

- (iv) F.A.O.'s Draft Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1968-69;
- (v) Use of Arabic and German for interpretation in the F.A.O.'s General and Regional Conferences;
- (vi) Appointment of new Director General; and election to the Committees of the Organisation;
- (vii) Admission of new Members.

FOOD AID FROM U.S.A.

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*325. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :
SHRI MAYAVAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to Rome, he had discussions with the officials of U.S. Government in regard to the request for 6 million tonnes of foodgrains during the next year;

(b) whether any assurance has been sought from the U.S. Government; and

(c) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :

(a) The U.S. Secretary for Agriculture met the Minister for Food and Agriculture and had a discussion with him regarding schemes for agricultural development as well as our foodgrain requirements for 1968.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने रोम में अमरीकी अफसरों से अमरीका से अन्न लेने के सम्बन्ध में जो बातें कीं, तो क्या इस दफा अमरीकी अफसरों ने कोई ऐसी शर्त रखी है जैसी पहले उन्होंने कभी नहीं रखी थी ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) :

with the Secretary of State of the USA about the prospect of agricultural production, the agriculture strategy and also roughly the requirements of food-grains to be imported from outside. No new condition was suggested.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : क्या यह बात सही है कि उस बैठक में मोटे तौर पर अमरीका इस वक्त हिन्दुस्तान के सामने यह शर्त रख रहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान फूड का जोनल सिस्टम पहले खत्म करे तब अमरीका से यहाँ अन्न आ सकता है और क्या यह सही है कि इस बैठक में यह बात उठाई गई थी। अगर उठाई गई थी तो मंत्री महोदय का उस पर क्या रिएक्शन हुआ ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : बातें तो बहुत उठाई गईं, लेकिन जोनल रेस्ट्रिक्शन के बारे में फैसला हमारा होगा, किसी दूसरे का नहीं होगा। और अभी जोनल रेस्ट्रिक्शन नहीं हटाया जायेगा।

SHRI S. KUNDU : We are all aware that the Director-General of FAO was Mr. B. R. Sen, who did valuable work for this organisation. At this time we read in the newspapers that he is not going to be there any longer. The matter was like this: the Members' Committee felt that the Government of India has not properly utilised the very project aid that has come from the FAO, and secondly, due to the Government's wrong foreign policy, they also did not like to sponsor one of our reputed men in this international organisation. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as he was there at Rome, whether he took up the appointment of Mr. Sen in all seriousness there and whether he canvassed his candidature and if he had canvassed for him, whether he is prepared to say that in not being able to sponsor him to the Director-Generalship, F.A.O., he has also pulled down the prestige of India in the Comity of nations.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : It is not desirable that we discuss personalities here. The fact is, we sponsored Dr. Sen's name, but the question of eligibility was raised. On the question of eligibility on technical ground and not on merit in the committee meeting, it

was decided that in view of the past commitments and resolutions, Dr. Sen was not eligible to become a candidate. Therefore, the question of India's foreign policy and other things do not arise at all. We sponsored him and did whatever was possible, but that technical question came and it was ruled that he was not eligible.

SHRI S. KUNDU : They knew that there was this technical difficulty, but still they sponsored him and he was thrown out. It is a slur on the prestige of India. Why did you sponsor him?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : There was difference of opinion among the legal experts about the interpretation. It was held by certain sections that he was eligible and by certain others that he was not eligible. It was ultimately decided by voting.

SHRI S. KUNDU rose—

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kundu may not agree with the minister's reply. But he has answered it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In the annual report of FAO for 1967, which was discussed in this conference, it is stated that in India sufficient incentives are not being given to the agriculturists particularly because the minimum support prices which are declared by the Government of India do not benefit the actual primary cultivators, but only obtain in the secondary markets. This is a sort of censure or stricture that FAO has made about India's food policy. May I know whether the Government have considered this and whether in fixing the prices, they will be at all guided by the criticism made in the FAO report?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : The procurement prices that we fix are the procurement prices for the producers and most of the State Governments have made arrangements to see that the cultivators and producers do get the procurement price that we have fixed. Wherever we notice any trend in any area that the prices are likely to go be-

low and the traders are paying lower prices than the procurement price, Government make arrangements to purchase directly from the producers. So, we ensure that the cultivators do get the procurement price.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : My question was about the FAO report. Does he say that the report is wrong or misinformed, because Dr. Sen was Director-General when the report was prepared? Has he taken steps to point out to the FAO that they should not write such things?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : There is something mentioned there of the nature referred to by the hon. member. But it refers to the previous period. In fact, during the last two years, we have reviewed our policy in regard to procurement prices. Now I do not think our procurement prices are unremunerative in any way.

SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : The minister said there were some technical difficulties about the nomination of Dr. Sen. It seems he is referring to the FAO's constitutional provision that he cannot remain as Director-General for more than 8 years. May I know from the minister whether it was decided by the 11th session of the FAO that the 8 year rule would not apply to Dr. Sen and if so, what other technical difficulties were there?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It has been already explained by the minister that the rule was differently interpreted.

SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : May I know what is the estimate of foodgrains to be imported this year and from what countries, according to the discussions, the minister had with the delegates of other countries?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I did not go to Rome for finding out which country is going to provide how much foodgrains to India. I went for the FAO conference. I did not have any talk with any other country about our requirements of food.

SHRI RAJASEKHARAN : May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of India sponsored and supported with reference to the election to the post of Director General the nomination of Chile; if so, may I know the reasons for supporting the Chile candidate who ultimately was defeated?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We sponsored the name of Shri B. R. Sen.

MR. SPEAKER : That was answered twice.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Thereafter, for the elections any nation can support any other nation.

RELEASE OF SUGAR TO HALWAIS IN DELHI

*303. **SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sugar released to Delhi for Dusehra-Diwali functions;

(b) whether Government have received reports that 70 per cent of the sugar supplied for the manufacture of sweetmeats was sold in the black market;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Halwais who manufactured for less quantity of sweetmeats for supply at controlled rates, sold large quantities in black market and that barfi was sold at the rate of Rs. 25 per kilogram;

(d) whether Government have made any investigations into these malpractices; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :

(a) 12,600 quintals.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). The Delhi Administration have received a few complaints regarding sale of sweetmeats at rates

higher than those fixed by it and the Administration is taking necessary action in such cases. No complaint has, however, been received regarding sale of Barfi at Rs. 25 per kilogram.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : क्या यह सही है कि दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने अपने काउंसिलरों को दो हजार से लेकर तीन हजार क्विंटल तक चीनी अपने लोगों को बांटने के लिए दी? क्या यह भी सही है कि वह चीनी काउंसिलरों ने अपने रिश्तेदारों को और पार्टी वर्कर्स को और दोस्तों को बोगस तरीके से एलाट की और डेढ़ रुपये किलो चीनी खरीद कर छः रुपये किलो तक बेची? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस तरह की शिकायतें सरकार को मिली हैं? क्या यह भी सही है कि एक-एक काउंसिलर ने दस हजार रुपये से लेकर बारह हजार रुपये तक इस शूगर स्कैंडल में कमाया है? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या भारत सरकार इस सिलसिले में कोई ज्यूडिशल इनक्वायरी कराने के लिए तैयार है?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : We have no information about it.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : दिल्ली और हिमाचल प्रदेश दोनों ही यूनियन टैरिटरिज हैं और दोनों की आबादी लगभग बराबर है। 12,600 टन चीनी दिल्ली को एलाट की गई है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हिमाचल प्रदेश को जिसकी आबादी भी दिल्ली के बराबर है, कितनी चीनी एलाट की गई है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Sir, these special allotments were made uniformly all over the country for festivals and 20 per cent of the monthly quota was allotted to each State proportionately.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : मैंने पूछा था कि हिमाचल प्रदेश को कितनी चीनी एलाट की गई है। इन्होंने परसंदेश बता दिया है।

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has said that every State was given