

a fact that due to your failure to meet the commitment or the assurances asked for by the State Government, the rationing system has completely broken down in the modified village rationing areas, and in the town it is only partial? In view of this there was a general strike and massive Satyagraha in order to ensure that the State Government and the Central Government fulfil their duty in this respect?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: As I said earlier, we have been trying our level best to meet the reasonable requirement of West Bengal. We are aware of the density of population in West Bengal and their requirement etc. As I said, progressively every year our allotments are increasing for West Bengal. I am not prepared to accept the statement of the hon'ble Member that the public distribution system has collapsed. I agree there have been stresses and strains in the rural areas. But, by and large, the West Bengal Government is facing the situation very well. I wish the hon'ble Member also co-operates.

* 153. [*The Questioners {Shri Suhridd Mullick Choudhury, Shri Salil Kumar Ganguli and Shri Sasankasekhar Sanyal} were absent. For answer vide col. 32 infra].*

Proposal by some State Governments to withdraw State Trading in wheat

*154. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: t

SHRI KALI MUKHERJEE:

SHRI V. B. RAJU:

DR. Z. A. AHMAD:

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:

SHRI GURMUKH SINGH

MUSAFIR: SHRI

GURCHARAN SINGH

TOHRA: SHRI

KRISHAN KANT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have informed the Central Government of their intention to withdraw state trading in wheat; and

tThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. G. Kulkarni.

(b) if so, the names of such State Governments and the reasons given by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE "(SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Wholesale trade in wheat was takenover in all the major wheat producing States in April, 1973. None of the State Governments has expressed any intention to withdraw the measure or sent any communication to this effect. However, the Gujarat State Government have temporarily suspended some clauses of the Wheat Dealers Licensing Order stipulating the stock limits in order to improve the availability of wheat in the open market.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The Minister has said that no State has either complained or relaxed the wheat trade take over. But is he aware of the fact that in this country some States are selling wheat to the people at Rs. 110 or Rs. 95 and in some States wheat is available between Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per kg.? So, looking to the vast disparity in the States of the northern side and the States of the southern side, will the Minister assure us that this type of disparity which is creating very great tension—the riots in Maharashtra and Gujarat are indications—will be removed? Secondly, what are the steps the Government propose to take to remove these disparities and create a feeling in the people living in deficit States that they belong to this country which is one?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We are aware of the disparities in price levels in the various parts of the country in the deficit States, particularly in areas where there was severe drought last. The prices prevailing there are very high. That is why we have been trying to help these deficit States substantially, of course, depending upon the availability of foodgrains with the Central pool. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, as the hon'ble Member is himself aware, we have been supplying just the quantity as compared to any other State.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: That is not adequate.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: That is a different thing. But there has not been lack of sympathy . . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: What is the use of supplying larger quantities which are not adequate?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: In order to increase the availability in Gujarat and Maharashtra, as I have mentioned earlier, some State Governments have been permitted to purchase coarse grains in some surplus areas to meet their requirements. This may help them to bring down the prices to some extent.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, the reply is not satisfactory. But that apart, it did not answer the question asked by me. Mr. Shinde knows very well that a Congress MLC from Maharashtra has resigned on this very ground that the Central Government is discriminating against Maharashtra. I do not blame Mr. Shinde. I want to know from Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. There is no use asking Mr. Shinde. You know, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, that a Congress MLC has resigned on **this** very ground that the Centre is taking an anti-Maharashtra attitude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not repeat.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I am not repeating. I am very sorry to state these matters. These are facts. When people in Haryana and Punjab are getting wheat at 95 paise or one rupee per kilo, we are purchasing it at Rs. 4. It is a shame on the Government. My second question is, I want to know from the Minister whether, apart from the callousness of the Central Ministry of Food and Agriculture, his Ministry is protecting smugglers and swindlers in Punjab and Haryana. To-day in the "Times of India", there is a report: Mr. Pawar has stated in the State Assembly that Maharashtra is taking action against the seed racket. Haryana and Punjab are selling wheat in the name of seed. It is labelled as poison and sent to Maharashtra and Gujarat and sold to needy persons at Rs. 4 or Rs. 8. It is something beyond

humanity. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed should assure me that proper action will be taken at his level and by his Ministry at least to arrest those smugglers and swindlers who are committing these sins against humanity.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: Who are trading in blood.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, so far as the question of taking action against smugglers is concerned, the hon. Member is aware that this is a matter which concerns the State responsibility.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Permission is given from your Ministry.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: No such permission is given. I shall certainly take it up with the State Government and ask them to take proper action in the matter.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: Sir, the wholesale trade . . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: They will face bullets one day.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: That is politics. I will come to economics.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It is not politics. You will also face it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, let the business of the House go on.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: The wholesale trade in wheat is related to procurement. For better procurement, the wholesale trade in wheat has been taken over. It is related to production, too. In the three years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73, the production has been 24 million tonnes, 26.41 million tonnes and 24.92 million tonnes respectively, whereas the procurement in the three years has been 5.1 million tonnes, 5 million tonnes and 4.5 million tonnes respectively. The procurement was only 4.5 million tonnes in 1972-73, the year in which the wholesale trade was taken over, while in the earlier two years the wholesale trade was not in the hands of the Government. In spite of the production not being very low in wheat and in spite

of the private trade not being there, why is the procurement low? It is no use merely saying that the farmers had not brought it into the market. In the case of rice, a levy is made on the miller to surrender a certain percentage—75 to 80 per cent—of the milled rice to the Food Corporation. Why has this levy not been introduced in the case of wheat? Is the Government folding its hands and sitting tight saying that the farmer has not gone to the market and secondly, it is for the State Government to determine the pattern of procurement? Can we take shelter under these two excuses? Will the Minister factually state why procurement has been low and why the Government has failed to introduce levy. There is no mill here. From the farmer to the Food Corporation it can directly go. What is the reason? The production has not been so low.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: Sir the procurement has been low last year as compared to the previous two years. The main reason is, last year procurement took place in a different set of circumstances. There were generally drought conditions prevailing in the country and the prevailing level of prices was higher. Naturally there was a tendency to hold up. All these positions have been explained from time to time. As far as levy is concerned, as I said, we do not come in the way of the State Governments. We have suggested to them, and, in fact, my senior colleague sometimes even made a statement saying that if some of the State Governments want to go ahead with levy, we support them. But the point is different in the case of Punjab. The way procurement takes place there, I do not know, it is a matter for examination, the honourable Member is a very knowledgeable person; I do not know whether by levy we will be in a position to get more. Of course, out of 56 lakh tons of production we get almost 27 to 30 lakh tons in the Central pool through the Food Corporation of India. In Punjab and Haryana the case is different. But in other parts of the country I think levy would be a very reasonable proposition.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब ने पिछले साल कितना अनाज हिन्दुस्तान के दूसरे प्राविन्सों को अपने यहां से प्रोक्वायर करके भेजा ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: About 27 lakh tons of wheat, 7½ lakh tons of rice and about 1 lakh tons of maize; total 35½ lakh tons.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जान सकूंगा कि किन-किन राज्यों में गेहूं का राज्य व्यापार केन्द्रीय सरकार के संतोष के मुताबिक हुआ और किन-किन राज्यों में इस प्रकार का गेहूं का राज्य व्यापार जनता के संतोष के मुताबिक हुआ ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: It is very difficult to make an assessment. In the near future we are going to have a Chief Ministers' Conference where we propose to review the entire position and see where it is done well, where it is not done well, what the reasons are, etc. We shall go into these matters.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: Experience of the last two or three years clearly shows that wholesale trade takeover cannot succeed unless the entire marketable surplus of big landlords is taken over through a producers' levy. I would like to know why the Government has not resorted to this method of collecting the entire marketable surplus of the landlords excluding small peasants and poor peasants. Why is it that the Government has not accepted the proposals made by several political parties, various experts in the field? Why is it that the Government has not done it? How does the Government propose to control prices without an adequate method of procurement and equitable distribution by having a producers' levy and monopoly purchase?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: It is a suggestion for action. These suggestions have been made from time to time, about getting the entire marketable surplus. But if the honourable Member goes deep into the matter, he himself will find

that it means total rationing in the country. Whether in the present circumstances that would be a feasible proposition or not needs to be looked into. I know the honourable Member's party made suggestions. But there are many hurdles in the way of implementing it on the lines the honourable Member is making. As far as levy is concerned, as far as monopoly procurement is concerned, I have earlier expressed my views.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: How are you going to maintain the prices? You have no policy at all.

DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD: In view of the lack of coordination and co-operation between the State Governments and the Central Government in the field of procurement, levy and distribution, will the Government consider utilisation of the machinery contemplated under Article 263(c) of the Constitution whereby better coordination and consultation is effected in this vital field.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is a suggestion for action.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : क्या सरकार यह मानती है कि गेहूँ का थोक व्यापार लेने के कारण गेहूँ की कीमत बढ़ी जिसकी वजह से वह खरीद नहीं सकी और क्या यही कारण है कि वह चावल के थोक व्यापार को अपने हाथ में नहीं लेना चाहती है ? अगर यह बात सत्य है, तो जो थोक व्यापार और लेवी की खरीद की दर है, उसके मुकाबिले में बाजार के भाव बहुत ऊँचे हैं और यही कारण है कि कोई भी किसान, चाहे कांग्रेस का नेता ही किसान क्यों न हो, कांग्रेस वाला ही किसान क्यों न हो, वह भी लेवी के भाव पर अनाज देने के लिये तैयार नहीं है ? तो सरकार बाजार के भाव को देखते हुए—बाजार के भाव को देखने के लिये . . .

श्री सभापति : आप बाजार का भाव न बताएं, आप प्रश्न पूछिए ।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : यह मैं इसलिये कहना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि आप खाद, पावर टिलर, ट्रैक्टर, डीजल, जो कृषि में उपयोग आने वाली चीजें हैं, वे न आप कन्ट्रोल प्राइस पर दे सकते हैं, न उपलब्ध करा सकते हैं । इसलिए किसानों को जो भाव पड़ता है उसको देखते हुए क्या सरकार इस तरह का रेशनल भाव रखने पर विचार करेगी जिस पर किसान देने में सक्षम हों और जो कांग्रेसी नेता किसान हैं वे भी देने में समर्थ हों ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: To run after the market price and to fix the procurement price on the basis of that market price is a difficult proposition. The purchasing power of very large sections is very low and therefore we have really to take into consideration this factor. I agree with the hon. Member that farmers' interests have to be looked after. At the same time there should be a balance between the consumers' interest and the producers' interest and we have to adopt such policies which will subserve the interests of all.

SHRI I. P. YADAV: What will be that policy? That should be made clear.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: All these things are known to the hon. Members. Agricultural Prices Commission goes into this. They submit reports to the Government of India and they are examined in consultation with the Chief Ministers and State Governments and then the Government of India takes decisions on the basis of the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission in regard to prices.

श्री श्याम लाल गुप्त : श्रीमन्, क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह मालूम है कि गांवों के अन्दर एक रुपए अस्सी-पच्चासी पैसे किलो गेहूँ बिक रहा है और दिल्ली के अन्दर सवा दो रुपए किलो आटा है ? आपकी जो प्रोक्योरमेंट प्राइस है और जो सैलिंग प्राइज है रॉशनिंग के अन्दर उसमें इतना डिफरेंस क्यों है और सरकार उस सम्बन्ध में क्या कर रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Atta price is a controlled one. Of course, the hon. Member may be referring to the unofficial price. He knows that Delhi is a cardoned off area from Haryana and U.P. Therefore, no movement of atta is allowed into Delhi. The unofficial price may be higher. The hon. Member should know that the total quantum of foodgrains we are giving to Delhi is almost adequate. It is at the rate of 8 to 9 kgs. per head which is normally sufficient to meet the requirements of people in this area. But some consumers naturally have quality preferences in the matter of foodgrains. Therefore, they resort to other methods and naturally for them the prices have to be a little higher.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: I would like to know when this Government will give up this ostrich-like policy. The fact is that so far as the prices of wheat and other commodities are concerned, the prices recommended by the Agricultural Price Commission are really support prices. They have no relation to the prevailing market prices at all. I can give a concrete instance from the State of Maharashtra from which the Minister comes. There, in addition to the prices recommended by the the Agricultural Price Commission, the Government has added nearly Rs. 20.00 per quintal for reaching the target of procurement. If this is going to happen, what is the relationship between the prices recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission and the actual price Government is going to pay and the procurement price that is going to rule in the open market? There is no correspondence at all, and you will not get the wheat or rice which you want to obtain through procurement. Is the Government aware of this and if so what are you going to do in the matter?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We have recently read it in the press and the Maharashtra Government has also informed us of their decision. We are discussing with them.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: They add Rs. 20 to a quintal.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We are discussing this with them. I would like to say that as far as the Government of India is concerned, we would like to have a common price policy approach in the country as a whole and we would like the State Governments to cooperate with this in this regard.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, for God's sake let us have some uniformity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next question.

Report on excavations at Ujjain

*155. SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

SHRI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADVAREKAR:

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the report on excavations at Ujjain submitted by the Archaeological Survey of India in 1966 has not yet been published;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such reports that still remain to be published; and

(d) the steps taken by Government for publishing these reports?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report could not be published due to inadequate arrangements for editing as well as printing.

(c) 32.

(d) Some staff has been recently sanctioned and the work of publishing excavation reports has now been taken up on a regular basis. The reports on the excavations at Nagda, Ujjain, Adamgarh, Malvan and Surkotada, are being made press-ready.

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Sumitra G. Kulkarni,