

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि गुजरात में बहुत से कांग्रेसी विधायक केवल इस लिये फ्लोर क्रॉस कर के वहाँ की कांग्रेस सरकार का पतन कराने जा रहे हैं कि वहाँ की खाद्य समस्या का केन्द्र की सरकार मुलज्जब नहीं कर रही है।

(No reply)

श्री राजनारायण : सरकार को कोई जानकारी नहीं है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has nothing to say.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not think the thinking of the hon. Member will see the light of day.

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI: The hon. Minister's statement makes it clear that even apart from the question of meeting the demand, the firm allotment which was made to the State of Gujarat has not been honoured. Perhaps in some other States also, he might have cut down the allotment. May I know how the percentage of the cut in the allotment for Gujarat compares with the cuts in the allotments to other States? Will he lay a statement on the Table of the House showing the percentage of cuts in the firm allotments made to various States? Secondly, I would like to know whether the cut depends on gheraos and demonstrations or whether there is any basis on which the cut in the firm allotments to the various States is made.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, as I have already explained, during the last two months we have been through a very difficult situation. But as far as Gujarat is concerned, the allotment in the month of May was 50,000 tonnes of wheat and in June, 42,500 tonnes; and this month we are expected to supply about 45,000 tonnes of wheat. As far as milo is concerned, the availability of milo in the month of July was rather difficult

and so, though we indicated that we would be in a position to supply about 30,000 tonnes to Gujarat, we could not supply that much. As far as the other part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, there has been an effort on the part of the Centre to see that as far as possible, the needs of the various States are taken into consideration on the basis of availability.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

*159. [The questioner (Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1333—1335 infra.]

PARITY IN CONSUMPTION OF FOODGRAINS

*160. **SHRI ARJUN ARORA:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a suggestion made by Shri Jai Prakash Narayan that parity in consumption of foodgrains between different zones in the country and different sections of the people in the same zone be secured to meet the food shortage in the country; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the reports in the Press.

(b) Yes, Sir.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ग्राफ आर्डर है। क्या सवाल को बिना समझे उसका उत्तर दिया जा सकता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने "पैरिटी" से मतलब क्या समझा? यह सवाल पहले साफ होना चाहिये: What do you mean by parity? सवाल सीधा है कि "पैरिटी" विभिन्न लोगों

मे हो, विभिन्न व्यक्तियों में हो, विभिन्न खिन्नों में हो, इस सवाल के माने क्या हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: If they want any clarification, they can put supplementaries and I will clarify the position.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: Sir, the hon. Minister has said in reply to part (b) of the question, that the Government has considered this suggestion. May I know what the considered view of the Government is on this suggestion which is very important?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, we considered on the basis of the Press reports which were available to us and we came to the conclusion on the basis of those Press reports that absolute parity in consumption of the foodgrains in the present conditions of the country is not possible.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, if, as a result of this consideration, the Government has seen the wisdom in the suggestion that at least the food zones should be abolished so that whatever food is available in the country is available to all the citizens of the country and there is no big disparity in consumption between one State and another?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: There are some wise men also who feel that in the present circumstances, the food zones are necessary.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: In my last supplementary I had raised this point and the hon. Minister said the figures from the State Government regarding production and procurement are not properly available. The point is that there are some States which are deficit in foodgrains but they are producing something else. Bengal is producing jute, Maharashtra is producing cotton; and Kerala is producing cashew nuts. Is the hon. Minister aware that if due justice is not rendered in time, it is likely that these

States may go in for the production of foodgrains which are the basic necessities of the common man and under these circumstances, the whole structure of production may suffer? May we know from the Minister whether he is going to take up this matter seriously and find out some solution for it? It is no use saying that they are not getting figures from the State Government.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: What is there to be known? The deficit States are being supplied additional foodgrains to the extent it is available from the imported sources and from the foodgrains procured from surplus States. What I mean to say is that if anybody says that it is a fully equitable distribution, I will say it is not. But a beginning has been made in that direction.

SHRI D. THENGARI: A reference was made to parity between the different sections of the population. Now there was an assurance earlier that manual labourers would get more by way of ration. Does the Government intend to stick to its earlier assurance or would there be parity between the manual and non-manual workers?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Parity in consumption between the various sections will depend on the prosperity of the country and equitable distribution of the wealth of the country among the various sections and I think it will be quite a considerable time before we can think of introducing equality of consumption between the various sections.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: I agree that there should be parity in regard to the consumption of food. But may I ask the Minister whether, as a senior member of the Cabinet, he is going to consult the Prime Minister and other Cabinet colleagues and decide on a policy of parity not only in regard to food but in regard to per capita income, industrialisation, consumption of electricity, consumption of industrial output and so on?

If it is a question of food, some people get excited. But in regard to other things also, I would like to have a sort of equal distribution of all the wealth, industrial or natural, to everybody in the country. May I know whether they are going to have a policy like that?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, we will have to go a long way. Unless national wealth considerably increases and unless we assure the minimum requirements of life to every citizen, any talk of parity will remain a theoretical objective.

श्री राजनारायण : श्रीमन्, हमारा सुझावात्मक प्रश्न है। क्या मैं जनाब चैयरमैन साहब के जरिये सरकार से यह आग्रह करने का हक रखता हूँ कि श्री जय-प्रकाश नारायण से यह सरकार स्पष्टीकरण मांगे; क्योंकि मैं सरकार के उत्तर से समझ गया हूँ कि सरकार ने इसको समझा नहीं है। जो छोटे मंत्री हैं, उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार एक्सोल्यूट पैरिटी नहीं कर सकती और जो बड़े मंत्री हैं वे पैरिटी और ईक्वैलिटी को एक ही बात बना रहे हैं और कहते हैं कि ईक्वल डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन नहीं हो सकता। फिर जरा सवाल देखा जायें :

(क) क्या उनका ध्यान श्री जयप्रकाश नारायण द्वारा दिए गए एक सुझाव की ओर दिलाया गया है कि देश में खाद्याभाव का मुकाबिला करने के लिये देश के विभिन्न ज़ोनों तथा एक ही ज़ोन में जनता के विभिन्न वर्गों में अनाज के उपयोग में समानता रखी जाए; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या सरकार ने इस सुझाव पर विचार किया है ?

सरकार के उत्तर से मैं समझता हूँ कि उसने तनिक भी विचार नहीं किया है। अगर श्री जयप्रकाश नारायण के विचार का सरकार समुचित अर्थ लगाये तो क्या यह अर्थ नहीं होगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश की कितनी आबादी है, हरियाणा की कितनी आबादी है, उत्तर प्रदेश

की जितनी ज़मीन में पैदा होना है और हरियाणा की जितनी ज़मीन में पैदा होता है, उत्तर प्रदेश में कितना गन्ना टंदा होता है, हरियाणा में कितना गन्ना पैदा होता है ? तमाम उपज और उस उपज के मुताबिक वहाँ के लोगों की खाने की आदतों को मद्देनजर रख हुए ज़ोन और समाज के विभिन्न वर्गों में समानता स्थापित करने का सुझाव श्री जयप्रकाश नारायण का है। बिना उसको समझे-बूझे एक तोता-स्टन्ट उत्तर देकर सरकार ने सदन का समय नष्ट किया। तो मैं आपके जरिये निवेदन करूँगा . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put a question. Do not make a long speech.

श्री राजनारायण : क्या सरकार श्री जयप्रकाश नारायण के इस सुझाव का स्पष्टीकरण खुद श्री जयप्रकाश जी से माग कर इस सदन में कोई समुचित उत्तर देने का कृपा करेगी ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : जी नहीं।

श्री राजनारायण : इतना अंध भाव क्या श्री जयप्रकाश जी से पूछना कोई गुनाह हो जायेगा ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : इसलिए क्योंकि मैं समझता हूँ कि समाज के भिन्न-भिन्न वर्गों को बराबर खिलाने का व्यवस्था करने में हम अभी असमर्थ हैं।

श्री राजनारायण : उनका यह मतलब नहीं है।

श्री जगजीवन राम : उनका भी अगर यह मतलब नहीं है, तो अच्छा होगा कि श्री जयप्रकाश जी अपने गांव में ही प्रयोग करके दिखा दें।

SHRI N. VENKATESWARA RAO: Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that the

Andhra Chief Minister in his zeal for obliging the Centre is sending the best quality rice to the other States and the people in Andhra Pradesh who are living in areas that are under statutory rationing are getting rice which is unfit for human consumption?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: How can I answer that?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The question relates to parity in consumption but before we consume we must procure; otherwise, how can you consume? I was interested in listening to the question put by the lady Member, Shrimati Reddy. She thinks there is a lot of excitement about other things also but unless you are fed, there will be no excitement about anything. Therefore, I should like to know what steps the Government is taking to procure the foodgrains from the surplus States, such as the one from which the Lady Member comes. Is it not a fact that the total surplus there over the needs of that particular State is about 10 lakh tonnes and that a good part of the surplus stock goes into the blackmarket to Kerala and even other places without having been procured by the Government? May I know what steps the Government is taking in this matter in order to procure the foodgrains on Central and State account in order to make this available to the other States?

MR. CHARMAN: Does that arise out of this question?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Yes. The question is about parity in consumption of foodgrains between the different zones in the country and the different sections of the people. For example, Bengal belongs to another zone. It cannot be that Mr. Brahma-nanda Reddy and Shrimati Yashoda Reddy will be over-fed and we shall be starved in Bengal. Of course, you do not look like over-fed, Mrs. Reddy I agree but then, you cannot solve that problem unless you procure food-grains from Andhra. Therefore, my

question is very material. What is the use of asking a philosophical question? This is a more mundane affair. He knows it very well. The food-grains have to be got in order to ensure parity whether in the zone or between the different zones. That is why I am asking whether that aspect has been gone into by the Minister.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: In the way that Mr. Gupta has put it, any question under the sun concerning food can be put under this but unless he gives a separate notice for the question that he has put, I am not in a position to give the answer.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: May I know whether the Government is satisfied with the procurement made in Kerala?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: How does it arise here?

SHIPPING FREIGHT

*161. SHRI YELLA REDDY:

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN:†

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the share of Indian Shipping in the country's foreign trade is still very low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount of freight paid during 1966-67;

(d) the amount that was paid in foreign exchange; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to increase tonnage of Indian Shipping during the Fourth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) to (e) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri P. K. Kumaran.