

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, April 4, 1967/Chaitra 14, 1889
Saka.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Janardan Jaganath Shinkre
(Panjim)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import of Foodgrains

- +
*229. Shri Sradhakar Supakar:
Shri D. C. Sharma;
Shri M. Sudarsanam;
Shri C. C. Desai;
Shri E. Barua;
Shri Abdul Ghani Dar:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the shortfall in the production of foodgrains during the current year; and

(b) the amount of food aid assured from foreign countries and the quantum already imported during the current year, country-wise?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) The firm estimates of production of various foodgrains are likely to be available some time in July-August after the close of the current Agricultural year 1966-67. According to the present indications, the overall production of foodgrains in the country during 1966-67 is likely to be as low as about 76 million

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tonnes. This is more than the production of 72.3 million tonnes in 1965-66 but much below the production of 89 million tonnes in 1964-65.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library See No LT-206/67].

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: We have fixed a target date of 1971 for attaining self-sufficiency in foodgrains. Even in a good year of harvest like 1964-65, when production reached a target of 89 million tonnes, we imported a large quantity of foodgrains. Have we fixed any target of production on attaining which we shall not import any more foodgrains, even earlier than 1971?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): As far as the tentative formulation of the Fourth Five-Year Plan is concerned, we expect that by the end of 1970-71, we may be in a position to have a production of 120 million tonnes. That is our expectation. With a normal season, rainfall, etc., perhaps this may be realised.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: Our imports in the past have not had much relation to the shortfall in production of foodgrains in our country, but are usually in direct proportion to the area and the number of towns covered by statutory and informal rationing. When these imports come down and become zero by 1971, may I know what alternative arrangements Government are going to make immediately and in the near future for feeding the ration areas?

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: As I have submitted, our strategy lies in increasing the internal production and natu-

rally through procurement, etc., we should be in a position to meet the requirements of the ration cities.

Shri D. C. Sharma: So far as the strategy is concerned, they have always failed miserably not only in the case of production but also in the case of distribution. Of course, the hon. Minister has been talking about the strategy of production. May I know what steps they are going to introduce so far as major distribution between towns, cities and villages is concerned?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The overall position of distribution can improve only on the basis of availability of foodgrains and as I have been submitting, some sort of satisfactory position can be arrived at only by raising the agricultural production. There is no other way. Of course, regulations, controls, etc. will have to be administered properly.

Shri C. C. Desai: Will Government please say what our immediate need of imports this year is, what we are expected to obtain or get and what we propose to do without the balance? Is not this shortage created more by the enforcement of zonebandi than by less production in the country?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: According to the firm indications available at the moment, the quantity available through imports is 55 lakhs tonnes, and it may be possible for us to utilise these imports up to the period June-July. Thereafter, we are trying to get more quantities in the international markets and from the USA too.

Shri R. Barua: In view of the recent condition imposed by America that there should be a matching grant from the consortium countries, may I know whether Government consider it desirable to depend on foreign food aid, and if not, what the concrete approach is and how Government are going to meet the problem?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As I have already explained, it is not desirable for us in future to be dependent on

imports. But in view of two consecutive droughts and very serious and sharp shortfall in production we have to see that we import adequate quantities, at least to what extent which will no put a large hardship on large sections of the population.

Shri D. N. Patodia: Will the hon. Minister tell us why while in 1950-51 when the production of foodgrains was as low as 51 million tonnes and the import was only a million tonnes, there was no specific shortage in the country, yet, after we have produced 76 million tonnes this year, and with a provisional import of 5.5 million tonnes, as stated by the hon. Minister, how could there be shortage now particularly since in 1950-51 the per capita food supply was about 394 gms. per day whereas at 76 million tonnes production, without taking into account imports, the per capita consumption will be as high as 420 gms. per day? Is it really a problem of excessive wastage in transportation and storage every year or is it really a problem of food production?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As the hon. Member himself is well aware, there has been a substantial increase in our population; though a substantial increase in agricultural production has also taken place, we have not been in a position to keep pace with the increasing requirements of the increasing population, and that is why there is some gap between requirement and availability.

Shri D. N. Patodia: The hon. Minister has not understood my question aright. After taking into account the increase in population, the per capita availability is very much more today. Is it a problem of shortage of food or is it a problem of excessive wastage of food in transportation and in storage?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: There is some amount of wastage in transport, storage etc. But recently, as a result of various measures adopted by the Government, the loss during transit and the loss in storage etc. has been reduced to a considerable extent. As regards the exact percentages, I

shall have to find out, and I would require separate notice.

Shri D. N. Patodia: Would he please supply us the figures in regard to wastage in storage and in transit in the course of the last ten years?

Mr. Speaker: That is a separate question.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मिनिस्टर साहब यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि 1966 में कितना फूड ग्रेन सरकारी गोदामों में खराब हुआ, इस समय जो फूड ग्रेन है वह कितना है और जो लोकल खरीद है वह कितनी है ? इनके साथ ही जो फूड ग्रेन इम्पोर्ट किया गया उसके बाद यह हिसाब लगाया गया कि कुल कितना बाटा हुआ ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I would require notice to ascertain the exact loss. As far as the import figure is concerned, I may submit that last year we imported about 10.4 million tonnes.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: The hon Minister has just stated that the present reduction in the availability of foodgrains has been due, in spite of the increase in imports, to the increase in population. Will he tell us the percentage of increase in population, the percentage of increase in production of foodgrains, and the percentage of increase in imports? Has he really worked out the simple arithmetic of these things and has he not seen that the increase in population has been much less than the increase in production?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: For all these figures, I require notice. I can give broad figures, not detailed ones of the type asked for.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to suggest one thing. We have at least 30-40 Members wanting to ask questions. Every day we are able to cover only three or four questions. If we want to carry on like this, I have absolutely no objection. We

have already debated the food situation. Again this question has come up. If we continue to spend more time on this, we will lose the opportunity to put the other important questions. If the House considers that we have spent enough time on this, I will call a few more and then proceed. When so many Members get up to ask questions, it is embarrassing for me to refuse to allow them.

श्री अण्णुलक्ष्मी वर : स्पीकर साहब, मेरी धार्ज यह है कि जरा मिनिस्टरों से कहिये कि वे तैयार होकर आयें, ऐसी बात न कहें

شری عبدالغنی : سہوکر صاحب -
سہوکر عرض یہ ہے کہ ذرا سلیسٹوں سے
کہئے کہ وہ تیار ہوکر آئیں - ایسی
بات نہ کہیں

Mr. Speaker: When I am on my legs, he should not rise. It looks as though this question is very important. But I am only drawing the House's attention to this fact that we are covering only three or four questions every day.

श्री विभूति मिश्र: अध्यक्ष जी, बिहार में १० लाख टन हर साल गल्ला होता है और इसमें 13 लाख टन के बाटेंज का खयाल है। इस साल अन्दाजा है कि 30 फीसदी से भी कम गल्ला बिहार में हुआ है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे—मिनिस्टर साहब श्री बिहार से आते हैं और इनके एरिये में भी ज्यादा तकलीफ और तबाही है—55 लाख टन इन को बाहर से मिल रहा है, उसमें से बिहार को हर महीने कितना देना चाहते हैं। अभी 1 लाख 78 हजार टन बचे हैं, जबकि बिहार गवर्नमेंट की मांग है कि हमको हर महीने में तीन लाख टन दिया जाय। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार की हालत को देखते हुये वे उसको कितना देना चाहते हैं ?

Shri D. C. Sharma: If you are going to allow questions about one State in particular, then other Members will have to ask questions about other States also.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: This question was raised during the food debate, but not replied to.

सात लाख कृषि मंत्री (श्री जगजीवन राम): अभी जितना बाहर से मंगा रहे हैं इसी में सारे देश का काम चलाना है। अभी महीने में साढ़े सात लाख टन अलग अलग प्रांतों को दिया जा रहा है। बिहार की समस्या कठिन जरूर है, लेकिन यह उम्मीद करना कि तीन लाख टन उन को महीने में दिया जा सकेगा संभव नहीं है, तब तो यह 5 लाख टन जो मंगा रहे हैं उसमें से अधिकांश उन्हीं को दे देना पड़ेगा। अभी इस महीने में बिहार को एक लाख 8.5 हजार टन दिया है, कोशिश इस बात की रहेगी कि अगर मूल्य में ज्यादा प्रॉक्सिमिटी हो गया और गुंजाइश हुई और दूसरे स्टेट्स को जरूरियात कुछ कम हुई तो बिहार को कुछ थोड़ा बढ़ाया जा सकता है।

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of the fact that the major part of the imported foodgrains comes from the USA, may I know what exactly is the position now regarding the basis on which the US supply of foodgrains is to come in future. That is to say, they are giving us 2 million tonnes this year on a concessional basis, which means that we can continue to pay in rupees instead of in dollars. After the present consignment is completed, in future if we want to import from the USA, will it be that it will not be on a concessional basis, that means that we will have to pay in dollars? If so, what is the implication thereof for our economy?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We cannot say anything about the future, at present because the meeting is going on in Geneva.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: They have passed a new law in the US.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Maybe. It all depends upon the agreement we enter into with them. Therefore, I am not in a position at present to say what the position will be in future.

In this connection, may I add one thing? A question was raised the other day about a copy of the agreement being laid on the Table. I am told that a copy has already been placed in the Library of the House on the 23rd February this year. So I do not think it will be necessary to lay a copy on the Table.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: On a point of order. I am very happy to know that a copy of the agreement has been placed in the Library. But when I raised the question whether it would be laid on the Table, the hon. Minister of State replied that it will not be in the public interest. It was placed in February, and after that only last week we were told that it was not in the public interest to place it on the Table of the House. What kind of a reply is given by the Minister?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I am sorry I was not aware that the document had actually been placed in the Library by the Commerce Ministry.

Shrimati Lakshmikantamma: Are Government aware of the complaint that the quality of the imported foodgrains is very poor, that what is not wanted there is dumped on us here? May I know what steps will be taken by the Government to improve the quality of the imported food.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We are ourselves taking the wheat that has been imported which we are getting here in the ration shops, and I can say from personal experience that the quality is not bad.

श्री अब्दुल गनी बर : क्या बजीर साहब फरमायेंगे कि उन्होंने मुल्क में जो गल्ले की इस बस्त स्थिति है उसके पैसे नजर सबे किया है ? अगर वे बिहार को आज जितनी जरूरत है उतना नहीं दे पाते तो क्या वह इस तरह की कोई अपील मुल्क से करेंगे कि लोग एक बस्त खाना खावें, हम दो बस्त का खाना नहीं दे सकते, ताकि बचाव इसके कि वे इस उम्मीद

में रहें कि हिन्दू सरकार हमें बेजोती। अगर हिन्दू सरकार बेजोती की हैसियत में नहीं है तो मुल्क के लोगों को काम्प्लीटमेंट में लेकर उन से कहा जाय कि इतनी कुरबानी मुल्क वालों को करनी चाहिये, ताकि वे फाकाकशी से बच जायें।

[مردی محمد الفلی - کہا وزیر صاحب قوماندے کہ انہوں نے ملک میں جو غلہ کی اس وقت سنبھالی ہے اس کے پھیلنے نظر میں رکھا ہے۔ اگر وہ ہزاروں کو آج جتنی ضرورت ہے اتنا نہیں دے پاتے تو کہا وہ اس طرح کی کوئی لیبل ملے کہ کوئی ملک سے کوئی ایک وقت کھانا کھائیں۔ ہم دو وقت کا نہیں دے سکتے۔ تاکہ بجائے اس کے کہ وہ اس اسٹور میں رہیں کہ ہند سرکار ہمیں بھیجتی اگر ہند سرکار بھیجتی ہے تو اس وقت میں نہیں ہے تو ملک کے لوگوں کو کھانا نہیں ملے گا۔ ان سے کہا جائے کہ اعلیٰ قربانی ملک والوں کو کرن۔ چاہئے تاکہ وہ فائدہ کسی سے بچ سکیں۔]

श्री जगजीवन राय : जहां तक देहाती हल्कों का सवाल है, ऐसे सूबे जो भनाज के मामले में अपनी जरूरत भर पैदा कर रहे हैं वहां उन के सूबे में इन्तजाम का सवाल है, फाका करने का सवाल नहीं है। लेकिन मैं मुल्क से इतनी अपील जरूर करना चाहता हूं कि एक दाना भी भनाज का बरबाद नहीं होना चाहिये, एक टुकड़ा भी बरबाद नहीं होना चाहिये, ताकि हम भनाज को बचा सकें और जहां उसकी जरूरत है वहां पहुंचा सकें।

श्री शिव नारायण : श्रीमन, आपके द्वारा मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हू कि पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश, जो भाज भूख से पीड़ित है, उसको कितना भनाज दिया गया है और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने आप से क्या डिमांड किया था ?

श्री जगजीवन राय : इसमें सन्देह नहीं है कि पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में सूखे की वजह से बहुत परेशानी रही है। जहां तक मेरा ध्यान है उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को सवा लाख टन भनाज प्रति मास दिया जा रहा है, अब वह प्रांत के किस किस हिस्से में पहुंचे, उसका प्रबंध करना

भारतीय सरकार का काम है, केन्द्र सरकार को इसे नहीं देखना है।

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि.....

श्री क० मा० तिवारी : धान एंज्वाइंट फाफा बांडर। यह जो प्रश्न है—यह डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन और सप्लाय से सरोकार नहीं रखता है, वह सरोकार रखता है कि हमारी प्रोडक्शन कितनी है और बाहर से कितना आया है, अगला प्रश्न इस से सम्बन्धित है.....

Mr. Speaker: But we have covered the whole food policy. Last supplementary. Mr. Yadav.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : मंत्री महोदय ने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया कि बुलाई और गोदामों में भनाज रखने में जो छीज होती थी, वह कम हुई है। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि यह छीज जो काटी जाती है उसका आधार क्या है ? क्या छीज के नाम पर भनाज का गोलमाल होता है—इस तरह की शिकायतें भी आई हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप से निवेदन कर दू कि प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आता इसलिए सगड़ा बढ़ता है। मैंने यह कहा कि छीज काटने का आधार क्या है और क्या ऐसी भी शिकायतें आई हैं कि छीज के नाम पर भनाज का गोलमाल हो जाया करता है ?

Shri Annamhib Shinde: The statement I made was that there was a reduction in the loss of foodgrains due to improved storage facilities and new type of godowns was designed and they were now better. Many of the godowns are rat proof. That is why the percentage is less.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इसका उत्तर ही नहीं आया...

श्री जगजीवन राय : इसका उत्तर बहुत साफ है बाकी अगर कोई बात उस तरह की

माननीय सचिव के विभाग में बैठ जाय और वह उसी को बार बार दुहराते रहे जो उससे वह सुन्य तो नहीं बन जाता है बाकी इतने बड़े पैमाने पर जहाँ यह काम होता है यह मैं कहने का दावा नहीं कर सकता कि कहीं भी कोई गोलमाल नहीं होगा...

श्री राजसेवक दास : मैंने चीज काटने के आधार के बारे में पूछा है।

श्री सुरेन्द्र नाथ द्विवेदी : चीज क्या होती है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : वेस्टेज। मैं फिर दुहरा दू कि कहीं भी गोल माल नहीं है इसका मैं दावा नहीं कर सकता बाकी जहाँ भी गोल माल होगा मैं उसे देखने के लिए तैयार हूँ।

Control on Foodgrains

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*230. Shri S. C. Samanta;
Shri N. O. Chatterji;
Shri P. K. Ghosh;

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

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the working of controls on foodgrains and other food-stuff in the various cities and towns under statutory rationing schemes of the various State Governments;

(b) if so, whether these controls have been successful in solving the food problems;

(c) the steps that are being taken to remedy the defects in the working of the controls;

(d) whether there are any prospects of taking away the controls at least in the States which are not deficit; and

(e) if so, in what manner?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) Such assessment has to be carried out by the State Govern-

ments concerned. Information is being collected from them.

(b) These controls were meant to reduce the draw of the statutorily rationed areas of foodgrains from the surrounding rural areas and to reduce consumption in these rationed areas. By and large this purpose has been achieved.

(c) The concerned State Governments who are responsible for enforcing the rationing regulations strictly with a view to eliminating malpractices, also look into defects in the system, if any, with a view to remedying them.

(d) Statutory rationing is intended to cover cities in all States irrespective of whether they are deficit or otherwise.

(e) Does not arise.

श्री स० च० सामन्त : क्या मैं माननीय मन्त्री से जान सकता हूँ कि किन किन राज्यों में कानूनी राशन व्यवस्था कर दी गई है और अभी किन-किन राज्यों में और यह राशन व्यवस्था चालू करने की कोशिश हो रही है ?

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

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जब प्रश्न हिन्दी में पूछा गया है तो उसका उत्तर भी हिन्दी में माना चाहिए।

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Calcutta, Greater Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Hyderabad, Jalpaiguri and Kanpur. In addition to these, small cities like Sholapur, Visakapatnam, Poona, Nagpur, etc., have been brought under statutory rationing.

श्री स० च० सामन्त : यह कानूनी राशन व्यवस्था में एककम्पता लाने के लिए कोई कोशिश हो रही है या नहीं; यदि हो रही है तो यह क्या है ?