

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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## LOK SABHA

Thursday, December 17, 1970/  
Agrahayana 26, 1892 (Saka)

—  
*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

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#### Damage to Crops in U.P. due to rats

\*783. SHRI BABURAO PATEL :  
Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether rats, almost as big as bandicoots, have devastated thousands of acres of fields growing mustard, wheat, barley and sweet peas in U.P. recently ;

(b) if so, extent of damage and loss in rupees to farmers ;

(c) whether this acute rat problem exists in other states ; if so, where ; and

(d) whether Government has any concerted plan to eradicate rats, if so, nature of the proposal and when it will take effect ?

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

#### *Statement*

(a) and (b). Information has been called for from the Government of U.P. and as soon as it is received, it will be placed on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d). The rat problem exists in other States also. Since April, 1969 the Centrally Sponsored Rat Control Scheme has been transferred to State sector, and the States make provision for rat control schemes as part of their programme under the IV Five Year Plan. At the time of annual Plan discussions, the Government of India emphasise the need for making adequate allocations for rodent control operations in the States' Plans.

So far as U.P. is concerned, the Central Government granted a sum of Rs. 3.6 lakhs in 1968-69 for organising the rat control campaign in that State. In the draft annual plan report of the Government of U.P. it has indicated that they have treated for rat control an area of 14.43 lakh hectares in 1969-70 and 14.57 lakh hectares in 1970-71. It is expected that in 1971-72 an area of 16.68 lakh hectares will be treated by the State Govt. against rat menace.

SHRI BABURAO PATEL : The statement gives an evasive reply, as usual. I find from newspaper reports that 50,000 acres of land along the Jamuna in the Bulandshahar district is going to be wasted this year because of the rat menace. The report also says that the cats in the villages are fighting shy of the rats. I would like to know why the cats are not aggressive especially in the present regime.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I think they are not taking instructions from Shri Patel ; otherwise, they would be as aggressive as Shri Patel. But we are quite conscious of the problem. The State Governments have to take measures.

SHRI BABURAO PATEL : In my recent tour of South East Asia I found that rats were being consumed by the Chinese people in thousands every day. They have invented some sort of a herbal paste which stupifies the rat temporarily, without killing it. In twelve hours it is again revived. The Chinese pay as much as one Hong Kong dollar for a rat and school children are also being encouraged to pay their fees in rats.

I would like to know why our government would not export our rats in this manner to the Chinese people in the various countries of the world. That would give us some money in foreign exchange (*laughter*). It is not a matter to be laughed at. What is their food can be sold to them. It is not a matter to be laughed at at all. You people must think in an original manner. I could understand that so far probably because we had Hindu Food Ministers and the rat was thought to be the transport of Lord Ganesh, its export was not being done; but now that we have a Muslim Food Minister there should be no objection to exporting our rats. Why are they not being exported?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** It is a suggestion for action.

**SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM :** China may be unwilling to take Indian rats.

**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :** We find from scientific treatises that rats multiply at an enormous rate so that one pair of rats grows to the extent of thousands in the course of a few years.

**SHRI LOBO PRABHU :** In one year.

**SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR :** Having regard to this and having regard to the fact that a large percentage of India's food—the average estimate is about 5 to 10 per cent—is consumed by rats, what comprehensive steps are the Government taking with the help of the States to see that this menace is reduced if not altogether eliminated?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** It is true that the rate of multiplication of rats is very high but it is not as high as is mentioned by hon. Members. A couple gives at least 100 to 120 rats a year but the rate of survival is also very low; only about 10 per cent survive. It is estimated that the present population of rats in the country is about 2,400 million.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Six times the human population.

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Some time back the Centre was directly taking measures but after the principle of block grants came into being, this has been shifted to the State sector and every State is earmarking some amount for spending on rodent control. This is a problem which will continue to receive attention of the Centre as well as of the States.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The question was about extermination or family planning among the rats.

**श्री महाराज सिंह भारती :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए कि इस देश में फिलहाल चूहे नहीं खाये जा रहे हैं और इस बात को समझते हुए कि उत्तर प्रदेश के एक बहुत जिम्मेदार मंत्री ने चूहे खाने का अभियान चलाया था लेकिन वह बेचारे पोलिटिकल प्रेशर में आकर चुप हो गये, मंत्री महोदय को अगर माननीय सदस्य लाकर एक चूहा भेंट करें और वह खाकर उसके बाद हाउस को बतायें तो इससे देश को फायदा होगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश में चूहों को खत्म करने के लिए अब तक जो प्रयत्न किये गये हैं वह केवल कुछ जिलों में कुछ किमानों के द्वारा चूहों को नष्ट करने की बात की गई है तो उसमें कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता अलबत्ता अगर सरकार इस पर विचार करे। एक कम्पैक्ट ऐरिया पकड़ कर चूहे नष्ट करने की स्कीम चलाये तो ठीक रहेगा। 4-6 या 10 मील का एक कम्पैक्ट ऐरिया पकड़ कर उस ऐरिया के सारे चूहे खत्म करने के लिए क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की मदद करेगी ताकि उस ऐरिया में वह मल्टीप्लाई न हो सकें? दो बिलों में चूहे मार दिये और दस बिलों में रहने दिये तो उससे कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ेगा।

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** This could be considered. We will suggest to the State Governments to take up compact areas for rodent control.

श्री गंगा रेड्डी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां तक मेरे इन्फ का ताल्लुक है एक जोड़ी चूहा हर साल 24) चूहे पैदा करता है लेकिन शायद महाराष्ट्र में चूक फैमिली प्लानिंग पर अमल होता हो इसलिए वहां कम चूहे पैदा होते हैं। चूहों का खात्मा करने के लिए दो तदावीर अख्तियार की जायें। एक तो चूहे मारने की स्कीम बनाई जाय। दूसरे रेट्स प्रूफ गोडाऊंस हर जगह बनाये जायें ताकि रेट्स से 9 परसेन्ट होने वाला वेस्ट और डैमैज बचाया जा सके। दरअमल चूहों से न सिर्फ गिजाई अजनास बल्कि दूसरी और भी बहुत सी चीं खराब होती हैं और चूक यह चूहों के दांत बढ़ने की रफ्तार बहुत तेज होती है इसलिए वह संसेशन को सप्रैस करने के लिए हर एक चीज को काटते हैं तो उसमें होने वाले वेस्ट और डैमैज को रोकने के लिए यह चूहों के मारने की स्कीम कैश प्रोग्राम बेसिस पर ली जाय।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I appreciate the concern of hon. Members that there should be a crash programme but there are limitations. As far as storage is concerned, our modern storage, specially Government storage, is rodent proof and damp proof and the damage is not much in storage but is only in the farms, in the houses of farmers, in threshing grounds etc. That means, post-harvest losses are very heavy. Sometimes, for instance, this year there were heavy losses even in the farms in U.P.

MR. SPEAKER : Next Question. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu-absent; Shri Narayanan-absent; Shri Dhandapani-absent; Shri Ram Swarup Vidyarthi.

SHRI RAM SWARUP VIDYARTHI : I put Q. No. 786.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Sir, along with Q. No. 786, Q. No. 795 may also be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Q. No. 786 and Q. No. 795 may be taken up together.

दिल्ली महानगर परिषद् द्वारा पारित गौ-बध समाप्त करने सम्बन्धी विधेयक

\*786. श्री राघवस्वरूप विद्यार्थी : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दिल्ली महानगर परिषद् ने दिल्ली राज्य में गौ-बध तथा उसके वंश के बध पर पूर्ण रोक लगाने सम्बन्धी एक विधेयक सर्वसम्मति से पारित कर दिया है और उसे केन्द्रीय सरकार के अनुमोदनार्थ भेज दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां तो क्या सरकार ने उक्त विधेयक का अनुमोदन कर दिया है ;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) सरकार का इस विधेयक पर कब तक अनुमोदन देने का विचार है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION. (SHRI S. C. JAMIR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of Lok Sabha.

#### Statement

The Delhi Administration forwarded to the Government of India on the 16th December, 1967 the Delhi Cow Protection Bill, 1967 passed by the Metropolitan Council in its sitting held on 14th November, 1967. This Bill sought to prohibit in the Union Territory of Delhi, the slaughter of cow, including bulls and bullocks of any age, even after they cease to be capable of yielding milk or of breeding or working as draught animals. While forwarding the draft Bill, the Delhi Administration referred to the judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of