

RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 14th September, 1964]
23rd Bhadra, 1886 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

गेहूँ का चोरी से ले जाया जाना

*१४६. श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पंजाब, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू और काश्मीर तथा दिल्ली का गेहूँ का जो जोन है उससे बाहर गेहूँ ले जाने वाले गिरोहगत तीन मास में कहां कहां पकड़े गये तथा कितना गेहूँ पकड़ा गया और इस कार्य को रोकने के लिये क्या क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

f] SMUGGLING OF WHEAT

•149. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the names of the places where gangs engaged in Wheat smuggling from the wheat zone comprising Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi, have been caught during the last three months and the quantity of wheat seized and the steps that are being taken to check smuggling?]

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री डी० आर० चव्हाण): पंजाब के गुड़गांव, रोहतक और फिरोजपुर जिलों के कुछ केन्द्रों पर, दिल्ली-शाहदरा-उत्तर प्रदेश सीमा, जी० टी० रोड और दिल्ली-उत्तर प्रदेश सीमा, लोनी रोड पर चोरी-छिपे गेहूँ ले जाने के प्रयत्न करते हुए पकड़े गये।

मई से जुलाई, १९६४ के इन तीन महीनों में गेहूँ की पकड़ी गई मात्रा लगभग ३४५ क्विंटल थी।

नाकाबन्दी/जांच चौकियों की संख्या बढ़ा कर और इन नाकाबन्दी/जांच चौकियों पर अतिरिक्त कर्मचारी तैनात करके तस्कर व्यापार विरोधी उपायों को सुदृढ़ कर दिया गया है। राज्य अधिकारियों द्वारा अचानक जांच करने की व्यवस्था भी की जा रही है।

[TUE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): Attempts of smuggling wheat were detected at some centres of Gurgaon, Rohtak and Ferozapore districts of Punjab, Delhi-Shahdara-U.P. border on the G. T. Road and Delhi-U.P. border on the Loni Road.

The quantity of wheat seized during the three months May to July, 1964 was about 345 quintals.

The anti-smuggling measures have been strengthened by increasing the number of barriers/check-posts and by posting additional staff at these barriers/check-posts. Surprise checks are also being arranged by the State authorities.]

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : प्रायः रोज ही अखबारों में हम लोग पढ़ते हैं कि यह स्मगलिंग का रोजगार बहुत बढ़ता जा रहा है। इसलिये क्या गवर्नमेंट यह अनुभव करती है कि जो भी गवर्नमेंट ने इस सम्बन्ध में अभी तक किया है वह नाकाफी है और वह उसको रोक नहीं पा रही है ?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: As I have already stated in reply to the question, as a result of the anti-smuggling measures that have been adopted by the Government, 345 quintals of wheat have been seized.

f]] English translation.

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या स्मगलिंग का एक कारण यह भी है कि गवर्नमेंट ने जो ज़ोनल सिस्टम स्थापित कर रखे हैं उसका भी दुरुपयोग किया जाता है क्योंकि जहाँ अनाज सस्ता होता है वहाँ से महंगाई की जगह लोग बेचने के वास्ते अनाज खे जाते हैं ? तो क्या एक कारण यह भी है कि ज़ोनल सिस्टम के कारण यह स्मगलिंग हो रही है ?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: That may be on account of that.

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : कितने आदमी पकड़े गये हैं अब तक ?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: That information is not available at present.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: There are reports in the Press that a large number of people are being arrested on the D.lhi-Shahdara-Ghaziabad road. May I know, Sir, out of those who are either caught or convicted how many are commercial smugglers and how many of them are small people who take five or ten seers of wheat with them for their own consumption because they are working in Delhi and have their residence in Shahdara or Ghaziabad? May I know, Sir, whether it is the Government's policy to take into custody such people who take small quantity of grains for personal consumption?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: Concerning the persons involved in smuggling activity I have just now stated that that information is not available at present.

SHRI G. M. MIR: May I know whether it is a fact that in spite of the Government taking anti-smuggling measures, smuggling is increasing day by day and that there is no decrease in smuggling at all?

SHRI D. R. CHAVAN: I cannot say anything unless I have got comparative statistics of the previous month

and this month. As I have told you, the statistics about the persons involved in smuggling activities is not with me at present.

SHRI G. M. MIR: May I know, Sir, whether smuggling is on the decrease or it is still on the increase?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not got comparative statistics.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know, Sir, if it is not a fact that there is a great disparity in the prices of wheat between Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and that this disparity is the main cause for this smuggling? May I know, Sir, what steps are being taken by the Government to see that prices are nearly uniform in the different States?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is the obvious reason for smuggling going on, the difference in prices in the Punjab Zone and the Uttar Pradesh State. Sir, that is why we are considering whether we should have the Zones continuing. A decision can be taken only at the time of the next harvest season. This has been stated as the Government policy.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: In view of the prevailing condition all round Delhi and Punjab, may I know, Sir, why the Government has not taken into consideration that smuggling will go on on a very large scale and why the Government did not take precaution in the very beginning?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. It will be very difficult to stop smuggling particularly if the difference in prices is large and it is profitable for anybody to take wheat across the border to another area. That is why we have to consider whether it would be wise to have the zonal arrangements keeping this artificial difference in prices. That is one of the matters which will be considered and a decision will be taken at the appropriate time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sapru. You have been standing for some time.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: May I know, Sir, if I come within the mischief of the Act if I take out some wheat or rice for personal consumption?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Well, Sir, if the hon. Member takes it out, his bona fides will be accepted. It all depends upon the person concerned. If they make it a profession to take it across the border for the purpose of selling it at a higher price when they come within the mischief of the Act whatever the quantity, small or large consignments. This is a question of the bona fides of the person concerned.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: Suppose I take it for purposes of my family or some intimate friends, do I come within the mischief of the Act?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: The hon. Member can get a permit for that.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया:
क्या श्रीमान यह बतलायेंगे कि भारतवर्ष में सबसे अधिक कीमत गेहूँ की कहां पर क्या है और सबसे कम कहां पर क्या है और अगर यह सारा जोन सिस्टम समाप्त करके एक सरीखी व्यवस्था की गई तो मिनिमम प्राइसेज क्या रहने वाली हैं ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is a committee appointed to go into it and it is under the chairmanship of Shri L. K. Jha. They will be making recommendations within a few days particularly with regard to rice, to be applicable throughout the country. As far as wheat is concerned, the same process will be adopted before the next harvest season, and even perhaps a little earlier, it would be possible for us to announce a national price pattern.

श्री عبد الغنى : قیمت سب سے زیادہ کہاں ہے اور سب سے کم کہاں ہے - اس کا جواب نہیں دیا -

[श्री अब्दुलغनी : कीमत सबसे ज्यादा कहाँ है और सबसे कम कहाँ है इसका जवाब नहीं दिया ?]

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know, Sir, what is the barometer with the hon. Minister to judge the bona fides of a particular individual?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: It will be seen whether the person concerned has applied for a permit or without taking a permit he is taking it out. All these things will be taken into-consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could you enlighten the Member about prices? In which region are the prices the highest and in which region the lowest?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Punjab is the lowest and UP. and Maharashtra regions are the highest.

SHRI A. B. VAJPAYEE: Now that the Government has decided not to abolish the wheat zones, may I know, Sir, what the Government proposes to do to meet the critical situation in Uttar Pradesh in the coming two months?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: For the purpose of feeding Uttar Pradesh we are trying to supply as much imported wheat as possible. In the last month we had agreed to give 105,000 tons of wheat. For that month, as a matter of fact the wheat supply increased; it was round about 120,000 tons. This month also we are trying to give them as much as possible from the imported wheat.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PA-RANJPYE: May I know, Sir, how

-f[] Hindi transliteration.

long these zones have been in existence?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Wheat zones were introduced in March 1964.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture had declared in his inaugural speech at the Chief Ministers' Conference that the zonal system would be abolished?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already said that this will be considered at the time of the next harvest.

PROF. M. B. LAL: May I know, Sir, whether the report in the Press that U.P. is not being supplied the wheat promised by the Union Government is true?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: That is not correct.

DELHI STATE CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE STORES

*150. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various documents including account books of the Delhi State Central Co-operative Stores have been seized by the police in a series of raids recently; and

(b) if so, whether any case has been registered against the Co-operative Stores under the Essential Commodities Act?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) and (b)

"Yes, Sir.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Is it a fact that the recent raids were connected with the infringement of the Iron and Steel Import Control Orders and, if so, what is the quantity and value of the goods involved in the transaction?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: A case under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was registered against the Delhi State Central Co-operative

Stores under F.I.R. No. 357, dated the 12th June, 1964. The Police have gone into the matter and found that about fifteen metric tonnes of G.C. Sheets were sold by this Stores to the Peasant Co-operative Society which in turn sold them to the OP. Iron Stores and Shri Purushottam Das who did not hold any quota or permits.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The affairs of this Co-operative Store have been under investigation for the past ten months. Why has there been this delay in the Government coming to a conclusion about the persons responsible for this alleged transaction?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: As I told the hon. House, there are two investigations. One is the Police investigation to which I have just referred and another is a statutory investigation by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of Delhi. The Co-operative Registrar, Delhi, has issued an order to the audit party provided by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, who have gone into the action of this Stores—which they have completed—and the report has been submitted. In this case, as I told you, the Police also have completed their investigations and the next step will follow.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Has the Auditor General in his report mentioned the name of any person who, in his opinion, was responsible for this action or perhaps he mentioned only the society?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: We are not in possession of the report.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौर-
डिया : क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलाएंगे कि
पहले इस सोसाइटी द्वारा गुड़ के बारे में
गड़बड़ी हुई, चावल के बारे में गड़बड़ी हुई
और फिर अब स्टील के बारे में गड़बड़ी हुई
तो क्रमशः यह सब होते हुए भी कब तक
इन्को लूट की छूट दी जाती रहेगी ?