

experts both Indian and Swedish and on the basis of data made available to them they have made some recommendations to the Government of India. Of course the future development does not exclude specifically any area.

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR PURCHASING
RICE FOR KERALA**

*127. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Kerala has suggested that if the Centre is not in a position to supply rice in adequate quantities, Kerala must be allowed to utilise some of the foreign exchange earned by that State for the import of rice; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to this suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. No such suggestion has been received by the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise?

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: May I know what is the total amount of foreign exchange being earned out of the sale of commodities grown in Kerala?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: That specific figure at the moment is not with me. I will require notice.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: What is the total requirement of rice and other foodgrains of Kerala and, if imported in full, what will be the foreign exchange involved?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I can give some broad indication. The exact figures will have to be worked out. The international price of rice—the average pool price—of course exceeds Rs. 100/- per quintal

and Kerala's requirement, as far as rice is concerned, is about 70,000 to 75,000 tonnes. On this basis it can be worked out.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: May I know whether there has been any proposal to export the illemenite of Kerala in exchange for rice from Japan and if so what stands in the way of making such a deal?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: There is no such specific proposal to my knowledge.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Only today there was a news item—it was in the All India Radio also—that the Chief Minister of Kerala is reported to have said that he has got offers of rice from Ceylon, Burma and Japan if the Central Government is not in a position to supply rice to them. May I know what is the position with regard to these offers and may I know whether the Government would allow the State to import directly?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am not aware of any offers having been made directly. They have not been brought to our notice. The only thing that I am aware of so far as Ceylon is concerned, so far as Burma is concerned, is that we have ourselves made enquiries and as a matter of fact, as the House is aware—I have informed the House of this—we were receiving some rice from Burma but due to their internal difficulties the quantity of export from Burma is not kept to schedule. I received a letter from the Food Minister of Kerala that she received from some party in America intimating her that he may be able to supply some rice. She passed on that letter to me and we are making enquiries from that party. So far as Ceylon is concerned we have not received anything from there.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Though no official request might have been made by the Chief Minister of Kerala that if the Centre is not in a position to supply rice he should be allowed to

use the foreign exchange which Kerala earns for importing rice from abroad, may I ask the Minister to give his reactions to the general question of the States entering into direct negotiations with foreign Governments for purchase of foodgrains?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have not received any information from the Kerala Government to that effect. As a matter of fact when we received notice of this question we wanted to ascertain from the Kerala Government and I would like to read out a portion of the telegram that we have received:

"Chief Minister Kerala has stated in several of his pronouncements that in asking for foodgrains from Central Government Kerala is not asking for charity. We are working hard and producing valuable cash crops which make significant contribution to the foreign exchange earnings of the country. If Kerala were an independent and sovereign State the foreign exchange so earned would have been used for the purchase of foodgrains from foreign countries. Since however Kerala is part of India and since the Central Government of India is controlling our import and export trade it is the Centre's responsibility to see that this State which earns so much foreign exchange is adequately supplied with foodgrains."

So it is quite clear that at no stage have they suggested formally or officially to the Central Government that they themselves want to enter into bilateral agreement with any foreign country.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Before going to foreign countries in search of rice, may I know from the Government whether they have taken all the steps necessary for procuring rice internally and whether the question of authorising the Food Corporation of India to purchase the rice stocks available in Andhra Pradesh for the

Government of Kerala has been explored? We get reports from the peasants that in the surplus districts of Andhra Pradesh millers are authorised to purchase from the peasants and the peasants are not paid. They have to go round and round the millers. From the millers the Food Corporation makes purchases and the Food Corporation also does not pay them. Why all this rigmarole? Why can't you authorise the Food Corporation to purchase the rice stocks that are available in Andhra? Last year they had surplus and this year also they have got a good crop. Why not authorise the Food Corporation to purchase the surplus stocks instead of going for rice to Burma and other foreign countries?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I hope the hon. Member is aware that even if we take all the surplus that the Andhra Pradesh Government has agreed to give, that will not meet the requirements of Kerala. The surplus rice which the Andhra Pradesh Government has offered is 6 lakh tonnes while the requirements of Kerala is 70,000 to 75,000 tonnes per month. That comes to more than 8 lakh tonnes per year. The Andhra Pradesh Government has offered to supply rice but as I explained that day in the House there has been some difficulty there in the procurement of rice and in keeping to the schedule last month and this month. Andhra is to despatch 1500 tonnes of rice every day to Kerala but last month and this month due to some internal difficulties in procurement and late arrival of the second crop they have not been able to keep to the schedule. I may inform the House that the Food Corporation is functioning in Andhra and procuring rice for supply to Kerala. They have been despatching rice but as I have said there has been some difficulty and it is expected—I have an assurance from the Andhra Government—that the supply will be stepped up and we are expecting that in June the supply will be much better than what

it has been during the last two months.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: It has been reported in various newspapers that some of the States have been making a demand for direct import of rice and other foodgrains. This has caused severe concern in all the circles. May we know from the hon. Minister very categorically that in order to maintain the integrity of this country and also in order to have planned progress of this country no State will be allowed to have direct imports as they have been demanding?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: There is no question, no State will be permitted to have direct import from outside. As a matter of fact I have made it clear to the House that no State Government has approached us for such imports.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: This is with regard to the question of import of rice from foreign countries in lieu of the exports of the State's commodities. But I would like to know how far the Government of India and the Ministry of Agriculture agree to the Kerala Chief Minister going directly to the Chief Ministers of Andhra and other surplus States to discuss the question of supply of rice. Will you allow them to do it on their own or will the Government of India control all the surplus stocks in the country?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Supplies from one State to another are made through the Government of India. Perhaps the Kerala Chief Minister thought that if he met the Chief Ministers of the surplus States perhaps the despatches might be expedited. I do not know whether he was wise in doing that or not but he did it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anxiety.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The press reports are that due to shortage of rice stocks the rationing arrangements in Kerala are likely to break down in a day or two. May I know if the

attention of the Minister has been drawn to these press reports and if so what is the truth behind these reports? If the reports are true what action has he already taken or he proposes to take to ensure that rationing in Kerala does not break down?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am not quite sure whether the hon. Member was present in the House when I replied to the food debate. I explained all these things. Perhaps he will care to go through the debate and he will get the answer to his question.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: Now that the harvesting is over in Andhra, is it not possible to send more to Kerala for the time being, instead of the 17,000 tonnes per month? A little more than this you can send for a few months and afterwards from other parts you can substitute it.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, so far as the second crop in Andhra was concerned, there were some late arrivals. Now from the latter half of May, the arrivals of the second harvest in Andhra have been better and we are expecting, as I have said earlier, that the despatches from Andhra in the coming months, in the month of June, will be much better. We are hoping that Andhra will be able to despatch 1,500 tonnes everyday and we will have to run practically two specials from Andhra to Kerala everyday.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: Is it a fact that a special variety of rice is grown in Andhra and in the Tanjore District of Madras State, which is meant for Kerala, the cheap variety rice and even that is not being sent to Kerala and that we are having a wagon-to-mouth or ship-to-mouth existence in Kerala even during the harvesting season?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The Member has quoted just two phrases from our own statement. Our rice position is one of ship-to-wagon and wagon-

to-mouth. That explains the difficulty. There are certain varieties of rice in Andhra and also in Madras which are mostly consumed in Kerala. Madras being just marginally surplus or just self-sufficient, whatever rice is supplied from Madras to Kerala has to be made good from supplies from Andhra to Madras. Therefore, that does not increase the availability of rice for supplying to Kerala.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: What steps have been taken by the Government to make other foodgrains more palatable and attractive for the people of rice-eating areas?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As a matter of fact, the House will remember what I had said that due to factors beyond our control there is a short supply of rice to Kerala, but we have an adequate stock of wheat maintained in Kerala itself for being released to the ration shops.

*128. [Transferred to the 7th June, 1967.]

NATIONALISATION OF TRACTOR INDUSTRY

*129. **SHRI NARINDAR SINGH BRAR:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme under consideration for the nationalisation of Tractor industry in order to give tractors to the farmers on no-profit, no-loss basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have any scheme under consideration to make mobile tractor workshops, district-wise or block-wise through the State Governments to help the farmer under Grow More Food Scheme; and

(d) if so, what is the response of the State Governments in this connection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D. ERING): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This scheme has not yet been finalised and sent to States for their opinion.

شری نریندر سنگھ برار : آپ
ٹریکٹرس کے مہنٹریکچر کم نیشنلائز
نہیں کرنا چاہتے اس کی سیل کو
اپنے ہاتھ میں لینا نہیں چاہتے تو
آپ کے پاس کونسی تدبیر تجویز ہے
جس سے زمیندار کو سستا ٹریکٹر
مل سکے اور وہ زمین کے تھوڑے سے
ٹکڑے میں اپنا کام چلا سکے - اس
کے اوپر بوجھ نہ پڑے ایسا کوئی طریقہ
ہے آپ کے پاس -

†[श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह बरार : आप ट्रैक्टरों के
मैनुफैक्चर को नेशनलाइज नहीं करना
चाहते इसकी सेल को अपने हाथ में लेना
नहीं चाहते तो आपके पास कौन सी तदबीर
तजवीज है जिससे जमींदार को सस्ता
ट्रेक्टर मिल सके और वह जमीन के थोड़े
से टुकड़े में अपना काम चला सके। इसके
ऊपर बोझा न पड़े ऐसा कोई तरीका
है आप के पास ?]

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: The tractor industry is in a very infant state. I do not think the stage has arrived when we can think of nationalising the tractor industry. As far as the other part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, viz., how to make more tractors available to farmers, we are trying to see that mostly their requirement is met from indigenous production. We have at the

†[] Hindi translation.