

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Serious Food Situation in Delhi due to abnormal rise in wheat prices

श्री री राय (उड़ीसा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी आज्ञा से गेहूँ के बाजार मूल्य में असामान्य वृद्धि के परिणामस्वरूप दिल्ली में गम्भीर खाद्य स्थिति की ओर कृषि मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : Sir, the rise in the prices of foodgrains in the country has been a matter of considerable concern to the Government. With a view to checking the price rise steps have already been taken, including measures to improve the availability of foodgrains in the market particularly in the deficit States. The Union territory of Delhi which is contiguous to the surplus States like Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, has been kept as a separate zone for the purpose of movement of wheat on trade account. So far as rice is concerned, it is a part of the composite northern rice zone, and movement on trade account within the zone is free.

As a policy, a substantial part of the foodgrains requirement of Delhi is being met through fair price shops by release of adequate quantities of foodgrains from the Central stocks. During the current year on an average about 40,000 tonnes of foodgrains per month are being issued to meet the requirements of the public distribution system of Delhi. In addition to coarse grains and rice which are freely available in the market under the revised wheat policy a certain quantity of wheat has also moved to Delhi on trade account. With the tapering off of the current peak procurement season, the market prices have however shown an upward

tendency affecting thereby the flow of wheat to Delhi on trade account.

With a view to meeting the situation, in addition to maintaining supplies of foodgrains from the Central stocks, several steps are being taken to curb speculative rise in prices by proper enforcement of the regulatory measures. The situation is, however, being under constant review in consultation with the Delhi Administration.

श्री रबी राय : डिप्टी चैयरमैन साहब, मैं यही अनुमान कर रहा था कि मंत्री महोदय इसी तरह का जवाब देंगे। सवाल यह है कि क्या इन ध्यान का आज "नवभारत टाइम्स" में प्रकाशित इस खबर की ओर गया है जिसमें यह छपा है कि पंजाब और हरियाणा से लेवी मुक्त गेहूँ का निर्यात बंद होने की खबर से खुले बाजार में गेहूँ फार्म का भाव 3 रु० प्रति किलो तक पहुँच गया है।

श्री कृष्ण कान्त (हरियाणा) : गेहूँ का भाव दिल्ली में 5 रु० प्रति किलो पहुँच गया है।

श्री रबी राय : मैं अभी लायब्रेरी से आ रहा था तो हमारे लायब्रेरी के एक कर्मचारी ने कहा कि लोक सभा में तीन-चार बार यह सवाल आया था तो शिन्डे साहब ने वहाँ भी यही जवाब दिया था, तो वह कर्मचारी हम से कहने लगा कि मंत्री महोदय जो जवाब देते हैं उसमें कोई सत्यता नहीं है क्योंकि बाजार में साधारण लोगों को, जैसा अभी श्री कृष्ण कान्त जी ने कहा, 5 रु० प्रति किलो गेहूँ मिल रहा है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह खबर सही है? इसके अलावा एक खबर में यह भी छपा है—

"A grand conspiracy seems to have been hatched by big grain dealers to deny wheat to the people of Delhi and to use their cries of protest to force the authorities into raising the free sale price of wheat.

[श्री रबी राय]

Mandi sources say the licensed wheat dealers are refusing to lift wheat stocks. Farmers are learnt to have been paid gratuities to keep wheat with themselves as a result of which large tonnage has rotted and has been fed to animals."

इसलिए सवाल यह है कि यह जो ग्रैंड कॉन्सिप-
रेसी ट्रेड्स की है जिसके साथ सरकार भी चल
रही है उससे आम उपभोक्ता को कितना नुक-
सान हो रहा है, क्या उसको मंत्री महोदय
जानते हैं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि
इस तरह के जितने भी ग्रेन डीलर हैं जो इस
तरह के समाज-विरोधी काम करते हैं, क्या
उनको मीसा या डी० आर्डी० आर० के अन्दर
पकड़ा गया क्योंकि राजनैतिक कार्यकर्ताओं को
तो आप मीसा या डी० आर्डी० आर० के अन्दर
पकड़ लेते हैं? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ
कि इस तरह से ट्रेडर्स और सरकार के बीच
में जो गठबन्धन चल रहा है, क्या सरकार को
उसके बारे में जानकारी है? क्या मंत्री महो-
दय खुद बाजार में जाकर देखेंगे कि किस तरह
से लोगों को तकलीफों का सामना करना पड़
रहा है? क्या आपको इस बात की भी जान-
कारी है कि दिल्ली में लाखों लोग ऐसे हैं जिनके
पास राशन कार्ड नहीं है और जब वे लोग सिविल
सप्लाई विभाग में राशन-कार्ड बनाने के लिए
जाते हैं तो वहाँ के हालत को देखकर वे राशन-
कार्ड बना नहीं पाते हैं? इस तरह के लाखों
करोड़ों लोग हैं जो झुग्गियों में रहते हैं और
जिनके पास राशनकार्ड नहीं है। ऐसे लोगों
को सस्ते दाम पर गेहूँ दिलवाने के लिए आप
क्या कर रहे हैं? दूसरी बात मैं यह भी जानना
चाहता हूँ कि जो इस तरह के गलत काम करने
वाले ट्रेडर्स हैं, जो समाज विरोधी काम करते
हैं उनके खिलाफ सख्त कार्रवाई करने के लिए
क्या आप मीसा या डी० आर्डी० आर० लागू
करने की व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
Sir, I think we should try to appreciate
the food problems of Delhi in the pro-

per perspective. Of course I share the
concern of the hon. Member that as far
as the reported high level of black mar-
ket prices of wheat in Delhi are con-
cerned. . .

श्री रबी राय : रिपोर्टें नहीं हैं, यह बात
सही है। आपको मानना चाहिये कि यह बात
सही है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
First of all it would not be right to
presume that the Delhi population has
to depend entirely upon open market
purchases of wheat because the Delhi
population according to the census of
1971 was 41 lakhs and according to the
latest estimates now it is 46 lakhs and
we are issuing to the Delhi Administra-
tion every month 35,000 tonnes of
wheat and 4,000 tonnes of rice. That
means 39,000 tonnes of wheat and rice
are issued for public distribution at con-
trolled price to the public of Delhi. So
by and large 8 kgs. per head is the
availability in Delhi at controlled price
and therefore large sections of the popu-
lation have nothing to do with the pur-
chase of black market wheat at higher
level of prices.

Then, Sir, as I have already explain-
ed in my statement there is no curb on
the movement of coarse grain. A few
thousand tonnes of coarse grain do
come into Delhi because there is al-
ways a certain section of the population
which consumes Bajra. Then, about the
high open market price of wheat I can
appreciate the hon. Member's concern,
but Delhi has a common zone with
Punjab and Haryana as far as non-
levy rice movement is concerned. There-
fore, the total availability of foodgrains
in Delhi is not so low as is being pre-
sumed by the hon. Member. In addi-
tion to that, I was looking into the
statement. After the new wheat policy,
42,000 tonnes of wheat have been per-
mitted by the Punjab and Haryana
Government to be moved to Delhi. Out
of that in this month alone about 7,000
tonnes are expected to arrive. That

means the total availability of food-grains is not going to be less than 50,000 tonnes, which is the assessment of Delhi administration of the requirements of Delhi. Naturally in Delhi there are certain classes of consumers who would not like to purchase rationed wheat which is again because we are accustomed to the amber-coloured wheat, a very superior type of Indian wheat. As regards the wheat distributed in Delhi, through the public distribution system, some part of it is imported. It is red wheat and normally the Indian consumer is not accustomed to that type of wheat. I have heard a number of hon. Members telling me that the quality of wheat which is being distributed is not good. This is the general impression in Delhi. If there has been any deliberate effort to tamper with the quality, etc., I shall welcome complaints and we shall be glad to take them up with the Delhi administration. I have already taken up some of these complaints with the Delhi administration and they are looking into them. But to say that the whole population is entirely depending on the blackmarket would not be correct, though I know there are some areas, arising out of the food economy in our country. As far as the ban by Punjab and Haryana is concerned and to which the hon. Member referred, no State Government in the country has unilaterally the right to impose a ban because these orders are issued normally under the Essential Commodities Act. The concurrence of the Government of India is necessary for imposing a ban on the movement of any foodgrains from one State to another. There has been no concurrence of the Government for a ban on such movement.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): We are suffering from the after-effects of the bungling of nationalisation last year. In one sentence I would put it that way. Now, Sir, I have four or five points which I hope would be

replied to by the hon. Minister. May I know whether it is not a fact that last year some of the wheat growers regretted having sold their stocks at Rs. 76/-, which was the price initially fixed by the Government, while the rates went up to as much as Rs. 150 or Rs. 160, thereby giving the impression to the people that there would be variation in the rates fixed by the Government and, therefore if they waited, they would gain? No. 2, may I know whether the distribution system, which has been so highly described by the hon. Minister, is not distributing uneatable wheat, which is completely rotten and degenerated, which has been imported probably as a loan from the USSR? It is purely uneatable and it is being dumped on millions of people...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): It is from the USA.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The USA is not giving anything. It is probably purchased from the USA by the USSR and dumped on us. I am thankful to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta for reminding me about it. The USSR purchased it from the USA and since they did not want to take it they dumped it on us.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How do you get these facts?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: For that we will have to have a separate discussion. Then, what happens is this. There is a group of people who call themselves the self-appointed defenders of social virtues in Delhi. A group of about ten or fifteen people start shouting against raising the market prices.

Therefore, nobody is prepared to stock any quantity of wheat which would be perceptible. Therefore, there is bound to be a shortage and these self-defenders of social virtues, unfortunately, belong to my friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's party.

[Shri Lokanath Misra]

The fourth point is the restriction. There cannot be an unholy marriage between free trade and control. But unfortunately, the hon. Minister wanted this unholy marriage to be celebrated.

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA (Bihar) : You want free marriage?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I never knew that the Communists wanted a restricted marriage — 50 per cent free trade. I thought they were more progressive. I never knew it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Only Biju Patnaik and our friend. . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Therefore, these restrictions have stood in the way of the inflow of wheat from the wheat-growing States of Punjab, Haryana and UP. Their wheat is between Rs. 150 and Rs. 160 per quintal while here wheat is sold at Rs. 315 in the open market.

There is only one more point. As eminent a person as Dr. Swaminathan says that the hybrid seeds are most susceptible to pests. And I have paper cuttings which corroborate his remarks. Therefore people who took to production of hybrid wheat last year have immensely lost in their endeavour to get more wheat because the input was more, it was more costly, and ultimately the yield was not as much as they expected. Therefore, there has been a set-back in wheat production as a whole, and added to it, nationalisation last year also had its impact on the growth of wheat because when people knew that there was going to be nationalisation and it would not yield them good prices, they switched over to other kinds of production. These are the reasons why there has been a shortage of wheat.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I do not know why Misraji thought it proper to bring in the name of the

USSR into this controversy. So far I have not heard any complaint about the wheat we have imported from there.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Leave aside that point.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Then the hon. Member made a very incorrect statement, I should say. I am not prepared to use strong words as he is accustomed to. He said that the Government profiteered last year — they purchased wheat from the farmers at Rs. 76 and sold it at much higher prices.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : I did not say that. I think I have been misunderstood. I never said that. I only said that initially the rate was fixed it was Rs. 76. Ultimately, it went up to Rs. 150. And those who did not have any holding power, the small farmers, they had sold it away at Rs. 76 and repented subsequently and so there has been no initiative by the farmer this year.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Market price constraints were there. Initially, the market prices were low and later on there was an increase in prices. But that is a different thing because at that time we were only making open market purchases. Even the procurement process was that it was monopoly procurement. We were purchasing whatever arrived in the market. One can have different views on that. Later on, the prices went up.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : There were the monopolists. They had to offer; they had no other prices in the country. He says, we did not fix the price. Who else fixed the price?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : It would not be a correct interpretation. As far as the new wheat strains are concerned—because he is trying to rely on one statement of Dr. Swaminathan—it is true that most of the new strains

of wheat or jwar or bajra, being more sophisticated strains, with more sophisticated genetic techniques being used, they have naturally to be protected, and plant protection measures and other things occupy an important place. But saying that last year it was because of this that there has been a setback in wheat production, would not be a correct appreciation. Last year, it is true that there has been a setback to wheat production. There were some problems of seeds which were happening. But the main point is that the set-back came mainly because last year, as the hon. Member himself might remember, was one of the driest winters.

Normally in India we get one or two showers during winter. Last year the winter was without any rainfall excepting for some rains in some isolated pockets; it was one of the driest winters. Then a severe cold spell came and the wheat crop was also affected by the cold spell. There was also power shortage and a number of other factors. That is why there has been a set-back to wheat production. But to attribute this fall in wheat production to wheat seed is not good. To create an impression in the country as if the farmers should not use this wheat is not correct and I would plead with the hon'ble Member not to do it because this wheat seed has been so successful in the country. In fact amongst all the grains, whatever may be the temporary setback, wheat production has been doing very well. Whatever the drawback we have got to improve and we should not create an impression that the present wheat variety and strains are not in the national interest.

We are aware of increase in prices in Punjab and Haryana. We have drawn the attention of the two Governments to see to what extent they can help to restrain the present trend.

About the high level of prices and unholy marriage, I do not know be-

cause the hon'ble Member stands for private trade and *laissez-faire*. He pleads for unholy marriage. If he means by unholy marriage the wheat trade, I have no objection.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपसभापति जी, मैं कुछ आंकड़े देकर अपनी चर्चा को प्रारम्भ करना चाहूंगा। दिल्ली शहर में गेहूं के भाव पिछले दो-तीन महीनों में किस गति से बढ़े हैं ! जून में गेहूं का खुला भाव था 150 रुपए प्रति क्विन्टल, जुलाई में था 190 रुपए, अगस्त के प्रारम्भ में था 250 रुपए, मध्य में था 300 रुपए और अब जिस आधार पर मैंने इस ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव की सूचना दी थी वह था 315 रुपए प्रति क्विन्टल। यह मेरी सूचना थी, लेकिन हमारे मित्र कृष्ण कान्त जी ने संकेत किया है कि भाव 500 रुपए प्रति क्विन्टल तक पहुंच गया है। तो पहली बात जो मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि ये जो भाव बढ़े हैं क्या यह सत्य है उसका एक कारण यह भी रहा है कि देश के सभी राज्यों में मूल्य नियंत्रण नहीं है, केवल कुछ राज्यों में मूल्य नियंत्रण आदेश आपने लागू किया है ? तो जिन राज्यों में मूल्य नियंत्रण आदेश लागू नहीं है, जैसे, हरियाणा पंजाब या इस प्रकार के गेहूं उत्पादन करने वाले राज्य हैं, उनसे उन राज्यों को अधिक मात्रा में गेहूं जा रहा है जहां मूल्य नियंत्रण आदेश लागू नहीं है। एक बात तो यह है कि क्या आप दिल्ली को भी पंजाब और हरियाणा का जो गेहूं उत्पादन क्षेत्र है उसमें सम्मिलित करेंगे या दिल्ली को इसी तरह एक नुमाइशी टुकड़े की तरह पृथक बनाए रखेंगे ? पहली बात तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं। दूसरी बात यह है कि आज समाचारपत्रों में यह आया है कि कृषि मंत्री श्री सुब्रमण्यम ने कहा है कि अगली रबी की फसल में 3 करोड़ टन गेहूं का उत्पादन हो इस प्रकार का कार्यक्रम कृषि मंत्रालय बना रहा है। लेकिन अब तक की स्थिति यह है कि उनके भंडार में जो 80 लाख टन एकत्रित होना चाहिए था उसमें 30 लाख

[श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री]

उन भी एकत्रित नहीं हो पाया है और विदेशों से आनेको अर्थात् करना पड़ रहा है। मैं दुर्भाग्य मंत्रीजी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप विदेशों को जो अरबों रुपए की विदेशी मुद्रा दे रहे हैं गेहूँ की खरीद के लिए उससे भी कम रुपया देकर आप किसानों को प्रोत्साहन क्यों नहीं देते ताकि किसान अधिक से अधिक गेहूँ इस देश में उत्पादन करें और विदेशों को यह रुपया न देना पड़े ? क्या इस तरह की कोई योजना आपने बनाई है ? तीसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गेहूँ का उत्पादन बढ़ाने का जो सबसे प्रमुख साधन है खाद उसका मूल्य इतना बढ़ गया है कि एक ही रात में जिसके पास लाखों रुपए की खाद थी वह करोड़ों का मालिक हो गया और करोड़ों वाला अरबों का मालिक हो गया। इस प्रकार की स्थिति आई। अब स्थिति यह है कि जो किसानों के पास थोड़ा बहुत गेहूँ पैदा भी हुआ—कृषि मंत्री ने अभी बताया कि गत वर्ष गेहूँ का उत्पादन प्राकृतिक प्रकोप के कारण भी कम हुआ—उसकी भी वसूली जिस तरह पुलिस के जरिए की गई खास तौर से छोटे किसानों से—बड़े किसानों पर हाथ नहीं डाला गया—उसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि अब किसान अगली फसल में चना, जौ, मटर इस प्रकार का मोटा अनाज बोने की ओर ज्यादा उत्साहित हो रहे हैं क्योंकि उनमें खाद भी ज्यादा नहीं लगती, पानी भी ज्यादा नहीं लगता। इस पर भी श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम साहब का कहना है कि 3 करोड़ टन गेहूँ की फसल ले लेंगे। ये परस्पर विरोधी बातें हैं और इनके लिए आप क्या उपाय करने जा रहे हैं ?

अन्तिम बात, जिसको कह कर मैं बैठ जाना चाहता हूँ, यह है कि मैंने यह सुना है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के जो आदेश होते हैं दिल्ली प्रशासन उनमें पूरी तरह सहयोग नहीं दे रहा है और उसी का परिणाम है कि भाव 315 से लेकर 500 रुपए प्रति क्विंटल तक पहुंच गए हैं। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या इस बात में वास्तविकता है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार और दिल्ली

प्रशासन में ताल-मेल नहीं है ? अगर ताल-मेल है तो दिल्ली में गेहूँ के भाव आसमान को क्यों छूते जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, the hon. Member referred to my colleague, Mr. C. Subramaniam's statement about 30 million tonnes of wheat production. I would like to put this in a proper perspective. This country has the capacity and potential to produce 30 million tonnes of wheat in the near future because, in fact, this is one of the items where the Fourth Plan target was totally fulfilled. In fact, the Fourth Plan target was 24 million tonnes and two years earlier, we produced 26 million tonnes. There is no doubt whatsoever that this country has the capacity. Now if there are any weaknesses in the programme, it is our duty to see how they can be removed and how we can reach a production of 30 million tonnes. The other point, made by the hon. Member is, why not pay a remunerative price to our own farmers and encourage them in production. I entirely share his sentiments. There can be no two views on this matter. But the suggestion which is implied in his statement that we should pay the same level of prices to our farmers which prevail in the international market would not be correct. . .

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : मैंने यह नहीं कहा कि बाहर जो दे रहे हैं वह इंडियन फार्मर्स को दें, मैं तो कह रहा हूँ कि आप उन को भी कुछ प्रोत्साहन दें।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : That is what I am saying. The international prices of wheat fluctuate so violently. It is common knowledge in this country that for a number of years, the landed cost of imported wheat used to come to Rs. 55 to Rs. 60 per quintal while we were paying to our farmers Rs. 76 per quintal. Now, due to the deteriorating world food situation, the international prices have shot up so

high that to relate it to the prevailing level of our prices would not be a correct thing. We cannot reduce our prices when the international prices come down and we cannot raise our prices when the international prices go up, because our prices must have relevance to our economy, to the purchasing power of our consumers, who have a very low purchasing power. But, at the same time, as I said earlier, the main emphasis has been on production and to see that remunerative prices are paid to the farmers. As far as the general sentiments expressed by the hon. Member are concerned, there can be no two views and I agree with him.

Then he referred to the fact that a very high level of prices is prevailing in Delhi. Of course, hon. Members are eminent social workers and they have their ways and means of getting information. I am not challenging the individual information which they may have, but I would appeal and very humbly plead with that hon. Members not to help create even unintentionally a scare in the country. Their intentions are very honest and sincere in bringing this to the notice of this august House, but I wish that we do not even unintentionally try to help create a scare in the country because though I cannot have very precise information on black-market prices, my information is—with whatever limitations that are there—that some consumers in Delhi are perhaps paying a very high price to indigenous wheat, which is amber-coloured and which used to be grown in the past and which has a better 'Chapati' quality and all that. Some people, perhaps 1 per cent, are paying this price. But to create an impression that all the population is paying this price would not be correct and it would adversely affect the country's economy.

श्री रबी राय : गरीब लोग ज्यादा पैसा देते हैं उसका ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : About the question whether any action is being taken against traders, here in Delhi more than 1,900 raids were conducted against traders in Delhi. In fact, a number of cases were filed in Delhi against traders.

SHRI RABI RAY : How many under the DIR?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I can give you the information : 1,986 raids were conducted; not a single wholesaler was left out of the raids; 319 cases were registered with the police, out of which 295 cases are under Essential Commodities Act and 24 under the Defence of India Rules.

SHRI RABI RAY : How many were arrested?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I am prepared to lay the statement on the Table of the House. There are a very large number of cases where arrests have taken place.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : How many big wholesalers or big landlords have been arrested and put in Jail?

श्री रबी राय : नाम बता दीजिए जो-जो गिरफ्तार हुए हैं उनका ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I have said that there are almost 2,000 cases. I am prepared to lay on the Table of the House a general statement as to how many have been arrested and in how many cases prosecution has been launched. I am prepared to lay an elaborate statement on the Table of the House for the information of the hon. Members.

SHRI I. D. SINGH (Bihar) : What is the quantity of foodgrains seized?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : About quantities seized I would frankly confess that the quantities which have been seized are not very . . . (interruptions)

श्री ओमप्रकाश त्यागी : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मोदी फ्लोर मिल का केस था अपने दबा दिया, यही इन लोगों के बारे में होगा ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
I am getting different types of information, that many traders have seized to operate because of these raids.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : No, no.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
The items seized include sugar, vanaspati, maize, match-boxes, suzi, battery cells, wheat, atta, cement. The raids were conducted most impartially. Nobody escaped from the raids. It means as far as Delhi Administration is concerned, there has not been any large-scale hoarding. That seems to be the result of these raids. As far as Delhi Administration is concerned, I must say they took very strong steps for conducting the raids. . .

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala) : On a point of order. The Minister is misleading the House. There is a reported statement by the Chief Executive Councillor of Delhi Administration and responsible Members of the Delhi Administration in which they have admitted that there was large-scale leakage of informations has gone out before the raid parties went and traders had already left and removed their things. I can challenge the Minister's statement. . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
Dr. Kurian challenges every time. The Chief Executive Councillor himself contradicted that report.

डा० जेड० ए० अहमद : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे शिन्दे जी पर बहुत बड़ा तरस आता है, बड़ा रहम आता है इसलिए कि जब कभी यह सवाल आता है तो वह बगलें झाँकने लगते हैं, उनके पास कोई जवाब नहीं है । जवाब इसलिए नहीं है कि इनकी नीति गलत हो गई । अब सवाल यह नहीं है

कि आप 30 मिलियन टन पैदा कर सकते हैं कि नहीं ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
Issue.

डा० जेड० ए० अहमद : मैं समझता हूँ कि 30 नहीं, 35 मिलियन टन हो सकता है अगर नीति सही हो । सवाल यह है कि 30, 35 या 28 मिलियन टन जितना भी पैदा हो उसका वितरण कैसे होगा, डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन कैसे होगा ? यहाँ आपकी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन आपकी मिनिस्ट्री ने टोटल फेल किया है नाकामयाब रहे हैं । मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो यह कहते हैं कि हम स्टैप्स ले रहे हैं, क्या स्टैप्स ले रहे हैं, हमें मालूम नहीं है । कीमत बढ़ती जा रही है । आपकी नीति गलत होगी तो आपके स्टैप्स भी सब गलत होंगे । आप अगर व्यापारियों पर भरोसा करके प्रोक्योरमेंट करना चाहेंगे तो आप व्यापारियों के खिलाफ कोई कदम मजबूती के साथ नहीं उठा सकते । उनके साथ आपकी मिली-भगत होगी । जब आप रेड करेंगे, जितने रेड हुए हैं, मुझे जान-कारी यही है कि ये रेड एक नुमायशी रेड हुए हैं । उनमें सही मायने में जो होर्ड्स हैं उनका नहीं पकड़ा गया । मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपके जितने प्रोक्योरमेंट के जोन हैं उनके चीफ मिनिस्टर कह चुके हैं, ऐलान कर रहे हैं कि हम टोटल प्रोक्योरमेंट चाहते हैं, हम होलसेल ट्रेडर्स के सुपुर्द नहीं करना चाहते । बहुगुणा जी ने बयान दिया, हरियाणा और पंजाब की सरकारें भी यही लाइन लिये हुए हैं । आप उनको रोक रहे हैं । आप क्यों रोकते हैं ? जब प्रोक्योरमेंट का जो जोन है उसके जो कर्ताधर्ता है वह खुद कहते हैं कि हम होलसेलर्स को एलिमिनेट करना चाहते हैं तो आप क्यों नहीं एलिमिनेट होने देना चाहते हैं ? मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि या तो आप बिल्कुल इतने निकम्मे हैं कि समझते ही नहीं हैं प्रश्न को या आपकी मिनिस्ट्री में होलसेलर्स के ऐजेन्ट्स बैठते हैं जो खा-पीकर आपकी नीति को उलट देते हैं । मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप नीति

के बारे में स्पष्ट हों। दिल्ली में अगर यह हो रहा है तो उसका कारण है आपकी गलत नीति।

यह कहना ठीक नहीं है कि आज हम 39 हजार टन व्हीट और राइस देते हैं। दिल्ली शहर में लाखों आदमी ऐसा है जिसको स्पष्ट तौर से ज्यादा दाम पर खास तौर पर अनाज खरोदना पड़ता है। उनके पास राशन कार्ड नहीं है। मैं मानता हूँ कि एक सेक्शन है जिसके पास राशन कार्ड है। यह भी मैं मानता हूँ, जैसा आप कहते हैं कि कुछ व्यक्ति हैं जो अच्छा व्हीट लेना चाहते हैं लेकिन लाखों आदमी ऐसे हैं जिनके पास राशनकार्ड नहीं है उनको 3 रु०, 4 रु० या 5 रु० में गेहूँ खरोदना पड़ता है। फेयर प्राइज शाप जो हैं उसमें व्हीट की क्या हालत है वह आप जानते हैं। उसमें खराब और सड़ा-गला व्हीट मिलता है। इनको बड़ी खुशी होती है जब सोवियत रूस का नाम लिया जाता है इसमें मदद के लिए। मैं कहता हूँ कि सवाल सोवियत रूस की मदद का नहीं है सवाल है ब्लैक मार्किटिंग का। और खराब गेहूँ को फेयर प्राइज शाप में बेची जाती है उसका। जो अच्छा व्हीट है वह बाजार में 4 रु०, 5 रु० या 6 रु० के दाम पर मिलता है और यह आपके अफसरों की उलट-पुलट, शासन का निकम्मापन है। इसलिए मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस सारी परिस्थिति को देखते हुए क्या गवर्नमेंट जल्दी से जल्दी एलान करेगी कि अगले सीजन तक होल-सेलर्ज को एलिमिनेट करके डायरेक्ट फेयर प्राइज शाप को इसका कोटा दिया जाएगा। जितना आप लेना चाहें उतना आप ले लें परन्तु उसका सही वितरण हो। आपको यह खयाल रखना होगा कि सस्ते से सस्ते दाम पर आप लें और सस्ते से सस्ते दाम पर जनता को दें। यह नीति का सवाल है और जब तक नीति नहीं बदलेगी तो हर जगह कीमतें बढ़ती जाएंगी। मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप नीति संबंधी ब्यान यहाँ पर दें। यह बात हम को संतुष्ट नहीं कर सकती कि हम कदम उठा रहे हैं। कदम तो आप हमेशा ही उठाते हैं, गलत तरीके से, गलत ढंग से।

मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपके लिए यह ठीक नहीं है कि आपके अफसर पहले से ही होर्डर्स को खबर दे दें कि हम आ रहे हैं तुम पर दावा करने। आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि हजारों आदमी जाकर वहाँ घेरा डालें। जब वे घेरा डालेंगे तो आप उनको रोक नहीं सकेंगे।

रेलवे का स्कैंडल तो आप सब को मालूम ही है। आज रेलवे के गोदामों में ब्लैक मार्केटियर्स का माल सुरक्षित पड़ा हुआ है। वे लोग अहिस्ता-अहिस्ता माल को उठाते हैं और अहिस्ता-अहिस्ता माल को बेचते हैं। कल हमारे लोगों ने वहाँ पर एजीटेशन किया तो 150 आदमियों को आपने पकड़ लिया। आज रेलवे के गोदाम के अंदर माल फंसा हुआ है और वह ब्लैक मार्किटियर्स का गोदाम बन गया है जो उनको डैमरेज देता पड़ता है वह मामूली है इसलिए माल को वहाँ पड़ा रहना वे ज्यादा सुरक्षित समझते हैं।

शिन्दे सहब याद रखिए जब लोग भूखे मरेंगे तो यह सब करेंगे। आज लोग मृसीबत में पड़े हुए हैं इसलिए चुपचाप उनको लूटेंगे। मैं चाहता हूँ नीति के सवाल पर स्पष्टीकरण करें और बताएं कि आने वाले महीनों में आप किस नीति को अख्तियार करके जनता को रोजी-रोटी दे सकेंगे।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
I have great respect for my very senior colleague Dr. Ahmad. . . .

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : What is the use of that respect? You never listen to me.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
Today I have seen him absolutely emotional on this issue. . . .

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Sometimes one has to be emotional.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
I would say that if he thinks that there is any easy solution to the food economy of this country, I think it would

[Shri Annasabeb P. Shinde.]
not be a very correct conclusion. We can have very honest and sincere differences on policies. I know his intentions are very good and sincere. But if he thinks that the policy is at fault, then why blame the administration and the Ministry? Even our administrative instrument needs to be sharpened. I know the weaknesses of the Indian administration. The whole House is aware of that. You cannot improve all these things overnight. To put the issue in proper perspective, I would say this. In this country, I agree, public distribution must have a very important place. If you say that we should have total rationing, I think it is not a very easy proposition. . .

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : I never said that. There should be proper distribution.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We are for substantial procurement and for bringing sizeable section of our population under public distribution system. That is our approach. Now, how to bring about procurement?

श्री रवी राय : मैंने धारिया कमेटी के बारे में भी पूछा है। धारिया कमेटी के द्वारा बताया गया पब्लिक डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन सिस्टम के बारे में क्या हुआ ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : You see, as I was mentioning earlier on the floor of the House, this year, for instance, we have the largest ever rice procurement and it was not as a result of the take-over because more production came in. So, production and procurement are vital links.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What is the total you propose to distribute through your system?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : My own feeling is that at least we will have to make a beginning with ten to twelve million tonnes. This is my un-

derstanding and assessment of the situation. But this country is so vast and this question has been gone into a number of times, the question of uniform procurement and more procurement. I do not think it is a very practical proposition.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : क्या आप गेहूं का थोक व्यापार अपने हाथ में लेने जा रहे हैं ? गेहूं का थोक व्यापार छोड़ने का यह नतीजा हुआ कि आपको इस साल एक तिहाई भी गेहूं नहीं मिला ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Shinde, you said you have the greatest respect for Dr. Ahmad. But he questions the policy, your policy of trying to procure through the wholesalers. So, you spell out your programme now.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Blackmarketing and hoarding are going on. . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : About the wholesalers, I have made my observations already and I do not think that I should repeat them. The wholesalers did create some wrong impression in this country. But the point that I would like to make is this : I would like to make even statement here which perhaps some of the honourable Members will not like. This year, because of some setback in production, the take-over policy will also have some difficulty which fact is not being appreciated because everything is becoming an emotional issue here.

श्री योगेन्द्र शर्मा : यह इमोजन का सवाल नहीं है, फैक्ट्स का सवाल है। पिछले साल आपने 47 लाख टन प्रोक्योर किया और इस साल आप एक तिहाई भी प्रोक्योर नहीं कर पाये ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We are not, I would only say, against the take-over. But with regard to that, in joint consultation with the State Governments we will take appropriate decisions at the appropriate time. That

can be done only before the harvest. If in the States where there is a very massive surplus we have to resort to monopoly purchase system and even take-over of the wholesale trade and issue through the Government distribution system, the policy will have to be decided and I cannot anticipate the decisions of the policy-makers and this can be done only at a later stage.

श्री हर्षदेव मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि श्री शिन्दे साहब का जवाब एक लीपापोती का जवाब है। इस लीपापोती के जवाब से कोई बात निकलती नहीं है। बात यह है कि कल शाम को दिल्ली के टेलीविजन पर घर-परिवार कार्यक्रम चल रहा था और वहां पर एक नारी बैठी थी और एक कंज्यूमर कौंसिल का आदमी बैठा था। उसने बताया कि 17 तारीख से 25 तारीख तक दाम किस प्रकार से चढ़े हैं अर्थात्, 3.20 रु०, 3.25 रु०, 3.30 रु० और 3.35 रु०। वह एक बूढ़ी औरत थी। उसने कहा कि हिन्दुस्तान में एक जमाना आने वाला है जब कि चीन की तरह से यहां पर भी दाम बढ़ेंगे सुबह एक और शाम दूसरा। इतनी तेज रफ्तार से दाम चढ़ रहे हैं। आप क्या बात करते हैं? अभी दिल्ली में सवा तीन रुपये किलो जितना गेहूं चाहे आपको मिल जाएगा। हालत यह है कि व्यापारी रसीद तो आपको 1.61 रु० प्रति किलो के हिसाब से ही देगा। आप इसको अभी तक रोक नहीं पाये हैं। मैदा सरकार कहती है कि मिलेगा लेकिन राशन की दुकान पर कही मैदा नहीं मिलता है, लेकिन बाजार में 4.50 रु० प्रति किलो पैसा दीजिये तो जितना चाहे आप खरीद सकते हैं। आपको मालूम होना चाहिए कि दीवली आने वाली है और लोगों का कहना है कि इस मौके पर 6 रु० किलो मदा बिकेगा। आपको खबर है कि नहीं इस बात की, और अगर खबर है तो इसके बारे में आप क्या करना चाहते हैं?

श्री कृष्ण कान्त : इसको रिपोर्ट नहीं आई।

श्री हर्षदेव मालवीय : मैं कहता हूं मेरी रिपोर्ट ले लीजिए आप।

उसके बाद, क्या यह बात सही है कि इस समय कुछ राशन की दुकानों पर गेहूं 1 रु० 28 पैसे किलो बेचा जा रहा है? क्या यह बात सही है कि अगली पहली तारीख में आप गेहूं राशन की दुकान पर 1 रु० 61 पैसा किलो के भाव बेचने जा रहे हैं? इनका मुझे जवाब साफ साफ दीजिए। यह खबर बाजार में बहुत गरम है।

इसके बाद, क्या यह आशा की जाए कि गेहूं की जो क्वालिटी आप दे रहे हैं, जो कि अंदर जाकर पेट की चमड़ी में चिपट जाता है इस तरह की क्वालिटी वाला जो गेहूं है उसको बदलेंगे या सारी दिल्ली को कब्जित का शिकार बना दिया जाएगा?

फिर मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी वाले जो यह डी-होर्डिंग ड्राइव चला रहे हैं क्या आप उनका स्वागत करते हैं या निंदा करते हैं? अगर स्वागत करते हैं तो उनकी मदद क्यों नहीं करते।

हमारी सरकार ने यहां पर सिटिजेंस वॉल-टियर फोर्स अलग अलग इलाकों में बनाया था। उनसे कोई सहयोग आपने लिया? सरकार ने या आपके एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने क्या उनसे सरकारी स्तर पर कोई सहयोग लिया है या नहीं लिया है। कमेटीया बना देते हैं और कोई काम होता नहीं है। (समय की घंटी) मैं फिर एक सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं केवल एक मिनट में। आपने कितने बड़े बड़े शावर्स को पकड़ा है? क्या शावर्स की स्केमिटी हो गई है? एक शाक नहीं पकड़ा गया, और मैं आपको बिल्कुल निश्चित रूप से कहना चाहता हूँ जहां छापा होने वाला होता है उसकी पहले खबर पहुंच जाती है...

डा० जेड० ए० अहमद : बल्कि उन्होंने बयान दिया है कि कोई डिस्ऑनस्ट प्रैक्टिस नहीं है दिल्ली में।

श्री हर्षदेव मालवीय : ... उसकी आप ख़बर कीजिए उसके बारे में । इसके अलावा मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ, मेरी व्यक्तिगत जानकारी नहीं है, कि क्या एक सुझाव है कि दिल्ली हरियाणा और पंजाब का एक जोन बना दिया जाएगा ? किसान कहता है हमको 105 रु० किलो के दाम देते हो, 300 रु० किलो बेचते हो, मैं क्यों बेचू ? इस पर आप विचार कीजिए ।

आखिरी सवाल मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ । क्या मंत्री महोदय यह स्वीकार करेंगे कि जो व्हीट के टेकओवर ट्रेड की पालिसी आपने बदली, उसका जो अनुभव आपको हुआ, क्या आप नहीं मानते कि वह फ़ैसला आपका ग़लत था—क्लियर आन्तर मैं जानना चाहता हूँ वह ग़लत था या सही था, और अगर ग़लत था तो अगले साल क्या इस नीति को बदलेंगे और व्हीट टेक-ओवर की नीति को कार्यान्वित करेंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
Sir, in the statement itself, I have expressed our great concern about the present prices of foodgrains. Naturally, there are very disturbing trends in the economy, and all of us are concerned about it.

As far as the taking of co-operation of any party is concerned, we welcome such co-operation. That has been our policy. . .

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :
What is the concrete action?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You see the picture in the 'Patriot' how Communist co-operation has been welcomed. . .

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : And they were very peaceful; they were doing nothing. . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
I am not aware of this particular incident. I will see to it.

Sir, about the suggestion relating to Delhi being included in the Haryana-Punjab zone, the main difficulty is that

for whatever little procurement is taking place, the prices will go up. That will come to a dead end. This was considered even in the earlier period when this policy was formulated, and it was considered that State zone should be more appropriate in order to achieve our policy aims.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :
Sir, I could not follow. Will you kindly ask him to repeat?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
Sir, I have stated that at the time the policy was formulated, this was considered, but it was not thought appropriate to do so. And in the midst of season to change the policy like this is not proper and advisable. At the time the take-over decision was taken, we maintained State zones, because it was considered that if it was linked with Punjab, Haryana, West U. P. and other areas, the procurement will become difficult. It would be a very difficult proposition. What needs to be done possibly to meet the requirements of Delhi, to the extent possible, is public distribution. That should be our effort. That I explained earlier. About the rumour which has gone on that Government's issue price is going to be Rs. 161 per quintal. I think it is a very wrong impression. Government do not propose to increase the issue price in between. Government's issue price to State Governments including Delhi has been Rs. 125 per quintal and that will continue and in addition to that Rs. 5 to Rs. 7 are added for fair price shop owners and other retail distributors. So that will continue and there won't be any change in the price structure.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :
What about maida? And what about my concrete question about your decision to reverse your earlier decision? Do you agree that it was wrong or not?

(No reply)

SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULI (West Bengal) : The statistics given by the honourable Minister regarding foodgrains necessary for feeding the people of Delhi is apparently based on wrong hypothesis and wrong information, because there is a flourishing open market in Delhi. It is not merely one or two per cent of the population who have to resort to that, even people—there are many such people in Delhi who are not covered by rationing system; not only these people who are not covered by rationing system—who are covered by rationing system are compelled to go and buy in the open market, surplus market. In fact, it is necessary not only because of the inherent quality of the wheat as mentioned by the honourable Minister, not that red wheat or amber wheat makes any difference to them; usually the poor people, the poorer classes, have to buy these things because they have to buy wheat only, they are not people to supplement their food requirements by high protein and other things. It is not the inherent quality or red or amber colour or bad quality wheat which is supplied through the public distribution system. The wheat is sometimes absolutely uneatable as supplied by ration shops because of the initial procurement of bad quality wheat by Government and secondly because of bad storage system. And when it reaches the consumer, he gets it absolutely rotten. So it is not merely one or two per cent of the total population who have to buy wheat in the open market. Then there has been what is called a ban on export of ex-levy wheat by Punjab Government. Then the railway yards are utilised, as railway yards of every progressive Government should be, as store-houses for hoarders and black-marketers. Then wheat price in Delhi has gone up to nearly Rs. 500 per quintal. In retail market it is being sold at Rs. 5 per kg. This price will go up higher and higher in not a very distant future. It will be sold at Rs. 6 per kg. or Rs. 7 per kg. and there will

be food riots as usual. When it happened last October, or last September, the Divisional Commissioners there, some of them, wanted to declare their divisions as famine-stricken areas and wanted more foodgrains. They got a reply from Delhi that we are sending you more companies of the Central Reserve Police, when the people want food, they will be given bullets as usual. Then it has always been a peculiar feature that in Super Bazaar prices of all cereals have always been higher than the prices available in the Paharganj market which is very closeby; possibly because of the overhead costs of the bureaucracy this has to be so. However, this is due to the policy of the Government to surrender to the big landlords and big wholesale traders. The Minister just now made a statement that his intention is to procure 10 to 12 million tons of foodgrains for running the public distribution system which is less than 15 per cent, according to Government statistics, of the total foodgrains produced in India. I would like to know whether any survey has been made of the total foodgrains produced by owners of more than 10 acres of wet land throughout India. Our assumption, based on certain facts, is that these people, owners of lands of more than 10 acres, throughout India, produce more than 50 per cent of the total foodgrains. So we demand that the procurement policy, which is at the very root defective, should be changed by making a compulsory levy of all the foodgrains, all marketable surplus produced by owners of more than 10 acres of wet land. And you leave

1.00 P. M.

the smaller ones, small farmers to sell in the open market in their respective villages according to the law of demand and supply and get such price as is permitted. And to feed the cities, this section—the owners of ten acres or more of wet

[Shri Salil Kumar Ganguli]
land—should be brought under the compulsory procurement scheme. Now, I would like to know from the Minister whether any survey has been made as to the total quantity of foodgrains produced by this particular section. Sir, the wholesaler is to be blamed certainly. But, Sir, it is also a fact that the wholesaler is in a position to raise funds and bring more commodity into the market. Sometimes, he also goes on creating scarcity. But it is essentially the big farmers because of their large holdings who are the main root of the trouble. They are the section pampered by the Government for their political purposes. I would like to know whether the Government have any intention or courage to touch them.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
About the last point made by the hon. Member regarding the producers' levy, I can only say that it is a suggestion for action. As far as his question whether there is any survey as to the marketable surplus with those who have more than 10 acres of wet land is concerned, those surveys are not there, but some studies are carried out. Normally, in this country it is known that out of the total production, roughly 30 to 33 per cent is the marketable surplus. It differs from crop to crop, foodgrain to foodgrain and place to place. In areas like Punjab, it is even 40 per cent or 50 per cent. In the case of wheat, 60 per cent of the total production is marketable surplus.

Sir, the hon. Member made a statement about the position in Delhi. Sir, from one of his queries, the impression should not go that we are not bringing substantial quantities to Delhi. As I said earlier, Delhi's population is 46 lakhs and the ration cards issued are 50 lakhs. Therefore, it is obvious that there may be some bogus cards. But there is also the additional problem of floating population of Delhi because a

large number of people come here. But as far as the permanent citizens of Delhi are concerned, there is no difficulty whatsoever in getting the ration cards issued to them. And, at least, the permanent citizens or residents should not have any difficulty in getting controlled foodgrains in the city. Sir, the hon. Member made another point and I would plead very humbly with him. Sir, he was saying that the prices would go up. Of course, I am not an astrologer to predict that. He even said that food riots would take place.

SHRI RABI RAY : They have already taken place. They are taking place.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE :
Sir, I am aware that food situation in the country is difficult and we are going to have a difficult time. But the point is, as compared to last year when there was tension and even some law and order problem in some States, this year, the food availability is relatively much larger. Wheat situation is different. But wheat occupies about 30 or 25 per cent of the total production. But if we take the total food basket into consideration, the availability of total foodgrains in the country, as compared to last year, would be, by and large, almost 7 to 8 million tonnes more. To presume that there is going to be scarcity would not be a correct thing. Wheat, of course, because of setback in production, may present some problems. And I would appeal to the hon. Member not to create an unnecessary scare.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the prices of wheat are being controlled at about Rs. 150 i.e., Rs. 125 plus expenses. I charge that the Ministry of Agriculture is more or less responsible for these price increases not only in Delhi and Bombay but also in other metropolitan cities. In this connection, I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government

of India has issued Wheat Price (Control) Order, 1974, fixing the selling prices of wheat in the surplus States at Rs. 150 per quintal including all charges up to the stage of despatch. This order has been issued very recently. If it is a fact, then there must be some magic or some dream whereby in Cities like Delhi and Bombay the sellers can sell wheat at Rs. 150 per quintal apart from bearing the additional transport charges. So, naturally the wheat traders have withdrawn from the market. How can you blame the wheat traders for hoarding? They have withdrawn from the market since it is only logical and due to this Order the prices have shot up, I think, to Rs. 5 in Delhi and Bombay. Prices of not only wheat but also of bread have shot up. There is no bread available in Delhi. Not only the workers and Government employees but we as Members of Parliament are also not getting any bread. You know it, Sir. You are also not getting any bread. But, you are a very humble, apologetic person defending Government policies, which you have been doing for the last three years.

Mr. Shinde, please come round to a realistic plane and admit that these are the failures and have some pragmatic approach whereby these Orders are withdrawn. What Mr. Ganguli said about Bombay is an absolute fact. I humbly warn you and your Government that October-November period is going to be very serious. You will not only face riots but a revolution is going to take place if we fail and strain people's patience. There is no integrated policy. Punjab and Haryana have backed out and launched movement on Trade account. Now, they say some permission has been given—When the question of permission comes, corruption and black market starts working. Why don't you have a pragmatic policy? In view of these things, what steps are you proposing to take?

Now, Sir, I want to ask another question. From the U.S.S.R. you have imported 1.7 million tonnes. Is there any possibility of any further imports from the U.S.S.R. and are you having negotiations with them in that connection?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni, that is entirely outside the scope of this calling attention.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The hon. Minister has stated that Delhi has been given wheat from the Central pool. Has he seen today's press report about stopping global purchases from abroad? I think the problem will be further aggravated and so I want to warn Mr. Shinde that this is a very sensitive and provocative matter and react in a very provocative way. This should be treated as a challenge to your Ministry and not as a humble and pious sermon from you.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Sir, I would not like to touch upon the import aspect because that is really outside the scope of this calling attention. So far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, it is true that orders imposing price restrictions were imposed by my Ministry. It is true that my Ministry did issue such orders because two months earlier the wheat prices were going up in the producing States as well as in the consuming States. In order to protect the interests of consumers and also in order to see that the deficit State's interest is served, we did issue orders regarding price restrictions in consultation with the State Governments and with the concurrence of the Central Government these Orders did come into force.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : And, Punjab and Haryana stopped the exports.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As I said earlier, it is true that because of some statements in Punjab and Haryana regarding banning of exports, there

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde.]

has been some spurt in prices in Delhi and also in the other parts of the country. As I said no State Government can impose unilateral restrictions on movement of foodgrains without the consent of the Central Government. We have already taken up the matter with the Punjab and the Haryana Governments. We are finding out what should be done. But, the general impression should not go round that wheat movement from Punjab and Haryana has come to an end. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No more questions please.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : Sir, we are aware of some of the difficulties of the deficit States to which my attention has been drawn by the hon. Member. We are reviewing these orders and the position from time to time and we will see how within the availability as it is, the interests of the deficit and surplus States can be reconciled.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Niren Ghosh, you wanted to mention something.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : With your permission, Sir. . .

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDAWAT (Rajasthan) : Half a minute, Sir. I wanted to ask one question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ghosh, the lady is very insistent. Let her put her question.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी कुमारी चूंडावत : मैं शिन्दे साहब से निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि अगर हम हाउस-वाइज जमाखोरी के खिलाफ अभियान चलायें तो आप हम सहायता देंगे कि नहीं ? हमारा सहयोग लेगे कि नहीं ? दूसरा सवाल है, जैसा आपने कहा कि ए डमनिस्ट्रेशन ओवर-नाइट सुधारा नहीं जा सकता, तो यह आपकी नाइट कितने साल की बनती है यह जरा बता दीजिए ।

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE :

Sir, as far as co-operation from enlightened hon. Members like the hon. lady Member is concerned, I think we will very much welcome it, and in this matter, in the present difficult situation, any voluntary effort also would help the Government efforts. Government very much welcomes it and I am glad the hon. lady Member is taking interest in these matters.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : What is the duration of the night ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : I want to seek the advice of the hon. Member whether the duration of the night can be reduced.

RE. MANUFACTURE OF NITROGENOUS FERTILISER FROM COAL BY THE FUEL RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT DHANBAD

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal) : With your permission, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government and the House to an extremely important development that has taken place in the sphere of nitrogenous fertilisers. After long research, the Dhanbad Fuel Research Institute has produced nitrogenous fertiliser directly from coal. It is like this : Firstly soft coke is transformed into polycarbolic acid in water and this polycarbolic acid is then transformed into nitrogenous fertiliser and it is far better than the nitrogenous fertiliser that is being sold in the market. And it is very cheap—40 paise per k.g. Japan also has developed such a technology but this Indian technology is far superior to that of Japan. Japan has asked the farmers to take this nitrogenous fertiliser. But the Indian fertiliser is two times more effective and already it has been applied to paddy, wheat, onions, potatoes, brinjals, ladyfingers, etc. A sort of revolution has been brought about but the sorriest