

तो किसानों की खेती के लिए आप इसको लागू क्यों नहीं करते हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I can only say that it is a suggestion for action.

SHRI J. S. ANAND : Is the Minister aware that the flat rate for the peasant for the consumption of electricity for tube-well was fixed at a time when they were getting electricity for twenty hours a day ? Now, the supply of electricity has been reduced to five hours a day and the flat rate has gone up one and a half times. There have been repeated representations from the peasants that the flat rate should be related to the number of hours for which electricity is available, but nothing has been done. There is acute discontent among the wheat growing peasants.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I am aware of this complaint. We shall pass on the suggestion of the hon. Member for appropriate examination by the State Governments concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : सभापति जी, मेरा निवेदन यह है कि परिवार नियोजन का प्रश्न अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण है और सारे देश से संबंध रहता है। यदि सदन एग्री करे तो पहले इस प्रश्न को ले लिया जाय। वैसे 5 मिनट की सजा तो मुझे मिल गई। मैंने यह सोचा था कि कम से कम पांच मिनट तो पहले प्रश्न पर लगेंगे ही, लेकिन आप इतनी तेजी से चले गये।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The difficulty will be that every day somebody will be absent and if we are to take the permission of the House, it will create an awkward situation, which I do not want.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मेरा कहना यह है कि अगर हाउस एग्री करे तो देख लीजिये।

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. If the other questions are over, then we can take up yours.

*329. [The questioners (Dr. K. Mathew Kurian and Shri P. K. Kunjachen) were absent. For answer, vide cols. 37 infra]

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

*330. SHRI G. C. TOTU :†

SHRI SYED NIZAMUDDIN:

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri G. C. Totu.

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains, variety-wise, procured till the end of October 1974 in various States, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the procurement drive has not reached targets; and

(c) if so, the reason therefore and the steps taken to intensify the procurement drive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statements

(a) Following two statements are enclosed:

Statement I : Procurement of Rice, Maize, Jowar, Bajra during Kharif 1973-74 (November-October).

Statement II : Procurement of wheat during Rabi 1974-75 (commencing April, 1974).

(b) No targets were fixed for the procurement of wheat during Rabi, 1974-75. As regards rice during the Kharif Marketing Season 1973-74, though the working targets fixed could not be achieved in full, the actual procurement was higher than the best so far in any previous year. The procurement targets with regard to coarse grains lost much of the relevance following removal of restrictions on their inter-State movement, in the middle of the year.

(c) Reasons for low procurement, generally, are lower production as compared to earlier expectations, outside Mandi transactions by producers and unscrupulous traders, high market prices of all foodgrains and essential commodities, damage to crops, in some of the States by floods and droughts, tendency to hold back stocks by producers/traders in the hope of still better prices, etc. etc.

Steps taken for intensifying procurement include price incentive to farmers, direct purchases from cultivators, linking of procurement with distribution of fertilizers and other essential commodities, levy on producers/millers, imposing of stocking limits on producers/traders, etc. etc.

STATEMENT I

(Figures in '000 Tonnes)

State	Rice including paddy (in terms of Rice)	Maize	Jowar	Bajra	Total Coarse grains	Total Kharif Grains
Andhra Pradesh . . .	695.8	..	..	..	..	695.8
Assam	112.1	..	..	..	..	112.1
Bihar	56.7	..	..	..	..	56.7
Gujarat	17.8	..	..	17.0	17.0	34.8
Haryana	416.5	..	..	..	..	416.5
Jammu & Kashmir . . .	38.6	0.8	..	..	0.8	39.4
Karnataka	98.2	..	16.2	..	16.2	114.4
Kerala	43.9	..	..	..	..	43.9
Madhya Pradesh . . .	208.1	0.3	4.6	..	4.9	213.0
Maharashtra	161.2	..	97.1	67.0	164.1	325.3
Orissa	214.1	..	Neg.	..	Neg.	214.1
Punjab	943.3	61.1	..	..	61.1	1004.4
Rajasthan . . . . .	..	1.4	4.4	38.3	44.1	44.1
Tamil Nadu	272.3	0.4	..	..	0.4	272.7
Uttar Pradesh	428.8	33.2	29.2	17.2	79.6	508.4
West Bengal	158.8	..	..	..	..	158.8
Others	19.4	Neg.	..	..	Neg.	19.4
TOTAL	3885.6	97.2	151.5	139.5	388.2	4273.8

Statement-II

(Figures in '000 Tonnes)

State	Procurement upto the end of October '74
1. Bihar	2.0
2. Gujarat	20.7
3. Haryana	248.7
4. J. & K.	6.5
5. Madhya Pradesh . . .	122.0
6. Maharashtra	20.2
7. Punjab	993.3
8. Rajasthan	126.7
9. Uttar Pradesh	309.0
10. Chandigarh (U.T.) . .	2.0
TOTAL	1851.1

SHRI G. C. TOTU : What are the reasons for the low procurement of coarse grains in 1973-74 and wheat in 1974-75 in UP? UP also is a grain producing area as compared to other grain producing area as such as Punjab and Haryana.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As far as coarse grains are concerned, what the hon. Member has to appreciate is that coarse grains are mostly grown in drought prone areas and areas which are heavily deficit in foodgrains. Naturally

procurement in those areas has been all along the years at a low level. We want to actually increase procurement and we have made some suggestions for this year. This has been the main reason why procurement has been low in many of these areas. It is mostly grown in some parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and North Karnataka. As regards why there was a low procurement of wheat in UP, last year unfortunately UP had a very bad season. There were no winter showers and production was badly affected. A number of other factors came in and there was a severe setback to wheat production in UP. According to the estimate of the UP Government there was a shortfall of almost 14 lakh tonnes in wheat production. A very substantial portion of the marketable surplus was wiped out. As a result there was a set back. There were other reasons also, but this is the main reason.

SHRI G.C. TOTU: What steps have the Government of India taken to step up production in the deficit States?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, this is procurement question. He is asking about production, I seek your protection.

MR. CHAIRMAN. All right.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : Though the target for the procurement of wheat was not fixed by the Government, but is it a fact that the actual procurement of wheat done by the Government has been

far below what was done by the Government in the year in which the foodgrains trade was taken over by them? Is it also a fact that direct purchases from the cultivators have been far below and that the higher prices offered for the foodgrains, the benefit has gone to the middlemen and not to the actual producer and the cultivator?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The reason for the lower procurement of wheat, as I have mentioned, has been lower production in some of the States than was expected earlier, then outside *mandi* transaction by producers and unscrupulous traders with a view to evading the levy and holding back of stock of wheat by producers in the hope of still higher prices. These are some of the reasons. The new wheat policy also contemplated some movement of wheat on trading account, besides the levy. Therefore, procurement has been lower this year as compared to last year.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I would like to know whether it is not a fact that private traders had given a guarantee to the Government that they would help the Government in procuring a minimum of six million tonnes of wheat if the takeover of wholesale wheat trade was given up by the Government, whether this promise has been kept and, if not, what steps Government have taken to see that it is kept. Secondly, I would like to find out in this country where holding on a large scale is an accepted fact—whether the Government would consider setting dehoarding targets for all the States as part of the procurements drive throughout the country?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As far as the second part of the hon. lady Member's question is concerned, we have been very serious about the dehoarding campaign. Whether specific targets can be laid down or not is a debatable point. But we have suggested to the State Governments about that. My senior colleague, Shri Jagjivan Ram, after he took over this Ministry, addressed letters to all important wheat growing States to see that dehoarding is taken up in all seriousness and that maximum quantities are mobilised as a result of the dehoarding campaign.

As to whether there was any firm assurance or indication by the traders, there was some indication by the traders—I cannot say whether it was an assurance, but they did indicate—that they would be in a position to give the Government of India a much larger quantity. Unfortunately, whatever hopes were given by the trading community, they were belied by actual happenings later on. Of course, they explained the thing. One reason that they give is, they were not allowed to operate in three States, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and UP. UP and these two other States given the other

version. They say that the traders were operating outside the markets. But whatever may be the reason, somehow or other, the system did not operate in three important wheat growing States and that is why in these areas there was hardly any collection of levy grains.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: When Shri Subramanian held temporary charge of the Ministry, he had made at several places the statement that in order to bring down the prices of foodgrains, the Government were going to procure ten million metric tonnes in the next 12 months and pump them into the public distribution system. In view of the fact that there has been a Cabinet reshuffle, is there/going to be a reshuffling of this promise or is the Government committed to pumping this quantity of foodgrains into the public distribution system in order to bring down the prices?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sometimes even knowledgeable Members make wrong statements. For instance, I was present along with Shri Subramanian many times when some such statement was made by him. In fact, what he said was, our intention this year is to distribute about ten million tonnes through the public distribution system, and that stands. And our effort is to distribute about ten million tonnes through the public distribution system. What portion of it will be imported and what will be procured is a different matter. As far as procurement is concerned—I am referring to last year's performance—we have the highest procurement of rice and if we take into consideration the total procurement of coarse grains and rice and other cereals it comes almost to 4.3 million tonnes...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Procurement from abroad or from our own sources?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : ... and if we take into consideration wheat etc. we have procured about six million tonnes. Our strategy in future will be, since we are a very big country and we cannot depend for our requirements on local procurement, to try to reach a target of even 10-11 million tonnes of procurement.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : Can the hon'ble Minister give a break-up of the quantity of grains procured through government and co-operative agencies and through private agencies and may I know what lessons the Government have drawn? Does the Government want to go in for state trading or does it propose to give it up?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : As far as the statement of facts is concerned, I can supply to the hon'ble Member the necessary information that is available with us, though not now with me. There should be no difficulty. We would not like to conceal anything from the honourable House or from the hon'ble Members about state trading. I would again very humbly appeal to the hon'ble Member that if state trading is the only way of solving the food problem of this country the Government will have no hesitation. But many times our experience is that such easy solutions are not really found to be very practical. We have to think many times the implications of these things. Therefore, we will bear in mind the suggestion of the hon'ble Member. But immediately the Government of India does not contemplate to proceed on that line.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : खाद्यान्न की वसूली में इस बार दस एकड़ से लेकर बीस एकड़ तक के किसानों के घर जाकर पुलिस ने रेंड किया और उनको परेशान किया। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार प्रांतीय सरकारों को इस प्रकार का निर्देश देगी कि जिन किसानों के पास 25 एकड़ से लेकर 50 एकड़ से अधिक भूमि है, उनसे ही इस प्रकार का अनाज वसूल किया जाय और छोटे किसानों को परेशान न किया जाय ?

दूसरे, आचार्य विनोबा भावे ने जो सुझाव दिया था कि किसानों से खाद्यान्न लगान के बदले में लिया जाय, तो इससे खाद्यान्न का पर्याप्त संग्रह हो जायेगा। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन दो सुझावों के ऊपर केन्द्रीय सरकार और कृषि मंत्रालय का क्या विचार है?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : Sir, I am not aware of any raids which were carried out with a view to harass anybody. In fact, our approach has been—in fact, my senior colleague also mentioned this point yesterday that the farmer of India is patriotic—to appeal to the farmer not to hoard stocks since we are passing through difficult times. Nobody has a right to hoard stocks at the cost of the community particularly when it is likely to harm the interest of the community at large. Therefore, if some raids have been carried out in order to dehoard I do not think it should be a ground for complaint as such. If there are any raids carried out on small farmers etc. and if it is brought to our

notice we will find out where injustice has been done. In this I would seek the co-operation of the hon'ble Members to help the general campaign of dehoarding grain beyond one's reasonable requirement. Whoever hoards quantities beyond one's reasonable requirement causes harm to the interest of the country. We need to develop very healthy atmosphere for dehoarding campaign.

As far as Vinobaji's suggestion is concerned, I reacted to it as a very good suggestion. But later on when we went into the details of Vinobaji's suggestion we found lot of loopholes and defects in implementing the proposal. And ultimately we came to the conclusion that it would not be practical to implement the suggestion as such. The total amount of land revenue in the country is so small because our requirement of procurement or the level of procurement which we desire is much larger, many times larger than the land revenue which we are collecting now. Vinobaji's suggestion is that we should increase it. But in practice we found it not to be a very practical suggestion.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : May I know from the hon'ble Minister whether it is not a fact that certain political parties, particularly belonging to the Opposition, organised a campaign against the procurement policy of the government through hoarders, middlemen and wholesale dealers to stop the cultivators from offering grain particularly wheat to the government for procurement?

If so, which are those political parties? And I want to know what action the Government has taken to stop such anti-national activities in future which may cause the failure of the procurement policy of the Government of India.

श्री रबी राय : सबसे बड़ी एन्टी-नेशनल पार्टी तो आपकी पार्टी है।

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : Sir,

SHRI RABI RAY : Sir, you rule it out of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I have not said that.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : Sir, I visited several villages where farmers came to me and told me that people went to them and persuaded them not to offer their grains for purchase by the Government people. And things had gone to such an extent that certain wholesalers went and paid the price of the grains to the farmers and told them "You keep this grain with you; do not give it to the Government; we shall take it from you whenever it is convenient for us". That

is why the procurement policy of the Government has not been a success. Is it not a fact?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister need not reply. He knows the information.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : Sir, I want to know what action has been taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. Mr. Niren Ghosh.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I would like to know whether it is a fact that after the Cabinet decided...

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : Sir, I want to know what action has been taken by the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have given the information to the House. There is no need for the Minister to reply.

SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM : On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I would like to know whether it is a fact that after the Cabinet decided on take-over of wholesale trade in foodgrains, certain senior Cabinet colleagues separately went to the Prime Minister to reverse that policy. I would like to know whether it is a fact that 100 Congress MLAs of West Bengal have not paid their levy. I would also like to know whether it is a fact that the 'kulaks', landlords and big grain dealers are ruling through you by proxy and that is why you cannot procure from them, or they have become collectors of funds for the Congress and that is why you cannot touch them and procure foodgrains for the starving millions.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : I am sorry to say that Shri Ghosh is fond of inventing stories.

श्री कल्याण चन्द : आपने इनका जवाब नहीं देने दिया और उनके सवाल का जवाब दिलवा रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister need not reply to anything pertaining to political parties or the Congress. Regarding other facts, let him reply. Let us be fair to all.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : This is a totally false story which he has invented that some senior colleagues of the Cabinet really went and pleaded for the reversal of the policy. In fact, if I may say so, after the decision—it was Govern-

ment of India's decision—everybody tried sincerely to implement it. There were certain other factors which came in the way because of which we did not succeed 100 per cent. But if he attributes some meaning to it in order to divide our party and create some confusion, I do not think Mr. Ghosh will succeed. In fact, I would appeal to him—my senior colleague made this appeal yesterday—not to bring in the political factor into the food economy.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, for your benefit, I am prepared to tell you in your chamber. I will challenge him; I will challenge his statement.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : Going through the statement of the hon. Minister, I find that the procurement in Bihar is 56,700 tonnes only. Also not an iota of maize, jowar or bajra has been procured; only other items have been procured. May I know from the hon. Minister what was the target of procurement in Bihar and what were the main reasons for procuring so low a quantum in Bihar? Is it due to the political reasons, the agitation, or due to other reasons?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : The targets of procurement in Bihar were 1 lakh tonnes of rice and 25,000 tonnes of coarse grains. As against that no coarse grains were procured and rice was procured, as was said by the hon. Member, to the tune of 56,000 tonnes. Unfortunately—I hope Bihar Members will not misunderstand me—there is no tradition of procurement in Bihar and we have been struggling every time. Somehow there have been some difficulties. If Bihar Members are in a position to give us some suggestions we shall be happy to accept them. Recently we had some dialogue with the State Government and they have promised to take some vigorous steps at least during the current rabi season.

श्री रवी राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप खुद जानते हैं कि जब आप गवर्नर थे उड़ीसा के उस वक्त ऐसी दुर्भिक्ष की स्थिति नहीं थी जसी आज है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि इस साल उड़ीसा सरकार का वसूली का जो लक्ष्य था 4 लाख टन का वह नहीं मिल पाया और वह घटकर 2 लाख टन तक आ गया? इसका खास कारण क्या है?

दूसरे, क्या सरकार को मालूम है कि उड़ीसा सरकार ने जान-बूझ कर लैवी सिस्टम लागू

किया है छोटे किसानों के ऊपर । जो किसान 5 एकड़ वाले हैं उनके ऊपर भी लेवी लगाया है । क्या सरकार उड़ीसा सरकार को सलाह देगी कि छोटे किसानों के ऊपर लेवी न लगाई जाए ? वहां पर लेवी का कंप्लेशन है कि जो लेवी नहीं देगा उसको फटिलाइजर नहीं मिलेगा जिस तरह से सरकार आर्टिफिशियल कंडीशन के लिए खुद जिम्मेदार है, तो क्या वह 7-8 एकड़ वाले छोटे किसानों को लेवी से अलग करने के लिए कोई सिफारिश उड़ीसा सरकार को करेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : It is true that last year procurement in Orissa did not come up to our expectations. Somehow or other monopoly procurement was not operating there. It did not function satisfactorily. One of the contributing factors was—I hope hon. Members will not misunderstand me—that all political parties did not cooperate with the Orissa Government.....

श्री रबी राय : मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि 5 लाख टन स्मगल हो गया इसलिए कि कांग्रेस के लोगों को डीलर बना दिया गया, वह शिन्डे साहब को मैं सूचना दे देना चाहता हूं । आपको दूसरी पोलिटिकल पार्टी के बारे में नहीं कहना चाहिए । कांग्रेस पार्टी के लोग डीलर बनकर दूसरे राज्यों को भेज दिये । 5 लाख टन का स्मगलिंग हुआ, इसलिए दुःखित है ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : The additional factor was that last year there was election in Orissa. That also had some impact.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He knows everything.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : He knows everything.

श्री रबी राय : आप जब थे उस वक्त नहीं था तो कौन जिम्मेदार है ? चीफ मिनिस्टर जिम्मेदार है, उसकी पार्टी जिम्मेदार है ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As far as levy is concerned, I know the hon. Member is a very progressive member. I would tell him that in this country a general consciousness in favour of levy needs to be created. Of course, very small farmers, not 8 acre-wallas.....

श्री रबी राय : श्रीमन्, पोइंट ऑफ आर्डर । जो अनइका-नामिक होल्डिंग है यह ऐक्सपर्ट लोगों के अनुसार साढ़े 6 एकड़ से नीचे है । आपको मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं । तो फिर अन-इका-नामिक होल्डिंग को छोड़ दीजिए ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Member allow the Minister to reply.

SHRI RABI RAY : He is giving wrong information.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may not accept it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I would only say that Orissa Government has exempted small farmers from levy. What should be the definition of 'small farmer'? The hon. Member may have a different opinion on that.

SCHOOLS IN DELHI

*331. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN :†

SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN:

SHRI MOHAMMED USMAN ARIF :

SHRI GANESH LAL MALI:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of schools in Delhi are located in dilapidated buildings;

(b) whether it is also a number of schools are running in tented accommodation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of schools in Delhi do not have adequate equipment like furniture etc., although the schools have been in existence for several years; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Khurshed Alam Khan.