

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 1st August, 1969/10th Shrawana,
1891 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*268. [The questioner (Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1961 infra.]

WHEAT PRODUCTION IN 1968-69

*269. SHRI ARJUN ARORA :

DR. SALIG RAM :

SHRI KRISHAN KANT :†

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

- what was the target of wheat production for the year 1968-69;
- the actual quantity of wheat produced during that year; and
- the reasons for the shortfall, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Separate targets for production of wheat or other foodgrains were not fixed during 1968-69.

(b) Estimates of wheat production for 1968-69 have not so far been finalized, but the expectation is that the production would be higher than in the preceding year.

(c) The question does not arise.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether they have prepared any master plan to achieve self-sufficiency in wheat in a particular number of years and what particular steps they are going to take in this matter ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Madam, as far as the wheat production programme is concerned, the way we are working now we feel that during the next few years, perhaps in two or three years, it may be possible for us to have as much wheat as is required by our country. This is mainly because of the introduction of exotic strains and high-yielding varieties of wheat which are doing very well all over the country. That is why despite the adverse weather conditions last year, our wheat production programme went on very well.

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

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Whatever the Minister may say, I think there should be some master plan which would take into consideration what the acreage at present under wheat cultivation is, what percentage we want to bring under cultivation during the next one, two, three, four or five years, and so on, so that we are able to reach our target of self-sufficiency. Is it not a fact that at present only one-third of the area under wheat cultivation is irrigated? What steps are being taken to see that at least half or two-thirds of the area is brought under irrigation ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Madam, the programme has been worked out with all meticulous detail—e.g., how much acreage should be brought under high-yielding varieties, how much seed is required, how much fertiliser is required, all these details have been looked into. The emphasis of the Government of India is not on increasing the acreage of crops. Our emphasis is on increasing the per acre yield. As far as the irrigation aspect is concerned, that is a different problem. But the Ministry of Irrigation and Power as well as my Ministry, which looks after minor irrigation, are taking care of the development of irrigation, minor as well as major and medium irrigation.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या श्रीमान् को यह विदित है कि आपने गेहूँ के उत्पादन की वृद्धि के लिये बहुत प्रकार के खाद और सनोरा आदि गेहूँ को नयी नयी किस्मों के लिये किसानों को प्रेरित किया है और वे उनका प्रयोग करते जा रहे हैं। क्या आपका खयाल है कि यह सनोरा आदि गेहूँ का छोटे छोटे खेतों में ही अधिक उत्पादन होता है, वहाँ पर फर्टिलाइजर और पर्याप्त पानी की सुविधा होने की वजह से वहाँ उत्पत्ति अधिक होती है, लेकिन जो बड़े बड़े खेत हैं वहाँ पर पानी की उत्पत्ति अधिक नहीं होती इसलिये पानी और फर्टिलाइजर दोनों नहीं मिल पाते हैं, इस कारण वहाँ गेहूँ अधिक मात्रा में उत्पन्न नहीं होता। तो क्या ऐसी सूरत में आप राज्य सरकारों को परामर्श देंगे कि वहाँ पर भी सिंचाई मंत्रालय और उनका कृषि मंत्रालय ये दोनों परस्पर मिलकर, वहाँ की सिंचाई के लिये अधिक इंतजाम कर सकें, इसके लिये क्या आपने कोई सुझाव दिया है ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Madam, the State Governments as well as the Central Government have plans to increase the area under irrigation in all sectors, i.e. major, medium and minor. I do not think the hon. Member is right in assuming that the yield depends upon the size of the farms. If irrigation facilities are available for bigger farms, the yields will be higher. If irrigation facilities are available for small farms, the yields will still be higher.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Rajnarain.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Madam, the main point has not been answered...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No. Mr. Rajnarain.

श्री राजनारायण : यह आदत है उनकी मैडम, ज़रा उसको छुड़ाइये। हम तो कोई भी खड़ा होता है तो बैठ जाते हैं।

मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ, सरकार के उत्तर से यह संबंधित है, कि सरकार ने यह क्यों आवश्यक नहीं समझा कि गेहूँ के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने के लिये एकरेज को बढ़ाना भी जरूरी है, एकरेज के बढ़ाने के साथ साथ सिंचाई के साधन बढ़ाना भी जरूरी है। तो सरकार ने इन दोनों को जरूरी क्यों नहीं समझा ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Our last year's experience is that acreage is also increasing. As I was submitting, our intention is not to increase the production of particular foodgrains or particular types of cash crops at the cost of some other crops, because land in our country is limited and naturally if we want to increase the acreage of...

श्री राजनारायण : कुछ ज़मीन फालतू भी तो है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him finish.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : ... a particular crop at the cost of some other crop, the economy of that crop gets adversely affected. As far as wheat is concerned, if in certain areas there are marginal increases in acreages, we would welcome it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question,

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हमारा प्वाइंट यह नहीं था। ज़रा कृपा करके आप सुन लें। हमारा प्वाइंट यह था कि जो फालतू ज़मीन है उसको तोड़ कर गेहूँ का उत्पादन क्यों नहीं बढ़ावें

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Next question. Mr. Khaitan.

GHERAOES IN THE COUNTRY

*270. **SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of gheraoes in each State during the last two years ;

(b) whether it is a fact that a Minister of the West Bengal Government was gheraoed and he refused to be rescued by the Police and undertook a fast against the gheraoes; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to put an end to such tactics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) The matter falls in the State sphere.

(c) Gheraoes have evident law and order implications, involving as they may criminal offences of various kinds. In that context they are primarily the concern of the State Governments. As for their bearing on industrial disputes, the matter came up before the Standing Labour Committee at its meeting in May 1967 and the Committee disapproved of coercive and intimidatory tactics, including 'Gheraoes' (wrongful confinement), for resolving industrial disputes. The State Governments have been advised accordingly.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : क्या मंत्री जी यह बतलायेंगे कि अभी वेस्ट बंगाल में जूट मिलों की स्ट्राइक होने को है और उसमें जूट मिलों के वर्कर्स घेराव करने के लिये सोच रहे हैं। तो क्या ऐसी सूचना आप लोगों के पास है, और यदि हाँ, तो उसके लिये आप क्या उपाय कर रहे हैं ?