

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
OFFICIAL REPORT

IN THE FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

Commencing on the 16th August, 1965 to the 25th August, 1965 (Saka)

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 16th August, 1965 to the 25th August, 1965 (Saka).

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**STOCK OF FOODGRAINS WITH THE
GOVERNMENT**

/SHRI M. C. SHAH: SHRI
RAM SAHAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the actual stock of wheat and rice with the Government up to the end of June, 1965 which were (i) procured from within the country and (ii) imported from foreign countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): During the period January to June, 1965, a total quantity of 1.1 million tonnes of wheat and rice was procured for the Central stocks from within the country. During the same period a quantity of 3.7 million tonnes of wheat and rice was imported from other countries.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. C. Shah.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know, Sir, the quantity of imports and the countries from which these imports were made and the amounts paid therefor?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: The quantity has been mentioned—3.7 million tonnes.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, as far as wheat is concerned, it is under PL-480. As far as rice is concerned, we have been getting it from Thailand, Cambodia, Burma and to a certain extent from the U.A.R. also. The exact amounts paid are not immediately available but if the hon. Member wants, the information can be supplied later.

SHRI M. C. SHAH: May I know whether the production of wheat and rice in our country has not been increasing from year to year, say, from 1963 to 1964 and, if it has, been increasing, to what extent?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As compared to 1963-64, there has been a considerable increase in 1964-65 and the total increase is round about 8.5 million tonnes, taking the whole foodgrains into account.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं मंत्री
महोदय से यह जान सकूंगा कि यह स्टॉक
भारत में किन-किन मुकामों पर रखा गया
है ?

श्री डी० आर० चव्हाण : यह तो सब जगहों में जहाँ सेंट्रल गोडाउन्स है वहाँ रखा गया है।

श्री शेरखां : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जवार का स्टॉक जून, 65 तक कितना था ?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: There is no stock of jowar at the Central Storage Depot.

SHRI NAFISUL HASAN: May I know, Sir, why, in spite of the bumper crop this year, the prices of wheat have been going up?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, it is completely a different phenomenon. It is the general economic situation prevailing in the country, it is not only the wheat prices, but also the general prices of various articles have been going up. That is why it has to be dealt with not merely on the food front, but as treatment to the general economic situation.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Is it not a fact that due to imposition of levy on the farmers the prices have gone up and the availability of foodgrains has also reduced and, if so, whether this aspect of the problem has been considered by the Government?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: To which State the hon. Member is referring?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I am referring to Bihar where levy has been imposed on the farmers—to give a particular portion of their produce to the Government.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, there was no levy on the farmers. There was a levy on the rice mills in Bihar but even that did not work successfully. As against the target of one lakh tonnes they procured only about 30 thousand tonnes, and even that has been given up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How is it, Sir, that when the production goes up as compared to the previous years the prices rise and when the production goes down, then also the prices rise? From the statement of the Minister it appears that the general production has gone up and even so the prices are rising. Is it because the Government have failed to procure the stocks and do not have arrangements in order to see that the market arrivals are there and the stocks flow into the hands of the Government or agencies which can be relied upon?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As I have already stated, it is due to the general economic situation. In addition to that, it is after two or three years of low production that we got a bumper crop. Therefore the tendency among the farmers also is to wait and see how the next season is going to fare. Unfortunately the monsoon has not been quite favourable. Therefore there is a tendency even among the farmers to hold on to the stocks; they are not quite sure about the crop prospects.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know if it is a fact that most of the rice mills in Bihar have suspended milling and, if so, what is the reason for that? Is the imposition of levy responsible for it or is there any other reason?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, the imposition of levy was considered to be unworkable by the rice mills there. That is why they closed down. But that levy is no longer there and, therefore, the mills are working now.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the Government is aware of the fact that in July the food prices in U.P. had risen abnormally and that the only reliable consumer index, that of Kanpur working class, indicated that the prices of foodstuffs had risen by 61 points in July alone

and, if so, is the Government going to release some extra stocks to meet the situation in U.P., particularly at Kanpur?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I cannot answer with regard to a particular city. This has been due to the general economic situation but I do agree that there has been a rise in food prices in U.P., not only in U.P., but in other parts of the country also. As I have already stated, this is a phenomenon. The farmers, according to the statistics available, are still having about 40 per cent. of the market-table surplus with them.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: The Minister said in answer to an earlier question that bumper crops are coming in but the tendency among farmers is to wait and watch and to see what is going to happen. In view of that, Sir, is procurement not the only answer and, if so, why is procurement not being undertaken vigorously to improve the situation?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, the question was considered in the Chief Ministers' Conference. We have taken certain decisions and with the implementation of those decisions perhaps during the next season it should be possible for us to have better procurement.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, the Minister stated just now, that the rising prices are due to the general economic situation. Recently the Reserve Bank passed a number of orders which have been called the credit squeeze in respect of clean bills and clean overdrafts. May I ask the Minister whether these orders have had no effect on the price situation as far as food-grains are concerned?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I am advised by the experts that but for these measures the prices would have gone up much further.

SHRI R. S. KHANDEKAR: Is it not a fact that in Madhya Pradesh some levy was imposed on the traders and the traders refused to co-operate with the Government and, therefore, the whole stock of wheat, despite that bumper crop in Madhya Pradesh, went underground and the prices rose? If that is so, what is the reaction of the Government to that? Secondly, Sir, was there any difference of opinion between the State Government and the Central Government and is it a fact that both the Government employed their own agencies to assess the actual production of wheat in the State?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: As far as production assessment is concerned, it is done only by the State authorities; no doubt some check is made but we are relying upon the figures given by the State authorities. As far as levy on the traders is concerned, Sir, there was a levy and because of that there were some difficulties. But I am told by the Government of Madhya Pradesh that they are trying to get stocks from the producers themselves and the position has slightly improved.

SHRI B. K. GAIKWAD: Are the Government aware that the people living in villages, particularly in Maharashtra, are starving for want of food? As far as my knowledge goes, about four kilos are provided for a family per month. If that is so, will the Government distribute the stocks proportionately to those States which, are suffering on account of this scarcity of foodgrains?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, recently in the Chief Ministers' Conference these figures were gone into with reference to the distribution of the Central pool to the various States.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You are still talking about the Chief Ministers' Conference.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, they were satisfied that there was no dis-

crimination against Maharashtra. On the other hand, a more liberal allotment has been made to Maharashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

TRAINING FOR COMMERCIAL PILOTS

♦2. SHRI BIREN ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of flying hours done at different Training Centres and the number and types of aircraft used by them respectively during 1963, 1964 and till June 30, 1965;

(b) the number of fully trained Pilot Instructors with ratings at each of these centres;

(c) whether there is provision at any of these centres to train Pilots to Commercial Pilot's Licence stage and if so, at which centres; and

(d) how many new Commercial Pilot's Licences were issued during 1963, 1964 and the first half of 1965?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) I lay on the Table of the Sabha a statement giving the required information. (See below—Statement I.)

(to) The requisite information is given in the statement laid on the Table of the Sabha. (See below—Statement II).

(c) The Flying School (Civil Aviation Training Centre) has been handed over to the Indian Air Force. There is no provision at any of the Flying Clubs to train candidates to Commercial Pilot's Licence stage.

(d) The number of new Commercial Pilots' Licences issued during 1963, 1964 and the first half of 1965 was 22, 7 and 1, respectively.

STATEMENT I

Part (a)

Name of the Training Centre	Flying hours done		
	1963	1964	1965
	hrs.	hrs.	hrs.
1 Civil Aviation Training Centre (Flying School)†	143·50
2 Flying Clubs—			

Sl. No.	Name of the Flying Clubs	Flying hours done		
		From Jan. to Dec. 1963	From Jan. to Dec. 1964	From Jan. to June 1965
1	Andhra Pradesh Flying Club	967·25	1189·05	1900·10
2	West Bengal Govt. Flying Training Institute	240·32	1373·23	992·45
3	Bihar Flying Club	2127·29	1734·44	704·46
4	Bombay Flying Club	3649·03	2703·25	2309·53
5	Delhi Flying Club	3596·06	3525·00	1375·00
6	Govt. Flying Training School, Bangalore	1548·20	1081·20	403·45

†The Flying School was handed over to the Indian Air Force in February, 1963.