

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 5, 1970 | Phalgun 14, 1891
(Saka)

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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Member Sworn

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI (Basirhat
—West Bengal).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

All India Man Power Service to Assess
Man-Power Situation

*241. SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY :
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND
REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to create an All India Manpower Service to assess continuously the man-power situation in the country and to make effective adjustments between demand and supply of man-power ; and

(b) if not, how the essential statistics in this regard are being collected and how an effective co-ordination is being maintained ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND
REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIV-
AYYA) : (a) No.

(b) The statistics relating to supply and demand of manpower are being collected through the National Employment Service and the necessary coordination among the concerned agencies is effected through the Directorate General of Employment and Training in the Department of Labour and Employment.

श्री बाल्मीकी चौधरी : वर्तमान बढ़ती हुई बेकारी को देख कर दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि मानव शक्ति को कार्यान्वित करने की व्यवस्था कारगर नहीं है। युवकों में असंतोष को देखते हुए प्रतीत होता है कि हमारी जनशक्ति को सही दिशा देने में सरकार असमर्थ रही है। देश में बढ़ती हुई बेरोजगारी को देखते हुए सरकार इस काम के लिए एक अलग सर्विस क्यों नहीं बना रही है ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि देहाती क्षेत्रों में मानव शक्ति के उपयोग के लिए चौबी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में क्या कदम उठाया जा रहा है ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : This matter was considered by the National Commission on Labour and they have observed that it is not possible to do it. I may quote their observation :

"We have to consider the practical difficulties of sustaining an all-India service with all the complications it may create in the new political context which is likely to continue in future. All things considered, we do not favour the creation of a separate service."

Therefore, we do not propose to have it.

Import of Edible Oils

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*242. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI NARAYANAN :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA
NAIDU :
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that despite

better than average oil seed crops this year. India's imports of edible oils will be a record one ;

(b) if so, whether soyabean oil imports from USA will be of the order of 172,000 tonnes, whereas previous highest imports of all the edible oils were 112,000 tonnes in 1967-1968;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a supply of 25,000 tonnes of rapeseeds has been secured from Canada and also from Russia ;

(d) if so, the total amount to be spent on import of edible oils during 1970 ; and

(e) what steps are being taken to improve production of Soyabean in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Import of edible oils is being arranged having due regard to the indigenous production and the anticipated demand during the year.

(b) So far, the import of about 52,000 tonnes of soyabean oil has been arranged during 1970. The feasibility of obtaining additional supplies is being explored.

(c) The import of 25,000 tonnes of rapeseed from Canada has been arranged. About 5,000 tonnes of sunflower oil have been imported from the U.S.S.R. during 1970.

(d) The cost of the imports during 1970 so far arranged is estimated at Rs. 15.2 crores, c.i.f.

(e) Production programmes developed so far have covered an area of about 10,000 acres and yielded a total quantity of 2,065 tonnes of soybean during 1969-70, of which 500 tonnes have been reserved for seed multiplication. The programme for 1970-71, both for seed-multiplication and commercial use, has been chalked out in consultation with the State Governments participating in this project.

SHRI MAYAVAN : India has imported 255.9 million pounds of soyabean oil from U.S.A. during 1968-69. It is about 40% of the total exports of soybean oil from USA. Should we import so much when there are substitutes available in India ? What is the expenditure involved in terms of foreign exchange for this import alone ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : During the year 1969 the quantities of soyabean oil that were imported were 1,12,000 tonnes. This import has to be resorted to because the prices of edible oils were going up in the country and the consumers' interests were being adversely affected. As is well-known, the groundnut crop and other oil seed crops had a set back last year because of failure of rainfall in certain groundnut growing areas and as the output of oil seeds and groundnuts was less, naturally the availability of edible oils was also less in the country. Therefore the Government had to supplement the programme by imports.

SHRI MAYAVAN : Was this import of soyabean oil under PL-480 scheme ? Secondly what are the functions of the Indian Plant Introduction Service ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The soyabean oil imported from USA was under PL-480 agreement. Regarding the second question, I will require notice.

SHRI DHANDAPANI : The University of Illinois, USA, Jawaharlal Nehru Agriculture University and USAID signed an agreement in 1967 to develop the soyabean as a new protein food source in India. What are the attempts made to improve the crop cultivation and the production of edible oils in India ? What are the areas suitable to cultivate this crop ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The soyabean crop has been introduced in our country for the first time on quite a big scale and the Pantnagar Agricultural University and the Jawaharlal Nehru Agricultural University, Jabalpur have lately taken to this. Formerly, the soyabean crop was grown in the Himalayan ranges. Now it was found that it can be grown in

large parts of our country. Therefore, we are trying to make as much seeds available as possible so that a large acreage may be sown with soyabean.

SHRI DHANDAPANI : My friend, Shri Mayavan, spoke of the Indian Plant Introduction Service. What are the functions of this service in relation to soyabean cultivations ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As I have already submitted, I will require notice of this question.

SHRI SAMINATHAN : May I know from the hon. Minister as to what the total area of plantation of soyabeans in India is ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Last year it was about 10,000 acres.

SHRI RANGA : Does not the need that the Government found for importing on such a large scale edible oils from other countries, speak of the failure of their policy in regard to production of edible oils in our country and their plans in regard to that ? In view of the fact that during the last 3 to 4 years there has been a complaint about the fall in the prices of groundnut not only because of over-production but because of the wrong price policies pursued by the Government in regard to controls, what is it that the Government want to do in order to encourage oil seed production in the country and to ensure a minimum price for the oil seeds and at the same time help the producers of groundnut seeds to produce soyabean wherever it is possible ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I quite appreciate the hon. Member's anxiety because it is true that the oilseeds production and again the production of groundnuts has not been increasing as per our expectations. So this naturally deserves constant attention from the Research Organisations, from extension wings and the State Governments and therefore Government has taken up some positive steps. Coordinated research work has been undertaken for developing new strains and high-yielding strains of the oilseeds. Then again, in addition to that, we are trying to introduce new types of

oilseeds in this country like soyabean and sunflower because sunflower was traditionally grown in this country and perhaps with the introduction of new strains it may be possible to have coordinated production in our country. As far as price aspect is concerned, in this matter, my Ministry was of the view that something has to be done in regard to the fixation of the minimum prices. And therefore, we referred this question to the Agricultural Prices Commission. The expert body has advised the Government of India that it would not be desirable to fix up the minimum price of groundnuts.

SHRI RANGA : In the light of this experience what do you do ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I quite see your point. At the most I can say that we can re-examine the matter. And, as far as marketing is concerned, the element of speculation has to be eliminated. Government is taking some steps in that direction.

SHRI AMRIT NAHATA : The Minister told us that due to failure of monsoon rains in some groundnut growing areas the crop was comparatively less. Even then may I know as to why it is that at the harvesting time prices crashed down to defraud the farmers ? Now despite massive import of edible oils, how is it that prices of edible oils are shooting up ? What is it that the Government proposes to do, to bring down the prices of vegetable oils ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Sir, as I have already mentioned, the element of speculation plays quite a considerable role in this ; and therefore, Government is thinking of taking some positive steps. Government are giving constant attention to this aspect. It is also under the consideration of the Government of India whether some buffer stocks should be constituted so that it will be a healthy check on the trend of prices prevailing in the country. As far as the importing of oilseeds is concerned, certainly the Government of India is taking a number of measures. As far as the prices of Vanaspathi are concerned, we have gone into the matter and we have referred this to the Tariff Commission.

But since the case is filed against Government in a High Court, this matter is *sub-judice*. I do not want to go into the matter as this stage.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : It is surprising that we are importing edible oils and oilseeds in the country. We were exporting groundnut oil last year. We exported 300 tons of that quality. I would like to know as to what is the total quantity this year. Have we exported or not? Are there any exports in this item? That is one thing I would like to know. Regarding the import of soyabean has it come to the notice of the Government that African countries, especially Uganda, have offered some very good conditions at much cheaper rate than what we are importing today? So, regarding the import of Soyabean from Uganda and the quantity of oil we are exporting from India I want to know the answer.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : At least to my knowledge it is not the policy of the Government of India to export edible oilseeds. Only some sample consignments have been exported. It has been pointed out that the Government's general approach is this that so long as shortage prevails in the country we should not export edible oil from out of the country. About the import of soyabean, as I have submitted, we are exploring the possibility of importing various oils from the U.S.A., Canada and U.S.S.R. But many of these things are under some credit arrangements etc. So far as the USA is concerned it is under PL-480. About Canada, it is under some long-term credit arrangement. The hon. Members are aware of the difficulties of foreign exchange and if we will have to pay in hard currency for foreign exchange, naturally, Government has to take a view whether imports from particular countries would be desirable or not.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : Offer from Uganda has come.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We will examine that.

MR. SPEAKER : No question of cross examination please.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ अभी एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में उन्होंने बताया कि देश में सट्टा बाजार प्रगति कर रहा है, उसके कारण भी तेलों के दाम काफी ऊँचे हैं, अभी तक यह सवाल पिछले पांच छः सालों से उठा रहा है, तो कौन-कौन सी कार्यवाही आपने की उस सट्टा बाजार को रोकने के लिए? दूसरा सवाल मेरा यह है कि खाने का तेल जिस में तिल्ली, भ्रलसी मूँगफली और सरसों का विशेष रूप से उपयोग किया जाता है, उसकी पैदावार बढ़े उसके लिए सरकार कौन से उपाय कर रही है और काश्तकारों को उचित दाम मिलें इसके लिए सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है? खाने का तेल गरीब लोग खाते हैं। तो हमारे देश की पूर्ति जब तक नहीं होगी तब तक विदेय नहीं भेजेंगे ऐसा निश्चय सरकार करेगी?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have already replied to the points raised by the hon. Member while replying to the supplementary questions put by other hon. Members.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं मिला। पिछले 5-6 साल से यह सवाल उठ रहा है, सरकार ने सट्टा बाजार को रोकने के लिए क्या-क्या उपाय किए हैं, यह सीधा सवाल है, मेरी जानकारी में सरकार ने कोई उपाय नहीं किए हैं। ऐसा कह कर केवल सदन को गुमराह किया जा रहा है।

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Due to the massive import of soyabean as well as sunflower oil from Russia and other countries, the production of oilseeds in this country has gone down; not only has the production gone down, but even the incentive to the farmers has gone down. I hope the hon. Minister will appreciate the necessity of maintaining the production by giving support to the price, for otherwise, it will go down. I want to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that very

recently, the Canadian Government have offered about Rs. 75 crores to the farmers to destroy the wheat crop in order to maintain the quantum of production by giving price support. Unless the hon. Minister takes such steps in this country...

SHRI SEZHIYAN : Not to destroy.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : ...and stops the import of soyabean as well as sunflower oil from other countries, the production of oilseeds in this country will not go up. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will ponder over this ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As for the immediate stopping of imports, I do not think that it would be desirable because it will have very serious consequences on the price level of oils in our country. As regards the steps to be taken to protect the interest of the farmer, while reploughing to the supplementary question put by Shri Ranga. I have already said that Government will re-examine this question.

SHRI V. KRISHNAMOORTHY : The imports should be stopped.

श्री श्री गोपाल साहू : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि तेलों के अन्दर वेजिटेबल के भाव बहुत बढ़ रहे हैं, उस को देखते हुए पी-एल 480 के अन्तर्गत अमेरिका से 1970-71 के अन्तर्गत कितना सोयाबीन मगाने का विचार वह कर रहे हैं ? अगर अभी तक कुछ ऐग्रीमेंट नहीं किया है तो वह कब तक करने का विचार है और कितना सोयाबीन मगाने का विचार है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As for the immediate import programme, I have already given the figures in the reply to the main question.

श्री श्री गोपाल साहू : 1970-71 में कितना मगाने का विचार है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have mentioned the figure also in the main answer.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पांच वर्ष से जो विदेशों से खाने का तेल मंगाया जा रहा है खास तौर से अमेरिका से उसकी मात्रा उत्तरात्तर बढ़ती जा रही है या कम होती जा रही है ? अगर बढ़ती जा रही है तो क्या कहीं हमारी खेती में योजना-बद्ध जिन्दगी की आवश्यक वस्तुओं के पैदा करने में कहीं दोष है क्या ? अगर है तो क्या और कैसे उस को ठीक करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : For the information of the hon. Member, I may give the figures in regard to the imports during the last few years; they were as follows:

1965	53,000	tonnes
1966	31,000	"
1967	87,000	"
1968	68,000	"

I have already mentioned the figure for 1969 in 1970, so far, we have imported about 52,000 tonnes. Measures are being taken to encourage production of oilseeds in the country and I have already explained the position.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : This is a very important question. The import of oilseeds in our country has been going on for a very long time, and it has brought down the honour and prestige of our country. Recently, I had occasion to meet the ECA, FAO people working at Bangkok, and I addressed a meeting also there, and I got this information from the Research Wing working there.

श्री तुलशीदास जाधव : एडीबल प्रायस की 56 रु. कीमत बढ़ गई है। देश में प्राउण्ड-नट उत्पादन करने के लिए लोग तैयार हैं, लेकिन जैसा बम्बई काँग्रेस में और माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी कहा है कि प्राउण्ड-नट और काटन की प्राइस फिक्स की जायगी जिससे प्राउण्ड-नट का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये लोगों को इन्सैन्टिव मिले। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर साहब कब प्राइस फिक्स करेंगे जिससे देश में ज्यादा

प्रायल पैदा हो और कौमन-मैन को मिल सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : While replying to the supplementary question put by Shri Ranga, I had already explained that we would re-examine the question.

SHRI TULSHIDAS JADHAV : What about fixation of minimum prices ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The Agricultural prices Commission had advised us against the fixation of minimum prices, but I have already said that we shall again refer the matter to them for further examination.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : क्या यह सच है कि दूसरे देशों में सोया-बीन की खेती इस लिए की जाती है चूंकि इसकी खल में गेहूँ के मुकाबले पांच गुना ज्यादा प्रोटीन होता है और बार्ड-प्रोडक्ट की शक्ल में तेल मिलता है ? यदि हाँ, तो क्या वजह है कि फूड कारपोरेशन की तरफ से सोया-बीन खरीदने की गारन्टी नहीं दी जा रही है और सरकार की तरफ से प्रोटीन बनाने के लिये फॅक्टरीज खड़ी नहीं की जा रही हैं ? तेल के लिये सोयाबीन उगाने में किसान को पड़ता नहीं खा रहा है—इसका प्रापके पास क्या जवाब है ?

MR. SPEAKER : What have those meetings to do with the question here ?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : There is a research wing, working there in the ECAFF organisation. One of the Mysore members attached to that organisation who is exploring the possibilities of developing oilseeds production in all under developed countries told me that there was ample scope to develop oilseeds production in this country rather than in any other country. That Research Wing has apprised the Government of India of this position, but the Government of India have not responded properly and even the Planning Commission has not responded. May I know whether the Government of India will in consultation with the research wing explore the possi-

bility of developing oilseeds production in this country and also advise the Planning Commission accordingly?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We welcome constructive suggestions for improving the production of oilseeds in our country. As I have already submitted, a number of steps are being taken, and we would very much appreciate the support of the House and the hon. Member to see that my Ministry gets more funds from the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission for research and production plans in regard to oilseeds.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The Government of India are well aware of the importance of taking up the large-scale production of soyabean in our country. Recently, at the initiative of the Pantnagar Agricultural University and with the co-operation of my Ministry, a seminar was organised on the development of processing industries based on soyabean. We understand that the protein content of soyabean is much higher as compared to that of wheat. It is not five times, but at least it is thrice that of wheat.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : गारन्टी के बारे में बतलाइये। गारन्टी नहीं देंगे तो कोई नहीं बोएगा।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We are taking positive steps to popularise and encourage the production of soyabean in our country and we are hopeful of going ahead.

श्री मीठालाल मोना : जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि तेल का निर्यात नहीं किया जाता है। लेकिन प्रतिवर्ष काफ़ी तादाद में सिधाना निर्यात किया जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्रति वर्ष कितना सिधाना निर्यात किया जाता है ? दूसरे—अन्य फसलों के मुकाबले तिलहन की फसलों पर राजस्थान में बहुत ज्यादा टैक्स है। अन्य फसलों के मुकाबले इसकी फसलों पर बराबर टैक्स रखने के लिये क्या आप राज्य सरकार को कोई निर्देश देंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have broadly mentioned that the Government of India are not exporting edible oils or groundnut. I will require notice as to the export of the particular commodity he mentioned.

About encouragement to farmers for production of oilseeds, I have already explained the position in detail.

SHRIMATI SUSELLA GOPALAN : Is it a fact that Government are reluctant to stop the import of soya beans because it is tied up with PL 480 and they want to serve the interests of the industrialists to the detriment of the farmers and the common people of the country?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have explained that soya beans are being imported because there has been some shortage of edible oils in our country. In order to supplement the available supply, we have taken this step.

In reply to an earlier question, I have already said that it is being imported under the PL 480 agreement. We are also importing from Canada and USSR, and not only from the USA. There are not many countries which can offer surplus edible oils for export.

Fall in the off-take of Fertilisers

*243. SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the off-take of fertilisers from the State Trading Corporation is sluggish and the stocks are lying piled up with them;

(b) the reasons for such sluggish off-take ; and

(c) what measures have been adopted to clear the accumulated stocks and future imports against contracts already entered into ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-
OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB

SHINDE) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The State Trading Corporation (now Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India) imports fertilisers on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture from Rupee payment countries like U.S.S.R., Poland, German Democratic Republic and others. Regarding the nitrogenous fertilisers handled by them, they act only as purchasing agents and these are passed on to the Central Fertiliser Pool for distribution to the States. Regarding potassic fertilisers, they not only handle them, but also distribute them through their agents, the Indian Potash Supply Agency. The off-take of Muriate of Potash from the State Trading Corporation has gone up from 1.49 lakh tonnes in the period between April, 1968 to January, 1969 to 1.67 lakh tonnes in the corresponding period of 1969-70. While this off-take in 1969-70 has been less than planned, it is not a fact that the stocks are piling up. The stocks, in fact, are gradually coming down.

(b) and (c). The main reason for the lower off-take has been the disinclination of the farmers to apply potash in recommended doses since its application does not immediately show results but only improves the quality of the grain and makes it more resistant to diseases. Since greater effort is needed to convince the farmers of its utility, the State Trading Corporation's investment over promotional measures has been stepped up in 1969-70. Another reason for the comparatively low off-take has been the prevalence of different prices for potassic fertilisers sold by the S.T.C. and by the Central Fertiliser Pool. This has been remedied by unifying both the sources of potash supply and also prescribing uniform all-India prices.

The S.T.C. had a stock of 1.28 lakh tonnes of Muriate of Potash on January 31, 1970 valued at Rs. 4.54 crores. Currently, the requirements of all kinds of fertilisers are being reviewed with the States and manufactures. However, the requirement of Potash for the year 1970-71 has been tentatively assessed at 4,80,000 tonnes in