

given to us by the Law Ministry. We are taking active steps to proceed with the matter.

Famine Declaration in Bihar

*754. Shri Sradhakur Supakar:
Shri Lladhar Kotaki:
Shri N. R. Laskar:

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

(a) whether the declaration of famine by the Bihar Government in seven District of the State has made any material difference either to the relief work or the Centre's share for running them;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the declaration of amine has further worsened the position in affected districts of Bihar?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). The declaration of famine does not imply the assumption by Government of any new responsibility for combating distress. It is a recognition that that distress, for the alleviation of which the State Government have already adopted various measures, has assumed proportions which require a widening of ameliorative measures, a more ample provision of funds and consequently more detailed and more frequent reports on the situation. The declaration does not affect the pattern of Central financial assistance to the State.

The declaration of famine by the State Government in certain areas of Bihar was accompanied by an intensification of relief measures. The situation in the affected areas is now under control.

Shri Sradhakur Supakar: May I know what actual amount of drought relief was offered to seven districts of the State before the actual declara-

tion of famine and how it has gone up after the declaration of famine? I want these figures.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I can give figures for the whole of Bihar but not for particular districts as such. For instance, Rs. 56 crores have been advanced so far to the Bihar Government for undertaking various activities including loans, etc. The main break-up of this would be as follows:

A drinking water scheme estimated to cost about Rs. 507 lakhs has been approved; a cattle protection scheme estimated to cost about Rs. 7 crores has been approved; a sum of Rs. 29.75 crores has been granted as loans and grants in order to assist relief expenditure: loans have been granted for various programmes, that is, minor irrigation programme—Rs. 2.7 crores; rural electrification programme—Rs. 6 crores; drinking water scheme—Rs. 1 crore; extension of water courses under major and minor projects—Rs. 0.30 crores. In addition, short-term loans for seeds, fertilisers and pesticides amounting to Rs. 1549 crores have been given. Though according to the general pattern 50 per cent is supposed to be the contribution by the State Government, we have rendered hundred per cent assistance to the Bihar Government.

Shri Sradhakur Supakar: I am afraid I could not make my question very clear. I wanted to know what was the relief given to the people before the declaration of famine and how does it compare with the relief given to the people after the declaration of famine. I want the comparative figures.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The same relief measures were intensified. The entire planning for meeting the situation was made and it was intensified.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: By what percentage?

Shri Sradhakur Supakar: By what proportion?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Percentage, etc., I cannot say.

श्री सरजू बाबूदेव : जिन क्षेत्रों को सरकार ने अकाल पीड़ित क्षेत्र घोषित किया है उन में सहायता पहुंचाने का दायित्व सरकार पर ज्यादा नहीं है अभी तक जहां भी सूखा पड़ा है बिहार को छंड़ कर अन्यत्र कहीं भी किसी इलाके को अकाल पीड़ित इलाका घोषित नहीं किया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस में क्या कठिनाई है? जब तक वहां पर एम्बुशली अकाल पड़ा हुआ है तो उसको अकाल पीड़ित इलाका घोषित क्यों नहीं किया जाता है?

पुराने फेमिन कोड के मुताबिक प्राज भी बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में टेस्टवर्क कराये जाते हैं जिन में बहुत कम मजदूरी भी जाती है। इसका अर्थ यह होता है कि कम से कम रीसे पर अधिक से अधिक लोग आएँ जब ममला जाया जा सके। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि फेमिन कोड को बदल कर ज्यादा से ज्यादा सहायता पहुंचाने की कृष्टि से कोई काम कर रहा है?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: This question has, in fact, been replied to already on previous occasions. Declaration of famine comes within the purview of the State Governments. The State Governments are competent to declare famine if they feel that such a situation has come into existence in a particular tract of the State. But when informally the Bihar Government consulted us, we told them that the declaration of famine would not in any way create a new responsibility for combating distress because all these measures were already being undertaken and we thought that such a declaration might create a psychology of greater scarcity and the price level might go up. That was our advice. That was not binding on the Bihar Government. After the Bihar Government declared famine, we went all along to help them and we have tried our level best to see that the Bihar Government was helped to fight the famine conditions there.

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श्री सरजू बाबूदेव : फेमिन कोड के बारे में कुछ नहीं बताया। अफ़सोस के क्षणों के क्षणों का यह कोड बना हुआ है और उसी के मुताबिक प्राज भी काम करने वाले को मजदूरी दी जाती है . . .

Shri Annasahib Shinde: About the famine code, there is no famine code of India. The famine codes are the State Codes. The State Governments are competent to amend them if they want. If they feel that there are some outmoded provisions, then the Bihar Government or any State Government is competent to amend the law relating to famine code.

Shri Kartik Oraon: There is always the question of relief so far as Bihar is concerned either drought relief or flood relief or some sort of relief—of course, I have not heard of blood relief so far. There will always be some sort of relief so far as Bihar is concerned. There are some areas which have been declared famine areas although they have got good networks of irrigation canals. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that Chhota Nagpur has always been subjected to step-motherly treatment, whether it is Congress Government or non-Congress Government, whether there is scarcity or no scarcity.

Mr. Speaker: What is his question? He may put his question.

Shri Kartik Oraon: What I want to say is that few people in the country know the harrowing tale of distress of the people living in that area; they are living on leaves and fruits. My point is whether the Minister is aware that there has been a political discrimination in not declaring some of the districts of Chhota Nagpur as famine areas, for instance, Ranchi. . . .

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As I have already mentioned, the State Governments are free to have their own assessment and declare any areas as famine area. I may state for the information of the hon. Member that the Central pattern of assistance in regard

to famine relief is the same all over the country. If in any part of the country, if in any State, any State Government is interested in undertaking relief measures, according to the Central pattern of assistance, Central Government funds would be available.

श्री रामाबलार झास्त्री : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि रिलीफ के काम के लिए बिहार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से कितनी रकम की मांग की है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के जो खाद्य भण्डार पटना में रहते हैं उन्होंने क्या कोई गुप्त रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास भेजी है जिस में यह बताया गया हो कि इससे ज्यादा पैसा बिहार सरकार को नहीं दिया जाना चाहिये। अगर इस तरह की कोई रिपोर्ट उन्होंने दी है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उस भण्डार ने कितनी रकम बिहार सरकार को देने की बात कही है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि अब तक जितनी रकम बिहार सरकार को दी जा चुकी है उसमें और ज्यादा कितने पैसे की मांग बिहार ने की है ताकि रिलीफ का काम ठिकाने से किया जा सके ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As far as the relief operations are concerned we have conveyed it to the State Government that there would not be any limitation; they can undertake any relief measures and we shall try to help them.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार सरकार को माह फरवरी में कितना अनाज दिया गया और माह जून और माह मई में कितना कितना अनाज दिया गया ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: This question rather goes beyond the purview of the main question. But I may give this information that in May, we were expected to supply 2.26 lakhs tonnes, and in June, we are expected to supply about 2.05 lakhs tonnes.

श्री नुबानन्द शर्मा : बिहार सरकार को केन्द्रीय सरकार ने अनाज क्षेत्रों की घोषणा करने से रोका था। इतना ही नहीं, अनाज क्षेत्रों की घोषणा के बाद बिहार को उसकी जरूरत के मुताबिक न अनाज और न ही दूसरी सहायता मिल रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से क्यों इस तरह का भेदभाव बिहार के साथ बरता जा रहा है ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I do not think that the contention of the hon. Member is correct that there has been any discrimination. In fact, I have already explained the position so far as the declaration of famine is concerned, and I do not think that I should repeat it.

As far as the despatches of food are concerned, we have tried and we are trying to see that the allotted quantities are delivered to the State Government. Even though the present position is very difficult, the rate of despatches to Bihar is about 10,000 tonnes a day. This is the information of the last few days. As far as the June allotment is concerned, we expect to complete deliveries according to the agreed figure.

Shri P. G. Sen: The Bihar Government have declared some districts as famine districts and some as scarcity districts. Which are the places that the Bihar Government have declared as scarcity areas?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: There are two categories here. The Bihar Government have declared some districts as scarcity areas and some as famine districts. The famine districts are: Palamau, Gaya, Patna, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh, Shehabad, and Monghyr. The scarcity districts are fourteen in number and they include Patna, Muzaffarpur, Saran, Bhagalpur, Saharsa, Purnea, and Dhanbad and a few others.

Mr. Speaker: There is a question on the Kashmir elections etc., which is interesting and which should have

come up because it would come next. In fact, I tried to see that it could come up but hon. Members have taken such a long time on the question relating to Bihar. So, I cannot help it.

Now, the question Hour is Over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

Import of Foodgrains by State
Governments

- *755. Shri Sharda Nand:
Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:
Shri Swell:
Shri Ranjit Singh:
Shri Onkar Singh:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

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

(a) whether certain State Governments have informed the Centre that in case the Centre is not a position to meet their food needs, they will import the foodgrains direct from other countries; and

(b) the names of the States in question and the reaction of the Centre to such a proposal?

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

(b) Does not arise.

पिछले आम चुनावों में जम्मू तथा काश्मीर में अनियमितताओं के आरोप

*756. श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : क्या बिचि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पिछले आम चुनावों में जम्मू तथा काश्मीर राज्य में घोर अनियमितता की जाने के आरोप के बारे में की जा रही जांच पूरी हो चुकी है ;

(ख) क्या न्यायालयों में विचाराधीन मामलों में से किसी मामले में निर्णय दे दिया गया है; और

(ग) भविष्य में ऐसी अनियमितताओं की पुनरावृत्ति को रोकने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

बिचि मंत्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री डा० रा० चव्हाण) : (क) निर्वाचन आयोग ने घोर अनियमितताओं के मामलों का अन्वेषण करने के लिए कोई जांच संस्थित नहीं की है। तथापि, ऐसी शिकायतें जो प्रथम दृष्टया सत्यापनीय प्रतीत होती हैं, जम्मू, काश्मीर की राज्य सरकार के मुख्य निर्वाचन आफिसर को रिपोर्ट के लिए निर्देशित कर दी गई हैं। निर्वाचन आयोग को अभी तक इस सम्बन्ध में राज्य सरकार से रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) भविष्य में अनियमितताओं के आवर्तन के दिवारण के लिए किए जाने वाले अधुपाधों के बारे में विनिश्चय, निर्वाचन अजियों पर उच्च न्यायालय और निर्वाचन अधिकरणों के निर्णयों के दे दिये जाने के पश्चात ही किया जाएगा।

पत्तन: पर जहाजों में आल लादने तथा कहाजों से उतारने में आधान की बर्बादी

- *757. श्री कंदर लाल गुप्त :
श्री विभक्ति मिश्र :
श्री स्वेल :

क्या आध तथा कृषि मंत्र: यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि मद्रास तथा अन्य पत्तनों पर जहाजों में आधान लादने और जहाजों से उतारने में बहुत आधान बर्बाद हो जाता है; और