

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 28th August, 1970/the 6th
Bhadra 1892 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.
MR. CHAIRMAN in the chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1969-70

*649. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any firm estimates of foodgrain production in the country in the year 1969-70, have been made; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and commodity-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The All-India Final Estimates of Foodgrains for 1969-70 are now available.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. See Appendix LXXIII, Annexure No. 66]

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : यह जो स्टेटमेंट रखा गया है उसमें आपने कई जगहों पर यह दिखलाया है कि फिगर हमको नहीं मिले हैं और इसी वजह से लास्ट इयर के फिगर दे दिये गये हैं, लेकिन अभी आपने बताया कि वे फिगर अवेनेबल हैं, तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका क्या कारण है। एक बात तो यह बताइये।

दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन प्रदेशों में पैदावार होती है उन में खपत वैसी होती है या कम होती है और वहाँ पर पैदावार सरप्लस है या डेफिसिट है तथा उन प्रदेशों में दाम किस प्रकार रह रहे हैं।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Final estimates are prepared much later because there are certain procedures involved but where it has been said that last year's figures have been produced, that is not arbitrary but that it based on some advance estimates and a lot of exercise is involved in this. Broadly when the indications are that the acreage of particular foodgrains or crops are of the same magnitude as that of last year, then that figure is given but unless the current year's figure is involved, we do not put up the figure. That does not make any change as such. As far as the price is concerned, this is a question regarding the estimate of production and that will be quite beyond the purview of this question. I can say something about it but that will be beyond the purview of this question.

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : किन प्रदेशों में सरप्लस है और कहां-कहां डेफिसिट है क्या यह बात माननीय मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : It is well known that some of the States in the country are surplus like Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra. There are some States like Maharashtra, West Bengal, Kerala etc. which are heavily in deficit. There are some on border line, marginally surplus or deficit like Tamil Nadu, U.P., etc. This is broadly the position in the country.

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : बिहार में जो प्रोडक्शन कम हो रहा है उसका क्या कारण है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : In Bihar as elsewhere the production also depends on the even distribution of rainfall, whether it is good rains or failure. Last year there were some pockets where the rainfall was not very favourable to the crops. Therefore the production was not very satisfactory in Bihar.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Political instability is also one of the reasons.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Misraji can know better, he is closer to Bihar.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : The Minister has been able to give the estimates of production of foodgrains for 1969-70—the All-India final estimates. I would like to know for this year what are the targets and what are their expectations for this year, that is, the year we are in. Then is the Minister aware that the production cost per acre of foodgrains since the last 2 years when the cereal prices are not rising, and are substantially as before—I am comparing to before—is uneconomical to the agriculturists because the prices of the inputs like fertilizers and others are getting very high compared to our neighbouring countries and it is not in any way very economic. Can he give the per acre profit? Can he give the per acre profit generally? Let him take two or three crops, let him take, say, wheat and *bajra*, I shall not bother him with many crops. Can he give us any estimate of the per acre profit on an average? I am not interested in the big farmers, the big cultivators, in Maharashtra or in my U.P. Let him give the average net income that is got from an acre. Is he aware that the law of diminishing returns has already begun to operate in the case of the high-yielding varieties because of the high prices of inputs, of fertilizers?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : As far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned asking what is the target this year, we have been proceeding on the basis that we may have a production of 105 million tons this year. As to what would be the actual production, it is too early to say that, because the *kharif* crops have just been sown and they are in the farms, and the *rabi* crops would be sown in October-November. So it would be too early to say anything about the expected production this year, but the prospects so far appear to be quite favourably and encouraging. As far as the hon. Member's question relating to the prices of fertilizers is concerned, there is another Question, Sir, which is coming up. At that time the hon. Member may be pleased to ask these questions. It is not covered by this Question either.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : On a point of order, Sir. You, Mr. Chairmap, have

allowed me to put this question, and it is not for the Minister to say that I should put this question to him at a later stage. That other Question may be reached, may not be reached.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, this Question is about the production of foodgrains, and here the hon. Member is asking about the prices of fertilizers, and naturally I seek your protection.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : Be fair to me, Sir. I talked of foodgrains in relation to the high-yielding varieties and asked about the average production cost and the average income from one acre of land; nothing else.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I have not come to that yet. But you referred to fertilizers. Now, Sir, as far as the first part of the hon. Member's question about the cost of production and the profit made out of it is concerned, may I say, for the information of the hon. Member as far as the cost of production is concerned, that the high-yielding varieties are paying despite the cost of some inputs having gone up, and the per acre productivity of the high yielding varieties is much higher, is so high that it can compensate for the rise in the prices of inputs as and when they occur. The hon. Member is aware that a large number of farmers in the country own uneconomic holdings and because of that they are not in a position to make both ends meet; that is well known. But wherever the farmers have advantage of some irrigation facility or other and there the high-yielding varieties have been introduced, I think they are in a position to earn more than what they spend.

SHRI S. D. MISRA : I am sorry I have to rise again. Just allow me one second. I put a specific question about the averages that I wanted to know. I am not putting any new question but I am coming to my original question. I put the question: Is it not a fact that, while the high-yielding varieties were to give always increasing returns for a few years, within three years of the programme having been started, it has already started giving diminishing returns?

By diminishing returns I do not mean that it is not giving profits; I mean that the profits are diminishing. Will he agree with me or not?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I completely disagree with the hon. Member. Otherwise the farmers would not have accepted this programme. The high-yielding varieties programme is proceeding very fast, is proceeding even beyond our targets, whether it is in the matter of wheat or rice, beyond the targets that we planned for the acreage for the high-yielding varieties. A larger acreage than what we planned is being brought under cultivation for the high-yielding varieties by the farmers. This is an indication that there is acceptability and the programme is sound.

श्री चक्रपाणि शुक्ल : चूँकि यह प्रश्न उत्पादन से सम्बन्धित है, क्या केन्द्रीय शासन ने यह जानकारी प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की है कि अगर प्रयास किया जाय तो सबसे अधिक उत्पादन कौन से प्रदेश में बढ़ सकता है ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, that way many parts of our country are extremely fertile and Haryana from which the hon. Member comes is one of the areas. Whether it is U.P., whether it is Haryana, whether it is Punjab, or Madhya Pradesh, Andhra, Bengal—so many areas I can name—they are so fertile and if irrigation is available the production potential is much more in our country. Our production potential is tremendous and we should not take a discouraging view at all.

SHRI V. B. RAJU : Is the hon. Minister aware that in the matter of rice production the high-yielding varieties have actually worked to the disadvantage of the farmer in the sense that particularly the IR-8 is subjected to this gall fly? There has been a lot of damage and the farmer is discouraged; he is actually resisting the use of high-yielding varieties in the matter of rice production, particularly in Andhra Pradesh. Is the Minister aware of it?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : In the beginning when the new strains were introduced it was found that certain

areas are not suitable for these strains. I know when the hon. Member himself was in charge of food there, there had been some setback to the programme but now after getting some experience we find that particular strains are suitable for particular areas and particular strains are not suitable for particular areas. That has been our experience and on the basis of this experience both the State Governments and the Central Government are proceeding. In the case of crops total elimination of disease, as in the case of human beings, is not possible. There are certain limitations but we should not take a discouraging view simply because somewhere some crop is affected by some disease.

(Many hon. Members stood up)

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Sir, there must be some limit to questions. I have been insisting every day that you should fix some time for each question. We have taken ten minutes over this question. There are other questions also.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am also very anxious to cover as many questions as possible. This is the last question. Mr. Mallikarjunudu.

SHRI G. A. APPAN : Sir, I also want to ask one question. And mine is an important question: which others do not know I put. At least one man from each party should be called.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Not in Questions. It is for me to judge the importance of the question and decide how many should be called.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : From the Annual Report of the Food Department we find that in 1967-68 the total production of foodgrains is 95.1 million tonnes and in the year 1968-69 it is 94 million tonnes and according to the estimate given in the statement the total production in 1969-70 is expected to be in the neighbourhood of 99.5 million tonnes. So we find an increase of five to six million tonnes. I want to know whether there has also been an increase in the area on which foodgrains are grown and if that be the case what

is the extent of the increase in the area under cultivation and what is the proportion of the yield per unit

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : All these can be explained but broadly wheat and rice have contributed to the substantial increase in the production of food-grains.

STOPPAGE OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENT IN JOURNALS AND NEWSPAPERS

*650. **SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA :**

SHRI KRISHAN KANT† :

SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the names of journals and newspapers which have recently been stopped Government advertisement for preaching violence and communal hatred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : The number of newspapers, to which the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity have recently stopped advertisements on account of communal writings, is three. It is not in the public interest to disclose the names of the newspapers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No, no. Sir, on a point of order. When they stop it the press knows it; the journalists know it and why it should not be in public interest to disclose it here. It is not a great secret that way. If you arrest me, do you mean to say it would not be in public interest to disclose the name of the person arrested? I will take it to the court and then it will be known. I am a journalist. When they stop advertisements the write to the paper; they reject its request and send their decision to the paper concerned. Therefore you should not give protection to this kind of thing.

(Hon. Members stood up)

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : If you are taking action, why do you not want the people to know that they are doing something wrong?

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : The Press Council has already taken notice of it. What is there in the public interest?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister—as Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has said—the names of the journals and newspapers against whom you have taken action, so that the public and the journals and newspapers in the country know that the Government means business? If the names are not given how will people know what action is taken? Secondly, is it not a fact that the Press Council . . .

SHRI S. N. MISHRA : After all, the newspapers concerned know that their advertisements have been stopped. Can it be that what is made known to the newspapers can be withdrawn from the public?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I am asking the same question. . . .

SHRI PITAMBER DAS : There is another aspect. . . .

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Let the Government understand their responsibility.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS : It would be all the more in the public interest to say as to which papers preach violence and communal hatred, so that people know it and they will stop reading those papers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Have you put your question?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I am putting it. Is it not a fact that the Press Council itself has taken note of it and recommended the names of some papers which have been publishing such things and they wanted some action to be taken? May I know what those papers are and what action has the Government taken to implement the recommendations of the Press Council?