

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : पहले प्रस्ताव किसने रखा था ? यह तो ठीक है कि ताशकंद समझौते के तहत यह हो रहा है । लेकिन पहले इसका प्रस्ताव आपने किया था या पाकिस्तान ने किया था ?

डा० कर्ण सिंह : ताशकंद समझौते के तहत बहुत सी बातचीत हुई है । उसके दौरान मैं यह बात भी उठी थी ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नैफ्ट क्वेश्चन ।

श्री हुसैन खान कश्वाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय इसका खुलासा नहीं हुआ है । प्रस्ताव पहले किसने रखा था, मुझसे पहले किसने दिया था, भारत ने दिया था या पाकिस्तान ने दिया था ?

National Food Budget

+

- *20. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:**
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri C. C. Desai:
Dr. Karni Singh:
Shri C. Janardhanan:
Shri P. C. Adichan:

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

(a) whether the centre has prepared a national food policy and a national food budget;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken to implement them?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) to (c). In the context of present food shortage the food policy has been one of maximising procurement and distribution of foodgrains obtained through procurement and from imports through rationing and other forms of government distribution; keeping the unsocial activities of foodgrains traders under check through a system of licensing; restricting the movement of foodgrains

within the country within zonal boundaries in an effort to help government procurement of foodgrains and keeping a check on open market prices by isolating the points of heavy draws; ensuring reasonable prices to the producers of foodgrains, etc. The policy will be reviewed again by Government in the light of the conclusions emerging from Chief Ministers' Conference to be held early next month.

A National Food Budget is under preparation and will be finalized after the Chief Ministers' Conference.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Pending the implementation of the somewhat pompous statement placed by the Minister, may I know if any interim measures have been adopted by Government or are in the process of being adopted to solve such a situation as that which has arisen in Bihar where impossible conditions appear to prevail at the present time?

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: As far as the hon. Member's question in regard to Bihar is concerned, we are trying to see that the largest possible quantities are supplied to Bihar; and during the current month we are supplying about 1,78,000 tonnes of foodgrains to Bihar. Last month also, quite a substantial quantity was supplied to Bihar.

An hon. Member: What about Kerala?

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: If Members ask State-wise, it will be very difficult for me.

Mr. Speaker: He need not answer that. He need only answer the question put.

Shri Annasaheb Shinde: The hon. Member Shri H. N. Mukerjee is a very senior Member of this House. I should say in all humility that the main question relates to a national food budget while the hon. Member is going into details in regard to a particular State.

Shri F. K. Deo: He cannot give a ruling.

Mr. Speaker: Just a minute. I see a number of Members rising to put questions. I must first call those Members who have tabled the questions. The others may be thinking that they will also be called. They will not be called now because the Members who have tabled the question will have to be called first. Kindly excuse me. Yesterday also, I saw this. First I must give preference to the Members who have tabled the questions. After that, I may allow the others, considering the nature of the question and its importance, but not now, before I complete the list of the Members who have tabled the question.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterjee: We may put supplementary questions.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; but the main question must be answered first.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The Minister chose to go out of his way to suggest that we have gone beyond the ambit of the question, but really the question refers to the implementation of the national food policy which I hope is at present a potential matter; we are having the food policy finalised by whatever discussion you are having with the Chief Ministers, but you do have a food policy at the present moment, and my question which I had asked earlier related to that. Now, my second question would be, what is the Government's intention regarding solving the crisis created in a State like Kerala where the Central subsidy has been stopped with very disastrous results or in West Bengal where the last Government left the procurement position in such a disastrous predicament that the new Government is finding it very difficult to carry on. May I know if the Central Government has any plans in this regard in pursuance of their oft-repeated objective of co-operating with the Opposition which has come into the picture?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjivan Ram): At present, certain allocations are being

made to the various State Governments which are deficit or where the food crops have been affected by drought conditions. taking into consideration the requirements of the respective States and the availability of foodgrains with the Centre, either imported or procured internally. We are supplying Kerala also every month. We try to make supplies to Bengal also, and the Bengal Chief Minister and the Food Minister are coming here tomorrow to discuss details as to how we can meet the situation there. We have received communications from the Chief Minister of Kerala also; he is also coming here and we will go into details and see how far we can ease the situation there.

Dr. Karni Singh: In the early 1950s Pandit Nehru told Parliament that food self-sufficiency would be achieved in this country within the next year. Now the President has told us that by 1971 food self-sufficiency would be achieved. I would like to know whether the Government have any proposals to take into account the ten crore increase in population that is projected in the next ten year period while fixing target for production of adequate food to meet their needs and also whether the Government have any longrange plan to take into account the population of 100 crores which will be reached by the turn of the century so that enough food is produced to meet their demands also?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The difficulty is that the population growth has been very rapid and we should attack the problem on two fronts: increased production of foodgrains and disincentives to population growth. Our problem will be a perpetual problem and therefore the scheme of family planning will have to be taken on a big scale. In all these schemes we should have a new strategy for agricultural production,

for research, improved seeds and manure and irrigation. There should be an awareness in the country that we will have to increase our food production to become self-sufficient as early as possible.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस प्रश्न में मेरा नाम भी है और मुझे इस बारे में इन्फार्मेशन दी गई है ।

Mr. Speaker: It is not in my list; it is not here.

श्री शिव नारायण : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भ्रम-संकट का प्रमुख कारण जो जोनल सिस्टम है, मंत्री महोदय उस को हटाने में कक्षा तक सहमत हैं ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: This matter was referred.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्ता : मंत्री महोदय इस प्रश्न का उत्तर हिन्दी में दें ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कक्काय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन की यह परम्परा है और पिछले स्पीकर रूलिंग भी दे चुके हैं कि हिन्दी के प्रश्न का उत्तर हिन्दी में और अंग्रेजी के प्रश्न का उत्तर अंग्रेजी में दिया जाये ।

Mr. Speaker: It is not so; all the Ministers do not know Hindi. There are arrangements for translation

Shri Annasahib Shinde: This matter was referred to the food-grains policy committee under Mr. Venkatapayya and it recommended that the present system of State-zone should continue. This was again discussed in the Chief Ministers' Conference and they also came to the conclusion that the State-zonal system should be continued. All these matters are always under consideration and review. We have a conference of Chief Ministers early next month and this matter will be reviewed again in consultation with the Chief Ministers and further policy decisions would be taken.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, ध्यान देव लीजिए कि कार्जिडेंडम 3 में मेरा और श्री बिभूति मिश्र का नाम है ।

Mr. Speaker: I do not see it; unfortunately, it is not with me. I do not know how it is with you and not with me.

We are on question No. 20. Your name is there?

Shri K. N. Tiwari: Yes, Sir.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : धरणी मंत्री जी ने जवाब में कहा है कि सरकार प्रीक्वियरमेंट करेगी । मैं पिछले पंद्रह बरस से सदन में यह बात सुनता आ रहा हूँ । सरकार की प्रीक्वियरमेंट की पालिसी यह रही है कि अगर भ्रोपन मार्केट में किसी चीज का दाम बीस रुपये है, तो सरकार दस रुपये देती है । इस की तुलना में किसान की जरूरत की जो दूसरी चीजें हैं, उन की कीमतें लगातार बढ़ती जा रही हैं, लेकिन सरकार उन के बारे में कोई कार्यवाही नहीं करती है । जगजीवन बाबू कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर हैं । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह कोई ऐसा नेशनल बजट बनायेंगे, जिस के अन्तर्गत किसान को उस की जरूरत की चीजें उसी प्रकार सस्ते दाम पर मिलें, जिस प्रकार सरकार उस से गल्ला खरीदती है ।

बिहार में सरकार ने लैबी गार्डर लागू किया हुआ था, जिस के अन्तर्गत किसानो से सस्ते दाम पर गल्ला लिया जाता था । इस कारण किसानो में बहुत असंतोष व्याप्त था और चुनावों में हमारे कई साथी उस के शिकार हुए । मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस बारे में पुनर्विचार करेगी ।

श्री जगजीवन राय : माननीय सदस्य ने बहुत ही माफूल प्रश्न किया है । कृषि में उत्पादित पदार्थों का भी मनासिब दाम मिलना चाहिए और मैं ऐसा मानता हूँ कि उत्पादन में जो कृषि होता है, उस का हिसाब कर के कृषि-उत्पादन के दाम निर्धारित किये जाने चाहिए । वह दाम ऐसा होना चाहिए कि किसान महसूस करे कि उस को अपनी लागत पर कुछ फायदा हो रहा है । मेरी नीति ऐसी होगी । किसान को जिन चीजों की आवश्यकता पड़ती है, वे उस को मुहैया हो सकें और उस की

क्षमता के भीतर के दामों पर मुहैया हो सकें, वह करना भी आवश्यक है। जहाँ तक बिहार में लैबी का प्रश्न है, यह प्रदेश की सरकारों पर निर्भर करता है कि अपने प्रदेश में अन्न प्राप्त करने के लिए वे कौन सा प्रबन्ध करें। यह उन की क्षमता के भीतर है।

Mr. Speaker: I am told Mr. K. N. Tiwary's name is also there. Somehow it has been missed here. He may put his question.

श्री क. न. तिवारी : माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि गवर्नमेंट की यह पालिसी होगी कि किसानों की फसल की उपज पर कितना खर्च होता है, इस का तबमीना कर के यह तय किया जायेगा कि उन को क्या कीमत दी जाये। यह बात पिछले फूड मिनिस्ट्रज के समय से चली आ रही है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह मामला किस स्थिति में है और कब तक इस बात का हिसाब हो जायेगा कि किन-किन फसलों पर क्या खर्चा पड़ता है और किसानों को उन का क्या दाम मिलना चाहिए। जब तक यह नहीं होता है, क्या कब तक किसानों को प्रोपन मार्केट में कम्पीटीशन के माध्यम पर बेचने को प्रोत्साहित किया जायेगा या नहीं ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I quite agree with the sentiment of the hon. member that the prices of agricultural commodities should be based as far as possible on the cost of production. But as he is aware, working out the cost of production figures is a long process. Recently we have set up an expert committee under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the Agricultural Price Commission to work out the cost of cultivation of various commodities. (श्री बिभूति शिंदे : कमीशन में किसान विरोधी लोग हैं)

Shri Annasahib Shinde: It is a time-consuming process and it will take some time. But the Government of India's policy has been to pay-remunerative prices to the farmers as

far as possible. The prices which are announced from time to time by the Government of India are fixed in consultation with the Agricultural Prices Commission which goes broadly into this aspect. I quite concede that so far a satisfactory arrangement has not been worked out. It shall be our endeavour to work a satisfactory system, so that parity in prices of industrial and agricultural goods is established in the long run.

Shri Umanath: From one of the Food Department's documents, I find that some experts committee is going into the question of formulating the national food budget and the whole attempt is to chalk out a programme for imports and not to formulate a food budget. For preparing the food budget, the whole food resources must be in the hands of the Government. After the failure of the Food Corporation of India, may I know what are the main factors as based upon which the national food budget is being prepared? Secondly, may I know whether State-trading in wholesale food-grains is one of the items which has to be the basis for preparing the national food budget?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The food budget is prepared on the basis of availability of food in the country as well as the possibility of imports from outside. But the preparation of a Food Budget is faced with a number of limitations. I may refer, for the information of hon. Members, to some of the limitations that are there in the preparation of a Food Budget. They are:

- (i) Reliable estimates of the actual level of consumption on State-wise basis are not available.
- (ii) Data on movement by road on private account from different States are not available.
- (iii) Reliable information regarding the extent to which the variations in per capita con-

sumption in different States from year to year or due to difference in levels of per capita income and changes therein is not available.

- (iv) Inter-State variations in per capita consumption of cereals depends on the extent to which subsidiary foods like potatoes, sweet potatoes and tapioca supplement cereals intake in the different areas.
- (v) For preparation of Food Budget reliable and timely advance estimates of production are an essential principal requisite.

Shri P. K. Vasudevan Nair: Sir, am I to understand that you have exhausted all the names on the list? There are other names also.

Mr. Speaker: Let him answer.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Sir, an expert committee with which the Food Secretary, the Agriculture Secretary, the Secretary of the Planning Commission and some other eminent persons have been associated has prepared a tentative budget. That would be discussed at the Chief Ministers' Conference. The Chief Ministers will be taken into confidence in regard to this. After all, it can be settled only with the cooperation of the State Governments. Everybody, even the Chief Minister of Kerala, would be in a position to have his say. We shall benefit from the advice that the Chief Ministers will be giving to us and on that basis it may be possible, perhaps, to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement.

Shri R. Umanath: Sir, I rise to a point of order. The second part of my question has not been answered, whether State trading in wholesale food-grains will be one of the factors which will be the basis for a national Food Budget

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I think the position of the Government of India is very clear in regard to this. The Food Corporation of India is a public sector body.

Shri R. Umanath: It has failed.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: I am not prepared to concede that it has failed. If the State Governments co-operate and the necessary co-operation is forthcoming from them I am quite sure much progress can be made. Already the Food Corporation of India has made substantial progress. I concede there are difficulties in the way. But as far as the policy approach is concerned we want to see that the Food Corporation of India is really in a position to play an important role in the food trade.

Shri Nath Pai: Mr. Speaker, I wish that the Ministers do a little more home work and in that case the hon. Minister would have found that Questions Nos. 20, 32 and 34 are more or less identical and could have been taken together. I am sorry that they wait for us to request you to take up the questions together. I hope in future this will not be necessary and identical questions will be taken together.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Why should the Ministry combine the questions?

श्री नाथ पाई : प्रश्न क्र. 20, 32 और 34 एक ही विषय के हैं, इन्हें एक साथ ही पूछा जा सकता है।

Mr. Speaker, the main question put by Shri Hiren Mukerjee relates to the preparation of a national food budget which presupposes a just, fair and equitable distribution of available foodgrains and selling them at prices which do not vary very much from State to State. I do not know how far we are from this. The hon. Min-

ister of State gave a vague promise, like a Rip Van Winkle, that we are in the process of thinking. Will they do it or will they want it to be precipitated as Shri Gopalan in a statement in Madras has said—I will read it out—

"If the Government of India does not help the State of Kerala
 . . . (Interruption).

He said, if the Government of India does not then the Kerala Government—that means if the national food budget is not prepared, if the food prices are not stabilised through out the country—will have to nationalise rubber plantations etc. Is the Government of India going to wait for it to be precipitated into action or is it going to take action timely?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not know how nationalisation of rubber plantations is related to this question.

Mr. Speaker: You need not answer that, you need answer only the other part of the question.

Shri E. K. Nayanar: We earn foreign exchange.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: They will sell rubber and get foodgrains for that.

Shri Nath Pal: It is very relevant. If the prices of foodgrains are not the same in the country . . .

Mr. Speaker: Rubber plantation has nothing to do with this question. Shri Gopalan might have said that.

Shri Nath Pal: I agree with Shri Madhu Limaye that it is perhaps the difficulty of language.

मैं ने यह कहने की कोशिश की थीर उन की कीमत एक नहीं रहेगी . . . (व्यवधान) .
 धमर भाप सुनेंगे तो साफ हो जायेगा ।
 कीमत एक नहीं हो जायेगी तो एक रखने के लिए उस का नेमनलाइजेसन किया जायगा ।
 उस का नस्ता जरा मिलता खुलता है ।
 जरा सुनिए ।

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बासु : वह लोग उसे बेचकर उसी पैसे से खाना लायेंगे बाहर से ।

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Sir, I am not going into the implications of this fantastic proposal of foreign exchange for every State. Without examining the implications of that preamble I want to make it clear that it is not very easy to formulate a national food budget. The idea is there. But when I go into the details of that, I find that it is not so easy or simple to formulate a national food budget, in the present context of our food production. We have invited the Chief Ministers of all the States in order to review the existing food policy and also to formulate a new one in which we can maximise the production of available foodgrains in the country itself so that there can be, as far as possible, equitable distribution throughout the country of the available quantity, and if these foodgrains are made available, they may produce some impact on the prices also. But I do not think it will be possible for us to have hundred per cent uniform prices throughout the country, although it shall be our endeavour by various devices, by subsidy and other methods, to see that the price variations are not very high in different States.

Shri S. Kandappan: Keeping in view the low level of production of foodgrains this year, I would like to know whether the Government have made any additional efforts, or contemplate taking some additional steps, to increase the availability of foodgrains so as to meet at least the minimum requirements of States like Kerala, Madras and Bihar.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As the hon. Member has rightly mentioned, the food situation this year is really difficult because of the severe drought conditions in Eastern UP, Bihar, parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. So, we will have to redouble our efforts to secure as much quantity as possible internally from our own production. That is the very purpose of

convening a conference of the Chief Ministers. We are thinking of enlisting the co-operation of the Chief Ministers in ensuring that the largest quantity is made available by each of them to overcome the difficulty.

Shri Damani: May I know whether the question of cash crops like cotton, sugarcane, groundnuts and other things, will also be discussed in the Chief Ministers meeting because they also are in short supply?

Shri R. Umanath: Cotton is not food.

Shri Damani: They are cash crops.

Mr. Speaker: This question is about the National Food Budget. Shri Janardhanan,

Shri C. Janardhanan: The hon. Minister has now stated here that they are going to discuss the food problem with the Chief Ministers. That is good. But the reports we are getting from Kerala are very alarming. There the whole rationing system is on the verge of collapse because of lack of stocks. Therefore, will the Government take steps to rush food to Kerala and to reconsider the question of subsidy also?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We are trying to help the Kerala Government as much as possible. According to the availability we are trying to see that the Kerala Government is helped to the maximum extent possible within the limitations of the Government of India.

Shri C. Janardhanan: He has not answered the question of subsidy.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: We are supplying at present at the rate of 70,000 tonnes of rice to the Kerala Government. Sometimes when there has been delay in shipping at the other end, there has been some delay in the supply of the full quantity in a particular month. In that case sometimes

we have approached the Government of Madras to make advances of rice to them. The question of subsidy will be discussed with the Chief Minister when he comes here.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: From the answer of the hon. Minister all that I am able to gather is that there has been no decision regarding the levy and the continuance of the zonal system. If the Government wants to procure more food and stop the flow of food to places where the purchasing power of the people is greater thus leaving poor people in the poorer districts starving, that is necessary. Has the Government got any policy regarding the levy and the continuance of the zonal system?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The suggestion of the hon. Member will be kept in view.

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee: It is not a suggestion. I want information from the Government regarding the continuance of the levy system and the zonal system.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: So far as procurement is concerned, levy is one of the methods of procurement. In the matter of procurement it will have to be left to the State Governments to have one or the other method of procurement.

Shri P. C. Adichan: May I know whether there was a breakdown in the supply of rice to Kerala in December 1966 causing great suffering to the people of Kerala; if so, who was responsible for that?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: We have already submitted that we are trying to supply on the basis of availability with the Central Government.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shri Samanta.

Shri Tenneti Vinwanatham: Sir, you look either to that side or to this side, not to the centre.

Mr. Speaker: I will look to this side also.