

RAJYA SABHA

Saturday, 27th September 1958

The House met at eleven of the Clock. Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EFFECT OF RECENT FLOOD ON DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT

9. SHRI S. PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Damodar Valley Project has been affected in any manner by the unprecedented flood which incurred recently in the river Damodar and which is reported to be the biggest of its kind;

(b) whether the execution of Maithon Dam has been completed and whether any damage has been caused to the said dam by the flood;

(c) what is the extent of the loss or damage caused to the Damodar Valley Project as a whole; and

(d) to what extent the Project has successfully controlled the flood?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI J. S. L. HATHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Maithon Dam was completed in June, 1956. No damage has been caused to this Dam by the recent floods.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The DVC Dams controlled the flood very effectively. It is estimated that the recent flood would have resulted in peak flow of 665,000 cusecs Durgapur which was moderated to the maximum observed flow of 205,000 cusecs. The maximum controlled release below Maithon and Panchet was 185,000 cusecs.

73 R.S.D.—1.

केरल, मैसूर, आंध्रप्रदेश, मद्रास और बम्बई में खाद्यान्नों के भाव

१०. श्री राम सहाय. क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केरल, मैसूर, आंध्र प्रदेश, मद्रास और बम्बई के राज्यों में खाद्यान्नों के वर्तमान भाव क्या हैं और क्या वे उत्तर भारत की अपेक्षा अधिक हैं, यदि अधिक हैं तो कितने;

(ख) केरल में खाद्यान्नों के भण्डार की स्थिति अन्य राज्यों के मुकाबिले में कैसी है; और

(ग) क्या केरल सरकार ने कुछ सब-सिडी देने का निश्चय किया है, यदि हां, तो कितनी और अब तक कितनी दी जा चुकी है ?

† [PRICES OF FOODGRAINS IN KERALA, MYSORE, ANDHRA PRADESH, MADRAS, AND BOMBAY

10 SHRI RAM SAHAI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the current prices of foodgrains in the States of Kerala, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh, Madras and Bombay, and whether they are higher in comparison to those prevailing in North India; if so, by how much;

(b) what is the position of stocks of foodgrains in Kerala in comparison to other States; and

(c) whether the Government of Kerala have decided to give some subsidy; if so, how much, and how much has been given so far?]

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री ए० पी० जैन) : (क) से (ग). (१) दक्षिणी चावल क्षेत्र में चावल खपत से अधिक होता है। शेष क्षेत्र की बचत केरल की कमी को आवश्यकता से अधिक पूरा कर सकती है। दक्षिणी चावल क्षेत्र में चावल के भाव उत्तरीय भारत की अपेक्षा बहुत नीचे हैं। केरल सहित दक्षिणी चावल क्षेत्र में साधारण चावल के

† [] English translation.

थोक भाव १६ रुपये से २१ रुपये ५० पैसे प्रति मन है, जबकि पश्चिमी बंगाल में २५ रुपये प्रति मन से ३७ रुपये तक, बिहार में २४ रुपये २५ पैसे प्रति मन से २७ रुपये ५० पैसे तक, बम्बई में २१ रुपये प्रति मन से ३० रुपये ५० पैसे प्रति मन तक, उत्तर प्रदेश में २१ रुपये ५० पैसे प्रति मन से २४ रुपये ५० पैसे तक।

(२) केन्द्रीय सरकार मद्रास, मैसूर और आन्ध्र को सस्ते अनाज की दुकानों द्वारा बेचने के लिये चावल नहीं दे रही है। परन्तु भारत सरकार ने केरल सरकार को ४०,००० टन चावल दिया है। इसके अतिरिक्त २४,००० टन और उधार दिया है। दक्षिणी क्षेत्र के दूसरे भागों से केरल में चावल व्यापार के लिये बिना रोक-टोक आता है। केरल सरकार भी अपनी आवश्यकता के लिये चावल खरीद सकती है।

(३) कण्ट्रोल के दिनों में राज्य सरकार अपनी मालगुजारी में से १.५ करोड़ रुपये की सहायता प्रति वर्ष खाद्यान्न को कम भाव पर बेचने के लिये दिया करती थी। गत वर्ष यह निर्णय हुआ था कि केरल सरकार खाद्यान्न नीचे भाव पर बेचने के लिये एक करोड़ रुपये तक की आर्थिक सहायता स्वयं दिया करेगी। उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार उन्होंने अभी तक इस दिशा में कुछ थोड़े ही लाख रुपये खर्च किये हैं। इसलिये राज्य सरकार को भाव नीचा करने के लिये जो खर्च करना पड़ता है, उससे बचाने के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा आर्थिक सहायता देने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(४) केरल के खाद्य मन्त्री से आज केरल की स्थिति पर विचार-विनिमय किया जायेगा।

†[THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): (a) to (c). (i) The Southern Rice Zone is surplus in rice. The deficit of Kerala is more than covered by the surplus in the rest of the Zone. The prices of rice in the Southern Rice

Zone are much lower than the prices prevailing in Northern India. The wholesale prices of common rice in the Southern Rice Zone including Kerala range between Rs. 19.00 and Rs. 21.50 per maund as against the prices of following:—

	(Rs. per maund.)
West Bengal	25.00 to 37.00
Bihar	24.25 to 27.50
Bombay	21.00 to 30.50
U.P.	21.50 to 24.50

(ii) No rice is being supplied by the Centre to Madras, Mysore or Andhra for sale through fair price shops. However, the Government of India have made available about 40,000 tons of rice and loaned another 24,000 tons to Kerala Government. Rice is moving freely on trade account into Kerala from other parts of the Southern Zone. Kerala Government can also buy rice for its need.

(iii) During the control days, the State Government used to subsidise the sale of foodgrains to the extent of about Rs. 1.5 crores a year out of their own revenues and it was decided last year that the Kerala Government would meet the cost of subsidy up to Rs. 1 crore. Information available does not indicate that they have incurred so far expenditure on this account of more than a few lakhs of rupees. The question of the Centre's giving any financial assistance in order to save the State Government from the extra cost of subsidy does not, therefore, arise.

(iv) The position in Kerala will be discussed today with the Food Minister of Kerala.]

श्री राम सहाय : क्या माननीय मन्त्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि केरल गवर्नमेंट ने इस कारण से कि वहां की जनता को कोई तकलीफ नहीं है, सबसिडी नहीं दी या कोई दूसरा कारण है ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : मैं तो इस बात को नहीं कह सकता, लेकिन यह तो एक वाक्या

है कि उनको एक करोड़ रुपये की सबसिड देनी थी और अभी तक उन्होंने कुछ लाख की सबसिडी दी है ?

श्री राम सहाय : क्या यह वाक्या है कि केरल गवर्नमेण्ट ने कोई खरीददारी वहां चावल के किसी ठेकेदार के मार्फत की थी ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : हा, कुछ दिन हुए, की थी ।

श्री राम सहाय : क्या इस बारे में आपको कोई जानकारी मालूम है कि उस ठेकेदार से कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के लिये चन्दा वसूल किया गया है ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : मुझ को तो इसकी कोई खबर नहीं मिली है । अखबार में जो सूचनाएं छपी थीं, वे आनरेबल मेम्बर ने भी देखी होंगी और मैंने भी देखी है ।

श्री राम सहाय : क्या केरल में जो फ्रेयर प्राइस शाप हैं उनमें जो भाव है, वे उसी भाव के मुताबिक हैं जो कि आपने अपने उत्तर में बताये हैं या उससे भिन्न हैं ?

श्री ए० पी० जैन : फ्रेयर प्राइस शाप पर तो सबसिडाइज्ड चावल बिकता है । वह तो बाजार भाव से कम कीमत पर बिकता है ।

DR. R. P. DUBE: What is the additional food production achieved by the Kerala Government during the first two years of the Five-Year Plan?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Sir, I cannot state it with any great accuracy, but so far as I remember, in 1956-57, they produced an additional quantity of 25,000 tons, and in 1957-58, they produced an additional quantity of 9,000 tons. These figures can be verified from the report published by the Planning Commission.

DR. R. P. DUBE: Is it a fact, Sir, that as a result of creating some class war between the farmers and the agricultural labour, a vast tract of land is lying uncultivated?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Well, Sir, I have no official information about it.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: What is the quantity of rice bought by the Kerala Government, and is it a fact that the rates paid by the Kerala Government were much higher than the prevailing rates, and also, Sir, what is the responsibility of the Central Government in this connection?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Sir, the House would be aware that the Kerala Government have appointed a High Court Judge to conduct an enquiry into the matter. It would not be appropriate for me to pass any remarks about it, as it is a matter which is being examined by a Judge.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: May I know, Sir, whether, other than the Government purchases, food is not smuggled into those areas and sold at higher prices?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Sir, I do not know really, I do not understand the import of the question, but I may add one thing; as regards the purchases and sales by the Kerala Government the Centre bears no responsibility whatsoever.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: The Minister said in the course of his reply that the Southern Rice Zone was created with a view to helping the southern deficit States and that those States will have covered their deficit with the surplus available from Andhra. May I ask whether the Central Government is not purchasing rice stocks from Andhra and diverting those stocks to some other States? I am not opposed to such diversion to other States, but since it is meant only for the southern States, is it not a fact that the Central Government diverts those stocks to some other States elsewhere even overlooking the deficit existing in the southern States, particularly in Kerala?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Sir, even after meeting all the requirements of the

Southern Zone there is surplus Andhra. Government is procuring that surplus; that is the surplus which is above the requirements of the Southern Zone.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR: May I ask, firstly, whether the Kerala State has approached the Central Food Ministry for further supply of stocks because they are very short of stocks in Kerala, and, secondly, whether the Kerala State has approached the Central Government to help that State in making purchases in Andhra State at controlled prices, or whether they have asked for permission to purchase at any rate prevailing in the market there?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: There is no control on the price of rice in any part of the Southern region except in the four districts of . . .

(Interruption.)

I was saying, the position is that there is no control on the price of rice in any part of the Southern Zone except in the four districts of West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna and Guntur. Now, anybody who buys rice inside those four districts has to buy at the controlled rates. Outside these four districts in the southern region there is no restriction, and any Government or any private individual can buy at any rate he likes. In fact, large quantities of rice are being bought by the Kerala merchants in the region, and according to the latest reports between 1st September and 22nd September no less than 10,000 tons of rice were bought and transported from Andhra to Kerala by the traders.

DR. P. J. THOMAS: May I enquire what is the *per capita* requirement of rice in Kerala and in West Bengal?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I can give it only for the whole of India as I treat the whole of India as one country, and the availability of rice, as the hon. Member must have seen from the white paper on food, is 13.6 ounces per head per day.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know, Sir, apart from Government purchases of the surplus rice in Andhra, whether rice continues to be exported from Andhra Pradesh to Northern India, thereby weakening the position in the Southern Zone? If so, what steps Government propose to take to effectively stop this export?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: There is no regular export of rice. We have heard reports that there has been some smuggling. We brought this to the notice of the Andhra Pradesh Government and, according to the information supplied they have tightened the control and smuggling has considerably gone down.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO: The hon. Minister said that the prices of rice in the Southern Rice Zone were much lower than the prices prevailing in Northern India. May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for fixing lower prices in Andhra?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: It is for the simple reason that the Southern Zone is surplus in rice and is able not only to meet its requirements, but has some surplus, while in other States there is no surplus; there is deficit.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, how far this news is correct that large quantities of rice are being smuggled from Madhya Pradesh into Bombay and, if it is so, what are the reasons?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody is asking one more question. Look at them. You have not put any question, Mr. Amolakh Chand?

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: No, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Amolakh Chand.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know, Sir, what quantities of rice were given in the year 1957 to Mysore,

Andhra and Kerala? What is the amount of rice due from Kerala and is outstanding, and if it is so, whether it is likely to be recovered, because Kerala and Andhra are in one zone, and why should other State suffer because of that?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: So far as the quantity supplied in the year 1957 is concerned, I cannot give the figures, but as I said in the principal reply to the question, we have loaned 24,000 tons of rice to the Kerala Government. They have only returned about 5 or 6 thousand tons. The remaining is outstanding and we shall take it back.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Following that question of Mr. Amolakh Chand by which he wanted to regain the Paradise Lost—I thought, when I heard that question, that it was an attempt to regain that Paradise Lost—may I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that in view of the fact that Kerala is 50 per cent. deficit in food ordinarily on account of the cash crops and all that, the fair price shops are largely dependent on the supplies from the Centre and that during the last two months the Supplies have been cut down with the result that many of the fair price shops are without supplies?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Well, Sir, Kerala may not be producing enough of rice for its requirements, but the Southern Zone is a surplus zone and movement in the Southern Zone is free; there is no restriction on the movement of rice from one part of the Southern Zone to another part of the same Zone. It is not the exclusive responsibility of the Central Government to supply rice to the Kerala Government for running the fair price shops. They can buy in the market and they can run their shops.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE ANSWER GIVEN TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 133 ON THE 20TH FEBRUARY 1958

SMUGGLING OF GOLD

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT): Sir, with your permission I propose to correct an error in the information given by me on the floor of this House on 20th February 1958, in reply to Starred Question No. 133 regarding smuggling of gold and opium.

In reply to part (d) of the question it was *inter alia* stated as follows. "The total quantity of smuggled gold seized and confiscated by the Customs authorities during the year 1957 was 2,30,466 tolas plus, 1,887 sovereigns, and 1,54,183 tolas plus 3 sovereigns respectively."

The correct figures of the smuggled gold seized and confiscated by the Customs authorities during the year 1957 were 2,07,195 tolas plus 1,887 sovereigns and 1,40,289 tolas plus 3 sovereigns respectively

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE SUPPLEMENTARY ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 751 ANSWERED ON THE 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1958.

IMPORTS HANDLED BY AND THROUGH THE STATE TRADING CORPORATION

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATISH CHANDRA): Sir, in reply to a supplementary question asked by Shri Bhupesh Gupta on the 24th September 1958, in relation to Starred Question No. 751 asking as to "what commission was charged by the State Trading Corporation with regard to the imports made by this organisation", I had said that "the commission charged was $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. and its reduction to $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. was being considered."

The correct position is that "the commission on imports varies from