

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 30, 1970  
 Sravana 8, 1892 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
 of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Under-Assessment of Food Production and  
 Evolution of a method to ensure more  
 accurate assessment**

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- \*91. SHRI G. C. NAIK:  
 SHRIMATI SHARDA  
 MUKERJEE :  
 SHRI JHARKHANDE RAI:  
 SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR  
 SINGH:  
 SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural Prices Commission has expressed the view that food production has been under estimated;

(b) whether Government have checked the accuracy of the food production assessments as given by the States ;

(c) if so, Government's assessment of the food production for the current year; and

(d) whether any method is proposed to be evolved by the Government to ensure a more accurate assessment by the States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*Statement*

(a) In some of its Reports, Agricultural Prices Commission has referred to the

discrepancies between the estimates of foodgrains production compiled by the State Governments and those released by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. The latter estimates, in such cases, are higher than the State estimates.

(b) The estimates furnished by the State Governments are scrutinised in the Ministry and realistic estimates of foodgrains production are formulated at the all-India level.

(c) As the Agricultural Year 1970-71 has commenced only recently, it is too early to indicate the prospects of foodgrains production for this year. The Final Estimates of production for 1969-70 have not been finalised; but the production is estimated around 100 million tonnes.

(d) Efforts are being made by the Central and State Governments to improve the accuracy and timeliness of estimates of crop production.

SHRI G. C. NAIK: Corresponding to the production, may I know what is the requirement of foodgrains in the country and the consequent gap between production and requirement?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: It is very difficult to give precise figures of requirements. Roughly, if we base the estimate on the present requirements, possibly, the gap between production and requirements would be very marginal to the tune of about 3-4 million tonnes.

SHRI G. C. NAIK: I would like to know the total quantity of foodgrains imported under PL 480 and from other sources during the last three years and the total amount paid or to be paid and also whether there are efforts to stop this import and, if so, when we are hoping to achieve self-sufficiency in food.

MR. SPEAKER: This relates to agricultural production and not to the import

of foodgrains. He may address the question to the Ministry concerned.

**SHRI. R. K. AMIN:** It is well-known that our estimate of agricultural production is not accurate. What I suspect is this. We are importing goods worth Rs. 600 crores by way of smuggling and that amount is to be paid by way of our export of goods and I suspect that this is mainly done by way of export of foodgrains which is done not in the proper channel but in the improper, illegal channel. Has the Minister ever made an estimate of the foodgrains exported to Nepal or Pakistan territory in that way?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE:** Again I seek your protection, sir, as to whether I should go into the import-export aspect of it. This relates to the assessment of agricultural production.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Let him address it to the Ministry concerned.

**श्री विभूति मिश्र :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की एजेन्सी जो आंकड़े केन्द्रीय सरकार को देती है, केन्द्रीय सरकार उसी पर अपना हिसाब लगा लेती है तथा हिसाब लगाने के बाद उसी के अनुसार बाहर से इम्पोर्ट करती है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार अपनी कोई ऐसी एजेन्सी कायम करना चाहती है जो फूट-प्रूफ हो, जो सही आंकड़े प्राप्त कर सके कि कितनी हमारे यहाँ पैदावार हुई है, कितनी हमें जरूरत है और कितना हम बाहर से मंगवायें? क्या आप कोई ऐसी एजेन्सी कायम करने के बारे में सोच रहे हैं? अध्यक्ष महोदय स्टेटवाले ऐसे ही गांवों में घूम कर अपने आंकड़े बना लेते हैं...

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE:** Efforts are being made to improve the system continuously and now a centrally sponsored scheme has been formulated so that estimates of production of crops and yields will be to the extent possible accurate. This scheme has been made applicable during the last 2 years to Maharashtra, U. P., Mysore and Bihar and during the Fourth Plan this scheme

will be extended to the whole country and effective steps in addition to this will be taken to work out co-ordination between the machinery at the State level and the administrative set up at the Centre. We have a standing committee in the Ministry to look after this problem. I appreciate the concern of the members that to the extent possible we should have accurate estimates so that for formulating policies for imports and food requirements they provide the necessary data. Efforts are being made in that direction.

**SHRI E.K. NAYANAR :** The Minister replies that the final estimates of production for 1969-70 have not been finalised; but the production is estimated around 100 million tonnes. But in spite of production increase during the last three years Mr Douglas Ensminger of the Ford Foundation who has been optimistic so far about India sticking to the target has given expression to his doubts. Those who are in authority of agricultural production doubt about the possibility of India achieving self-sufficiency in food production in 1971. Indian agricultural scientists pointed out that India is not Japan where a 'green revolution' could take care of itself.

It was reported in the press that Andhra Pradesh, a surplus State, is not willing to raise extra crop production. The reason is that they fear the price of rice would crash. This is No. 1. The other thing is that the Ford Foundation experts say that we are not going to reach our target in 1971. Government declare that we are not going to import PL 480 grains after 1971.

**MR. SPEAKER :** That is beyond the scope of the present question.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :** The Minister stated that the final estimates of production for 1969-70 have not been finalised; but the production is estimated around 100 million tonnes. Expert opinion is that our production is not going to reach the targets set. May I know whether Government will know all these facts and what steps Government is going to take to increase production and stop PL 480 imports?

**MR SPEAKER :** This question was about Government's assessment of the food production for the current year and whether Government have checked the accuracy of the food production assessments as given by the States.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR :** This is experts' opinion. What is the reaction of the Government to experts' opinion ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** As the hon. House and the Members are aware many experts have expressed views from time to time but it is a well-known fact that our production is going up. As far as food production is concerned, for instance, in the years 1965-66, 1966-67 the level was 72 million tonnes. Now we have almost reached the level of 100 million tonnes last year and year before last year it was 94 million tonnes. The production is going up. I do not think we should take a discouraging view of things. Of course, there can be suggestions and scope for improvement.

**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :** Since statistical methods are more or less an accurate science, how is it that there is large percentage of variation between the assessment of foodgrain production by some of the States and that of the Centre ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** One of the main reasons why there are some discrepancies in the estimates is this. Originally the estimates were drawn on the basis of particular crops. Now, during the last 3 or 4 years new and important developments have taken place in agriculture. The high-yielding varieties programme has come in and secondly the multiple cropping system has been introduced. Now, in the States, this is not getting properly reflected at the State level and we are trying to reconcile all these things.

The former Food and Agriculture Minister Shri Jagjivan Ram had written letters to the Chief Ministers of the State Governments and then discussion were held with the Development Commissioners by the Agriculture Secretary and we are trying to arrive at some sort of consensus. For the information of the hon. Member, may I say that even in States sometimes the figures given by different departments themselves do not

tally ? The Food department in the State<sup>s</sup> and the Agriculture Department in the States give certain figures and they do not tally. But the basic point raised by the hon. Member is right that there should be efforts so that the estimates made by the State Governments and the Centre are more or less approximate.

**श्री क० ना० तिवारी :** इसमें जो यह कहा गया है कि फूड प्रोडक्शन को अन्डर एस्टीमेट किया गया तो यह रिपोर्ट किस बेसिस पर की गई है और कितने की शॉर्टेज बतलाते हैं ?

दूसरे में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस साल का जो प्रोडक्शन होगा वह कितना होगा ? अभी कहा जाता है कि सौ मिलियन टन्स प्रोडक्शन हुआ है लेकिन 1970-71 का जो प्रोडक्शन होगा वह कितने मिलियन टन्स का होगा ? चूँकि इस साल मानसून इरैटिक है और बहुत जगहों से रिपोर्ट आ रही है कि वारिषा कम होने से सूखा पड़ने का डर है तो ऐसी हालत में प्रोडक्शन का एस्टीमेट क्या होगा ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** As far as current year's estimates are concerned, that is 1970-71, it would be too early to say because the sowing operations have just started. Rabi crop is not still in sight. I don't think it is possible to make any approximate estimate at this stage. As far as the discrepancies are concerned they were not major discrepancies. These discrepancies have been therefrom 1966-67 onwards. This year the discrepancy is to the tune of million tonnes. Now efforts are being made to find out the position and various experts are also going into the matter. The present conclusion that we have arrived at is that there is a need to improve the entire system of estimating.

**Reducing of Hospital Facilities to Workers under E.S.I.C.**

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\*92. **SHRI VISWANATHA MENON :**  
**SHRI K. RAMANI :**  
**SHRI UMANATH :**  
**SHRI K. M. ABRAHAM :**

Will the Minister of **LABOUR AND REHABILITATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Employees State Insurance Corporation has decided to reduce the