

जहाँ तक जल तथा बिजली के प्रभावों का संबंध है, प्रत्येक मंत्री 2,400 रु० प्रति-वर्ष की सीमा तक मूलन मालाई का पात्र है। इस से अधिक की प्रदायगी मंत्री महोदय द्वारा की जाती है।

जहाँ तक फर्नीचर की मालाई का संबंध है, मंत्री तथा राज्य मंत्री (प्रत्येक) 38,500 रुपये की अधिकतम सीमा तक तथा प्रत्येक उप-मंत्री 22,500 रुपये तक फर्नीचर रखने का पात्र है। इस सीमा से अधिक के लिये उन्हें किराये देना पड़ता है। 31-1-73 को किसी भी मंत्री के पास इस अधिकतम सीमा से अधिक फर्नीचर नहीं था।]

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Sir, the Minister comes with a statement like this without placing it on the table of the House. It is a very clever subterfuge to defeat our supplementaries. It took him 5 minutes to read the statement. We should have been given time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may be placed on the table of the House.

SHRI OM MEHTA: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

USE OF INDIGENOUS MUSTARD SEEDS BY VANASPATI MANUFACTURERS

2. SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum or message from the Government of West Bengal about the large scale use of indigenous mustard seeds for production of refined mustard oil by the vanaspati manufacturers resulting adversely to the price structure of mustard oil in the State; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) It has been explained to the State Government that after the issue of the order permitting vanaspati industry to use mustard oil from the 1st March, 1973 there has actually been a progressive fall in its prices and that in case of an undue rise in the price of mustard oil in future, appropriate action would be taken. It has also been explained that the manufacture of refined oil is not regulated by the Central Government.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI: I agree with the Minister that there is a progressive fall in the price of mustard oil insofar as the wholesale price is concerned. With regard to the retail price, I should submit that there is no fall in the price. Sir, the apprehension of the West Bengal Government that there might be rise in the price of mustard oil was conveyed to the Government. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the apprehension of the West Bengal Government that there might be a rise in the price of mustard seeds because of the new policy which is being adopted by the Government was made known to the Union Ministry of Food through a teleprinter message on the 26th of February, 1973? Subsequently, messages were sent on 27th February, 1973 and 7th March, 1973. After that, on 13th of March, 1973, it was brought to the notice of the Union Food Ministry by a joint representation of the West Bengal M.Ps. At last, it was very clearly stated by the West Bengal Oil Mills Association that about 133 oil mills in the State were going to be closed because of the policy that is being adopted. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in spite of these repeated persuasions of the State Government as well as of the State M.Ps., the Government has

taken a decision to reduce the supply of Canadian seeds to the State of West Bengal from 40,000 metric tonnes to 20,000 metric tonnes and, if so, whether the Government is going to revive the old quantity that was allotted to the State Government?

PROF. SHER SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member has asked several questions. As I said, the prices have fallen from 1st March onwards. *(Interruptions)* As the hon. Member himself has admitted, the wholesale prices have fallen. As for retail prices, it takes time. I have got figures from the West Bengal Government about retail prices also. The retail price of mustard oil on the 9th March was Rs. 6 per kilo and on the 16th it was Rs. 5.90. So, it has fallen by ten paise per kilo or by Rs. 100 per tonne. Even though the fall in the wholesale price is Rs. 4.00 per tonne, there is a tendency to fall.

The other question asked by the hon. Member is about a telex message which has been sent by the Food Minister of Bengal. We have received a telex message from the Food Minister of Bengal expressing his concern about the increase in the price of mustard oil due to our new policy of permitting use of mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspathi, and I have replied to the Minister telling him that the prices are not rising; in fact, the prices have started falling. Then I have also assured him that now the prices are falling; we are watching them. We have allowed the use of mustard oil but we have not fixed any percentage, that a certain minimum is to be used; we have just allowed the use of mustard oil. We are watching the situation and if after some time we find that the prices are rising—now they are not—after watching for about a month if we feel that the prices are rising then we can revise this policy also. But now we do not see any reason why we should revise if when the prices have started falling.

One thing more: The price of mustard oil has always been higher than the price of groundnut oil in the year 1971-72 and even before. It is only this year because of a good crop of mustard seed that the price of groundnut oil in Calcutta is about Rs. 900 higher per tonne than the price of mustard oil now, it is because of the good crop of mustard seed and the bad crop of groundnut. But when we compare these prices we see that there is some fall in the prices.

As for the 133 oil mill owners who may go out of employment, now mustard seed is available to the extent of about six lakh tonnes more than what was available last year and so, there is sufficient mustard seed to be crushed. They can crush if they buy it from the market.

About rape seed, we were giving 3,000 to 4,000 tonnes. Even on the 28th February we have released 2,000 tonnes and we are not stopping that altogether. We will examine the whole situation about the price of mustard oil and then we can review our policy about the use of mustard oil, etc. if something happens which justifies the revision of our decision which was taken recently.

SHRI SARDAR AM JADALI: Sir, the Minister has rightly said that they are observing the situation, and the result of their observation is that the price of mustard oil rose from Rs. 4.30 to Rs. 5.90—as he said. This is the result of the observation. The Minister did not reply as to whether they are going to release the quota of 40 thousand metric tonnes of Canadian rape seed which I pointed out. That question has not been answered. As the Minister has said, this time we have a bumper crop so far as mustard seed is concerned. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what steps he is going to take immediately so that a sufficient quantity of mustard seed is made available to the 133 oil mill owners? They are all small manufacturers. It will go on eating their industry

..and a few thousands will be thrown out of employment and it will have a similar adverse effect on the price of 'mustard oil. I would like to know of what immediate steps you are thinking and contemplating of so as to reduce and bring down the rise of price of the mustard seed in the market.

PROF. SHER SINGH: I have already submitted that the prices are not rising and that we are watching the situation. Now the prices have started falling from the 1st March onwards.

According to the figures given by the State Government—I am not quoting from 'Financial Express' or any other paper, I am quoting it from the figures given by the State Government—the price during the week 23rd February to 2nd March was Rs. 5,700 and the price as on 16th March was Rs. 5,300. So the prices are falling, prices are not increasing. As for the availability of mustard seed, it is not a controlled commodity. That is available in the market and the millowners can buy it and crush it. We are, however, prepared to supplement them by giving rape-seed for crushing so that they remain employed. That we are doing. As for the quota of 40,000 tonnes, there was no fixed quota of 40,000 tonnes for the State. In fact, we were to receive about one lakh tonnes of rape-seed from Canada as a gift but because of the increase in the international market of the price of seeds and-oils, now we will be able to get only about 80,000 tonnes. Sometimes we were allotting 4,000 tonnes and sometimes 3,000 tonnes of rape-seed to the West Bengal Government but now we have reduced it to 2,000 tonnes because there is a good crop of mustard seed. Mustard seed can be obtained from the open market and we do not come in there to supply mustard seed but we are supplementing it by supplying rape-seed for crushine so that they do not go out of employment.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am surprised by the reply of the hon. Minister. I do not know to which country he is referring or whether he has ever gone to the market to buy a kilo of mustard. The situation is different. The average price per kilo in the market varies between Rs. 6 and Rs. 7 and I do not know whether he is aware of this. The price is further shooting up because of their patronage to the vanaspati manufacturers. There are strong reason? and suspicious reasons that vanaspati manufacturers who are making huge profits, are being given mustard seed in order to produce refined oil, so that they can use it in the manufacture of vanaspati. Would he ban the use of the refined mustard oil for the manufacture of vanaspati? Secondly, would he see that the mills which are on the verge of closure— some mills have already been closed— are given direct supply of 'mustard seeds from the Central Government?

Sir, you know, there was a cartoon by Laxman. One minister was giving a speech to the public and he was saying that they were expecting a bumper crop. Then somebody stood up from the audience and asked the minister: From which country? The same situation, I think, is prevailing today in our country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You put your question.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: I am stating about what he has said. He is in collusion with the vanaspati manufacturers. I am charging the Minister that he is in collusion with the manufacturers of vanaspati and taking money. I am charging him of nepotism and corruption.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can charge him but what is your question?

PROF. SHER SINGH: Sir, the hon. Member is out of touch; he does not know anything about his country. He

talks of other countries. I know that in our country this year the crop of mustard seed is very good; as compared to last year there is an excess production of about 5 to 6 lakh tonnes. I know it and he should also know it.

The other thing is, we do not give mustard seed to the vanaspati manufacturers because "mustard seed is available in the market and anybody can buy it. Government has never given mustard seed or any seed to these factories. What we have done is this. We had three alternatives before us. Firstly the price of groundnut oil is increasing because of the shortage of production of groundnut by about 16 to 17 lakh tonnes. There was a demand from Gujarat and Maharashtra because they consume groundnut oil direct. So far they have been using 60 to 70 per cent of groundnut-oil for the manufacture of vanaspati. Naturally these two States approached us and said, well the quantum of groundnut oil to be used in the manufacture of vanaspati should be reduced because of drought conditions in these two States since the poor people there take this groundnut oil direct. Therefore in December we reduced the consumption of groundnut oil from 60 to 70 per cent to a maximum of 50 per cent but then we had to make it up by other oils.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Now the cat is out of the bag.

PROF. SHER SINGH: Then we took the decision that at least 15 per cent should be cotton seed oil because cotton seed oil is not used by human beings. So we took a decision that at least 15 per cent must be cotton seed oil. Then sesame oil; that is also used in the south. Then some other oils like sun flower oil, soya bean oil etc. up to 10 per cent. Further we are importing one lakh tonnes of oil but the prices have gone up. At against one lakh tonne* which we expected to import cost Rs. 20

crores foreign exchange made available we may be able to import only 95,000 tonnes. Our problem is either to increase the price of vanaspati or to allow the use of cheaper oils or import more oils to stabilise the prices. These were the three alternatives. Now we cannot increase the price of vanaspati because if we increase the price of vanaspati there will be adjournment motions in the House.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You have already done it.

PROF. SHER SINGH: The second alternative is to import more oil. We cannot do that because we do not have foreign exchange. The vanaspati Manufacturers liked these two alternatives, third alternative was to allow the use of cheaper oils and because of good crop of mustard seed we have in the first instance as an experimental measure in this month allowed the use of mustard oil and I will give the figures. So far in the first two weeks from 1st March to 15th March in the whole country in all the four zones only 1082 tons of mustard oil have been used out of a total of about 5,000 tonnes of oils used for the manufacture of vanaspati. That means the utilisation of mustard oil for vanaspati is only to the extent of about 4 per cent. So when my friend is saying that we are in collusion with the mill owners, we are helping the vanaspati people, we have joined with them and we are indulging in all sorts of corruption, he should understand things.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Would you come along with me to Calcutta and buy a kilo of mustard oil in the Calcutta market?

PROF. SHER SINGH: Yes.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Book two tickets for tomorrow. Let us go to any of the Calcutta shops and try to buy one kilo- of mustard oil at Rs. 5/-. Nobody will give you for less than Rs. 7/-. Pay for my tickets and take care of the bill with me.

PROF. SHER SINGH: I tried to obtain information yesterday from the West Bengal Government about the retail price and I have got the reply from the Additional Director, Agricultural Marketing Government of West Bengal and he says that on the 9th March the retail price of mustard oil was Rs. 6.00 per kilo and on 16th March it is Rs. 5.90. So it has started coming down.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: In view of the continuous sinister practice of cornering, hoarding and distributing mustard seed by the wholesale traders, may I ask the hon. Minister what prevents them from taking over the purchase of all the 'mustard seed produced in the country and distribute it through the co-operatives so that the people in the eastern region who are affected very much by the rise in price and those who will be shortly unemployed because of the closure of the oil mills in West Bengal could be helped? Why can't the Government take over the purchase of all the mustard seed produced in the country which according to the statement of the hon. Minister is in abundant supply?

PROF. SHER SINGH: So far the Government has not taken any decision about taking over the trade in mustard seed. The Government has decided to take over the wholesale trade only in rice and wheat, and no other commodity. About mustard seed the Government has not taken any decision, but it is a suggestion which could be examined.

श्री श्याम लाल यादव : मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्हें यह पता है कि मरम्मी का तेल जन साधारण के उपयोग की चीज है और वनस्पति मध्यम वर्गीय लोगों के उपयोग की चीज है। जो आप कहते हैं कि पड़ोसी मार्च में उत्पादन बढ़ने की वजह से भाव गिरे हैं तो वे इनने तगण्य हैं कि पूरे वर्ष भर के हिसाब से अगर आप देखेंगे तो आप को मालूम होगा कि भाव में

बढ़ि हुई है और कोई कमी नहीं हुई है। ऐसी स्थिति में जब आपने वनस्पति के लिए इस मरम्मी के तेल के उपयोग की अनुमति दे दी तो उसका मतलब यह हुआ कि वे खरीद कर के रख लेंगे और उसके भाव एकाएक बढ़ने शुरू हो जाएंगे। खाय कर के उसका भाग का तमाम मरम्मी और उसका तमाम तेल कलकत्ता जाता रहता है और उसका प्रभाव वहीं नहीं पड़ेगा बल्कि मारे प्रदेशों में पड़ेगा।

श्री उपस रायति : आप का प्रश्न क्या है।

श्री श्याम लाल यादव : वनस्पति का मूल्य आप बराबर बढ़ाते गये हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में क्या आप ऐसा करेंगे कि मरम्मी का तेल जन साधारण को उसी भाव में मिलता रहे और आज जो आप आशावादिता दिखा रहे हैं, अगर भाव बढ़ गये तो उसकी कमी पूरि करेंगे।

श्री शेर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मरम्मी की पैदावार ज्यादा हुई है, यह बात ठीक है, लेकिन और दूसरे जो मीडियम हैं उनकी पैदावार कम रही है। इसलिए मोबरशाल जो आयल की प्राइम चलती है उसका प्रभाव मस्टर्ड आयल पर न पड़े, यह संभव नहीं है। सब नेनों की जो कीमत चलती है उनका आपस में कुछ प्रभाव तो रहता है, लेकिन एक दूसरे का प्रभाव एक दूसरे की कीमतों पर पड़ता है। मस्टर्ड आयल ज्यादा हो गया, इसलिए मस्टर्ड आयल की कीमत बिल्कुल नीचे गिर आयी, यह बात तो नहीं होगी। लेकिन जैसे ही फसल आनी शुरू हुई, उसकी कीमत कुछ गिरी, लेकिन किम हद तक वह गिरेगी, अभी कुछ नहीं कह सकते। इसीलिए मैंने कहा कि इस चीज को हम देख रहे हैं। हम जानते हैं कि मस्टर्ड आयल आम तौर पर गरीब आदमी इस्तेमाल करते हैं। दूसरे सदन में कल किसी ने प्रश्न उठाया कि आपने उस पर बन्धन क्यों नहीं रखा और आपने उसकी इजाजत क्यों दे दी। अगर हम उस

पर 10 परसेंट या कोई परसेंट का बन्धन रखते तो ज्यादा मांग उसकी बढ़ती। हमने बन्धन इसलिए नहीं रखा कि हम पहले एक्सपेरीमेंटल तौर पर देख लें कि अगर इस्तेमाल होने लगा तो उसका प्रभाव क्या पड़ता है कीमतों पर। मान लीजिए यह ज्यादा इस्तेमाल होने लगा और कीमतें ज्यादा बढ़ गईं और गरीब आदमी को नुकसान होने लगा, तो मैंने जैसा कि निवेदन किया कि हम उस पर पुनर्विचार करने को तैयार हैं। लेकिन हमारी अपनी मुश्किलत हैं और उनकी बजह से हम करने लगे हैं क्योंकि दूसरे तेल कम अवेलेबिल हैं और तेल थोड़ा सस्ता है। तो इसको थोड़ा सा इस्तेमाल करने से इसकी प्राइस नहीं बढ़ेगी। इसलिए हम इसका इस्तेमाल करने लगे हैं। लेकिन अभी हम एक्सपेरीमेंटल तौर पर सारी चीज को देख रहे हैं।

श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण मण्डल : मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उनको यह पता है कि सरसों के तेल से हम लोगों के यहां कुकिंग होनी है और विजेटेबिल आदि के दाम दो दिन में सवाये और डेबडे बढ़ गये हैं। क्या मंत्री जी को यह भी मालूम है कि यहां मिल्क स्कीम से जो मिल्क सप्लाई होता है उसकी भी स्केयरमिटी हो गई है। आज मेरा आदमी गया और उसको दूध नहीं मिला। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि महंगाई के कारण क्या उसका भी डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन बन्द हो गया है।

श्री. शेर सिंह : माननीय सदस्य जरा मूझे बतलायें कि कौन से डिपो से आप दूध लेते हैं। मैं उसकी जांच करूंगा।

श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण मण्डल : विट्टल भाई पटेल हाऊस से।

श्री. शेर सिंह : आप के कांड पर जितना दूध आपको मिलना चाहिए, उसके दिलाने की मैं कोजिश करूंगा। विजेटेबिल के बारे में मुझे कुछ नहीं मालूम है। यह मस्टर्ड आयल के बारे में है। आपसे दूध और विजेटेबिल

की सारी बातें शुरू कर दी, जिनके सम्बन्ध में इस समय कुछ बताना मुश्किल है।

SHRI SUHRID MULLICK CHOU-DHURY: The hon. Minister in his reply used an expression saying that they will watch the situation. I want to know how long it will take to watch the situation. This is my simple question.

PROF. SHER SINGH: We have decided to watch it for this month, for the month of March, and see what effect it will have on the price of mustard oil. If the prices go on falling then, of course, we can allow the further use of mustard oil for manufacturing vanaspati. But suppose we come to know that the prices are going up very high and the poor man will suffer, we will think of revising it.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे कि वनस्पति तेल का मूल्य बराबर बढ़ता ही रहता है, वह कभी घटता नहीं है और दो महीने के बाद, चार महीने के बाद या छः महीने के बाद उसका मूल्य बराबर कुछ न कुछ बढ़ ही जाता है। अभी इधर एक महीना हुआ उसका मूल्य बढ़ चुका है और दो महीने के बाद फिर उसका मूल्य बढ़ने की संभावना है और जब-जब भी इस बात के लिए प्रश्न किया गया तो आपने कहा अपने उत्तर में कि मूंगफली की कमी हो गई है, उस की पैदाार कम होती है इस कारण से वनस्पति के भाव बढ़ जाते हैं। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मैं इससे यह समझ लूँ क्योंकि आपको इस तरह का उत्तर देते-देते एक अरसा हो गया है कि मूंगफली की पैदावार ज्यादा बढ़ाने के लिए आपकी तरफ से कोई प्रयत्न नहीं किया गया?

श्री. शेर सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रयत्न तो हो रहे हैं मूंगफली की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए और सनलावर की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए और हम सभी तैलों की पैदावार

बढ़ाने के लिए प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं, लेकिन जैसा माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि हर बार कन्सर्वे के मूल्य बढ़ जाते हैं उस संबंध में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले साल जब कीमतें कुछ कम हुई थीं प्राउन्डेंट की तो तीन, चार बार उसकी कीमतें कम भी की गयीं। लेकिन 80 फीसदी तो उसके अंदर मैटीरियल की कास्ट होती है और बाकी प्रोसेसिंग आदि की कास्ट होती है। तो जब रा मैटीरियल की कीमत बढ़ती है तो या तो उसकी कीमतें बढ़ाई जायें या उसकी स्टूट-माइज किया जाय बीगर धायल देकर, यहाँ दो रास्ते रहते हैं। तो इम्पोर्टेड धायल जो हम बीग दे सकते हैं वह उनको देते हैं लेकिन उगकी भी एक लिमिट है। उस निमित्त तक देने से बात बन जाती है तो हम कीमत नहीं बढ़ाते और अगर उससे ज्यादा हमको देना पड़ता है और वह अवेनेबल नहीं होता तो कीमतें बढ़ानी पड़ती हैं। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है कि हम कीमतें बढ़ाते ही हैं, जब उनको घटा सकते हैं तो कीमत घटाते भी हैं, केवल कीमतें बढ़ाने ही नहीं हैं।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

STRIKE BY FARMERS FOR HKJHRE PRICE OF SUGARCANE

581. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers in certain States have gone on strike for higher prices and are not supplying sugarcane to the sugar mills;

(b) if so, what is its impact on sugar production; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to fix higher prices for sugarcane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) to (c). There have recently been a number of

suspension of production by factories on account of the growers demanding higher cane prices. The factories are actually paying higher prices for the cane than the notified minimum in most of the cases.

खाद्य उत्पादन में कमी

*582. श्री जगबन्धो प्रसाद यादव :

श्री पीताम्बर दास :

श्री श्रीधर प्रकाश त्यागी :

श्री बोरन कुमार सक्सेना :

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद मथुर :

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि 1971-72 में खाद्य उत्पादन आशा से कम रहा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इसमें कितनी कमी रही है और इसके क्या कारण थे; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा खाद्य उत्पादन में वृद्धि करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं और उनका क्या परिणाम निकला ?

1. [SHORTFALL IN FOOD PRODUCTION]

582. SHRI J. P. YADAV-

SHRI PITAMBAIR DAS: SHRI O. P.

TYAGI: SHRI V. K. SAKHLECHA:

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food production during 1971-72 was less than the expectations;

(b) if so, the quantity of shortfall and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost production and the outcome thereof?

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