

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 28, 1975 Vaisakha 8 1897
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

श्रीनगर में तथा अन्य राज्यों की राजधानियों में उचित दर की दुकानों से बेचे जाने वाले गेहूं तथा चावल के भावों में अन्तर

* 793. श्री आर० बी० बड़े :

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :

क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) जम्मू काश्मीर राज्य की राजधानी श्रीनगर तथा शेष राज्यों की राजधानियों में उचित दर की दुकानों के माध्यम से निर्धन व्यक्तियों को बेचे जाने वाले गेहूं व चावल के भाव क्या क्या हैं,

(ख) यदि इन भावों में अन्तर है, तो कितना तथा क्यों और इस अन्तर को हटाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है,

(ग) सरकार द्वारा रियायतें दिये जाने के कारण किन स्थानों पर ये भाव कम हैं और ये भाव कितने कम हैं, और

(घ) गत तीन वर्षों में, वर्षवार, इन मूल्यों में किस हद तक वृद्धि या कमी हुई है?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P.
SHINDE): (a) to (d) A statement is laid
on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in
Library. See No. LT 9532/75].

श्री आर० बी० बड़े : इस स्टेटमेंट को देखने से पता चलता है कि 1974-75 में जम्मू-काश्मीर में लो इनकम ग्रुप को व्हीट की आटा 44 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल और राइस 40 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल, तथा हायर इनकम ग्रुप को व्हीट 80 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल और राइस 80 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल के हिसाब से दिया जाता है, जब कि महाराष्ट्र में व्हीट 138 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल और राइस 139 रुपये से 186 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल के हिसाब से और मणिपुर में व्हीट 150 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल और राइस 157 रुपये प्रति-क्विंटल के हिसाब से दिया जाता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि देश के विभिन्न प्रदेशों में व्हीट और राइस के भावों में इतना फर्क क्यों रखा गया है। उदाहरण के लिए मध्य प्रदेश बहुत गरीब है और वहां आदिवासी भी रहते हैं। जम्मू-काश्मीर में व्हीट और राइस इतना सस्ता देने का कारण यह मालूम होता है कि वहां इस के लिए सबसिडी दी जाती है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बाकी स्टेट्स को भी सबसिडी क्यों नहीं दी जाती है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The issue prices in individual States are fixed by the State Governments, and if some State Governments want to subsidise in the interests of the consumers, they can

do it. Of course, Government have certain views in regard to these matters as to what the level of the subsidy should be etc., but because of certain historical reasons, this has been going on, and some Governments are subsidising. There is another State also, Tripura, which subsidises to some extent, though not to the same extent. Therefore, it is for the Jammu & Kashmir Government to decide as to what should be the level of the issue price in that State.

श्री आर० बी० बडे : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि जम्मू-काश्मीर में हिस्टारिकल ग्रांट्स की वजह से सबसिडी दी जाती है। जब सभी स्टेट्स सेंटर के अधीन हैं, तो फिर महाराष्ट्र और मध्य प्रदेश आदि अन्य स्टेट्स को भी सबसिडी क्यों नहीं दी जाती है? देश के विभिन्न प्रदेशों में व्हीट और राइस के भावों में डबल क्रक क्यों रखा गया है? सरकार यह आदेश क्यों नहीं देती है कि सबसिडी देकर अन्य स्टेट्स में भी रेट कम किये जायें और सब स्थानों पर एक ही भाव रखा जाये?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The Jammu and Kashmir Government are very conscious of this. In fact, when Sheikh Abdullah was in Delhi, he had occasion to discuss it with us and express his views. In fact, he thinks heavy subsidies are not very desirable. It is very difficult to take decisions because consumers are accustomed to a certain level of prices, and to disturb it all of a sudden is very difficult, though some Commissions have in the past drawn the attention of the State Governments. They are seized of the matter.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: What should be the difference between the procurement price and the consumer price, because the difference, as my hon. friend Shri Bade has pointed out, is large. Particularly I would refer to the Adivasi area. So far as the procurement price is concerned, it is much more than the consumer price. So, what should be the difference? What is the criterion to fix the price?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Taking into consideration the present state of our economy, because heavy subsidies necessarily mean deficit financing or additional taxation, the Government of India's general approach is that they would like to sell the foodgrains at economic cost: that means, procurement price plus overheads and others. The present position is that rice is being sold at economic cost; in the case of wheat, because of the very high level of import price, there is some subsidy involved in wheat price. The procurement price of wheat is Rs. 105 and the issue price to the State Government is Rs. 125.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the policy of allotment of food articles to the States, whether it depends upon the requirement of the State or the purchasing capacity of the State? I come from a State where there is food scarcity. May I know from the hon. Minister further whether any direction has been given to the State Government to give the food articles on a subsidy basis to the common man, to the poorer sections of the people?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Even as it is there is a budget provision for Rs. 295 crores for food subsidy. I do not think it is possible for the Government of India to increase the level of subsidy now.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: What about my other question? What is the policy in respect of allotment of foodgrains to States? Does it depend upon the requirement of the State or the purchasing capacity of the State?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: This is not covered by this main Question. I seek your protection. If you want me to reply, I will reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. H. M. Patel.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The hon. Minister has stated that it is left to the State Government to decide at what price wheat or rice shall sell in the State. May I take it that there is no indirect subsidy by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir? This difference is so great that the loss to the State would be enormous. Unless the Central Government has approved

in some form or another that this degree of subsidy should be given, it would not be possible for the State Government. I would like the Minister to clarify this point.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The position is like this. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir is incurring approximately an expenditure of Rs. 19 crores annually for selling foodgrains at subsidised rates. This amount comes out of their own budget plus grants from the Government of India which gives grants to all the State Governments according to the recommendations of the Finance Commission. But there is another element of subsidy involved, in areas where rail-heads are not there. Only recently there has been a rail-head at Jammu, but mostly these are hill areas. It is because the landed cost or the cost of delivery of foodgrains is heavier in their case. In the case of Jammu and Kashmir, various commissions have gone into it and they have recommended a certain level of help to the State Government—to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore. During the last one or two years, we have been giving Rs. 1½ to 2 crores.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH: May I know whether the Central Government will consider giving subsidy to some of the deficit States in the South, particularly, Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Rayalaseema and Karnataka, which are now hit by drought for supplying foodgrains at cheaper prices than what is being done now?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Whenever wheat is distributed, the subsidy is available to them.

SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA: The hon. Minister has said that there was some discussion regarding food subsidy in Jammu and Kashmir with the Chief Minister of that State. May I know whether any concrete proposals were considered by the Centre?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: There was no concrete proposal as such, but this issue of very heavy subsidy is naturally causing concern both to the State Government and to the Government of India.

This is a matter which requires very sympathetic consideration from the point of view of both Jammu and Kashmir consumers and our own problems.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: May I know from the hon. Minister? When he said that the State Government fixes the issue price as well as the amount of subsidy, does it mean that no special grant is given by the Central Government to help the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir to enable them to give the subsidy? Or is it out of the allotment given on the basis of the Finance Commission's recommendations that the State Government gives the subsidy? And, if the Central Government makes any special allotment for that State, why does it not consider giving such subsidy for other States?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: There is no special allotment to Jammu and Kashmir. In fact, a number of other States get more grants-in-aid and according to the recommendations of the Finance Commission. But, what happens is that if that amount goes for providing subsidy, to that extent, the developmental activities are affected.

SHRI SYED AHMED AGA: The Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir has been telling the public that the food subsidy will be withdrawn. Is the Government aware of it and is there any talk going on between the Central Government and the Chief Minister?

(2) I would like to know the special circumstances in regard to Jammu and Kashmir for the grant of the food subsidy and is there any change in those circumstances for which it was given?

MR. SPEAKER: He has just mentioned about it, that no special grants are given to Kashmir.

SHRI SYED AHMED AGA: What about the other part of my question?

MR. SPEAKER: You are asking the same question which Mr. Chatterjee asked.

SHRI SYED AHMED AGA: I asked in the first place whether the Central Government are aware that the Chief Minister is withdrawing it unilaterally.

(2) Is he consulting you or not? He has already said that he is going to withdraw it. I would like to know whether he is doing it unilaterally or with your concurrence.

Then, I wanted to know the special circumstances that necessitated this subsidy and what is the change in those circumstances that compelled the withdrawal of that concession?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As far as the first part is concerned, if the J & K Chief Minister comes to the conclusion that subsidies are to be withdrawn, the Government of India would like to support him very much.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA rose.

MR. SPEAKER: There should be some limit. After three members, I expected no other member will get up. But it is going on 3, 4, 5 or 6. After all, you should yourself realise it. Shri Hari Singh.

SLOW PROGRESS IN CLEARING SLUMS IN DELHI

*794. **SHRI HARI SINGH:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a very slow progress in clearing slums in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The progress in clearing of slums in Delhi, as elsewhere, is necessarily a slow process due to enormity of the problem and non-availability of funds to the extent required. Greater effort is being made in improving the slums by providing civic services and amenities to the extent possible.

श्री हरी सिंह: मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक्त सरकार के पास किन-किन गन्दी बस्तियों को साफ करने की और नई बस्ती

बनाने की योजना है? उन के पास फंड्स की क्या कमी पड़ रही है और फंड उन को नहीं मिल पा रहा है तो क्यों? क्या यह भी सही है कि इन गन्दी बस्तियों को हटाने के काम का जो फंड था वह दूसरे कामों में लगा दिया गया? इसी संदर्भ में मैं यह भी पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यू एन ओ की कोई एजेंसी 25 मेम्बरों की आई थी जिम ने कलकत्ता, दिल्ली आदि शहरों का सर्वे किया था आर्थिक सहायता दिलवाने के लिए? उस की रिपोर्ट क्या सरकार को मिली है और उस के माफत कितना रुपया सरकार को गन्दी बस्तियों हटाने के सिलसिले में मिल रहा है?

श्री दलबीर सिंह: यह ठीक है यह मसला बड़ा गंभीर है और जहां तक इन बस्तियों का सवाल है यह मसला और भी ज्यादा गंभीर होता जाता है जब कि आए साल बहुत ज्यादा आदमी रोजगार की तलाश में शहर में आ जाते हैं। यह केवल एक बस्ती का सवाल नहीं है बल्कि कई बस्तियों का सवाल है और हर मुहल्ले में इस तरह की प्रबलम आती है। इस के ऊपर सरकार ने समय समय पर विचार किया है और एम० सी० डी० ने प्रोग्राम बनाया है तथा यहां के डी० डी० ए० ने बहुत से प्रोग्राम बना रखे हैं। लेकिन जहां तक फंड्स का सवाल है, माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि फंड्स की क्या कमी है, फंड्स की बड़ी कमी है और इस कमी के कारण ही तथा और दूसरी विक्तियों के कारण जैसे कि आए साल बहुत ज्यादा लोग आते रहते हैं, इन कारणों से खास तौर पर इस प्रोग्राम के अंदर काफी बाधा पड़ती है। जैसे-जैसे पैसा मिलता जायगा, यह प्रोग्राम ठीक होता जायगा। लेकिन इस वक्त वैसे की कमी बहुत ज्यादा है और चूंकि