

निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप एक मिनट के लिए हमारा जवाब भी सुन लें।

(*Interruption*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That will do. No more. Next question,

श्री राजनारायण : मैंने यह सवाल किया था कि सहारनपुर हरियाणा से लगा हुआ है, तो क्या सहारनपुर में कोई गल्ला गोदाम है।

(*Interruption*)

SHRI ABID ALI : Madam, will you allow him to go on record in spite of your orders ? So whatever he said, after your orders should be deleted.

श्री राजनारायण : हापुड़ में कोई गल्ला गोदाम है। पंजाब और हरियाणा की सीमाएं उत्तर प्रदेश से मिली हुई है, यह बात श्री जगजीवन राम जी को जाननी चाहिये।

(*Interruption*)

IMPORT OF SOYABEAN SEEDS AND SOYABEAN OIL

*127. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of soyabean seeds and soyabean oil imported during the year 1967-68;
- (b) the amount of foreign exchange spent on this import;
- (c) the names of the countries from which it was imported; and
- (d) the quantity proposed to be imported during the year 1968-69 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) to (d).

Soyabeans—

- (a) 12 tonnes
- (b) 82,831
- (c) U.S.A.
- (d) 44 tonnes

Soyabean Oil—

- 1,12,163 tonnes
- \$2,337,733
- U.S.A. 82,000 tonnes.

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब हमारे देश में सोयाबीन का उत्पादन बहुत हुआ है, तो फिर बाहर से सोयाबीन क्यों मंगाया जा रहा है और ऐसी हालत में बाहर से मंगाने की क्या जरूरत है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Madam, in a difficult period when the oil prices were very very high, we had to import some soyabean oil so that it could be used as raw material in the vanaspati factories, etc., and because of this imported soyabean oil we were in a position to keep under control, at some level, at a reasonable level the price of vanaspati, which benefited the consumers to a very great extent, while at the same time taking steps to see that the production of soyabean is encouraged in our own country.

MISS M. L. MARY NAIDU : May I know from the hon. Minister if he is aware that as a result of these imports of soyabean oil and soyabean seeds our groundnut oil and seeds came to touch rock bottom prices and as a result the farmers, this year, have decided not to grow any more groundnut but to switch over to some other grains ? Will the Government go on importing soyabeans in spite of our tight foreign exchange position, or do they have other means for such imports?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Madam, the conclusion of the hon. lady Member is not correct. It is a good thing that we had a good crop of groundnut last year. But because of that there have been some fluctuations in the markets. But then the decision to import soyabean was taken much earlier, before the size of the groundnut crop of last year was known, and we have been taking care to see that it is not released all of a sudden to the market. Even the imports were regulated so that they might not have an adverse effect on our production.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार के पास इस समय सोयाबीन आयल का कितना स्टॉक है ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : With the S. T. C. it is about 40,000 tonnes at the moment.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that in the hills of U. P. and Himachal Pradesh soyabean is grown in large quantities and it could be grown in great quantities in the terai area ? What steps are being taken so that indigenous soyabean could be grown for self-sufficiency ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Madam, we are encouraging it in the country, in the university in Pantnagar. We have made the seed available to the university so that they can multiply it and make it available to the U.P. farmers.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the hon. Minister inform the House what is the production of soyabean in the country, and what is the requirement ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It is beyond the scope of this question.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : If he can answer, what is the gap?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I will require notice.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He wants notice. Next question.

POST OFFICES IN THE COUNTRY

*128. SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of post offices in the country as on the 30th June, 1968; and

(b) what is the programme for expansion of post offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) It has just passed 100,000 mark.

(b) In the year 1968-69 it is proposed to open 2,700 post offices of which 350 are proposed for opening in urban areas and 2,350 in the rural areas. Of this 167 post offices have already been opened. About 300 Extra Departmental Branch Offices/Extra Departmental Sub Offices are proposed to be upgraded into Departmental Sub Offices during the year. Two Mobile Post Offices have been sanctioned for commissioning and it is proposed to have 10 Night Post Offices during the year 1968-69. It is also proposed to upgrade 12 Sub Post Offices into Head Offices during the same period.

The policy for the Fourth Five Year Plan commencing from the year 1969-70 has yet to be finalised.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The main purpose of this whole programme is to see that this facility of post office reaches the maximum number of people. So may I know if they have drawn up any plan so that for border areas and backward areas—and what do they mean by backward area?—there will be at least one post office in one square mile area?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Madam, we have a special policy for backward areas and border areas. For backward areas we open a post office which incurs a loss of 2,000 rupees and which is at a distance of not more than two miles from the next post office. For border areas we are able to stretch this loss up to 2,500 rupees also, and therefore towards all border and backward areas we have a fairly liberal attitude.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA : Madam, in view of the fact that post office No. 100,000 was opened in the constituency of the hon. Minister, may I know if there is any proposal to open post office No. 100,001 in the constituency of the hon. Minister of State ?

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : I would say this that No. 100,000 post office was opened in the constituency of the hon. Member and not in the constituency of any particular Minister. In opening post offices we are conscious that Bihar needs more attention and we are giving it

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister, when he referred to the economics of a post office in the backward areas and the border areas, the economics of a post office in urban areas and rural areas generally ?