

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

terms of Muriate of Potash. Nearly half of this will be consumed in Kharif, 1970. Two-thirds of the Kharif requirement, namely, 1,60,000 tonnes have to be in stock by the 1st April, 1970. In the light of this, the stock with the S.T.C. cannot be considered excessive.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : The Minister has stated in his reply that nitrogenous fertilisers are given to the States for distribution, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that the distribution of fertilisers has turned into a political racket because the whole rural area can be controlled if you control fertilisers and seeds credit. In view of the fact that the farmer is suffering heavily—either he gets adulterated fertilisers or the other services supposed to be given with the use of fertilisers are not given to him—would the Minister go into this and take such promotional measures as would not be tied up with political interest? Wherever there is adulterated fertiliser distributed or fertiliser selling in the black market, the STC and the Central Government wash their hands off and say that distribution is done by the States. What measures does the Minister propose to take to see that the farmer does not suffer as far as this is concerned?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have great respect for the hon. lady. But may I submit that her observation is not quite correct, because the availability of fertilisers in the country is so easy now that anybody can get them? In fact, there are complaints from cooperative societies and others of accumulated stocks. Of course, recently there has been a good offtake.

SHRI RANGA : What about the excise duty?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Moreover, the Government of India, particularly my Ministry, have taken positive steps on the distribution of fertilisers by removing restrictions. Anybody can now undertake trade in fertilisers; he has only to register with the State Government. This restriction has been imposed as we do not want adulteration in fertilisers, to which Prof Ranga referred the other day.

We have not received a single complaint from any part of the country about non-availability. It is wrong to say...

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : Not non-availability.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : ...that politics is being introduced in fertiliser distribution, because the availability is so easy, and that is also not the intention of Government. In fertiliser distribution, Government are not the only agency; private trade and co-operative societies are also allowed to distribute.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : It is not a question of non-availability but there is not enough offtake and the reason is that firstly you must have credit, secondly the fertiliser must be of the right sort, thirdly the fertiliser must be made available to the farmer after doing some soil testing and so on. These things are not given. The people who are selling the fertilisers are obligated to the politician, that is the point. That is why I want to know whether this it becomes a system where commercial and technical considerations are used instead of political considerations. If you are on the right side of the ruling party, then all services are given to you along with the distribution of fertilisers.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : She knows by her own experience.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : Yes, I do agricultural farming on my own, I know because in our district of Ratnagiri we do get the right type of fertilisers, that is the point. Will you please ask the Minister to let me know whether he will go into this whole system of distribution and the utilisation of fertilisers so that the farmer benefits. The Chairman of the Fertiliser Corporation of India...

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not make a regular speech.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE : But why do they hate giving the right type of answer? Here in this statement they say that the STC does not have excessive stock, and the Chairman of the Fertiliser

Corporation of India says that the stocks are piling up. Which is true? I would like to know what the true answer is, why there is not enough offtake. Secondly, in view of the fact you have stockpiles, will you change the practice under which you are giving more and more of fertilisers which the farmer does not want or cannot use I say it has become a political question, it is no longer a question of the farmer.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : The information of the Member is rather out of date.

SHRIMATI SHARDA MUKERJEE :
This was given only last month.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : That apprehension might have there so long as it was the monopoly of the co-operative societies to distribute fertilisers, but I have said that she is out of date because recently we have issued orders that the fertilisers may appoint their own agents, previously they could not, in their areas and even licensing will not be necessary, they will have simply to register with the STC, and the fertiliser factories are free now, as a matter of fact I have insisted on them to do it, to take promotional activities in the areas which are covered by their factories. Therefore, the question of this political implication does not arise. It might have been there when it was entirely the monopoly of the co-operative societies. Now all agencies are functioning for the distribution of fertilisers.

There was some slackness in the offtake of fertilisers last year when there was delay in the monsoon, and my hon. friend, Shri Ranga, will know that in areas in Andhra or Madras or even in Mysore, when there was scanty rainfall, the farmers could not take the fertilisers for application. This year after the winter rainfall there has been a satisfactory offtake of fertilisers.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI :
Apart from the question whether politics, when it becomes barren, needs a little fertiliser or not, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, since he mentioned just now that last year there was

shortfall in the offtake of fertilisers, Government is taking into consideration the actual requirement of the fertilisers in the country when it goes in for contracts for bigger imports of fertilisers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the actual requirement of fertilisers for 1970-71 and the target of their contract for import from the different countries.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As far as the first part of the question is concerned, the hon. Minister has already made a reference to the fact that the offtake was a little poor last year because of failure of rains, but even then, last year also the increase was to the tune of 13 per cent over the previous year. This year there has been a considerable increase because of favourable rainfall in winter and the increase in consumption this year alone has been, in the case of nitrogen 25 per cent, in the case of PTO 13 per cent and in the case of PTO 16 per cent. So, there has been an increase in the offtake during the current year. We wish it were more. But it is not correct to say that the increase in the offtake of fertilisers is not satisfactory this year as compared to last year.

While working out the programme, Government did take into consideration the availability of stocks in the country and that is why a minimum programme was worked out last year and the import programme was drastically cut down. This year also we are taking into consideration the possibility, what would be the internal production of fertilisers and what are the stocks with us. On that basis alone we shall be taking steps for imports next year. Next year's consumption target is 1.9 million tons nitrogen.

SHRI RANGA : Are Government not aware of the fact that there is increasing indulgence in adulteration is which even some of the renowned suppliers and manufacturers of fertilisers themselves are indulging in? Would Government make careful enquiries into this particular matter? Have the Government made any enquiry at all to find to what extent the imposition of excise duty last year had been responsible for a rise in the price of

fertiliser and as a result there has been reduction in the demand of fertilisers by peasants ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : With regard to adulteration in any commodity, when there is shortage there are chances of many malpractices.

SHRI RANGA : Even then, Chalk and chunam are mixed ; you ask your colleague.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : Whenever there are shortage in any commodities, malpractices and chances for adulteration increase. When the fertiliser situation is easy and comfortable I do not think there is any chance for malpractices. All the same if the hon. Member brings to my notice certain instances, necessary action will be taken. I regard it as a criminal activity to adulterate fertilisers. So far as the offtake is concerned, I should like to remove the impression of the hon. Member. Last year it was not according to target but it does not mean that the offtake went down as compared to the previous year. Growth was not as much as we had anticipated. I have given the reason for that; that is the only reason.

SHRI RANGA : Excise duty ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : That was not responsible.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी मन्त्री महोदय ने यह कहा कि फटिलाइजर का जो टारगेट था उसके मुताबिक घाफटेक नहीं हुआ तो उसका एक मुख्य कारण यह है कि जो फटिलाइजर है उसका प्रयोग ज्यादातर बड़े-बड़े किसान करते हैं, 25 परसेन्ट से ज्यादा किसान उसका प्रयोग नहीं करते हैं और छोटे छोटे किसान तो उसका प्रयोग करते ही नहीं हैं जिसका परिमाण यह होता है कि खेती में भी मानोपली किएट हो रही है इस देश में तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि छोटे-छोटे किसान भी फटिलाइजर का पूरा प्रयोग करें ताकि देश में नीचे तक समाजवाद फैल जाये जैसा कि आप

चाहते हैं और दावा करते हैं “(ब्यबधान)” 90 परसेन्ट किसान ऐसे हैं जिनको, जो सरकार अपना खर्चा एग्रीकल्चर सेक्टर में करती है उसका केवल 10 परसेन्ट फायदा होता है और दस परसेन्ट किसानों को 90 परसेन्ट खर्च का फायदा होता है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार के पास इस प्रकार की कोई योजना है जिसके जरिए से वे छोटे-छोटे किसान भी फटिलाइजर को प्रयोग में लायें ? यदि कोई ऐसी योजना है तो उससे कितना लाभ होगा और क्या सरकार, पिछले साल श्री मोरारजी भाई ने फटिलाइजर पर जो इयूटी बढ़ा दी थी उसको कम करेगी ताकि फटिलाइजर की डिमान्ड ज्यादा हो सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I could appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member that smaller farmers should get the advantage of fertilisers and other inputs. It is Government's effort to see that credit is made available and fertilisers are made available in time and distribution arrangements are made properly, etc. If all these things could be satisfactorily arranged, perhaps a larger section of the smaller farmer can be covered. I can see the limitations. There are certain difficulties for the credit institutions and the factories in reaching all the small farmers.

But as far as the policy decision of the Government of India is concerned, we have now related the availability to credit to crop and not to security. Therefore, even the smaller farmers should be in a position to take advantage of this. We have taken a number of positive steps to improve the existing distribution arrangements. So, at all points, especially in the interior areas which are far away from urban areas, fertilisers are stockpiled and the availability is made easy. Some of these steps are being taken to serve the purpose of the smaller farmers.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : मेरा सवाल यह था कि क्या सरकार ने कोई स्कीम बनाई है ? यह जो मेजर्स हैं वह पुराने हैं और उनका थूँक कोई भरसक नहीं हो रहा है इसलिए क्या

सरकार ने उसके लिए कोई स्कीम बनाई है, भ्रमर बनाई हो तो वह उसे बतलाये ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I will refer the hon. Member to the budget provision itself and the budget speech of the Finance Minister in which reference has been made to small farmers and landless labour and what is the scheme the Government is going to introduce. If you read it ; you will find it is being done.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने ड्यूटी कम करने के बारे में कहा था। अब अगर आप ही हमें प्रोटेक्शन नहीं देगे और उसका उत्तर मंत्री जी से नहीं दिलवायेंगे तो फिर कौन करेगा ?

MR. SPEAKER : am very sorry even the Question Hour takes the shape of a short debate. I am not allowing the question.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : मैं अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप से विनती करना चाहता हूँ कि वह जो फर्टिलाइजर्स पर पिछले साल ड्यूटी लगाई थी। उसका जवाब मंत्री जी से मुझे दिलवाइये। लेकिन अगर आप वह नहीं दिलाना चाहते हैं तो आपकी मर्जी है।

SHRI BISHWANATH ROY : In view of the specific question put by Prof. Ranga regarding the adulteration of fertilisers, may I know whether the Government purpose to entrust the Agro-Industries Corporation and district agricultural departments with the distribution of fertilisers to the growers ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : There is no bar on any agro-industries corporation or district agricultural department from undertaking the distribution of fertilisers even according to the present policy.

SHRI P. GOPALAN : While mentioning in the statement that the offtake of fertilisers in 1969-70 has been less than planned, the Government has tried to give some fantastic reason for the decline in the rate of consumption of fertilisers,

such as the disinclination of the farmers to apply potassium in the recommended doses. Another reason given is the prevalence of different prices for potassic fertilisers stocked by the STC and the Central Fertiliser pool. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that as against the annual compound rate of 30 per cent increase in fertiliser consumption stipulated in the fourth Plan period as the bases for achieving the production target as the new farm strategy, the increase actually recorded in the first year of the Plan was not more than 12.5 percent ? In view of this sharp decline in the consumption of fertilisers, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the basic reason for the fall in consumption of fertilisers is the non-availability of adequate credit to small farmers who are incapable of purchasing and using these fertilisers.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : In regard to the first part of the question, the hon. Member referred to the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House. But if the hon. Member is good enough to refer to part (c) of the question, he will find that it refers only to the stock with the State Trading Corporation. The STC distributes only potash and my statement refers only to potash and it does not refer to the nitrogenous and other phosphatic fertilisers, because the question is with regard to the stock available with the State Trading Corporation. As far as the consumption of other fertilisers is concerned, the position has already been explained on the floor of the House while replying to another supplementary.

श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री : क्या यह ठीक है कि जो उन्नत किस्म के बीज हैं गेहूँ आदि के, उनकी जो उपज है वह निरन्तर घट रही है और क्या उसका यह कारण नहीं है कि उनके लिए जितना उर्वरकों का प्रयोग होना चाहिए उतना प्रयोग किसान उनका नहीं कर पा रहे हैं, यदि यह बात ठीक हो, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार इसका क्या उपाय करना चाहती है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : There is a separate question whether the yields are declining. The fact is, yields are not declining ; that is a wrong impression.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : काफ़ी सवाल जवाब इस पर हो चुके हैं अब आगे चलना चाहिए ।

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : हमारे देश के करोड़ों इंसानों का सवाल है । यह एक ऐसा सवाल है जिसमें जो बदउनवानियां हुई हैं मैं चाहूंगा कि खास तौर से उस पर तवज्जह दिलाई जाय । यह 85 फीसदी इस मुल्क के बसने वाले लोगों का सवाल है इसलिए इस पर सवालों को पूछने दिया जाय ।

[شری استحقاق سلہلی—ہمارے دیس کے کروڑوں انسانوں کا سوال ہے - یہ ایک ایسا سوال ہے جس میں جو بد انوانہاں ہوئی ہوں میں چاہوں گا کہ خاص طور سے اس پر توجہ دلائی جائے - یہ ۸۵ فی سدی اس ملک کے بسنے والے لوگوں کا سوال ہے اس لئے اس پر سوال کو پوچھلے دیا جائے -]

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य देख ही रहे हैं कि एक राउंड चला और अब सेकंड राउंड पर हम आ रहे हैं । वह धीरज रखें उन्हें भी मौका दिया जायगा ।

श्री सु० अ० सां : मुझे श्री कंवरलाल गुप्त के इस खयाल से इतिफाक है कि छोटे काश्तकार फटिलाइजर्स की कीमत ज्यादा होने की वजह से अपनी जमीन में फटिलाइजर्स का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पाते हैं तो मैं सीधा सवाल मंत्री जी से करना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय इस बात पर गौर कर रहे हैं कि पिछले साल फटिलाइजर्स पर जो ऐक्साइज इयूटी लगाई गई है उसको वह कम करेंगे ताकि छोटे काश्तकार भी उसका सही इस्तेमाल कर सकें ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We have already explained the position about the credit policy, etc.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह पहले भी पूछा जा चुका है ।

श्री इसहाक सम्भली : क्या यह सही है कि फटिलाइजर्स के कम इस्तेमाल की वजह यह हुई है कि खुले बाजार में फटिलाइजर्स के दाम बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ गये थे और जिस सुभायल पर जैसी खाद की जरूरत थी वह वहां नहीं भेजी गई दूसरी भेजी गई ? मैं अपने जाती इल्म की बिना पर कह सकता हूँ कि ग्लाक्स में जब किसान जाते थे तो मुनासिब दाम पर खाद उन्हें नहीं मिलती थी । मुझे मिनिस्टर साहब का वह बयान सुन कर ताज्जुब हुआ कि खाद की माँग नहीं है । हकीकत तो यह है कि किसान बिलाकों में मारे-मारे फिर रहे थे और जवाब उनको मिलता था कि खाद नहीं है और खुले बाजार में वही खाद बहुत मंहगे दामों पर मिलती थी । क्या यह सही है कि यह शिकायतें सरकार के पास आई हैं कि जहां पर जिस खाद की जरूरत है वह छोटे काश्तकारों को नहीं पहुँचती है दूसरे क्या यह भी सही नहीं है कि बाजार में वृकि खाद की कीमत ऊंची होती है इसलिए किसान वहां से नहीं लेना चाहते तो काश्तकारों से बाजार में खाद की ज्यादा कीमत न ली जा सके इसके लिए सरकार क्या कोशिश कर रही है ?

[شری استحقاق سلہلی—کہا یہ صحیح ہے کہ فرٹیلائزرس کے کم استعمال کی وجہ سے بہت زیادہ چوہہ کٹے تھے اور جس سوائل پر جیسی کھاد کی ضرورت تھی وہ وہاں نہیں پہنچی گئی دوسری بھینچی گئی - میں ایلے ذاتی علم کی بنا پر کہہ سکتا ہوں کہ بلاکس میں جب کسان جاتے تھے تو مناسب دام پر کھان انہیں نہیں ملتی تھی - مجھے منسٹر صاحب کا وہ بیان سن کر تعجب ہوا کہ کھاد کی مانگ نہیں ہے - حقیقت تو یہ ہے کہ کسان بلاکوں میں مارے مارے پورے تھے اور جواب انکو ملتا تھا

کہ کھاد نہیں ہے اور کھلے بازار میں کھاد بہت مہلکے داموں پر ملتی تھی - کیا یہ صحیح ہے کہ یہ سکاٹھیں سرکار کے پاس آئی ہیں کہ جہاں پر جس کھاد کی ضرورت ہے وہ چھوٹے کاسٹکروں کو نہیں پہنچتی دوسرے کیا یہ بھی صحیح نہیں ہے کہ بازار میں چونکہ کھاد کی قیمت اونچی ہوتی ہے اسلئے کسان وہاں سے نہیں لہنا چاہتے تو کاسٹکروں سے بازار میں کھاد کی زیادہ قیمت نہ لی جا سکے اسکے لئے سرکار کیا کوشش کر رہی ہے -]

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We have not received any complaint, but if he gives me any particular instance, I can look into it. As far as availability is concerned, we have written to all the State Governments that whatever quantities they want, we are prepared to supply them, apart from the fact that there are private agencies which distribute it. We have also not received any complaint about high prices. Because of the easy availability of fertilisers all over the country, they are available at prices which are broadly fixed by the Government.

آئی اسٹاک سنبھلی : شکرکریا، میں پراپ کو وہ جانکاری دوں گا ।

[شری استحق سنبھلی - شکرکریا - میں آپ کو وہ جانکاری دوں گا -]

Fall in the Average Yield of Wheat

*245. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the average yield of wheat was on the decrease during the year 1968-69 as compared to the previous years ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to improve the high yielding variety of wheat and other agricultural products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Besides research and use of newly developed wheat seeds, the steps taken by the Government, include (i) greater emphasis on timely operations and use of optimum quantities of inputs, particularly fertilisers and irrigation ; (ii) Organization of effective and purposeful Demonstrations on farmer's fields ; and (iii) Organization of Farmer's Training along with the National Demonstrations Programme.

آئی سیتارام کسری : جہاں تک پکےج ایریا کی بات ہے وہاں تو گھڑ کی उपज जितनी बढ़िया हो सकती है उतनी होती है लेकिन दूसरे ऐरिया में गेहूँ की एव्रज ईल्ड जो कि 1968-69 के दौरान पिछले सालों की अपेक्षा कम रही तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो सुविधाएं सरकार पकेंज ऐरिया को देती है वही सुविधाएं सरकार दूसरे ऐरियाज को भी देती है या नहीं देती है और अगर नहीं देती है तो क्या देने के लिए कोई उसके पास योजना है ताकि पकेंज ऐरिया में जितनी उपज होती है उतनी ही उपज दूसरे ऐरिया में भी हो ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : This problem was gone into in depth by the Punjab Agricultural University and also the the Institute of Agricultural Research (Statistics) and it was found that in areas where the yields have gone down the reasons were mainly seasonal, mainly lack of moisture in the winter because of failure of winter rains. But in all irrigated areas where water was available the yield has gone up in almost all the States in the country.

آئی سیتارام کسری : جو پلیننگ کمیशन کا پروگرام اےبیلویشن پراگمناइजेशन है क्या उसने अपनी रिपोर्ट में इस बात की ओर ध्यान का ध्यान आकषित किया है कि उपज में जो कमी होती है उसके कारण क्या है ? कीड़ा