

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Alva, last question.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA: Is the Company Law Department taking any measures when the monopolists are asking for further expansion of newspapers in different places?

SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATH REDDY: Unless this falls within the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, this question is directly concerned with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

*324. [The questioners Shri M. K. Mohta and Dr. B. N. Amtani were absent. For answer vide co.' infrn.]

FOOD TARGET

265. DR. B. N. ANTANI: SHRI M. K. MOHTA: SHRI CHANDRAMOULI

JAGARLAMUDI: SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD

MATHUR: SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:

SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the

Minister of FINANCE/

वित्त मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a Press Report appearing in *Hindustan Times* dated the 28th June, 1971 regarding doubts expressed by the World Bank about India's achieving the food target of 129 million tonnes by the end Fourth Plan; and if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE/
वित्त मंत्री

(SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several measures are being taken to achieve the Fourth Plan targets of food production. With these efforts and with weather, conditions

will be achieved from the 30th July, 1971.

\$ The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur.

being satisfactory. Government hope that the Fourth Plan target of food production will be achieved.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मेट्रल वाटर ऐंड पावर कमिशन ने देश की सिंचाई के लिए योजनाओं को देखते हुए, कितनी जमीन के आगे पंचवर्षीय योजना में सिंचित क्षेत्र में और लेना चाहते हैं और उसके लिए, उसको सिंचित करने के लिए जितने रुपये की आवश्यकता होगी, इस दृष्टि में उन्होंने कोई रेकमेन्डेशन की है या आपने उसके लिए कोई योजना बनायी है कि कितना रुपया हमको चाहिए कि जिससे चौथे फाइव ईयर प्लान में इतनी जमीन हम सिंचित करेंगे और उसके लिए आपने रुपये का कोई प्रावजन किया है या नहीं ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Sir, it is much better that he puts the question to the Irrigation Ministry. I have not got all the details here.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : तो फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री को सवाल ट्रांसफर क्यों हुआ है ।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The World Bank is mentioned.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : कितने रुपये की आवश्यकता है । एग्रिकल्चरल सेक्टर के अन्दर जितने रुपये आपको देना चाहिये फोर्थ फाइव ईयर प्लान के अन्तर्गत उतने रुपये का आपने प्रावजन नहीं किया तो इस लक्ष्य की पूर्ति कैसे होगी और इसके लिये कितना रुपया चाहिए, इसका असेसमेंट फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री के पास है या नहीं । उस रुपये का इंतजाम आप नहीं कर पा रहे हैं तो क्या वर्ल्ड बैंक से ले रहे हैं या और किस तरह से ले रहे हैं । यह आप बताये ।

श्री य. ब. चव्हाण : फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री के पास असेसमेंट होगी लेकिन मेरे पास अभी नहीं, यही मैं कह सकता हूँ । अगर आपको कोई इन्फो चाहिए तो उस मिनिस्ट्री में पूछिये । वर्ल्ड बैंक के जेनरल असेसमेंट की बात थी इसलिए मेरे पास आया ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhadram,

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मेरा फिर व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। मैं हैरत में पड़ा हुआ हूँ कि आखिर हम बैठते क्यों हैं। इसका जवाब देने के लिये फिर वित्त मंत्री महोदय आये क्यों? देखिये, सीधा सा प्रश्न है कि क्या सरकार का ध्यान 28 जून, 1971 के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है कि विश्व बैंक ने भारत द्वारा चौथी योजना के अन्त तक 129 मीटरी टन खाद्यान्न का लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर सकने में संदेह व्यक्त किया है। यानी 129 मीटरी टन खाद्यान्न का जो लक्ष्य या चौथी पंच-वर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत उसके लिये विश्व बैंक ने कहा है कि पूरा नहीं होगा।

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : और यह कह रहे हैं कि पूरा होगा।

श्री राजनारायण : सरकार बताये कि पूरा होगा या नहीं।

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा : यह तो खाद्य मंत्री बतायेंगे।

श्री राजनारायण : खाद्य मंत्री से पूछा गया और खाद्य मंत्री ने वित्त मंत्री को इतिहास किया और जब रज्ज आया तो हमसे कहते हैं कि खाद्य मंत्री से पूछें, हमसे क्या पूछते हो।

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: The question was about the general assessment. The World Bank has certainly said something. But this, again, is a restricted document and we cannot say what was published there. But at the same time I would like to assure the House that as far as the general assessment is concerned, in the first two years our target according to the Fourth Five Year Plan, was fulfilled. Now, it is a question of the remaining three years of the Fourth Plan. Provided certain conditions are fulfilled, it is quite possible that we may be able to fulfil the targets as such because it is a very difficult thing for us to say what other difficulties might come in the way. As far as the irrigation is concerned, I can give the general line of effort that is being

made if the linn. Member wants that information. But if he wants me to give the amount of investment in a icular form of irrigation I will not able to say about it. But, for example, I can say about the development of iirigation. 3.9 million hectares of cropped area are to get the benefit of irrigation of major and medium irrigation projects to be executed during the Fourth Plan period. Similarly, minor iirigation projects are to benefit altogether another 7.2 million hectares. The programmes of underground water development and utilisation are showing good progress. In 1969-70, in addition to 1.9 lakhs of surface wells, 90,000 private tubewells, 800 State tubewells and 2.60 lakhs of electrical pumpsets for irrigation were installed. In 1970-71 again, in addition, to 1.7 lakhs of surface wells, one lakh private tubewells, 1000 State tubewells and 2.55 lakhs of electrical pumpsets for irrigation have been installed. The minor -works executed in the first two years are expected to benefit 2.7 million hectares while the target for providing additional benefits durinsr 1971-72 is 1.6 million hectares Thus, the progress in this sphere is quite satisfactory, ag far as the first 2 1 [3 years are concerned.

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM: May I know what are the doubts expressed by the World Bank, whether the same has any bearing on agricultural reforms such as land ceiling? If so, what steps have been taken by the Government?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Some of the assessments and views of the staff are given there. But I do not think they are the official views of the World Bank as such.

SHRT M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to two things. Is it not a fact that the Government of India took a policy decision sometime back that by the end of this year, 1971-72, we would be stopping the import of foodgrains? May T know whether that policy decision stir

stands? Secondly, Sir, he said that he is hoping to realise the target fixed for the Plan. That is, he hopes to have 129 million tonnes of food by the end of the Plan. Is it not a fact that apart from the two years of the Fourth Plan that he has quoted, there was a backlog of shortfall of food-grains production in the previous two years? If that is so, is he not calculating 5 per cent, annual growth of agricultural production on the basis of diminished production in the past? Does he still feel that the target fixed for the end of the Plan will be fulfilled? Is it not a fact that already there is a shortfall compared to the expectations and the estimates made in the past?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: I do not agree with the hon'ble Member's first question that there is already a shortfall. As a matter of fact, the performance in the first two years is something quite admirable.

As for the other part of the question of my hon'ble friend, whether we stand by the commitment to stop the imports of PL 480, our decision stands. As far as that part of the question is concerned, there is no* doubt in our mind that as things stand today, we will certainly stand by it.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: By the end of this year?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: Yes, I have said so. We have made that commitment and we stand by it.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: The answer given by the hon'ble Finance Minister derails the whole discussion, to my mind. A report published in the Hindustan Times of June 28 makes a specific reference as to why the World Bank has made pessimistic observations. It says:—

"The Bank's pessimism, based mainly on the 'slow-down' in the consumption of fertilisers, is reflected in one of its reports early this month."

The decline in the consumption of fertilisers has been at a very alarming rate. It goes on to say:

According to the index, the country-wide plant nutrient consumption has fallen from 43.7 per cent, in 1968-69 to 18.8 per cent, in 1969-70 and 6.2 per cent, in 1970-71."

While the production has increased, it is precisely during this period, paradoxically enough, that the consumption of fertilisers has declined. The World Bank's pessimism is based on this particular fact. Therefore, whatever be the figures of irrigation and other inputs, they do not really convince UB on this question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your question.

DR. K. MATHEW KURTAN: It is a relevant question. The Government believes in magic and thinks that they can get away with this statement of optimism. My specific question is this. What is the hon'ble Minister's reply to the point raised by the World Bank that due to the continuous decline in the consumption of fertilisers the target of the Government cannot be achieved? What are the measures that the Government proposes to introduce to reverse this trend in consumption of fertilisers?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN: It is true that their entire assessment is based on the assumption of the use of fertilisers and pesticides and they think that because that has declined, possibly we will not be able to fulfil the targets of the Fourth Plan period as far as food production is concerned. Really speaking, I do not know on what basis they have formed this opinion. Therefore, I cannot either confirm or contradict this report because these are the official figures of the World Bank. Personally, I would say that we have based our strategy of production on the use of irrigation, use of better type of seed as also the use of fertilisers and pesticides. These are some of the ingredients and some of the factors in the new strate-