

श्री रामसेवक यादव : बिहार के कई इलाकों में अकाल की घोषणा कर दी गई है, कई इलाकों को अकाल प्रस्त इलाके घोषित कर दिया गया है। मध्य प्रदेश में हालत कहीं कहीं बहुत ही खराब है लेकिन वहाँ पर अकाल की घोषणा नहीं हुई है। क्या मंत्री महोदय को इस बात का पता है कि भिन्न भिन्न राज्यों में अभाव, अधिअभाव तथा अकाल की परिभाषाएँ और उनके मापदंड अलग अलग हैं, यदि हाँ, तो क्या एक जैसा मापदंड हो इसके बारे में आप मोक्ष विचार कर रहे हैं ताकि सब को समान रूप से सहायित्व दी जा सके ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have already mentioned that is is a State subject. All these are suggestions for action.

श्री रामसेवक यादव . स्टेट सबजेक्ट तो है। मैं ने कहा है कि हर राज्य में अभाव, भारी अभाव तथा अकाल प्रस्त, इनके मापदंड अलग अलग हैं, भिन्न हैं। इसके बारे में मैं जानकारी चाहता हूँ। इसको वह बतलाने की कृपा करें।

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Minister has no answer for that.

Shri Ram Kishan: May I know, if under the criteria laid down by the Central Government, some parts of Himachal Pradesh have been declared acute scarcity areas. If so, what type of aid is being given to those areas of Himachal Pradesh, and if no aid is being given, why not?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As I have already mentioned, we are allocating about 6,000 tonnes of foodgrains to Himachal Pradesh. We have not effected any cut in the supplies to Himachal Pradesh though we are in a tight position as a result of difficulties created by scarcity. If any area is affected by drought etc., it is a well-established practice that over and above the normal supplies made to the State Government, according to

the pattern of assistance suggested by the Finance Commission, the Centre can give assistance to Himachal Pradesh also.

Rice Requirement of Kerala

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*607. **Shri Sradhakar Supakar:**
Shri M. Sudrasanam:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Kerala has suggested that if the Centre was not in a position to supply rice in adequate quantities, Kerala must be allowed to utilise some of the foreign exchange earned by Kerala for purposes of import of rice; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) No, Sir. No such suggestion has been received by the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: There was a widespread view reported in the newspapers, and while answering the general debate in this House, the Food Minister himself had also stated that Government of India would tap those sources which the Chief Minister of Kerala had indicated...

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has denied it; he has said that no such suggestion has been made.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: But some time back...

Mr. Speaker: That was there in the newspapers. But the hon. Minister has denied that.

Shri Seahyan: The hon. Member is referring to the speech made by the

hon. Food Minister where mention has been made of that. So, Government must be aware of that one.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): Some time back, we had referred this matter to the Kerala Government, and the reply which we have received from the Kerala Government is as follows. In order to remove any doubt about this, because it is mentioned here off and on, I shall read out the telegram itself. It reads thus:

"The Chief Minister of Kerala has stated in several of his pronouncements that in asking for foodgrains from the Central Government, he is not asking for charity. We are working hard and producing valuable cash crops which make a significant contribution to the foreign exchange earning of the country. If Kerala were an independent and sovereign State, the foreign exchange so earned would have been used for the purchase of foodgrains from foreign countries. Since, however, Kerala is a part of India and since the Central Government of India is controlling the import and export trade, it is the Centre's responsibility to see that this State which earns so much foreign exchange is adequately supplied with foodgrains."

This is the reply we have received from the Kerala Government. There is no suggestion in this reply that that Government wanted to import direct.

Shri Brahmakar Supakar: Was it ever suggested by the Chief Minister of Kerala either direct to the Centre or in his speech as to the sources of the supply of rice which are to be tapped? Have Government taken steps to tap that source or those sources from which the Kerala Government might have got their supply of rice?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I have already replied to the main part of the

question. If any suggestion comes from any Government, we will examine it.

Production of Protein-rich Food

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*608. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

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

(a) whether it is proposed to undertake a new project for the production of a raw protein-rich food for distribution in famine affected areas;

(b) the basic constituents of the food;

(c) the details of the project and the expenditure involved; and

(d) when it will be completed?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) Two pilot projects for the production of protein rich foods namely (1) Balahar and (2) Blended flour have been taken up by the Government.

(b) The basic constituents of the Balahar are processed cereal grain, either wheat or maize, edible groundnut flour, Bengal gram flour or milk powder and fortified with vitamins and minerals. The blended flour is composed of atta, tapioca flour and edible groundnut flour.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-712/67].

Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: There is a lot of shark liver oil collected in Indian coasts. Could not a protein-rich food be prepared out of this oil thus collected by the Government themselves?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): The suggestion can be examined.