

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: We have given only one guideline to the Committee and that is: to recommend ways and means to increase the quantity of foodgrains to the really needy people of this country. Regarding allotment of fair price shops under the PDS, the Advisory Committee recommended that in future while allotting fair price shops women and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should get priority. That is the decision. At present the PDS is universal. Everybody is entitled to get a ration card. But there are complaints from many people. Every now and then we are examining. If we see that really needy people are not getting rations, we are taking steps to correct the situation.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: What about people below poverty line?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has answered that. Next Question.

Supply of substandard foodgrains under PDS

*3. **SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:**†

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have been complaining about the poor quality of foodgrains supplied to them under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry into the supply of poor quality of foodgrains to the States has been made by Government; and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya.

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof of stating the measures taken by Government to ensure the supply of good quality of foodgrains to the States under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table at the house.

Statement

The Central Government issues rice and wheat conforming to specifications prescribed by the Government to State Governments and U.T. Administrations of the Public Distribution System (PDS). They are provided opportunity for inspection of stocks before actual delivery, and may reject such stocks as do not conform to the prescribed quality standards.

Though several State Governments have been voicing a general concern about the quality of foodgrains at various meetings, no major complaints regarding bad quality of rice or wheat distributed through the Public Distribution System have been received by the Central Government from the State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

During April, 1992 to March, 1993, a total quantity of 72.2 lakh tonnes of wheat and 91.6 lakh tonnes of rice have been distributed to the States/U.Ts. for PDS. In a vast operation of this magnitude a few shortcomings cannot be ruled out altogether. However, the Central Government has requested the State Governments/UT Administrations to tighten supervision to ensure proper functioning of the PDS. State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to set up village/Fair Price Shop level Vigilance Committees of consumers for this purpose. They also take action under the Essential Commodities Act to check malpractices.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, the Minister in his reply has

said that there are certain State Governments which have complained about the quality of foodgrains and they have been voicing a general concern about this. I want to know the names of the State Government which have complained and expressed their general concern. What are the specific details about their complaints??

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): The complaints are of general nature. While discussing the whole system the State Government have just made remarks as such, but no specific complaint has come to the Central Government from any State Government.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: I wanted to know the name of the State Government which has shown its general concern. Which are those State Governments?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: As I submitted, this impression is given in the general discussion. When we discuss this in the PDS Advisory Council where the Ministers from all States are members, they just make a remark that the grains that they are getting are sometimes sub-standard or some such thing. But there is no specific complaint from any specific State Government. That is what I am submitting.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: He has not answered my question.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Are there nameless States in India?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: It is reported that the off-take of wheat by various States for the PDS has dropped dramatically since January

this year. By May this year the State had lifted only 2.76 lakh tonnes of wheat which is substantially lower than the quantities lifted in May 1992 (6.3 lakh tonnes).

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir I may also inform that the off-take of foodgrains, particularly in the period that the hon. Member has mentioned, has come down. There might be two reasons for that. One is the overall availability of foodgrains in the country and it is a fact that the procurement has gone up substantially because of the better availability of the foodgrains in the country. The second thing is, maybe the price also, because recently the procurement price has been increased. And last time the issue price also had been revised. We cannot say just exactly as to what the reasons are, but it is a fact that the off-take has been at the lower level.

श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : चेयरमेन सर, देखा यह गया है कि जो दूरदराज के इलाके हैं वहां पहुंचते-पहुंचते अनाज में इतनी मिलावट हो जाती है—कंकर, पत्थर, इतने मिलाये जाते हैं कि वह खाने के लायक नहीं रह जाता है। अभी कल ही एक आल पार्टी डेलीगेशन लड़ाख गया था। जब लोगों ने वहां पर उनसे मुलाकात की तो उन्होंने कम्प्लेंट की कि इतना गंदा राशन यहां डिपो से मिलता है कि जानवर भी नहीं खाते। सारे पार्टी मेम्बर थे। हमारे होम मिनिस्टर भी थे, सिंह साहब। जो सवाल मेरे काबिल दोस्त—जो पंजाब के हैं—ने उठाया था उसका जवाब नहीं मिला। जब किसान से अनाज लिया जाता है तो उसको साफ़ मुथरा करके, झरना लगाकर, हवा में उड़ाकर, कई-कई बार झाड़ू पोंछा लगते हैं, फिर नीचे बिछाते हैं अनाज को मंडियों के अंदर। जब इतनी सफाई के साथ उसको किसान से लिया जाता है तो क्या सरकार ने कभी यह दर्यापस्त करने की कोशिश की कौन-सी स्टेज में कौन-से गोडाउन में या रास्ते में, ट्रांसपोर्ट में या किसी डिपो पर जाकर मिलावट होती है, और सरकार का क्या

कंट्रोल है इस मिलावट को रोकने के लिए ताकि खाने के लायक अनाज मिल सके ... (व्यवधान)

जो दूरदराज के इलाके हैं क्या वहाँ पर इंसपेक्शन करने के लिए सरकार ने कोई इंतजा किया है या ये सारी जिम्मेवारी सिर्फ स्टेट गवर्नमेंट पर ही छोड़ देते हैं।

श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद : जहाँ तक अनाज की बात है, जैसा कि अभी बताया गया कि तकरीबन दो करोड़ टन अनाज प्रोक्योर होता है, स्टोर किया जाता है, फिर उसके बाद स्टेट्स को दिया जाता है। यह काम कोई नया काम नहीं है। पिछले कई वर्ष से, 30-40 वर्ष से फूड कारपोरेशन यह काम करता आ रहा है। स्टेट्स को जब एलोकेशन किया जाता है तो स्टेट के नामिनेटेड एजेंट्स होते हैं। फूड कारपोरेशन किसी फेयर प्राइस शाप को या किसी और को, किसी प्राइवेट एजेंसी को यह माल नहीं देता है। सारा अनाज स्टेट के नामिनेटेड एजेंट्स जो होते हैं और जनरली तमाम स्टेट्स के जो सिविल सप्लाइज कारपोरेशंस हैं यह अनाज रिसीव करते हैं। ये, अनाज रिसीव करने के बाद फिर इन टर्न अपनी स्टेट के अंदर उसको तकसीम करते हैं और यह सिस्टम भी तमाम स्टेट्स में कोई एक-सा सिस्टम नहीं है। हर स्टेट में जैसा कि उन्होंने अपना सिस्टम लगा रखा है उस तरीके से डिस्ट्रीब्यूट करते हैं। फूड कारपोरेशन सिर्फ टिल रीसेंटली वेस्ट बंगाल में और पाटली केरल के एक हिस्से में एक होलसेल एजेंट के तौर पर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से, कुछ उनको, डाइरेक्ट पी.डी.एस. की शाप्स को देता था। जहाँ यह डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन होता है उसके लिए कोई तरीका मुकर्रर है। दोनों, गेहूँ और चावल के लिए स्टैंडर्ड मुकर्रर किए हुए हैं। फूड एड्रेशन एक्ट के तहत जो स्टैंडर्ड मुकर्रर किये गये हैं उनके तहत जितनी पाबंदियाँ लगाई गई हैं, ये जो रिसीविंग एजेंसी हैं, ये देखती हैं कि माल ठीक है कि नहीं। उनको यह आजादी है कि माल ठीक नहीं है तो वे रिजेक्ट कर दें या उसको हटाकर रिप्लेस करवा दें। यह सारा अरेंजमेंट वहाँ पर मौजूद है।

अगर कहीं स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन में गड़बड़ होती है तो वहाँ हो सकती है

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI: Sir, while answering the question, the hon. Minister, Mr. Antony, has said that the Government is spending about Rs. 3,000 crores as subsidy on the PDS and, because of the revamping, it has been increased and Government is not in a position to give any additional amount. That means the only way to have a solution is by increasing the prices of the articles which are being distributed through the PDS. Are you implementing the direction of the I.M.F. to withdraw subsidy by increasing the prices of PDS articles?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY: First of all, I did not say that the Government will not increase a single pie more than Rs. 3,000 crores. If needed, the Government will again increase the food subsidy. But the Government will not be able to increase the food subsidy to any amount. That is what I said.

As far as the food subsidy is concerned, the Government is very committed. PDS and food subsidy are one of the priority items of this Government. Nobody went back on this commitment. Nobody can direct this Government to abandon the PDS and subsidies. We will continue with these.

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI: You have not withdrawn the subsidy, but increasing the prices of these commodities itself is one way of withdrawing the subsidy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

अस कानूनों में संशोधन किया जाना

* 4. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :
डा० जिनेंद्र कुमार जैन :

क्या अस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :