

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** What is happening in Delhi

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I am coming to that I see no reason why the State Governments cannot make arrangements that, by and large, sugar is sold at the price at which it is to be sold and people receive that, even though a reduced quantum

श्री कवरलाल गुप्त मवाल यह है कि दिल्ली में यह क्या कर रहा है ' दिल्ली में सेटल गवर्नमेंट दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का इन्फोर्म कर क सोधा बा लागा का दे रहा है ।

**Shri Jagjivan Ram** In Delhi there is complete rationing and people are getting it

**Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:** He should reply properly to the questions asked

**Shri Biswanath Roy** In view of the fact that the acreage under sugar cane cultivation has decreased considerably and consequently the production of sugar in the next season would be much less how is the government going to meet the internal demand of sugar?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** Measures for encouraging increased cultivation of cane, to enable factories to have adequate availability of cane all these matters are under consideration

**Shri V. Krishnamoorthi** Neither the control of sugar nor abnormal rise in the cane price will solve the problem, because it will be at the cost of the consumer at last. Even now the State Governments are issuing licences for the opening of khandasari mills. The Sugar Mills Association is stressing that licences for khandasari mills should not be given. If a ban is put on the giving of licences for new khandasari factories and also on sending cane to khandasari mills, the problem can be solved. Will the Government consider the putting of this ban temporarily in order to solve this problem?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** I wish the problem were so simple as the hon Member is mentioning. But may I submit for his kind consideration that our general policy has been, as far as the factory areas are concerned from which the factories are fed, that State Governments should not allow the putting of khandasari plants

**Shri Gadilingana Gowd** In view of the shortage of sugar in the country has the Government any proposal to encourage co-operative marketing societies to instal khandasari sugar factories in areas not covered by sugar factories which only cost Rs 3½ lakhs?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde** The State Governments can encourage that activity

श्री भा० बा० देशमुख : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि इस पराज्याम के कारण कई फैक्ट्रीज बन्द होन वाला है । मैं मन्त्रालय के कि लगभग ७ लाख टन प्रोडक्शन कम हो जायगा । तो ऐसा मुन में जा कर प्रार्थना करके सरकार में नयी फैक्ट्रीज का लाइसेंस दिया गया है जिनका इन्वेन्स कमिशन फाइनल नहीं हो रहा है क्या गवर्नमेंट इस मामले का हल करने के लिए कोई कदम लेने वाला है और उनका फाइनल करने वाला है ?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde** I am aware that there has been some difficulty experienced by the existing licensed sugar factories in regard to their long-term plans. The Government is also seized of the problem and in the near future we expect that this problem will be looked into sympathetically

#### Food Production

+

\*1355 **Shri R Barua:**

**Shri D N Patodia**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether the per capita availability of foodgrains now is more than

what it was in 1950-51, when there was no shortage of food in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the acute food shortage felt now-a-days;

(c) the extent and quantum of damage caused to foodgrains during storage and transportation in the course of last 10 years and how it compares with such loss in other leading countries in the world, and

(d) the steps to be taken to reduce this damage in future?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde) (a) The per capita availability is now more than what it was in 1950-51. It is, however, not a fact that there was no shortage of food in the country in 1950-51. In calendar year 1951 (India had to import more than 4.7 million tonnes of foodgrains

(b) Food shortage is felt not only due to changes in per capita availability but also due to other factors such as increase in per capita income, inflationary pressures operating on the economy, the suddenness of the drop in production, etc.

(c) As most of the stocks in the country are still handled on private account it is not possible to give any precise figure indicating the extent and quantum of damage caused to foodgrains during storage and transportation.

(d) So far as Government grains are concerned, regular disinfestation treatment, various bird scaring devices, pre-monsoon checks, provision of dunnage, security measures at the time of loading and unloading, provision of escorts, etc., are being taken to minimize damage. More and more facilities of scientific storage of foodgrains are also being provided to producers and traders.

Shri R. Barua: During the last ten years an impression has gone round that the Food Ministry was more interested in procuring food from out-

side than actually intensifying the production potential with the result that we are in a mess today. Is the Government taking any firm measure to improve irrigation and to supply improved seeds during the next two years so that production can be doubled at least on these two accounts alone?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: It was explained by the Minister of Food and Agriculture when he replied to the debate on the Demands of the Ministry but may I say for the information of the hon. Member that the last two years were very difficult years in the history of our country and we had no other option but to import large quantities of food from outside, at the same time, the last two years have been very important years from the point of view of impetus to agricultural development programmes, for instance, popularisation of new seeds, new hybrids and new varieties of wheat. These have been the developments during the last two years and as a result we are getting some results.

Shri R. Barua: Much of the damage is due to bad storage. Will the Government take any measure so that the private parties can be encouraged to come in a big way to provide scientific storage facilities, also, the advice of the Finance Ministry may also be taken so that black money can be extracted and diverted to the construction of these facilities?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I cannot say anything about black money.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The hon. Member can induce them.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The hon. Member can induce them, as the hon. Minister says.

About the first part which refers to the storage capacity, that is a very important aspect of the problem. I entirely agree with the hon. Member.

That is why we have now about 4 million tonnes of storage capacity in the cooperative sector, the Warehousing Corporation and the godowns which come under the Central sector. But still some expansion is needed.

**Shri D. N. Patodia:** I am not satisfied with the answer given by the hon. Minister. I refer to this Pocket Book of Economic Information of 1966, INDIA, published by the Ministry of Finance. According to this, the total production of foodgrains in the country in 1950 was 50 million tonnes and, according to the hon. Minister, a quantity of 4 million tonnes was imported. Even taking into account the imported quantity of foodgrains, the per capita availability would work out in the neighbourhood of 415 grams per day and this year, even with a production of 76 million tonnes, it would work out to about 450 grams per day. Therefore—it is a myth—we do not understand how in spite of the availability being more, the per capita being more, it is estimated that because of food shortage we require to import 10 million tonnes. Would the hon. Minister explain as to whether these statistics are correct or that they are most unreliable, if they are correct how this difference in the statistics can be explained.

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** As far as my figures are concerned which I consider to be authoritative, the population in 1950-51 was 360 million while the production was 549 million tonnes and the per capita availability of food was 139 ozs per day. In 1963-64, it was 158 ozs and in 1964-65, it was 168 ozs. But as a result of certain drop in production during the last two years, the availability has gone down and, according to my figures, it is 144 ozs.

**Shri D. N. Patodia:** Would you kindly compare the figures and let me know where the truth lies?

**श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी:** मैं प्रश्न के (ग) भाग को श्रीर. मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान  
1573 (A1) LSD—2.

जाचित करना चाहता हूँ जिसका सम्बन्ध आध्यात्म के खराब होने से है। क्या यह बात सत्य है कि पटना जक्शन पर लगभग 18 हजार बग नेहरूं सड़ गया, जिस को बिहार के खाद्य मंत्री ने स्वीकार किया? क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इसके लिये जिम्मेदार व्यक्ति के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही शासन ने की है?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** We will have to find it out. We shall refer it to the State Government and we will find out from other sources also.

**Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:** We want to know the extent of damage. It is not a small quantity. He must be prepared with the answer. For everything, he cannot ask for notice.

**श्री तुलशीदास जाधव:** कई प्रान्तों में अनाज का जो रेट है वह कम होता है और कई प्रान्तों में ज्यादा होता है। जहाँ कम होता है वहाँ प्रोडक्शन करने का लोगों का इन्फेन्टिव नहीं रहता और जहाँ ज्यादा होता है वहाँ पर इन्फेन्टिव रहता है, लेकिन वहाँ कोई साहित्य आदि नहीं दिया जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिये क्या किया जा रहा है कि लोगों को कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन पूरा मिले और ज्यादा से ज्यादा प्रोडक्शन हो?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** As far as the procurement prices are concerned, they are determined in different States in Consultation with the State Governments. Naturally, there is some difference on the basis of whether a particular State is deficit or surplus.

**Shri S. Kundu:** In answer to the question that the per capita availability of food has gone up, the Minister has mixed up both the imported quantity and the indigenous production in the country. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has got any statistics to show how much per capita availability of food

has gone up on the basis of the indigenous production in the country and not on the basis of imports

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** The per capita availability is calculated, usually, on the basis of net production plus net imports minus change in Government stocks. Net production is always taken as 75 per cent of the gross produce making an allowance of 12½ per cent for seed requirements and wastage. I have given the figures on that basis.

**Shrimati Lakshmikanthamma:** May I know whether it is a fact that the non-implementation of land reforms is also one of the reasons for not being able to utilise the land to the maximum extent and, if so, whether the Central Government will direct the State Governments to speed up the implementation of land reforms?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** The Minister of Food and Agriculture in his reply to the debate, has mentioned this and we agree with the hon Member.

**Shri Hem Barua:** May I know the total deficit in foodgrains in the country at present, as also whether it is a fact that the United States of America, which is the major supplier of food to this country, has informed this Government that the United States are prepared to give upto 50 per cent of the requirements provided we find matching contributions from other sources?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** There was a meeting in Paris sometime back of the countries which want to assist India and a suggestion was made by the United States Government that the United States Government would be willing to assist the Government of India in regard to food supply, if matching supplies in terms of fertilisers, food, etc., were forthcoming from other Governments.

**Shri Hem Barua:** I wanted to know the deficit in foodgrains also. He has

not replied to that. I also want to know whether the US Government has specifically informed our Government about it. It is true that that was the decision of the Paris meeting. I want to know whether the decision has been conveyed to our Government or not.

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** Our representatives were participants in that meeting.

**Shri Hem Barua:** What about deficit in foodgrains?

**Shri G. S. Reddi:** How does the food production in our country compare with the food production in the neighbouring countries, for instance, Pakistan and Burma?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** May I say that our level of productivity is higher than that of many of the countries in Asia, though some countries in Asia have a higher level of productivity. (Interruptions)

**An hon. Member:** About Pakistan and Burma?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** I will not be able to give it offhand. If the hon Member gives me notice I can give

**श्री जयु लिलवे :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि विभिन्न राज्यों में पिछले पाच वर्षों में फी व्यक्ति भ्रनाज की उपलब्धि क्या रही है, पर-कंपिटा, बेलबिलिटी ? और मन्त्रालय ने जो नेशनल फूड बजट का मन्विदा बनाया था, जिसकी मैंने चर्चा की थी, क्या मंत्री महोदय हमारी जानकारी के लिये उसको मेज़ पर रखने की मेहरबानी करेंगे ?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** At the moment I have got no figures about the State-wise availability of food. About the other document to which the hon Member is referring.

**श्री जयु लिलवे :** मैंने पर-कंपिटा अन्वेलिबिलिटी के बारे में पचासो दफे पूछा है । अभी

उक्त मुझ को उसकी जानकारी नहीं मिल पाई। यह किस तरह आर्थिक योजना बनाते हैं, मेरी समझ में नहीं आता। नेशनल फूड ग्रैजिट का मनिवरा धीरे धीरे-कैपिटल ब्रैकेलेवि-मिटी के बाकडे क्या मेज पर रखे जायेंगे ?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** There are certain procedures prescribed by the House and he can give notice under the procedure

**श्री ननु लिववे:** मैं कई दफे नोटिस दे चुका हूँ। मुझ से कहा गया है कि जानकारी इकट्ठी की जा रही है। आखिर यह काम कब पूरा होगा ? चौथी योजना का काम शुरू हो गया है।

**Shri Bal Raj Madhok:** Will the Minister lay on the Table of the House a comparative study of productivity of rice, wheat, and sugar cane in different States of the country with an explanatory note as to why this differs so widely in the same country with the same kind of soil and other opportunities available to the cultivators?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** If the hon Member draws my attention to any particular aspect I am prepared to give the information. The studies are available the figures are available

**Shri Bal Raj Madhok:** This is something which will be able to guide us in so many matters

**Shri Shivajirao S. Deshmukh:** In the last two years the God of Rain has been particularly unkind to us which has forced the Government to import foodgrains. But how does the Minister explain this factor that in the year 1961-62, when there was record production of foodgrains in the country, imports also touched the all-time record?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** 1964-65 was not the year when there were record

imports (Interruptions). It was last year

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** The hon Minister has stated that the per capita availability is 48.4 oz or something like that even after the drought for two years and fall in production. May I know whether Government realise that the food crisis is the result mainly of the defects in the distribution system and malpractices of private trade, and if so, whether they are prepared to take drastic steps to rectify the position so that this availability is really available to the people of this country?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** Broadly I agree with the hon Member that the distribution system will have to be improved considerably and mainly it will have to be brought under the public sector. That has been our endeavour

**Mr Speaker:** Now Short notice question. **Shri Bhogendra Jha:** The hon Member is absent

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Declaration of Famine by States

\*1358 **Shri D N Patodia**  
**Shri C C Desai:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that some State Governments have recently declared their certain regions as famine areas

(b) is so whether Government have issued any directive to the State Governments concerned in this regard and

(c) the impact of such declaration and the measures which have been taken in this regard subsequently?