

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Need to Maintain adequate supply of rice to Tamil Nadu

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the rice requirement of Tamil Nadu for a year is 80 lakh tons. The production in Tamil Nadu is only 55 to 60 lakh tons per annum. There is a deficit of 20 to 25 lakh tons. The allotment from the Centre is only 8 to 9 lakh tons. Hence there is a deficit of 11 to 15 lakh tons. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please listen to what Mr. Swaminathan is saying.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Tamil Nadu has received 81,000 tons for the month of November. In October, the Centre supplied 75,000 tons. For December, the Centre has indicated that Tamil Nadu can expect only about 65,000 tons. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): He is raising a serious issue. Please listen.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, Tamil Nadu is already finding it difficult to maintain 8 kg of raw rice supply in the distribution of optional rice in fair-price shops. Any reduction in the Central quota allotment will further jeopardise the distribution position to the poor and the middle class people. Due to the recent monsoon in November, the arrivals of Kuruvai paddy in the market have very much slowed down. Samba paddy arrival will be only around Pongal/Sankranti, that is, about the third week of January.

For its deficit, Tamil Nadu has been procuring mainly from Andhra Pradesh. The price there has gone up and the availability is also becoming scarce because other States like Kerala, Gujarat and West Bengal have also moved in there to purchase.

In these conditions, the subsidy burden of Tamil Nadu for public distribution of rice has gone up to Rs. 375 crores

which is about Rs. 1 crore per day which is beyond the capacity of the State Government.

Under these circumstances, I request the Central Government to make available one lakh ton of rice to Tamil Nadu every month. Or they should maintain at least 81,000 tons which they have given in November and should not reduce the same for December and thereafter. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Vincent. You can associate.

SHRI M. VINCENT (Tamil Nadu): Sir, there is a special mention in my name. The Chairman has permitted me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Two minutes, please.

SHRI M. VINCENT: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with a deep sense of anguish, I wish to bring to the notice of this august House the Centre's decision to cut down the rice allotment to Tamil Nadu from December.

The Centre has informed the State that it can expect only 65,000 tons of rice from the Central pool for December, as against the 81,000 tons being given now. Because of the recent unprecedented floods and cyclone in Tamil Nadu, paddy crops on a total area of about one lakh forty thousand and five hundred hectares have been damaged. It is distressing that at a time when the Centre should be magnanimous and generous by giving more rice to Tamil Nadu, it reduces the allotment of rice.

While the annual requirement of Tamil Nadu is 80 lakh tons of rice, the production in Tamil Nadu is between 55 and 60 lakh tons. And the Centre allots only 8 to 9 lakh tons every year. The deficit of 10 to 15 lakh tons has to be procured, by the State Government, from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab at a higher price. With the best Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu, most people depend on the 21,968 fair-price shops for their daily requirements of rice.

The State Government procures rice at a higher price from other States, but gives it to people, through fair price shops, at a low price. Therefore, by way of subsidy, the Tamil Nadu Government will incur a loss of Rs. 375 crores in 1991-92. (Interruptions).

Even in such an adverse situation, our Chief Minister has taken commendable steps to contain the price of rice, keeping the welfare of poor people in mind. In the month of August, our Chief Minister asked the Centre to step up the monthly allotment of rice to at least one lakh tons throughout the year.

The States of Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh have got 100 per cent allotment. The States of U.P., West Bengal, Mizoram, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have got more than 90 per cent of their demand. But Tamil Nadu is getting only 65 per cent of its demand. It is reported that rice is being regularly smuggled out to Bangladesh from India. If this smuggling of rice is prevented, we can save lakhs of tons of rice every year. Instead of taking such corrective measures, it is strange and shocking that the Centre has decided to cut down the quota of rice to a State which has been suffering because of the recent unprecedented floods and cyclone which wrought havoc in the State. Because of the damaged crops, the Samba harvest will be further delayed by about a month. Since the grand Tamil festival Pongal will be celebrated in January, the people of Tamil Nadu will depend only on the supply of rice by the State Government. So the Centre should not think of cutting down the allotment of rice to Tamil Nadu. The Centre should not reduce the quota of 81,000 tons of rice to Tamil Nadu as is given now.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already stated that the quota of 81,000 tons of rice is not at all sufficient because the population has gone up over the years. As the Centre had decided the quota according to the census of 1981, the Chief

Minister demanded that the quota should be increased to at least 1,00,000 tons.

In the large interest of the people of Tamil Nadu, I call upon the Centre to change its mind and release 1,00,000 tons of rice every month.

Since the people of Tamil Nadu generally eat boiled rice, the Centre should allocate more boiled rice to Tamil Nadu.

At present the Centre is giving only 22547 tons of sugar to Tamil Nadu on the basis of 1981 census. So I demand that the sugar allocations to Tamil Nadu should be increased to at least 30,000 tons. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Those who want to associate can do so.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to associate myself with what Mr. Swaminathan and Mr. Vincent said. The shocking development is that the allocation has been reduced. There are two things. First of all, the allotment has been reduced. There has already been a terrible natural calamity—the cyclone and the floods—and the people are suffering very badly. At a time when there should have been an additional allocation, the allocation has been reduced. In addition to the deficit that we have, the people that are homeless, the people that are suffering, they also have to be looked after. At a time when the allocation should have been raised, particularly in view of an important festival which is coming up in the month of January, it is a shocking development that the allocation of rice to Tamil Nadu has been reduced. I plead with the Centre to immediately review the decision and increase the allocation with immediate effect.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): My point is very simple. When the DMK Government was there in Tamil Nadu, they were getting only 45,000 tons of rice. During the President's

[Shri V. Narayanasamy]

rule in Tamil Nadu, it was increased to 65,000 tons by the Centre. Now, on the request made by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, it has been increased to 81,000 tons. (*Interruptions*). I am quoting the right figures. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You can speak if you want. This is not a debate. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Yesterday, there was a Short Duration Discussion in this House about the havoc caused by the recent cyclone and floods in Tamil Nadu. 1,50,000 hectares of land has been submerged in water and the people could not reap their harvest. The allocation of rice which has been raised to 80,000 tons for Tamil Nadu by the Central Government should be increased to 1,00,000 tons, as demanded by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. Sir, Tamil Nadu is a rice-eating State. (*Interruptions*). But they are sending more wheat to Tamil Nadu. I would like to complain that the people are not eating wheat. But they are sending more wheat. It is not being sold. The rice allocation which has been made is not enough. Therefore, 1,00,000 tons of rice, as demanded by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, should be allocated to them.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Sir, more and more rice is required. We have got rice and wheat and all the States should be given increased quota of rice and wheat. But, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the House a very serious matter. The Home Minister is here. Kindly instruct him that if they are not given the sugar quota in this month, then that quota should be given to them next month so that the poor people do not suffer. The sugar production has gone up to 125 lakh tonnes as against 190 lakh tonnes. In spite of this, the Government machinery has gone wrong somewhere and that is to be corrected. Thank you.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we also want to associate ... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You can associate yourself... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K. K. VEERAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention of Shri Swaminathan and Shri Vincent. As the people of Tamil Nadu are suffering badly because of floods, the Central Government should increase the allocation of rice.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN): Sir, I also associate myself with him. When a calamity is there, naturally the allotment should not be cut by the Central Government. When the havoc is there, when the flood havoc is there, more funds should be allocated to the State by the Finance Minister.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Shri Ram Naresh Yadav.

Atrocities and alleged rape of a Harijan Woman by Police in Lakshmipur Kheri, U.P.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश)
महोदय, मैं इस प्रश्न की और सरकार और सदन का ध्यान अर्पित कर रहा हूँ जो बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। पिछले दिनों इसी सदन में उत्तर प्रदेश में महिलाओं और हरिजनों पर होने वाले अत्याचारों की घटनायें कई बार आईं और ऐसी दर्दनाक घटनायें रही हैं जिनके बारे में सदन में बहुत गम्भीर चिन्ता व्यक्त की गई है। ऐसी ही एक घटना की तरफ मैं सरकार का और मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश में जनपद लखीमपुर खीरी एक पिछड़ा हुआ जिला है। वहाँ का एक गांव हरदुआ थाने से 15 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर है। 22-23 अक्तूबर को 10 बजे दो सिपाही शराब के नशे में एक घर में घुस जाते हैं और भूरा नाम की एक 20 वर्षीय महिला है जो खाना बना