

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, June 20, 1967/Jyaishta 30,
1889 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

कृषि उपज के मूल्यों सम्बन्धी नीति

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* 602. श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :

श्री राम कृष्ण गुप्त :

श्री दे० जि० पाटिल :

क्या साध तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने
की कृपा करेंगे कि .

(क) क्या सरकार में कृषि उपज
के मूल्यों सम्बन्धी एक समेकित नीति
बनाने के बारे में कोई निर्णय कर लिया है ,

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसका व्यौरा
क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण
हैं ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) to (c). In advising Government on price policy for agricultural commodities, the Agricultural Prices Commission set up by it keeps in view the need for evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and the consumer.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : मैं यह जानना
चाहता हूँ कि एग्रीकल्चर प्राइसेज कमीशन जब
कृषि उत्पादन की वस्तुओं का मूल्य तय करता
है, तब किन बातों का ध्यान रखा जाता है ?
क्या वे कास्ट-शार्फ प्रोडक्शन का ध्यान रखते
हैं ? उन के प्राइसेज तय करने का प्राधार
क्या है ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation. (Shri Annasahib Shinde: We do take into consideration the cost of production of various crops. The cost of production is available on the basis the cost of the various farm management studies carried on and the variations as a result of price increase in inputs.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : क्या यह बात
सच नहीं है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में खेती के
उत्पादन में ऐसे पदार्थों का, ऐसी वस्तुओं का
मूल्य ज्यादा हो गया जो मोटे तौर पर
सामान्य आदमियों के काम में नहीं आती
हैं, उपभोक्ताओं की वस्तुओं में जिनका
महत्वपूर्ण स्थान नहीं है लेकिन आज बाजार
में उन वस्तुओं का मूल्य ज्यादा दिया जा रहा
है, जिसकी वजह से खाद्यान्न के उत्पादन
क्षेत्र में कमी होती जा रही है और गैर-
प्रावश्यक वस्तुओं का उत्पादन बढ़ता जा
रहा है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Recently our approach has been really to fix incentive prices. The Agricultural Prices Commission, which advises Government in agreed to these matters, has it in its terms of reference specifically, that while recommending a

price policy and relative price structure, the Commission may keep in view the need to provide an incentive to the producer for adopting improved technology and for maximising production. There are other factors such as the need to ensure rational utilisation of land and other production resources, and the likely effect of the price policy on the rest of the economy, on the general level of prices, industrial cost structure etc.

श्री रामकृष्ण मुक्त : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या फूडरिजर्व एन्कवायरी कमेटी ने इस सिलसिले में कोई सजेरेशन दी है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Yes, the Foodgrains Policy Committee also recommended that first of all, Government should adopt a policy of announcing minimum prices, support prices, as well as the procurement prices, which will be fixed by Government which should be incentive prices.

Dr. Ranon Sen: It is a known fact that the producers of crops, particularly foodgrains, get a certain price when they sell their produce whereas after sometime when the grain thus bought goes to the godowns of big merchants, the prices rise inordinately. What steps have Government taken to stop this malpractice by the big grain merchants and other people who go on hoarding foodgrains?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The hon. Member is right. In the good old days, it was the normal feature of the economy that immediately the harvest is over, in the post harvest period, prices used to be depressed, and then in the lean period they used to shoot up and the private trade used to play havoc with the economic life of the people. After taking into account all these factors, Government have now taken a number of measures including the establishment of the Food Corporation. We wish that more and more of the foodgrains trade

comes into the public sector. That is the only remedy.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या यह सही है कि एकीकृत प्राइस कमीशन के जो सदस्य हैं, वे किसान नहीं हैं और वे किसानों की बात को नहीं समझते हैं। क्या सरकार इस पर विचार कर रही है कि एकीकृत प्राइस कमीशन में जो बेतीहर हैं, जो अपने हाथ से बेती करते हैं, जिनको अपना निजी अनुभव है, उनको रखा जाय और तब प्राइसेज तय की जायें ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I know the hon. Member has been agitated on this question for quite some time. I quite sympathise with him. The Agricultural Prices Commission has been constituted. I think the suggestion can be taken into consideration when new members are added to the Commission at the time of reconstitution.

श्री नथु लिये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कास्तकारों के द्वारा जो रूई पैदा की जाती है उस पर अधिकतम दाम लगाये जाते हैं, रोक लगाई जाती है, लेकिन रूई का जो कपड़ा बनता है, उस में शायद 60 फीसदी पर नियंत्रण है, बाकी खुला है। पिछली बार आपने रूई का दाम बढ़ाया, लेकिन उस वक्त जब रूई कास्तकारों के हाथों से चली गई थी। इस लिये रूई के उत्पाद के मद्देनजर रखते हुए क्या मंत्री महोदय रूई का अधिकतम दाम अभी से उठावेंगे जिससे कास्तकारों को प्रोत्साहन मिले और रूई की पैदावार ज्यादा बढ़ाने के लिये वे कोशिश कर सकें ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: That happens to be the demand of the cotton growers all over the country. Even the other day, I was in a major cotton-growing area of our country. There also, the cotton growers made this demand. Actually, the prices of cotton are determined by the Commerce Ministry, and I would not be in a position to answer this question.

श्री जयु लिये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमें कहीं वहाँ का यह सबल उठाया है। व्यापार मंत्रालय का कार्य क्षेत्र इतना बड़ा दिया है कि इस में विकसित होती है। हम चाय के बारे में पूछते हैं तो कह देते हैं कि उस का सम्बन्ध व्यापार मंत्रालय से है। उनको भी यहाँ हाजिर रहना चाहिये।

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the question of prices can be referred to the Commerce Ministry. I do not know. You will have to evolve some method.

श्री जयु लिये : जब कभी ऐसा होता है कि दोनों मंत्रालय से सम्बन्ध रहता है तो दोनों को यहाँ हाजिर रहना चाहिये चापकी कोई नीति नहीं है—कई बेटी के मातहत नहीं जाती है ?

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: May I know from the hon. Minister, from the data available, whether he can give us an idea as to what is going to be the fall in the production of sugar in the current year?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: With due respect to the hon. lady Member, this supplementary does not arise out of this question.

Mr. Speaker: She may put a separate question.

Shri Kandappan: In every State, the procurement price of foodgrains has been fixed, whereas the central Government has not taken any steps to regulate the price of inputs that the peasants have got to incur, particularly, with regard to fertilisers, the cost of labour and electricity charges and other things. I would like to know whether the Government would take steps to see that the cost of inputs is not allowed to rise manifold when they are fixing the ceiling price for the foodgrains and other cash crops?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The Agricultural Prices Commission is an ex-

pert body and they necessarily take into consideration all these factors such as the rise in the cost of inputs when recommending either the maximum price or the procurement price.

Shri Kandappan: Sir, I crave your indulgence. The foodgrain prices have been fixed long ago. After fixing the prices, there is evidence that the cost of inputs has been rising two-fold, three fold and sometimes manyfold in some items. He has not given any answer to this aspect of the question; they have not at all considered this.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The overall effects of increase in the cost of cultivation is taken into consideration. Recently, may I submit for the information of the hon. Member that we have constituted a Standing Committee under the chairmanship of...

Shri Kandappan: I do not want any committee. What are the concrete steps taken?

Mr. Speaker: Let him hear the hon. Minister.

Shri Kandappan: Can he not give a direct answer? Does he mean to say that the price of inputs has not risen?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Just as we have the index for the cost of living, on the basis of which we can readily assess what has been the increase in the standard of living, and the increase in the prices etc., similarly, in regard to the cost of cultivation, we are trying to construct indices on the cost of cultivation. I think when the data are available, perhaps it will be possible to make recommendations in regard to agricultural prices on the basis of those data.

Cotton Development Scheme

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*603. Shrimati Susoola Gopalan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri K. Ramani:
Shri Parthasarathy:

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

(a) whether Government have received the cotton development scheme of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation;