

### Seminar on Food

4087. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Seminar on food was organised at New Delhi in February, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some suggestions have been made in this Seminar;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to implement these suggestions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Seminar on "Wheat—Challenges in Market Economy" was jointly organised by Wheat Products Promotion Society, Roller Flour Millers Federation of India, Society of Indian Bakers and U.S. Wheat Associates, which was also co-sponsored by the Ministry of Food, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Food Corporation of India, Modern Food Industries (I) Ltd., Central Warehousing Corporation, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Britannia Industries Ltd., NEPC Agro Foods Ltd., SAF Yeast Co. Ltd., All India Biscuit Manufacturers' Association and Federation of Biscuit Manufacturers of India, on 11th & 12th February, 1994 at New Delhi.

(c) and (d) A copy of the recommendations Tabled at the concluding session of the Seminar is given in the Statement (See below).

(e) and (f) On receipt of the detailed proceedings from the organisers, recommendations made in the seminar are to be examined by the concerned organisations.

### Statement

*Recommendations Tabled at the concluding session of the Wheat Seminar on 12-2-1994*

**R. B. RAO, PRESIDENT, SOCIETY OF INDIAN BAKERS**

1. As the population is rising so also the demand for more and more and better food. Among all the Cereal Food Crops, the growth rate in wheat production and productivity, is the highest in the past few decades. With 78 per cent of the area under irrigation and being a rabi season crop, wheat has greater opportunity for growth and this advantage should be fully exploited to meet the future growing food requirements of the country. There are a number of location-specific technological innovations which have to be harmoniously co-ordinated and popularized in each

of the suitable agro-climatic areas of the country to increase wheat production.

2. Durum wheat production should be increased both for internal consumption and for exports. Besides in the traditional areas, its cultivation should be popularized in Punjab, Western U.P. and Haryana where Karnal bunt and loose smut are common. There should be separate support price for Durum to encourage its production and also separate procurement and storage facilities. Special facilities for Testing Durum wheat evaluation have to be established at Agricultural Universities.

3. While scope for increasing yield per hectare still exists in the traditional wheat areas of the country the cultivation of the crop in the non-traditional areas like the Eastern and Central States should also be taken up.

4. Quality should receive high priority in research to meet the diverse needs of the trade, industry, consumer and the export markets. Quality testing facilities should be augmented at the major wheat breeding centres both for Aestivum and the Durum wheats.

5. Since the cost of inputs and cultivation are increasing, the wheat scientists should devote more attention to develop low cost technologies as also discover pest tolerant varieties which do not require much plant protection chemicals.

6. Agriculture Scientists should develop specific end-use wheat varieties for Bread, Biscuits, Cakes, Pasta etc.

7. Different types of flours for Bread, Biscuits and Cake manufacture should be made available to baking industry as per national standards. The Bakery Industry should be prepared to pay appropriate cost for the same so as to ensure production of quality goods for the benefit of consumers. Agmark, BIS & Army Standards for Atta, Maida, Suji must be harmonized through single agency.

8. Excise duty and taxes on Bakery Products, extruded snack foods and pasta goods should be removed so as to increase their consumption. The Seminar recommends that biscuit/bread industry should be classified as one of the food processing Industries. This would be a great motivating factor for growth and Modernization of the Biscuit Industry. Sales tax on bread to be removed where applicable. Taxes on wheat must be lowered if it cannot be abolished and be reduced considerably and made uniform in all States. Wheat and wheat products should be taxed at a single point.

9. There is a potential for export of wheat products including ready-to-cook, ready-to-eat and extruded snacks to Middle East and African countries provided wheat is made available at international prices to

the Roller Flour Millers. This will be a better proposition to realize value addition for the country instead of exporting wheat as such.

10. Schemes of assistance available for market development, publicity, literature, brand promotion, packaging development, quality control, specialized consultancy services for ISO 9000 organization, building and HRD journals etc. with APEDA must be popularized.

11. At each depot and district headquarters, FCI should arrange the display of wheat stocks variety-wise on daily basis to facilitate planning by bulk consumers.

12. Establishment of Silos for bulk storage of wheat and creation of the commodity exchanges by the Government should be considered in order to facilitate domestic and export commitments by the trade.

13. Installation of cleaning equipment and improved handling methods should be introduced for grading of wheat at a reasonable cost at Mandies. Bulk handling of wheat must be introduced at Mandies to cope up with large quantities of wheat during procurement season.

14. Bulk users of wheat must be allowed to buy directly from farmers/contract farming without going through Mandies after paying the necessary mandi charges.

15. Distribution of wheat products like Wheat, Atta, Maida, Suji in the Public Distribution System (PDS) should be resorted to instead of wheat grain alone in two stages. Firstly, the scheme is to be introduced in large cities/towns with population of more than 5 lakhs and then extended to smaller towns as a second stage. This will facilitate enrichment of wheat products with Vitamins and other nutrients for the benefit of the weaker sections.

16. Doordarshan/AIR should encourage Education Programmes to be telecast/broadcast on wheat based foods for the benefit of consumers and help in popularizing wheat consumption in non-wheat growing States.

#### भारतीय खाद्य निगम और केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम की भण्डारण क्षमता

4088. श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल : क्या खाद्य मंत्री 18 मार्च, 1994 को राज्य सभा में अतिरिक्त प्रश्न 3355 और 3368 के दिये गये उत्तर को देखते और यह बताने की उम्मा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारतीय खाद्य निगम और केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम की कुल कितनी भण्डारण क्षमता का उपयोग किया जा रहा है; और अप्रयुक्त भण्डारण क्षमता का व्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) भण्डारण क्षमता को उपयोग में न लाये जाने के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार उक्त निगमों के अन्तर्गत कुछ और गोदामों/भण्डारणों की स्थापना करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हाँ, तो इस पर कितनी धनराशि खर्च होने की संभावना है और इससे कितनी अतिरिक्त भण्डारण क्षमता का सृजन होगा ?

#### खाद्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्प नाथ राय) :

(क) पहली मार्च, 1994 की स्थिति के अनुसार भारतीय खाद्य निगम और केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम के गोदामों/भण्डारणों की कुल भण्डारण क्षमता और उनके उपयोग की प्रतिशतता निम्नानुसार थी :—

	भण्डारण क्षमता (लाख मीटरी टन में)	उपयोग की प्रतिशतता
भारतीय खाद्य निगम	236.23*	81
केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम	65.86	76

\*केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम से किराये पर ली गई 23.89 लाख मीटरी टन की क्षमता शामिल है।

(ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम में औद्योगिक लागत और मूल्य ब्यूरो द्वारा यथा अभिस्तावित क्षमता उपयोग के लिए मानदण्ड 75 प्रतिशत है। इसकी तुलना में भारतीय खाद्य निगम में वर्तमान क्षमता उपयोग 81 प्रतिशत है। भारतीय खाद्य निगम द्वारा खाद्यान्नों का कम भण्डारण करने, आयातित सामान की कस्टम वॉडिंग के संबंध में सरकार की नीति में परिवर्तन कर देने, आदि की वजह से हाल ही के वर्षों में केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम के भण्डारणों के क्षमता उपयोग में गिरावट आई है। तथापि, केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम ने इस कमी से निपटने के लिए कई उपाय किए हैं और इनके फलस्वरूप क्षमता उपयोग, जो 1-3-93 को 67 प्रतिशत के निम्न स्तर पर था, वह 1-3-94 को बढ़कर 76 प्रतिशत के स्तर पर पहुंच गया।

(ग) और (घ) जी, हाँ।

भारतीय खाद्य निगम का 1994-95 के दौरान 21 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय से 1.04 लाख मीटरी टन की अतिरिक्त क्षमता का निर्माण करने का प्रस्ताव है। केन्द्रीय भण्डारण निगम की 1994-95 के दौरान 14 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय से 70,000 मीटरी टन की क्षमता का निर्माण करने की योजना है।