीच बानों का मुनाफा बहुत ज्यादा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, जब सदन के सामने कोई प्रश्न आता है, तो उस का उत्तर आना चाहिए। अगर माननीय सदस्य नहीं पूछने, तो मैं क्या करूँ ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कडवाय : यह पूरे सदन को जानकारी देने का प्रश्न है। यह केवल एक सदस्य का प्रश्न नहीं है।

Mr. Speaker: He would have got up if he was not satisfied with the answer.

Shri Ranga: Suppose he does not get up, are we to understand that nobody can get up and ask for a clarification?

Mr. Speaker: I only said that he must get up and ask. Certainly, anybody can ask for a clarification. You are not prohibited from doing that.

Shri Ranga: It is not as if I put a question and then he puts a question separately. No. In regard to a particular question, if the answer is not satisfactory, it is open to any Member of the House to rise in his seat and say that a full answer to the question has not come.

Mr. Speaker: I am not preventing any Member from asking for a clarification.

की बहुत विषये: बलों का ठीक जबाब धारण चाहिए। सरकार द्वारा वितरण का कार्य और व्यापारी मुनाफ़ा बहुत ज्यादा है।

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: May I know whether the Government have realised the implications of their measures of continuing subsidy on imported foodgrains and discontinuing on fertilizers? May I know whether this will further accentuate the food production programme with the result that Government have to pay more subsidy on imported foodgrains, because that will necessitate more foodgrains to be imported from abroad?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: Considerable thought was given to the withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizer and non-withdrawal of subsidy on foodgrains. I think we came to the conclusion that it will not be feasible at this stage to withdraw subsidy on foodgrains.

Shri Samar Gaha: In view of the diversion of one-fourth of the cultivated land in West Bengal to jute production, the continuous migration of refugees from East Pakistan and also in view of the continuous influx of labour population from outside, may I know whether Government will consider the question of increasing the quantum of subsidy on food to West Bengal?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: I do not think there is any such proposal under consideration at the moment.

श्री डा० वा० तिवारी: क्या यह सही है की इस कुछ मबमिडी के कारण स्टेट्स की मांग घटिक हो गई है और जब जब कुछ पर सबमिडी कम की गई है, तब तब स्टेट्स की मांग कम हो गई है? क्या यह भी सही है कि कुछ राज्य सरकारों ने सबमिडी को हटा देने का सुझाव दिया है; यदि हाँ, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: It is true that there is a wide gap between the

prevailing market price and the price at which foodgrains are supplied. The foodgrains like rice, wheat and milo are supplied to the State Governments at a cheaper rate. Now, what was the other question?

Shri D. N. Tiwary: I wanted to know whether some State Governments have asked for withdrawal of the subsidy.

Shri Anasahib Shinde: In the recent Chief Ministers' Conference some Chief Ministers did make a suggestion that subsidy on foodgrains should be withdrawn.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: May I know how much subsidy is being given in the matter of foodgrains to Jammu and Kashmir State and whether it is a fact that subsidised food is being sold at a much cheaper rate in Kashmir and at a much higher rate in Jammu as a result of which the people in Jammu are very much discontented? If so, will the Minister ensure that equal subsidy is given to both Jammu and Kashmir and the foodgrains are sold at the same price in both Jammu and Kashmir?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjivan Ram): So far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, all our supplies of imported foodgrains are issued to them at the same price as to other State. So far as their internal subsidy is concerned, that is subsidised by the State Government and the Food Ministry does not come into the picture.

श्री विभूति मिश्र: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह सरकार जो सबमिडी देती है गन्ने के ऊपर इस का अधिक उपयोग शहर के लोग करते हैं, नील बोवाई उपयोग शहर के लोग करते हैं। इससे अधिक किसानों के हित में है कि फर्टिलाइजर के ऊपर सबमिडी दें।

Shri Anasahib Shinde: The distribution system operates in the urban areas as well as in the rural areas. Of course, I have not worked out what is the

quantum that flows in the urban areas and in the rural areas

Shri Anandhagan: Will the Minister tell us, when the Government is giving upto Rs 113 crores as subsidy for wheat products, why they do not think it proper on their part to give some subsidy to rice also so that the people who are taking only rice are also benefited?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think there is some subsidy on rice also and it is, I think, more than Rs 10 to Rs 12 per quintal.

Shri Anandhagan: Will the Minister tell us the total amount of subsidy given for rice?

Shri Anandhagan Shinde: As for rice, actually the economic cost to us is Rs 96.37 p a quintal while the price at which we are issuing rice to State Governments is Rs 80 a quintal, that is, Rs 16.37 p per quintal is the subsidy for rice supplied by us to State Governments.

QUESTIONS UNDER RULE 40

Action Taken Reports of the Public Accounts Committee

2. **Shri Madhu Limaye:** Will the Chairman, Public Accounts Committee be pleased to state

(a) whether the Public Accounts Committee have prescribed (or recommended to the Speaker) any time-limit for submitting Action Taken Reports on the recommendation made in the Public Accounts Committee or in any other manner;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether these reports and the Public Accounts Committee's review of these Action Taken Reports reveal the recurrence of the same irregularities, the same assurances of Government that they would remove them and the repetition of the same mistakes over again; and

(d) if so, the effective action/steps the Public Accounts Committee propose to take to eliminate the repetition of the same mistakes and recurrence of the same irregularities?

The Chairman, Public Accounts Committee (Shri M. R. Masani): (a) The Public Accounts Committee in para 1 of their 12th Report (Third Lok Sabha) of 6th May, 1963 had recommended that Government should submit statements showing the Action Taken in pursuance of their recommendations within three months of the date of the presentation of the Report to the House,

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes This is so sometimes. For example attention may be invited to "Loss of Revenue due to defective planning of works" which has been commented upon in paras 2.24-2.40 of the 52nd Report of the P.A.C. presented to the House on 5th May, 1966.

(d) It is for Parliament and Government to take suitable action on the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in order to eliminate recurrence of similar mistakes and irregularities.

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महाशय, मैं बेयरबेन साहब से जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह तीन महीने का जो बचन तब किया गया था कि तीन महीने के अन्दर रपट आये, तो कितनी रपट सरकार के द्वारा तीन महीने के अन्दर दी गई ?

Shri M. R. Masani: I think this information will be given in the answer to next Question on the Order Paper put by a colleague of the hon. Member.

Some of it will be there. We have not worked out the tabulation of the answers given, whether within three months or not. We shall do so as it might be useful to the House.