

grammes. That is why these are the recommendations, major recommendations I have stated in the written reply.

It is true, in Maharashtra Panchayati Raj is functioning well. But the G.V.K. Rao Committee is for the entire country. And for the entire country when the recommendation is made, the totality is taken into consideration. And one of the major factor is to see that the poverty-alleviation programme reaches the people at the grass root level, and that is why these are the Committee's recommendations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question, No. 403.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I asked him whether the benefit under the poverty-alleviation programme has been increased from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 6,000 and whether the Government in your Department it has been done in the Rural Development Department—has made any evaluation, You have actually avoided a reply to this question and sermons you are giving me. What is your view? I want to know from the Minister. This is a very important question for rural people. This is not a joke.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next question with regard to edible oils, I thought, was more important.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Let him reply this question about the evaluation report. I would like to know whether he has himself read the evaluation report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is nil right. It is not that he reads it. The evaluation report is read by the Department staff. Is't it so?

SHRI AIT PANJA: Yes, Sir.

Rise in the prices of edible oils in the country

*403. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of edible oils are going up in the open market and that these are in short supply in the public distribution system itself;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to bring down the prices of edible oils and for their adequate supply to the fair price shops in the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AIT PANJA): (a) There has been increase in the prices of edible oils in the open market. There is, however, no shortage in supply of imported edible oils under Public Distribution System.

(b) Due to drought in certain oil producing States, there has been a shortfall in the production of oilseeds. This and the onset of lean season has resulted in rise in prices of edible oils.

(c) To check the rising trend in the prices of edible oils in the open market and ensure adequate availability in fair price shops, the allocation of imported edible oils to States/Union Territories under Public Distribution System has progressively been increased from May, 1986.

श्री शांति त्यागी : माननीय समाप्ति जी, भारत में एडीबल सीड्स की खेती का क्षेत्रफल लगभग 20 मिलियन हेक्टेयर है हमारी ईल्ड बहुत कम है। हम लगभग 20 मिलियन टन आयात पैदा करते हैं जो हमारी आवश्यकता का 50 परसेंट है। बाकी 50 परसेंट एडीबल आयात मंगाने में लगभग एक हजार करोड़ रुपये की हम विदेशी मुद्रा में खर्च करते हैं। इतने रुपये का एडीबल आयात हम बाहर से मंगाने हैं। मंत्री जी से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि एडीबल आयात में देश को स्वायत्त बनाने के लिए क्या सरकार सरसों और मूंगफली आदि का सपोर्ट प्राइस बढ़ाने को तैयार है? और क्या जो बीज आजकल आप सप्लाई कर रहे हैं उनसे भी ज्यादा उन्नत बीज सरसों और मूंगफली के देने की आप व्यवस्था करेंगे और किसानों को प्रोत्साहन देंगे?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): It is true that we have been spending a lot of foreign exchange on imported oils, but that also has progressively decreased. Our effort has been to reduce the consumption of imported oil as much as possible. It has gone down also. All the same the Ministry of Agriculture is taking special measures to increase the production of oilseeds and oils. The measures are as follows;

Implementation of the National Oil Seeds Development Project where they have identified 180 districts especially for this purpose. A provision of Rs. 170 crores has been made in the Seventh Five-Year Plan for the purpose. Secondly, in the National Dairy Development Board Oilseed Project also they have got the whole thing right from sowing of oilseed to sale of edible oil.

Then we provide better incentives to producers through fixation of minimum support price, the intensification of research effort for increasing the profit on oilseeds increase in areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops I like Soyabeans and Sunflower and ex-

ploitation of oilseeds of trees in forest regions, rice-bran etc. Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds, setting up of a technology mission and oilseeds protection under orders of the Prime Minister.

The purpose of this is to see that there are technical innovations, coordination and monitoring.

All these steps are being taken so that we can be self-sufficient in oilseeds.

श्री शांति त्यागी : मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इम्पोर्टेड आयात की बढ़ती कीमतों को रोकने के लिए पी.डी.एस. को निम्बर में भी अधिक कोट दे कर व्यवस्था करेगी और इसके साथ ही क्या स्मल टैंक स्कीम के अन्तर्गत ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में फारर प्राइस शप्पट एडीबल आयात सप्लाई करने की व्यवस्था करेगी?

श्री एच.के.एल. भगत : जहाँ तक इम्पोर्टेड एडीबल आयात का ताल्लुक है मेरे पास सारी हिसाब है। मध्य दुर्गम एलोकेशन होता है। हास्ट की मेरे पास सारी डिटेल्स हैं। जितना मांगते हैं उतना लिफ्टिंग पहले किया? मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि जल्द के हिसाब से उनको दिया जाता है और बढ़ा भी गया है किसी स्टेट ने एडीबल आयात की शर्टेंज के बारे में नहीं कहा है। अगर कहीं इस प्रकार की जरूरत है, वहाँ एडीबल आयात देने की जरूरत है तो गारंटी और करेगी। मालिश के लिए भी कहा गया है। जहाँ भी पी.डी.एस. ताल्लुक है उसमें शर्टेंज का कोई बंधन नहीं है।

श्री अश्विनी अश्वदास : माननीय समाप्ति जी, पेट्रोल के बढ़ते दामों से विदेशी रुपये का ज़रूरत से ज्यादा खर्च खर्चियों पर पड़ता है। अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि उसके लिए स्कीम सरकार के पास है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि तेल

के उन्नत बीज आज किसानों को किसी कीमत पर नहीं मिल रहे हैं तो इसका कारण क्या है ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि नई वैराइटीज की जो बात कही गई है कि परंपरागत बीजों से बाहर जाकर सोयाबीन को लाने का जो आपका प्रोग्राम है, उसका प्रचार ग्रामीण अंचल में नहीं है। इसलिए मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि खाद्य अपूर्ति विभाग अपनी ओर से या कृषि मंत्रालय के सहयोग से नए बीजों का प्रचार करने के लिए क्या कर रहा है ?

जहां तक डेरी की बात है, वाइट फ्लड की बात आपने कहा थी कि 15 करोड़ रुपये उसके लिए है
(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is about oilseeds and not about milk.

श्री जगदम्बा प्रसाद यादव : वाइट फ्लड की बात कही है कि डेरी को इतना दिया है...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. The Minister will reply only to oilseeds part.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I will answer only that part which you are permitting.

ग्रानरेबल मंत्री को कहना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने सुझाव दिया है कि ज्यादा प्रचार किया जाए, किसानों को अच्छे अयलसीड्स दिए जाएं, यह अच्छी बात है, यह मसला एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री के सामने है। फिर भी उन्होंने सुझाव दिया है, वह मैं एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री को दे दूंगा। वाइट फ्लड के बारे में कोई सुझाव हो तो मैं वह उनको दे दूंगा।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the price of groundnut oil in 1976 was Rs. 6.50 per kg. Within ten years the price has gone up to Rs. 25 per kg. There is a four-fold increase in the price of groundnut oil. In May this year it was Rs. 16.50 per kg. but just within two months it has gone up further by Rs. 8.50.

Now the festival season is coming and festivals like 'Janmashtami' 'Ganesh Chaturthi' 'Dussehra' and 'Diwali' will be celebrated by our people throughout the country. Before the new crop comes into the market, the Government has increased the supply of imported oil from 60,000 tonnes to 75,000 tonnes. In any opinion, this is not sufficient. I request the Government to step up the supply of edible oils in plenty so that the consumers can get this commodity during the festival season. Sir, even through a Special Mention I have suggested to the Government to increase the supply of edible oils. In the last ten years the increase was only 22 per cent. I want to know what steps the Government would take to increase the supply of edible oils during the festival season?

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I share the anxiety of the hon. Member with regard to increase in the price of groundnut oil. It is true that during the past few weeks there has been pressure on the prices of edible oils. During the last 16 weeks ending 19-7-1986 the wholesale price index of groundnut oil has moved by 28.6 per cent. But as compared to the sale two years ago, the increase is 11.5 per cent. In fact, in mustard oil also there has been some increase. The Government has taken steps in various ways. As I said, the vanaspati is also consumed in large quantities in this country. The vanaspati price which the industry themselves fixed by their mutual arrangement have stabilised. You have seen how the price of vanaspati has established. There is no increase at all in the price of vanaspati. Sir, with regard to groundnut oil prices also, we have stopped the use of some oils in vanaspati so that more edible oils are available in the market. With regard to the groundnut oil prices also, we have advised the State Governments to have some de-hoarding operation. In fact, we sent them a telex and I am speaking to the Chief Ministers

myself. Then, Sir, there was an impression with us that there is some kind of formal or informal ban in Andhra Pradesh in regard to groundnut oil. I have written to the Chief Minister twice about it and I received a letter from him the day before in which he has not so specifically answered that point as such. But he has said, he is taking steps to see that the price of edible oils remains. I am reminding him again. We are taking all possible steps to see that the situation does not reach a limit which the hon. Member is apprehending. We hope that we will be able to meet the festival demand also and if necessary, we will give more imported oil (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Desai, please sit down.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : महोदय, अगर मेरी यादगल कमजोर नहीं है तो मैं मुन रहा या राजस्व मंत्री का उत्तर, तो सवाल में है कि कीमत कम करने के क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं तो वे बता देंगे कि बढ़ती कीमतों को रोकने का हम प्रयास करेंगे। नीचे जाने की बात नहीं कह रहे हैं वे कह रहे हैं कि हम रोकेंगे, जहाँ कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं अब उनको ज्यादा बढ़ने नहीं देंगे। सवाल है कि कीमतों को कम किया जाय तो इस संदर्भ में महोदय मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्रधान मंत्री जी थोड़ा इन लोगों को कहें कि वे होम वर्क करके लायें। मसाल कुछ पूछा जाय और जवाब इस तरह का लायें . . . (व्यवधान) . . . आप लोगों को हंसा आती है, जर्म नहीं आती है, आपको जर्म आनी चाहिए। आप हंसते हैं . . . (व्यवधान) कीमत को कम करने के क्या उपाय किये हैं इसका आप जवाब दे रहे हैं कि बढ़ती कीमतों को रोक जायेगा। . . . (व्यवधान)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I will answer this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I find that the Prime Minister's presence disturbs the House.

श्री एच. के. एल. भगत : मैं बहुत आदर करते हुए . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

मैं आनरेबल मैनबर का बहुत आदर करते हुए कहना चाहता हूँ कि होम वर्क हम बहुत करके आते हैं, पूरा करके आते हैं, लेकिन वह सवाल करने से पहले साव लिया करें कि वे मसाल पूछ लेंगे कि वह कह रहे हैं कि बढ़ती हुई कीमतों को रोकने के लिए . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. H. K. L. Bhagat, you please sit down. Now, Mr. Singh, you put the question. Don't make any comment.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मेरा वैधानिक यह है कि . . . (व्यवधान) . . . जो 50 फीसदी जैसा उत्तर में बताया गया कि हमारा खाद्य तेल जितना है उसमें हमें 50 फीसदी बाहर से मंगाना पड़ता है और 50 फीसदी हम प्रोड्यूस करते हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि 50 फीसदी बाहर से मंगाने में देश का कितना फारेन एक्सचेंज खर्च होता है? इन टर्म्स अफ मनी बनाने का कष्ट करें और साथ ही यह भी बतायें इसकी कमी को पूरा करने के लिये क्या ठोस उपाय आपने अपने सामने रखे हैं या देश के सामने रखे हैं?

श्री एच. के. एल. भगत : मैं आनरेबल मैनबर को इम्ब्रस नहीं करता चाहता। मुझे खुशी है कि वे अपने पिछले सवाल से पीछे हट गये हैं। उन्होंने जो नयी बात पूछी है इम्पोर्टेड आयात के बारे में कि उसकी क्या पोजीशन है तो मैं उनको हर साल के इम्पोर्टेड आयात की सारी जानकारी दे सकता हूँ कि कितना आयात इम्पोर्ट किया गया, कास्ट आफ इम्पोर्ट क्या था 1981-82 में कास्ट आफ इम्पोर्ट बाज 449.69 करोड़, 1982-83 में 507 करोड़, 1983-84 में 1319 करोड़, 1984-85 में 1122.13 करोड़, 1985-86 में नवम्बर 1985 से जून 1986 तक 234.10 करोड़ रुपये। मेरे पास सारी जानकारी है और होम वर्क अच्छा किया हुआ है।

श्री राजीव गांधी : एक तरह से जो एडिशनल आयात पर डिमांड आ रहा है वह हमारे गरीबी हटाने के कार्यक्रम की सफलता का एक निशान है क्योंकि ज्यादा लोग आज एडिबल आयात खरीदना चाह रहे हैं और हमने इसे

बहुत गौर से देखा है। जो आपका प्रश्न था क्या हम इस पर गौर कर रहे हैं, इसको देखल कैसे कर रहे हैं। हम बिलकुल कर रहे हैं। हमने एक खास साइंटिफिक मिशन बना रखा है एडिबल साइडलज पर जिसमें आते हुए 5-6 साल में हम बहुत हद तक इस में सेलफ सफिशियसी पाएंगे और सब को हम दे पावेंगे।

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Sir^ apart from the various measures which the Government wants to take, from the long-range point of view, to increase the production of oilseeds, as far as the immediate future is concerned, unless and until there is more import of edible oil, the prices will not go down. This year there has been a fall in groundnut production in Gujarat. The production has fallen from 60 lakh tonnes to 40 lakh tonnes. And I hear that the import has gone down. My question is: will the Government consider increasing the import of edible oil immediately so as to bring down the prices in the open market and to improve supply in the public distribution system?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Sir, I do not think that there is that situation of panic which the hon. Member is pointing out. Whatever imports we need, we have already made arrangements for it. We are giving imported oil as required to the State of Maharashtra and to the State of Gujarat. I am sending a special team of officers to these States where this problem exists^ and the problem will be sorted out. We have plans for importing what is necessary. We do not have to import what is not necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No 404.

States having low per capita income

*404. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. - ARUNACHALAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of those States which were having per capita

incomes below the national average level since the year 1980; and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to improve their position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

According to the official estimates of Net State Domestic Product released by the respective State Governments, 15 States were having their per capita income below the National average for the years 1930-81 to 1983-84.

(b) The Central Government has taken several steps to improve the position of such States. The important measures, among these are:

(i) Transfer of resources from the Central Government to the State Governments for meeting their Plan expenditure according to a formula which is weighted in favour of the backward States whose per capita income is below the national average.

(ii) Devolution of non-Plan resources in accordance with the award of the Eighth Finance Commission which favours the backward States and seeks to reduce disparity between the States in addition to covering the revenue gap.

(iii) Providing Special Central Assistance for the development of backward areas in the States such as, hill areas, desert areas, drought prone areas and also areas having concentration of tribal population.

(iv) Providing special incentives in the form of investment subsidy and concessional finance for accelerating the industries development