

effect. But as I said, we are not going to be guided in this regard by any other country; we will be guided by our own national interest.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो कपास की बेती है बारिश इस को नुकसान करती है। बारिश जितना कम होगी उतनी कपास की क्वालिटी अच्छी होगी और क्वालिटी भी अच्छी होगी। लेकिन ड्राउट की कंडीशन में वह बिल्कुल नहीं होगी। इसीलिये पूरी दुनिया में जहां सिंचाई का अच्छा इंतजाम है और बारिश कम होती है वहीं कपास तादाद में भी ज्यादा होती है और क्वालिटी में भी ज्यादा अच्छी होती है जैसे मिश्र में नाइल नदी के इलाके में, तो मैं जाना चाहता हूँ कि इन सब बातों को समझते हुए जैसे राजस्थान ८, पंजाब ६, हरयाना ६, हमारे देश का उत्तर पश्चिम का इलाका है जहां बारिश कम होती है वहां पर काटन की वैदावार को बढ़ाने के लिए कोई सिंचाई की विशेष व्यवस्था की जा रही है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As I have already mentioned, some of the areas in Punjab are coming up very well in regard to cotton development. Also, perhaps, areas in Rajasthan coming under the Rajasthan Canal may possibly be potential areas where cotton development may come up on very good lines.

Shri A. V. Patil: May I know whether it is a fact that there is a sharp decline in the total acreage of cotton growing in Maharashtra; if so, what are the reasons?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Final figures of estimates of acreages are not available with us. There are indications that there has been some reduction, but unless final estimates are available I do not think it will be proper to draw any conclusions.

श्री इकराम खान कल्लायत : क्या सरकार ने इस बात की जांच की है कि हमारे देश में जो कई पैदा की जाती है उन की मात्रा

कितनी और जिन देशों से कई हम मंगाते हैं उनकी उत्पादन मात्रा क्या है और दोनों में क्या अंतर है

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have no figures.

Shri R. K. Amin: In view of the fact that our cotton output is falling short of our target, is there any plan with the Government to fix the minimum price but not the maximum price for cotton in order to encourage the growth of cotton production?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Sir, this question has already been covered.

Foodgrains Quota of States

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*604. Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:

Shri Sharda Nand:

Shri Hanjit Singh:

Shri R. S. Vidyarthi:

Dr. Ranen Sen:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have recently decided to impose heavy cuts in the foodgrains quota of the States in view of the apprehension that the imports of foodgrains from abroad are likely to go down; and

(b) if so, the quantum of the cut proposed to be imposed, State-wise and the basis for effecting the cut in the case of each State?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) and (b). The arrivals of imported foodgrains will be affected during the current month due to the closure of the Suez Canal. The State Governments have been advised of the quantities that are likely to be moved during the month against their current month's quota. They have also been told that in case the availability increases later in the month, further review will be made. Movements to different States are generally arranged from ports considered most suitable for supply to each State.

The general as well as the port-wise availability and the relative needs of the different States are also taken into account. It is not possible to indicate at this stage the likely quantities to be moved to each State. The short-fall in movement to each State will depend on the over all and port-wise availability and the relative needs of the different States.

श्री भारत सिंह चौहान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बात तो निश्चित है कि विदेशों से जो अनाज आने को था वह नहीं आयेगा तो क्या शासन ने इस बात को तैयारी की है कि जिन राज्य में गन्ने की कमी होगी वहाँ की कमी को प्रतिरिक्त गन्ना भेज कर पूर्ति की जा सके ? उस कमी को पूरा किया जाने की क्या कोई योजना है क्योंकि यह एक गम्भीर समस्या सामने है ? ऐसे राज्य जो सरप्लस हैं उन की क्या आप ने सूची बनाई है ताकि सेंटर उनसे भंगवा कर कमी वाले राज्यों की अनाज की आवश्यकता पूरी की जा सके ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): Sir, before the Suez crisis we were expecting arrival of foodgrains to the tune of 10.7 lakh tons. But now it appears that as a result of these difficulties perhaps in the month of June we may get instead of 10.7 lakh tons only 7.2 lakh tons. Our commitment to the States is to the tune of 8.5 lakh tons. So, obviously, there would be some difficulties in meeting the full requirements of the States. That is why in the main reply we have indicated that some cuts will have to be imposed in regard to the States, but we will try to see that as far as those difficult areas are concerned they would not be adversely affected.

श्री भारत सिंह चौहान : मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि जो स्टेट सरप्लस हैं उनकी आप ने क्या कोई सूची बनाई है जिससे कि

वहाँ से अनाज प्रोक्योर करा कर कमी वाले राज्यों को अनाज दे सके ? साथ समस्या इस समय विषम है इस वास्ते मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने कोई ऐसी योजना बनाई है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We have been requesting some of the States where surplus can possibly be available to intensify their procurement campaign so that they can make more quantity of foodgrains available to the Centre.

श्री रा० स्व० बिश्नोई : मंत्री महोदय जो अनुमान करते हैं कि इस स्वेज नहर की डिफिकल्टी की वजह से 7 और कुछ मिलियन टन फुडग्रैन्स ही वहाँ से आ सकेगा तो इस से दिल्ली में कितनी कटौती बह करनी पड़े रही है ? दिल्ली चूँकि नोन प्रोड्यूसिंग एरिया है इस लिए क्या वहाँ की जनता के राशन के लिए वह ऐसी योजना बनायेंगे कि हरियाणा, पंजाब या उत्तर प्रदेश से वहाँ सृजमता से अनाज आ सके ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I mentioned the figure of 7.2 lakhs and not million tons. The hon. Member appears to be under a wrong impression. Then, as far as Delhi is concerned, may I assure the hon. Member that we are not effecting any cut, so far as the supply to Delhi is concerned?

Dr. Ranon Sen: In his reply the hon. Minister has indicated that because of the Suez crisis the allocations to the States are being cut down. It is a known fact that in the State of West Bengal long before the Suez crisis took place there was a shortfall of 15 lakh tons of wheat in supplies from the Centre. Then, again, in early May there was a further shortfall. Now, it is a known fact that there is a bumper crop of wheat in Punjab, Haryana and UP.

An hon. Member: Not in Haryana.

Dr. Ranan Sen: May be not in Haryana, but it is there in Punjab and UP; it has been reported in the papers.

Mr. Speaker: Let him come to the question.

Dr. Ranan Sen: Because the Minister has referred to the Suez crisis, so I am dealing with it. Since this bumper wheat crop is there in some of the States, instead of relying on the State Governments concerned to procure wheat to supply to deficit States like West Bengal and Bihar, will the Government of India take some steps for intensive procurement in surplus States instead of simply giving the excuse of the Suez crisis?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I will first deal with the West Bengal question and then come to the question of procurement. Even though the availability of foodgrains is limited and we are in difficulties, taking into consideration the situation in Bengal we have decided not to cut the allocations, so far as Bengal is concerned. I am speaking of the present allocations which were indicated to the West Bengal Government. Coming to the second part of the question, we have always been pressing upon the surplus States to make available to the Centre whatever quantities they can spare. We have been in constant touch with the Punjab Government and they have promised to give us 2,25,000 tons to the Central pool. As far as UP is concerned, the hon. Member is well aware that eastern part of UP is severely affected by drought and we are supplying some quantities to UP. So, I do not think any surplus would be available from UP.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether short arrivals from foreign countries will affect supply of wheat to Bihar, which is a famine-stricken area? Also, may I know whether the Government have ascertained that the Bihar Government is taking all the

steps to procure internally whatever stock is there with the big cultivators?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We were supplying sizeable quantities of milo to Bihar. The milo position is likely to be affected to a certain extent because of the delay in the arrival of ships. Instead of 1,30,000 tons we will be allocating 1,45,000 tons of wheat and 10,000 tons of barley from Punjab. Even then, there is likely to be some reduction in the availability of foodgrains to Bihar.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: Are Government satisfied that the Bihar Government have taken all the steps to procure whatever is available internally?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We have always been pressing this point. Even in deficit States there are surplus pockets and even in deficit areas there are surplus farmers. We have been advocating to the State Governments that they should try to intensify their own internal procurements. That has been our advice to Bihar Government

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री दिल्ली से लगे हुए उत्तर प्रदेश और हरियाणा प्रान्तों के बहन से लोग दिल्ली में घाते रहते हैं जिन के घरों में खेत होनी है और घनाज पैदा होता है। क्या ऐसे मेरे जैसे लोगों को यह मौका दिया जायेगा कि हम अपने घर से ला कर घनाज खा सकें और बिदेसी घनाज से हमारा पेट छूट सके ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: That is permissible under the existing rationing regulations. If the hon. Member applies to the Delhi Administration, the Delhi Administration will be pleased to grant his application.

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री - दिल्ली के बाहर से घनाज खाने की हम को सुविधा होनी चाहिये।

Shri Samar Guha: In view of the known fact that food riots have started in West Bengal—in several districts many bazars have been looted and thousands of hungry men are ransacking house after house in search of food and many trains have been stopped by these hungry people—and the drought condition in the districts of Bankura and Purulia assuming serious proportions where nearly 21 lakhs of people need immediate help, may I know whether Government will agree to give some special attention to the case of West Bengal and whether the Government will permit the West Bengal Government to purchase wheat or rice as the case may be from Andhra, Punjab and Haryana open markets?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, I can understand and appreciate his anxiety about the Bengal situation; that is why we have not effected any cut in the supplies to West Bengal though we are in a difficult position. As far as the purchase by the State Government is concerned, I think, it can be examined on merits. If certain quantities that the surplus States are supposed to allocate to the Centre are not adversely affected, the specific request of the West Bengal Government can be considered.

जी अन्निका प्रभाव क्या मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि जो हमारे इस्टर्न यू० पी० का सूखा वाला एरिया है, उस पर कटौती का क्या असर पड़ेगा ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I must say that the UP Government has really succeeded in having a substantial procurement in the State and they really deserve to be congratulated for this. I do not think that the eastern UP areas would be in difficulties as a result of this. But, as I have mentioned, we are allocating some quantities to them though with some cut.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that President Nasser has made a

statement some days back to the effect that the Suez Canal would not be closed down for food ships going to India, our apprehension that there might be delay in the food ships coming from America to India has been unfounded as has been proved by the statement of President Nasser. May I know whether our Government proposes to stick on to its apprehension and cut down the food quota to the respective States or will they revise their policy and supply food to the different States according to the old basis? Do they propose to take shelter under this plea that the food ships are going to be delayed because the Suez Canal is closed down for ships? This is a convenient plea for not supplying foodgrains to States.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: With due respect to the hon. Member, may I say that we are not trying to take shelter? I only placed facts before the House. The House should know all these developments. As far as the Suez Canal possibilities are concerned, I think, we are in constant touch with the UAR authorities and as and when the Suez Canal passage is available, we shall avail of it.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, he has not replied to my question. My question was more specific. President Nasser has very specifically said a few days back that the Suez Canal will not be closed down for food ships going to India and I based my question on that statement of President Nasser.

Shri S. M. Solanki: May I know from the hon. Minister what are the reasons that the Central Government is not giving full quota to Gujarat State regularly?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The position is well-known. We have limited availability of foodgrains. I am aware of the difficulties being experienced by the people of Gujarat and, specially in certain draught affected areas, there is considerable distress. We are not in a position to satisfy everybody. To

the extent possible, we are trying to help the Gujarat Government.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: At the very outset, I would like to get an assurance from the Minister that Kerala will be taken care of although the difficulties are there. As far as the reply of the hon. Minister is concerned, I am surprised to find a contradiction because the hon. Food Minister, while referring to the Suez crisis some days back, assured the House that he would call a conference of the Standing Committee of the Chief Ministers before a final decision is taken on the cut as far as various States are concerned. But now the reply indicates that they have already taken a decision and intimated it to the States. How do these two replies tally? I should like to know whether they are going to call a Conference of the Standing Committee of the Chief Ministers before they take a final decision on this matter.

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: Kerala's position is not likely to be affected as a result of the Suez crisis.

With regard to the convening of the meeting of the Standing Committee of Chief Ministers, we are thinking of convening a meeting as early as possible. The crisis developed all of a sudden and had we not intimated the difficulties to the States, perhaps, they would have been faced with more difficulties. We can now plan in a better way. All these matters will be discussed in the Standing Committee.

Shri Liladhar Keteki: May I know whether the Government of Assam have approached the Centre for the supply of minimum quota of 20,000 tonnes per month till the next harvest and whether the Government of India have allotted only 5,000 tonnes of wheat per month and even that quantity of 5,000 tonnes has not reached Assam and, if so, what the Central Government propose to do to supply the quantity to the State of Assam?

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: We are supplying, not 5,000 tonnes, but 10,000 tonnes to Assam. We are trying to see—there is a long distance and, of course, there are certain transport bottle-necks...

Shri Hem Barua: On a point of order, Sir. That cannot be an excuse for not helping Assam, that there is a long distance and it is a far off State. You cannot neglect Assam like that.

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: I am sorry for being misunderstood. I was just mentioning that there are some transport bottle-necks. We are trying to see that the allotted quantity reaches Assam...

Mr. Speaker: Assam will get the same treatment as any other State.

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: Yes; I quite agree with the hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: I am following this method. On one Question I am calling some Members to put supplementaries and on another Question, I am calling some others. I must give chance to as many Members as possible to put at least one supplementary. Now, Mr. Patel was not here when I called him. He sends me a chit saying, "I was not called. You have not given me a chance to put supplementary". He came late; it was his mistake, not mine.

Shri Bal Raj Madhok: In view of the fact that there is real difficulty about food in the country and that difficulty has been further aggravated by the closure of the Suez Canal, may I know what steps are being taken to see that States like Himachal Pradesh, which formerly was a part of Punjab food zone but now it has been separated and is facing great difficulties, which cannot produce enough for themselves, because of hilly terrain, are properly fed and, secondly, what steps are being taken to prevent the smuggling of our food into Pak-occupied areas of Jammu & Kashmir

which has been taking place on a large-scale and to which attention of the Government has been drawn I want to know what has been done with regard to that so far.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have no information about this smuggling into Jammu and Kashmir. But I will get in touch with the Jammu and Kashmir Government. About Himachal Pradesh, I may submit we have not effected any reduction in the quota which is being supplied to Himachal Pradesh.

श्री नीतिराज सिंह चौधरी : मैं जाना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश का जो कोटा है क्या उस में भी कोई कमी की गई है और यदि की गई है तो वहाँ की गम्भीर खाद्य स्थिति को देखते हुए क्या उस कमी को पूरा कर दिया जाएगा ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Even in regard to Madhya Pradesh, taking into consideration the considerable distress prevailing in Madhya Pradesh, we have not effected any cut there.

Criteria to Determine Scarcity and Famine Areas

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*006. **Shri George Fernandes:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

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

(a) whether Government have laid down new criteria for distinguishing 'scarcity', 'acute scarcity' and 'famine' areas;

(b) whether the criteria set out by Government as outlined by the former Food Minister stand cancelled; and

(c) if so, the basis of the new criteria?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri D. Biring): (a) and (b). There is no Famine Code of India and no formal

criteria have been laid down by the Central Government in this respect. The criteria for distinguishing the degrees of distress are a matter for the State Governments.

(c) Does not arise.

श्री जार्ज फर्नेन्डिस : हमारे देश में प्रकाल की परिस्थिति हमेशा बनी रहती है और हर साल काफी लोग प्रकाल से मर जाते हैं। यह कहा जाता है सियासी पार्टीज की धोर से ही नहीं बल्कि मर्बादियों मंडल जैसी सम्स्थाओं की धोर से भी कि लोग प्रकाल में मरते हैं। मारों दुनियां में इस बान का प्रचार होता रहता है कि प्रकाल की वजह से इस मुल्क में लोग मर रहे हैं। क्या सरकार उचित नहीं समझती है कि प्रखिल भारतीय पंमाने पर एक फॉमिन कोड बनाया जाए और जो भी कसौटियां लगानी हैं, उनको लगा दिया जाए ताकि सूबे और केन्द्र के बीच में प्रकाल के मामले को लेकर जो हमेशा टकराव होता है वह खत्म हो जाए ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation): (Shri Annasahib Shinde): Preparation of famine code, scarcity manuals, etc. falls within the competence and jurisdiction of the State Governments. The hon. Member's question can be taken as a suggestion for action.

श्री जार्ज फर्नेन्डिस : बिहार में नई सरकार के निर्माण के बाद बिहार के कई इलाकों को उसने प्रकाल ग्रस्त इलाके घोषित किया है। जब उसने ऐसा किया था तब केन्द्र की धोर से काफी तोरगुल भी किया गया था। यह कहा गया था कि प्रकाल की परिस्थिति न होते हुए भी वहाँ पर प्रकाल की परिस्थिति है, ऐसा घोषित कर दिया गया है। यह भी कहने में आया था कि केन्द्र को बदनाम करने के लिए सूबे की सरकार की धोर से ये इलाके प्रकाल ग्रस्त इलाके घोषित किए गए हैं। अभी जैसा मंत्री