

assure this House that in all cases all ballot boxes throughout the country never had any false bottoms and that they had only firm bottoms?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The Election Commission had taken steps to see that all the ballot boxes were fool-proof.

*235. [The questioner (Shri T. V. Anandan) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1865-1866 infra]

*236. [The questioner (Shri Niranjan Varma) was absent. For answer, vide col. 1866 infra.]

*237. [The questioner (Shri Babubhai M. Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 1866-1867 infra.]

NATIONAL FOOD BUDGET

*238. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Food budget has been prepared by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). A National Food Budget is under preparation and will be finalized after the Chief Ministers' Conference.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: May I ask the hon. Minister whether a draft of the National Food Budget will be made and placed for the consideration of the Chief Ministers at this proposed conference, or whether this Budget will be prepared after hearing the views of the Chief Ministers?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We have already circulated the tentative proposals to the Chief Ministers of the various States.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Is the hon. Minister really hopeful that a National Food Budget can be prepared and put through in the changed circumstances of today when such a Budget could not be formulated by the Government when Congress Ministries were there both at the Centre and in all the States?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Sir, it is really a matter of common sharing of the available supplies, taking into consideration the present food situation. We had really referred the matter to the Food-grains Policy Committee and that Committee came to the conclusion that it will be in the national interest if we have a National Food Budget. That suggestion was discussed in the last Chief Ministers' conference in November. By and large, there was agreement that there should be a National Food Budget and on that basis the proposal is being considered now.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, in our country there are some States which are deficit States and there are some which are surplus States. May we know from the Government whether it will be the endeavour of the Government to see in the coming Chief Ministers' conference that all the citizens of this country get an equal share of whatever is produced in this country? The present policy of ours has unfortunately added to the feeling of disintegration in the country. Will the Government, therefore, make an endeavour in that respect and can the hon. Minister assure this House accordingly?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Sir, it shall be our endeavour.

DR. D. R. GADGIL: Will the hon. Minister be able to tell us whether the studies that are necessary for preparing the objective materials to be placed before the Chief Ministers conference before they arrive at a National Food Budget by negotiations, are being undertaken and if so, whether the results of such studies will be published?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Obviously, Sir, there are certain limitations in preparing such a Budget. For the information of the hon. Member, I may state some of these limitations. For instance, reliable estimates of the actual levels of consumption on a State-wise basis are not available at the moment. Similarly, data on the movement of foodgrains by road from different States on private accounts are not also available. Thirdly, reliable information regarding the extent to which variations in *per-capita* consumption in different States from year to year are due to the difference in the *per-capita* incomes, is not available. There are some other factors also that are not available. Also in India an estimate of the production of cereals in groups is not available in time for the preparation of the Budget. So, I say that there will be some limitations and I do not think that 100 per cent fool-proof distribution will be possible. But we are trying to evolve, as far as possible, some sort of a rational solution to the problem to which one of the hon. Members, Mr. Dharia, referred.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You call these just some limitations?

AN HON. MEMBER: There are so many limitations.

DR. D. R. GADGIL: What I really wanted the Minister to tell us was whether taking all these limitations into account a proper expert study with any margins of error attached will, in fact, be made and whether on all these accounts the objective data would be published. That was really what I wanted to know.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Yes, Sir. For preparing any National Food Budget, a proper and objective study of the various matters is very necessary, and I personally feel that any attempt to formulate a National Food Budget should be undertaken only after at least some preliminary study of these factors had been undertaken.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has any decision been taken by the Government on the question of the State Governments indulging in pre-emptive purchases programme after the market forces had allowed the prices to be stabilised at certain levels? This is being done in Punjab very successfully. This is a very important point in regard to the National Food Budget. A suggestion has been made that all the State Governments should have the right of making pre-emptive purchases after the prices are fixed and the State Governments should take steps in this regard. We want to stabilise the prices, which is a long-standing necessity. Has any step being taken on that?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: This is a suggestion for action.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: May I know from the Minister whether the deficit States in India are trying to overestimate their demands whereas the surplus States are underestimating their production? May I know from the Minister whether the Central Statistical Organisation is going to pursue a policy of conducting crop cutting surveys in the various States to have a proper estimate of the production.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I cannot make an outright statement that every State is trying to manipulate the statistics, as such. But there are certain difficulties because of the system. We are trying to see that as far as possible there is a common understanding about the statistics which are worked out by the various State Departments and the central Statistical Department.

श्री गोडे मुराहरि : मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि उनका ध्यान कुछ राज्यों की तरफ खींचा गया है, जो बाहर से भी कुछ अन्न यहां पर इम्पोर्ट करने की योजना बना रहे हैं, जैसे कि मैंने अभी अखबार में पढ़ा कि मद्रास और कुछ अन्य राज्य

अपने ही बलबूते पर बर्मा से या और कहीं से अन्न लाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं और अगर ऐसा है, तो केन्द्रीय सरकार का इस बारे में क्या रुख है ?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have seen some statements made by the Chief Minister of Madras about bringing in some rice from Burma in lieu of the compensation to some of the Indian nationals who have been repatriated from Burma. But I have seen this only in the newspapers. When he comes here and if he has got any proposals, they may be examined.

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that according to some officials of his Ministry the foodgrain potential of the country, which is taken as 90 to 98 million tonnes on the basis of the bumper crop of 1963-64, is not a correct figure and that the foodgrain potential actually is 80 to 82 million tonnes and whether this fact will be taken into consideration in preparing the Food Budget?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am not prepared to accept that the potential, the recent agricultural production, is not realistically assessed. Had there not been consecutive droughts, perhaps we would have reached the figure beyond 90 million tonnes.

SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY: May I know whether the emphasis will be more on the steps to be taken for increasing the output of production of foodgrains than on the distribution of foodgrains from the available sources, from the inland supplies and also from the imported supplies, so that dependency upon the import of foodgrains may be gradually decreased?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: It is true that actually production efforts are going to solve our problems, and

emphasis is being laid on more production.

SURPLUS AND DEFICIT STATES

***239. SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the names of surplus, self-sufficient and deficit States in food in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D. ERING): Whether a State is surplus, self-sufficient or deficit depends upon its production and consumption requirements. The former varies from year to year and the latter depends on a number of factors including growth of population, shifts in consumption patterns, rise in levels of income etc. However, on the basis of the pattern of Government distribution of foodgrains during the last few years, it can be said that during a year of normal production and taking all foodgrains together, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Punjab can be classified as surplus States. Assam, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madras as more or less self-sufficient States and the rest as deficit States.

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the State of Jammu and Kashmir is a deficit State and the Centre subsidises that State in the form of food and, if so, at what price and to what extent?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Well, we are giving the requirements of Jammu and Kashmir and it is at a subsidised price. For actual price and quantity, I will require notice.

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO: When rice at the controlled rate in Kashmir is 37 paise per kilo, it is sold in other parts of India at 98 paise or something per kilo. Who, whether the Centre or the State, subsidises this?