

जैसा कि मैंने शुरू में ब्रज किया था कि फर्टि-
लाइजर्स का इस्तेमाल जो हमारे देश में होता
है, वह बनिरवत उन दूसरे देशों के जहां
बहुत अच्छी पैदावार है बहुत कम है। तो
अभी हमको बहुत दूर जाना है।

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know, Sir, if the negotiations which the Government was carrying on with the Bechtals Corporation of America have finally broken down and the deal has turned out to be a bad tale or whether the negotiations are still on? If they have broken, has the Government sought further opportunities of collaboration in setting up fertiliser plants from other countries?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: This was a business transaction of which the terms were not agreeable to us. Therefore, there is no question of bad tale or good tale. It is a question of acceptability to us. If they offer us better terms, we are prepared to negotiate with them. It is not a question of saying well, it is Bechtal and we would not touch it. It is a question of terms being acceptable to us. If they offer us better terms, certainly we will again negotiate with them. If the terms are acceptable, we will ask them to put up plants. Not only Bechtal but various other concerns also are coming forward for collaboration. Recently we have sanctioned a few schemes outside Bechtal.

SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA: The Third Five Year Plan could not produce as much fertilisers as we wanted. The Fourth Five Year Plan has a programme for further expansion. It takes very long to put up a fertiliser plant. I would like to know whether the Government have got any time-table for coming to some arrangement with some countries for putting up these factories, whether they have investigated the possibilities of having fertiliser plants with the collaboration and assistance of the socialist countries? Particularly I would like to know whether any offers

have come or the Government have made any attempt to get the know-how and assistance of the socialist countries. I was just there in those countries and I found that they were anxious to help India to manufacture fertilisers.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, Russia has offered to assist us in putting up a fertiliser factory. But that would come only towards the end of the Fourth Plan. But, as I already stated, socialist countries themselves are trying to purchase fertilisers from other countries. They are in such a state of affairs. As a matter of fact, even Russia which is perhaps much, better developed than the other socialist countries is not in a position to help us immediately to put up fertiliser factories. In this connection we have to find out whether immediately it is possible for us to get collaboration from other countries.

PURCHASE OF GRAMS BY STATE GOVERNMENTS

/SHRI ABDUL GHANI: † \ SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Governments are purchasing grams for the Central Government;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has made any purchases on behalf of the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the quantity purchased and price paid therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Abdul Ghani.

شروی عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب فرمائیں گے کہ ان کے نوٹس میں ایسی بات آئی ہے کہ راجستھان سرکار نے چنے خریدے 50 روپے کوئٹل کے بہار سے اور وہ چنے کجرات اور آسام اور مدراس کو دوگنی قیمت پر مہیا کیے گئے ؟

[[†] श्री अरबुल घनी : क्या वजीर साहब फरमावेंगे कि उनके नाटिस में ऐसी बात आई है कि राजस्थान सरकार ने चने खरीदे 50 रुपए क्विंटल के भाव से और वह चने गुजरात और आसाम और मद्रास को दुगनी कीमत पर महेया किए गए ?]

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: As a matter of fact certain quantities were purchased at rates varying between Rs. 40-50 and Rs. 41-50 and sold at Rs. 55. Then certain quantities were purchased at Rs. 52 and sold at Rs. 65. The difference between the two consists of administrative charges, handling charges, interest on capital blocked, etc.

شروی عبدالغنی : کیا وزیر صاحب فرمائیں گے کہ جو چیز 50 سے نیچے خریدی گئی اور 100 روپے کے قریب بیچی گئی اس سے گورنمنٹ کے وقار کو نقصان لگنے کا قہر ہے؟ کیا گورنمنٹ اس پر ایکشن کرے گی کہ ایسا کیوں ہوا؟

[[†] श्री अरबुल घनी : क्या वजीर साहब फरमावेंगे कि जो चीज 50 से नीचे खरीदी गई और 100 रुपये के करीब बेची गई उससे गवर्नमेंट के वकार को घक्का लगाने का डर है ? क्या गवर्नमेंट इस पर एक्शन करेगी कि ऐसा क्यों हुआ ।]

[^t] Hindi transliteration.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The Central Government had nothing to do with these purchases. It was a State-to-State arrangement. I do agree that it is not quite satisfactory. That is why from next season the Food Corporation will come into the picture and will purchase and make it available to the other State Governments.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: The gram was purchased at Rs. 50 and sold at Rs. 65. Is that the limit which the Government wants the private traders to observe? Is it not profiteering? If not, what is that?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The hon. Member would not have objected if a private trader had sold it not only for Rs. 65 but even for Rs. 80.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: I would have.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I do not know.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Are you competing with the private traders? Is the Government to behave in this manner?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It is a question of at what rates they were purchased, what were the overhead charges. Particularly! gram, if it is stored, deteriorates quickly. They have to make it up so that there is no loss. I do agree this looks a little bit high price—purchasing at Rs. 50 and selling at Rs. 65. When we enquired into it we found that the State Governments were charging a little more than what was warranted. So we have decided to make an arrangement in which the State Government would not come into the picture. So the Food Corporation would purchase and make it available to the other State Governments. I think this arrangement should work better.

SHRI U. S. PATIL: Has the Central Government examined the amount invested by the Rajasthan Government

for the purchase of gram, storing expenditure and other expenditure?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: We are not concerned with it. It was a State-to-State arrangement. Certain complaints were made that high prices were charged. That is why a new arrangement is being made now.

*8. [The questioner (Shri Babu-bhai M. Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 47-48 infra.]

RATIONING OF IMPORTED WHEAT IN DELHI

f SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: *9. J
SHRI BABUBHAI M. [CHINAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any committee was appointed to examine the feasibility of rationing of imported wheat in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations of this committee; and

(c) what decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee were not in favour of introduction of informal rationing of imported wheat in Delhi.

(c) It has been decided at the recent Conference of the Chief Ministers held in New Delhi that statutory rationing of foodgrains should be introduced in all the cities having a population of one million and over. This will cover Delhi also.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: May I ask the Minister, that besides the general principles laid down by the Chief

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri I. K. Gujral.

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Ministers that there shall be rationing in urban areas, in Delhi particularly, is the proposal of rationing meant to reduce the consumption or to reduce the prices or merely to rationalise distribution?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: First of all, we have got to ensure that everybody gets wheat and rice at reasonable prices. That will have to be ensured. Now it depends on market conditions. In addition to that, it is all right when supply is abundant, everybody is able to get but once there is scarcity—and that scarcity developed with regard to rice—everybody is in difficulty. That is why the Food Ministry thought that there should be controlled distribution even with reference to Delhi City and we had been taking it up with the Delhi Administration for the last one year. In the Advisory Committee of which Mr. Gujral also is a Member, when this point of view was put forward that let us begin at least with informal rationing of imported wheat, they said 'No. Not only imported wheat but everything else should be rationed'. They appointed a Committee and there they came to the conclusion that there need not be rationing, but there is an overall decision taken that there should be statutory rationing in all the big cities.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: What is the total annual consumption of indigenous and imported cereal in Delhi now and how much will be the total estimated consumption after rationing is introduced?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: I cannot give the exact figure. I think we would require about 5 or 6 lakh tons of wheat of which half will be imported and half will be indigenous but when we have controlled distribution, I expect the figures would be coming down considerably because now particularly imported wheat, which is being made freely available