

बारे में है या नहीं और क्या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट यह उचित नहीं समझती है कि खास कर के जहाँ तक कि फूडग्रैन्स का मामला है इसमें यह ज़ोनल सिस्टम वगैरह सब खत्म कर के सेंटर को थ्रोर से इनका डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन अडरटेक करें और अगर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की यह राय है तो वह साफ यहाँ कहना चाहिए ताकि इसके बारे में पब्लिक ओपिनियन भी, उन स्टेट्स में भी जहाँ कि सरप्लस है, हम क्रिएट कर सकें।

شری ابر علی خان : ریٹیکل

نہیں ہے -

[श्री अकबर अली खान : प्रैक्टिकल नहीं है।]

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, that is the view of the hon. Member.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: What is your view? That is what I want to know.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I am telling you. Our view is, we have to take into consideration the various factors like scarcity areas, the surplus areas and then evolve a procurement policy, mop up the food-grains in the surplus areas and distribute them in the vulnerable areas. The policy of the Government of India is very flexible in the sense that we take into consideration the needs of various areas, the demands of various areas, the views of the Governments in the States and evolve a common policy. We have got an open mind in regard to zones—let me make it very clear—and we are not very rigid. The very fact that we have enlarged the northern zone shows that we are responding to this.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It shows that you have begun well.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: We have begun well and will go on very well in future.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: May I know whether the policy of enlargement of zones is a prelude to the gradual or total abolition of the zones altogether?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: The hon. Member can draw his own inference.

DR. B. N. ANTANI: We come here for drawing conclusions from you. Inference is our business and conclusion is your business.

ESTABLISHMENT OF BAKERIES

*126. SHRI ABID ALI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the action taken by Government for the establishment of a large number of bakeries and Tandoors, both in urban and rural areas, to ensure supply of good bread at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): Nine Modern Automatic Bakeries are being set up in the public sector of which four at Bombay, Madras Cochin and Ahmedabad are already under production.

Under the scheme of assisting co-operatives to set up small scale bakeries, sanction has so far been accorded for 3 bakeries in Kerala and Mysore.

There is no proposal to set up any Tandoor.

SHRI ABID ALI: What percentage of the requirements of the people will be met by the bakeries which have been set up? The price of the bread is high. Now, half a day's wage is paid for a kilo of bread in India whereas in other parts of the world, in the cities, the average price of a kilo of bread is only from ten minutes to fifteen minutes wage. What action is Government taking to ensure supply of bread to the poorer sections of the society at a reasonable price?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: I sympathise with the views of the hon. Member. The purpose and the objective of the bakeries is to supply enriched and fortified bread to the people. We do not make a distinction between the vulnerable or the poorer section and the richer section. It is for all people. We would like to make the availability as large as possible and as cheap as possible. That is the purpose. For this we are starting nine units and they will act as model units for other bakeries in the country.

SHRI ABID ALI: May I know what action has been taken or what consideration has been given to this matter, which was mentioned here by me last year, on the same lines, in this very House?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: What is it?

SHRI ABID ALI: This very question was raised here. As compared to the price of bread in the richer cities in other parts of the world, which is ten to fifteen minutes' wage, in India it is half a day's wage. What action is Government taking to ensure the supply of bread at a reasonable price? I am repeating it. I want to know what action Government has taken or what consideration it has given to a similar suggestion given here last year.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It is a good suggestion and we will consider the matter.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Government has repeatedly declared that it would set up a number of bakeries and some cities, including my city of Kanpur, were mentioned as places where bakeries were to be set up by the Government. The Government has stopped it after setting up four bakeries. May I know what progress has been made in setting up these bakeries in the other towns mentioned earlier by the Government? Secondly, I want to know whether in

the cities where these bakeries have been set up in the public sector, the cost of bread has been appreciably brought down.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Apart from the cities that I mentioned in my reply, we expect to complete the unit in Delhi by the end of this month. It will go into production this month. In Calcutta the construction work has been taken up now. Production will start by the end of 1968. In Chandigarh, Hyderabad and Kanpur, construction work is being taken up and they are likely to go into production by the end of 1969. The cost of the bread compares very well with the breads already available in the market . . .

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: That is not enough.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: But this bread has got more nutritive value. It has got better nutrients...

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It should be cheaper.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: That is our endeavour.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: May I know if the bakery, that was to be set up with foreign collaboration in Bombay on a rather grand scale—in collaboration with Canada—has already started working?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It has started.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: What is the production?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: It is about 70,000 loaves of 400 grams each per day.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: Before I put my question, may I recall to the memory of the Minister the story of the Queen of France? When she was told there was not enough

bread, she asked them "Why should not the people eat cakes?" Now, there is food scarcity in this country and we are making a tremendous effort to meet the food situation. Are these bakeries going to make the slightest impression on the food situation? I run a bakery myself, a modern bakery, and I have tried to bring down the price of bread to the minimum and yet the price is far beyond the rural people. Now, here it is said that bakeries will be opened in urban and rural areas. Is not this merely a kind of cheap advertisement of something which we are not going to do?

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY
At the outset, may I say that I am not Marie Antoinette.

SHRI G RAMACHANDRAN He certainly does not look like a queen.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA I agree that you lack the qualities of a queen, but you are Louis the XVI.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY
Mr Bhupesh Gupta is a master of irrelevance and I do not take notice of that. With regard to the question he raised, viz, what we do with the bakeries, the purpose is to meet the rising demand for bread in the urban areas, in the first instance. After all, urban areas also have to be looked after. About the rural areas, the demand in the rural areas is not adequate to justify such big bakeries being set up. That is why we have been contemplating to start small bakeries in the rural areas. Whether bread is wanted or not is a moot question. When we look at the figure, we find that the demand for bread is all the time rising. It is not falling. One of the objectives of this scheme is to popularise wheat-eating in various places and I think the hon Member will agree with it.

SHRI M K MOHATA In view of the past record of the public sector, which is a record of waste and inefficiency, may I know from the hon

Minister what steps the Government propose to take to ensure efficiency and cost control in these bakeries?

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY
The hon Member does not see anything but waste and inefficiency in the public sector and I am a votary of the public sector. The way we run the bakeries, I think, is commendable. We are not out to destroy the private sector either. The public sector bakeries will be conducting themselves as models for the private sector. I would like the factories in the private sector to emulate their example.

SUPPORT PRICE FOR GROUNDNUT

***127 SHRI Y ADINARAYANA REDDY** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government propose to fix support prices for agricultural commodities especially Groundnut; and

(b) if so, by when a decision will be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) and (b) Minimum support prices are currently being fixed for paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, gram, jute and cotton. For sugarcane, minimum prices of sugarcane payable by sugar factories for sugarcane delivered to them during the crushing season are fixed. For groundnut, on the advice of the Agricultural Prices Commission, it has been decided that no minimum support prices would be fixed for the 1967-68 season.

SHRI Y ADINARAYANA REDDY Groundnut is the major commercial crop in Rayalaseema which is famine-ridden once in two years. In view of this fact will the Government consider fixing a support price for