

Chief Ministers' and Food Ministers' Conference on Food Policy

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 Shri Shri Chand Goel:
 Shri Mohan Swarup:
 Shri Nath Pal:
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri V. Krishnamoorthi:
 Shri Indrajit Gupta:
 Shri Yogendra Sharma:
 Shri N. S. Sharma:
 Shri Sharda Nand:
 Shri Brij Bhushan Lal:
 Shri Kam Singh Ayarwal:
 Shri Madhu Limaye:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
 Shri George Fernandes:
 Shri Inderjit Malhotra:
 Shri Chintamani Fanigrabi:
 Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:
 Shri Sradhakhar Supakar:
 Shri N. R. Laskar:
 Shri Kam Kishan Gupta:
 Shri J. B. Singh:
 Shri Ranjit Singh:
 Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:
 Shri Hukam Chand Kashwal:
 Shri Jagannath Rao Joshi:
 Shri M. Sudarshanam:
 Shri F. K. Deo:
 Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
 Shri Dhirendranath:
 Shri D. N. Fatodia:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri K. N. Tiwary:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri P. Parthasarathy:
 Shri K. D. Reddy:
 Shri D. S. Patil:
 Shri K. Barua:
 Shri C. C. Desai:
 Shri Y. A. Prasad:
 Shri N. K. Sanghi:
 Dr. Karai Singh:
 Shrimati Nitlop Kaur:
 Shri K. Suryanarayana:
 Shri Manibhai J. Patel:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Meetha Lal:
 Shri Vihwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri S. K. Sambandham:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the decisions arrived at the Chief Ministers' and Food Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi on the 8th and 9th of April, 1967 in the matter of food policy; and

(b) whether any All-India Food Policy has been worked out to solve the food problem facing the country?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri D. Ering): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Shri Sradhakhar Supakar: Sir, I rise to a point of order. These statements are not available even to the Members who have tabled the questions. Therefore, I would submit that in future the hon. Minister who is replying to the question may give a gist of his statement in the House so that even those Members who have not got copies of the statement may be able to ask supplementary questions.

Mr. Speaker: Everybody must get a copy of the statement. A copy of the statement must be given to every hon. Member.

श्री श्रीहर लाल बेरवा : कृपि नही मिली है ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : बहुत कम कारियाँ निकलती हैं सब की नही मिलती है ।

Mr. Speaker: Two or three days ago the same point was raised here and then it was suggested that the Ministry concerned must supply sufficient copies so that all hon. Members may be able to have a copy.

Shri Chintamani Fanigrabi: He should read out the statement.

Shri Sradhakhar Supakar: He should give at least a gist of it.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterji: The statement should be circulated in time.

श्री Annasahib Shinde: We will ensure that sufficient copies are made available.

Mr. Speaker: I am told that there are copies in the Notice Office but hon. Members have not taken them.

श्री Bai Raj Madhok: I just now enquired, Sir, and it was not available.

श्री डॉ. नर नाथ बेवसा : स्टेटमेंट पढ़ कर बतलाए ।

Mr. Speaker: He may read it out.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): The summary of the conclusions reached in the Conference of the Chief Ministers and Food Ministers held on 6th and 9th April, 1967 is given as follows:

1. It was realised that in the present context of shortage and scarcity, it would not be wise to depend upon the free market mechanism to meet the situation. It was, therefore, felt that the existing zonal restrictions under which the inter-State movement of foodgrains on private trade is banned, should continue. The movement of pulses other than gram would, however, continue to be free.

2. The present wheat zone consisting of Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and the Union Territories of Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh and the non-rationed areas of Delhi, would be split into single-State zones. Under the revised system, U.P., Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh would form separate zones.

3. It was recognised that the tentative National Food Budget placed before the Conference had some limitations on account of the imperfect data available relating to production, consumption etc. It was, therefore, felt that in order to meet the difficult situation during the year, it would be necessary to proceed ad-hoc basis and

that efforts should be made to perfect the system of collection of data so that a proper and more accurate Food Budget could be prepared later on.

4. It was recognised that the position with regard to rice is extremely difficult. It was agreed, therefore, that every effort should be made to intensify the procurement of rice within the country both in surplus and deficit States so that sufficient quantities may become available for public distribution in the deficit States. It was agreed that Andhra Pradesh would supply to the Centre in all 6 lakh tonnes against the supply of 2 lakh tonnes of imported wheat and milo by the Centre to the State. Punjab Government agreed to make available to the Centre about 6 lakh tonnes of all foodgrains. Orissa agreed to supply 75,000 tonnes of rice to the Centre and also agreed to consider whether some more quantities could be made available in exchange for wheat supplied to the State by the Government of India.

5. With regard to procurement, it was agreed that the method of procurement in each State should be left to the State concerned but that every State should make all efforts to maximise procurement.

6. It was felt that the procurement prices for wheat recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission were somewhat low. It was decided that the question would be discussed further with the main rabi growing States and that the level of prices for the rabi foodgrains would be announced within a few days.

7. It was agreed that the role of the Food Corporation in the procurement and purchase of foodgrains should be examined and the States should make every effort to assist the Food Corporation in fulfilling the objects with which it was set up. It was emphasised that in doing so every effort should be made to see that the Food Corporation functions efficiently and that it did not function as an addition-

al intermediary. It was also agreed that examination of the costs and margins of the Food Corporation would be looked into to ensure that the bringing in of the Food Corporation did not result in any increase in prices.

8. It was agreed that a Standing Committee of Chief Ministers consisting of some Chief Ministers of deficit as well as surplus States will be formed to deal with the various problems on food as and when they arose.

9. It was realised that in the very difficult situation in which we are this year, it was very necessary to intensify production within the country and for this purpose every effort should be made to grow short-term crops over as large area as possible in the period between the harvest of the Rabi and sowing of the kharif crops.

Shri Shri Chand Goel: The question is rather important as is indicated by the fact that there are as many questioners as there are members in the Union Ministry. I would like to know the shortfall, the difference between our food production and our food requirements. How does the Government propose to make up the shortfall during the current year?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The position is well known. First of all, the final estimates are not available. They would be available within a month or so. The indications are that this year the volume of production is likely to be of the tune of 76 million tons. Regarding imports, though it is also not very definite, we may be in a position to import about 7 million to 9 million tons. That would be the total availability and within that availability we will have to make our internal arrangements.

Shri Shri Chand Goel: In view of the importance of the food problem and considering that it is a national problem and that it is the duty of the Union Government to supply food to every countryman, will Government undertake equal, fair and equitable distribution of foodgrains in the entire

country, leaving the question of production to the States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I do not accept that it is the sole responsibility of the Union Government to supply food to the people. It is the joint responsibility of the Centre and the State Government concerned. The Centre tries to help the deficit States to the extent possible with the available foodgrains with the Centre whether procured within the country or imported from outside.

Shri Hem Barua: Since the Union Government has not succeeded to the desired extent in the matter of importing foodgrains for helping the different States in the country in this critical situation, may I know how far it is a fact that some of the State Governments in which non-Congress parties are in power have suggested importing of food by themselves through bi-lateral agreements with foreign countries, specially with Ceylon and Burma; if so, what is the reaction of the Union Government to this suggestion made by certain State Governments?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: No State Government has made any suggestion to this effect.

Shri Hem Barua: But it came out in the papers. If a suggestion is made, what will be your attitude?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think we answer hypothetical questions.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: In the statement just read out by the Minister it is said that the role of the Food Corporation is to be examined and care would be taken that it does not become an additional intermediary. I want to know whether the role of the Food Corporation has not yet been clearly stated by the Government of India. What is the attitude of the State Governments; are they prepared to help the Food Corporation to procure and purchase foodgrains in the States? If there is opposition, which States are opposing it?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: The statement does not say that the role is to be examined; what it says actually is that it was agreed that the role of the Food Corporation in the procurement and purchase of foodgrains should be examined. There were some complaints that the charges which the Food Corporation levies as an agency were on the high side and, naturally, it was indicated in the conference that this would be examined and that we shall see that the Food Corporation functions effectively as an efficient agency so that if there are any unreasonable charges our efforts should be to *mitigate* them. But it has also been mentioned in the statement that the Food Corporation should be enabled to function so that the objective with which it was established, we shall be able to realise.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कोई भी और देस इनका प्रभाव है जहाँ पर कि किसान ने सोरग सीजन में 65 रु० मन गेहूँ खरीदा हो और बाब में उस से 34 रु० मन गेहूँ लिया जा रहा हो ? इतनी बड़ी डिस्क्रिटी अब तक चल नहीं होगी तब तक किस तरीके से खेती तरफकी कर सकेगी और किस तरह से डेवलपमेंट होगा ? क्या मुख्य मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में या कैबिनेट की मीटिंग में इस बारे में गौर किया गया है कि इस तरह की कोई रेस्ट्रिक्शन होनी चाहिये कि जिस रेट पर गेहूँ खरीदा जाता है उसी रेट पर किसान को बीने के लिये और साल भर खाने के लिये मिले ?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: As I have already mentioned, the Agricultural Prices Commission actually suggested prices at a lower level but it was at the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Minister, the hon. Shri Jagjiwan Ram, that higher prices for rabi foodgrains were fixed. I think, the State Governments were also satisfied with that because they were determined in consultation with the State Governments, and the interest of farmers was taken into consideration.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : कोई ऐसा क्लर होना चाहिये कि जो इस के ऊपर मुनाफा कमायेगा उस के खिलाफ स्टेप लिया जायेगा ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : मीने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स से यह कहा है कि होबिंग और प्राक्टिसरिंग के खिलाफ वह कितने सक्त कदम उठा सकें वह उठावें ।

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that several eminent statisticians and economists in the country have frequently stated that the system by which data is procured regarding the actual figures of production is so faulty that there may well be a case of saying that there is absolutely no deficit at all of foodgrains? With particular reference to para 3 of the statement, I would like to know what is the present system by which the accuracy in the preparation of these estimates of actual food production and availability is ensured. It is stated here that the data is imperfect. May I know what new methods are they considering by which the accuracy can be ensured? The people say that there is no deficit actually and that a fictitious deficit is being propagated simply in order to avoid procuring of foodgrains for proper distribution.

Shri Anasahib Shinde: We have got our statistical organisation. Our effort is to strengthen it. The statistical organisation works in various States and State Governments are also cooperating with us in seeking that the statistical organisation works efficiently and that the statistics are accurate. But, obviously, the limitations are there. As has already been mentioned by the hon. Minister the other day, the availability of foodgrains in the country appears to be apparently much more than actually indicated by statistics. But some limitations are there and they have been mentioned in the House.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: The Orissa Government promised, originally, to export 75,000 tonnes of rice.

But by now, it has exported 95,000 tonnes of rice including 20,000 tonnes of paddy seeds. The Central Government promised to supply 10,000 tonnes of wheat but they have supplied only 3000 tonnes of wheat. There are reports of starvation deaths from different parts of the State. The food situation in the State is very difficult. May I request the Government to supply the promised quantity to the Orissa Government?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: In the Conference, the Chief Minister of Orissa suggested that it may be possible for Orissa to supply 75,000 tonnes of rice. That is the statement I have made.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That does not arise out of this Question. But if he gives a separate notice, all those details can be supplied.

श्री विभूति सिन्घ : क्या यह सही है कि बिहार के लोग, चाहे वह ट्रेडर्स हों या कोई और, बिटिम डेज में पंजाब से गेहूँ खरीदते थे और जब से इम्पोर्ट्स हुई हैं, जब से जोन बन गये, बिहार के पंजाब से गेहूँ खरीदने पर रोक लग गई ? क्या यह भी सही है कि इस रोक की वजह से बिहार में यह टेन्डेन्सी बढ़ रही है कि यहाँ पर जो मिनरल्स होते हैं वह दूसरी जगह न जायें और इस तरह से देश की एकता टूट रही है ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : यह तो जोनल सिस्टम का प्रश्न है । जैसा फैसला इस सम्बन्ध में किया गया है वह बतला दिया गया । वह फैसला इस लिये लेना पड़ा कि कई एक प्रान्तों में अनाज की जितनी आवश्यकता है उतना अनाज नहीं है । अगर इस ब्यापार को खुला छोड़ दिया जाता है तो सरकार के लिये जानकारी हासिल करने की कोई मुंजाइश नहीं रहती है कि किस प्रान्त में कितना गया, और जहाँ पर जकड़ते हैं वहाँ गया या जहाँ सबसे ज्यादा धान मिलते हैं वहाँ गया, ब्यापार के माध्यम से अनाज बचता है तो क्यामारी लोगों का मनोभूति यह होती है कि जहाँ अधिक के

अधिक ऊँचे दाम मिल सकें वहाँ वे उतार के जायें न कि जहाँ सबसे ज्यादा जकड़ते हैं वहाँ वे जायें । जब तक हमारे पास गन्ने का कोई अंधार नहीं रहेगा तब तक इस चीज को बचाने का कोई उपाय हमारे पास नहीं रहेगा । इस लिये यह आवश्यक समझा गया कि अलग अलग प्रदेशों में जोन बना कर के वहाँ से सरकार गस्ता हासिल करे और जिस प्रान्त में गन्ने का अभाव हो वहाँ भेजे ।

Shri P. K. Dee: I cannot understand how Shri Panigrahi's supplementary does not arise out of the statement made here. It is a very relevant supplementary. It arises from para 4 of the statement where the Government has stated that Orissa Government has agreed to supply 75,000 tonnes of rice in exchange for wheat. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it is 6 lakh tonnes of rice in place of 2 lakh tonnes of wheat. If it is 3 : 1, Orissa is entitled to 25,000 tonnes of wheat. We are getting telegrams from all over the State that there is acute shortage of wheat and atta. In view of the acute shortage of wheat and atta, may I know if this much quantity of wheat is going to be supplied to Orissa immediately?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The hon. Member has not properly listened to the statement that has been made here. The statement says that Orissa has offered to supply 75,000 tonnes of rice. Then we made a request to the Chief Minister of Orissa to supply some more rice and he replied that he would consider that if an equal quantity of wheat was given to him. Certainly I will look into it; what is the shortage in the supply of wheat, certainly I will try to send.

Shri E. Barua: From the statement it appears that a Standing Committee consisting of Chief Ministers from deficit States and surplus States would be formed. Is it to look into the problems that may arise in connection with food from time to time?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: It has been indicated that the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Madras, Maharashtra, U.P. and West Bengal would be members of this Standing Committee. This has been indicated.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि मुख्य मंत्रियों और खाद्य मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री ने अपने प्रदेश की बिगड़ती हुई खाद्य स्थिति की ओर सम्मेलन का ध्यान खींचा था? क्या उन्होंने यह बताया था कि मध्य प्रदेश के कुछ जिलों में अकाल की स्थिति है, लोग पेटों की पत्तियाँ धीरे जड़ें खा रहे हैं और क्या उन्होंने यह भी बताया था कि सरगुजा जिले के हजारों लोग बिहार के पालामऊ जिले में चले गये हैं जहाँ सहायता कार्य अच्छा चल रहा है? यदि मुख्य मंत्री महोदय ने नहीं बताया तो क्या मंत्री महोदय के पास मध्य प्रदेश की खाद्य स्थिति के बारे में कोई अपनी जानकारी है और यदि है तो उस के आधार पर अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है?

श्री जगजीवन राम : सवस्य महोदय ने जो बातें कही हैं उन बातों को कहने का सब अवसर नहीं था। सरगुजा की खाद्य स्थिति बारे में बिगड़ी है। वहाँ जो हालत पैदा हुई वह बारे में हुई। लेकिन यह उन्होंने जरूर कहा कि मध्य प्रदेश जो पहले एक ऐसा प्रदेश था वहाँ उस की प्रावश्यकताओं से अधिक अनाज होता था और अनाज बाहर भेजा जाता था। आज वैसी स्थिति नहीं रही। अनाज की कमी के कारण अब उस को जितने अनाज की आवश्यकता है उतना अनाज भी उस के पास नहीं है और उस को बाहर से अनाज मंगवाने की आवश्यकता होगी। यह उन्होंने कहा था और हम लोग कुछ आज मध्य प्रदेश को दे चुके हैं। वहाँ तक सरगुजा की हालत का सम्बन्ध है उस की जानकारी हम को हुई है और वहाँ पर कुछ कार्रवाई आरम्भ भी की गई है। केयर की आकैट कुछ बच्चों और महिलाओं को बिलाने

का काम आरम्भ हुआ है। कुछ किचन भी आरम्भ किए गए हैं वहाँ लोगों को बिलाने का इंतजाम किया गया है और कुछ रिक्तियों के लिए हाई मैनूअल वर्क भी जारी हुआ है। लेकिन मैं मानता हूँ कि जितना काम हो रहा है वह लाकाफी है और और अधिक करने की आवश्यकता है।

Shri Inderjit Malhotra: In view of the past experience and the difficulties faced in procuring sufficient quantities of foodgrains, may I know if the Central Government is suggesting to the State Government State trading in foodgrains?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: Yes, Sir. In fact, this subject matter was discussed at length. Of course, the method of procurement has been left to the discretion of the State Government. But all the Chief Ministers assured us that they would try their level best to see that procurement is done.

Shri J. B. Kripalani: I would like to know what the Food Minister would do in the case of a State which is a surplus State but which has areas which are in famine. Because it is a surplus State and through neurotic obstinacy, the Government of that State does not call for help from the Centre and within the State there are restrictions as between one tehsil and another tehsil. So, what is to be done in regard to those people who are living in those deficit areas and who cannot get food from the surplus area in the same State? In their neurotic pride, the Government of the State do not call for help from the Centre. How are these pockets to be fed? I know that in Madhya Pradesh there are at least three to five areas where famine conditions exist, and in one area even the district magistrate had declared that there was famine condition but nothing is being done, because the foodgrains cannot move in the same State not only from district to district but from tehsil to tehsil.

Shri Jagjwan Ram: I shall not accept this presumption on the part of the hon. Member that any responsible state Government will neglect certain areas and ignore them and it will be necessary for the Centre to come to the rescue of that area.

Shri A. B. Vajpayee: That is what is happening. (Interruptions).

Shri Jagjwan Ram: My hon. friends are free to make any insinuations that they choose.

Shri A. B. Vajpayee: It is a question of fact. Let the hon. Minister visit these areas himself.

Shri Jagjwan Ram: We should not forget that in the State also, there are responsible legislators and representatives of the people as we here are. So long as the State Governments are functioning, and so long as there are representatives of the people in the State Legislatures and so long as the State Legislatures are functioning....

श्री मधु सिन्हा : अब इस वक्त विधान सभा नहीं चल रही है। कई विधायकों ने कहा है। आ ने चायद पड़ा नहीं है। आज स्टेट्समैन में एक लम्बा आर्टिकल आया है। उसको पढ़ लें।

Shri Jagjwan Ram: I have not finished my answer yet.... (Interruptions). Therefore, it shall be the duty.... (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: May I request hon. Members to allow the hon. Minister to finish his reply?

Shri Jagjwan Ram: I am saying that so long as the constitutionally State Governments are functioning there, so long as the responsibility of the State Governments to look after these areas is there and so long as the legislatures are functioning there, I should not presume that they are oblivious of the conditions in the State.

So far as the Centre is concerned, I have said that in certain areas of Madhya Pradesh there is acute distress and certain actions have been taken. But as I have said, all of them are not adequate. We are sending, to the extent of availability of foodgrains, that is, nearly 35,000 to 40,000 tonnes of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh. As a matter of fact, I may inform the House that I have ordered 2000 tonnes of wheat to be moved to Madhya Pradesh for free distribution in the distress areas.

Shrimati Sushila Rohtagi: In order that the States may ultimately become self-sufficient and in order that we may reduce our dependence on foreign imports, may I know whether the Food Minister has enquired of the Chief Ministers what the annual requirements of the various States are in the matter of fertilisers, money and machinery, apart from foodgrains, and if so, whether the Food Minister would consider the advisability of asking the Food Ministers in the States to see that these requirements are provided and also enough incentives are provided to the farmers so that production can be boosted up so as to make the country self-sufficient?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: All these requirements of the various State Governments are looked into. As far as the fertiliser requirement is concerned, for instance, the fertiliser distribution policy has been formulated in consultation with the State Governments.

श्री जार्ज करमंडीज : जो बयान यहां पर मंत्री महोदय ने देना किया है, उसमें उन्होंने कहा है :

"It was, therefore, felt that the existing zonal restrictions under which the inter-State movement of foodgrains to private trade is banned, should continue."

मेरा पहला प्रश्न यह कि क्या किसी मुख्य मंत्री ने इस बंडक में ऐसी बिनती की थी कि जोनल रेस्ट्रिक्शंस को खत्म किया जाए

धीरे एक सूबे से दूसरे सूबे में हर किस्य के अनाज को बेचने की व्यवस्था हो ? इस स्टेटमेंट पर एक तो मेरा यह प्रश्न है।

मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि . . .

एक जलजीव सचिव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या एक से अधिक प्रश्न पूछने की इजाजत है ?

श्री जार्ज करनैबीच : मेरा प्रश्न इन स्टेटमेंट से सम्बन्धित है।

Shri Hem Barua: Let him be allowed to complete his question.

Mr. Speaker: He is putting parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question.

श्री जार्ज करनैबीच : इस स्टेटमेंट के पैराग्राफ 8 में कहा गया है :

"It was agreed that every effort should be made to grow short-term crops over as large an area as possible in the period between the harvest period and sowing of kharif crops."

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member must come straight to his question. I am not going to allow speeches like this. He is taking away the time of the whole House.

श्री जार्ज करनैबीच : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस बारे में कोई ठोस निर्णय हुआ है ? जी : क्या इस को प्रसन्न में लाने के लिये कोई कार्यवाही की गई है ? इस स्टेटमेंट में एक बात का जिक्र नहीं किया गया है। 26 जनवरी को भूतपूर्व राष्ट्रपति ने खास-संविधान रेडियो से तक्रार करते हुए कहा: या कि हमारे प्रजाज की पैदावार का एक-तिहाई हिस्सा बेस्ट होता है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या चीक मिनिस्टर्स कॉन्फेंस में इस बारे में कोई बहस हुई है और इस बेस्टेज को रोकने के लिये क्या फैसला किया गया।

Mr. Speaker: The reply need only be short. It need not be so long as the question.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Some of the Chief Ministers were in favour of removing zonal restrictions. (Inter-riptions). A few Chief Ministers were in favour of removing zonal restrictions.

श्री जगु लिवमे : कौन थे ? उन के नाम बताने चाहिये।

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not going to answer that. That was not part of the question.

The second question was about short-term crops. Positive action has been taken and perhaps the House will be very happy to learn that nearly 11 lakhs acres have been brought under short-duration crops.

So far as the question of wastage is concerned, that was not considered at the Chief Ministers' conference but positive steps are being taken.

In fact, I am going to circulate a report from the Food and Agriculture Ministry wherein all the details will be given showing what actions have been taken to avoid wastage of food-grains.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या बाघ मंजी के कारों तक ये समाचार पहुंचे हैं कि जिस प्रकार मरनूजा के कुछ निवासी बिहार के पालामऊ जिले में जा कर भूख से निवृत्ति की अपनी इच्छा की पूर्ति कर रहे हैं, उसी प्रकार उत्तर प्रदेश में मिर्जापुर, इलाहाबाद और बनारस जिलों के निवासी भी भूख से निवृत्ति पाने के लिये बिहार जा रहे हैं, क्योंकि वहां पर अधिक प्रचंडी और पर्वत मुषिघात उपलब्ध हैं। यदि हां, तो उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से इस बारे में जानकारी ले कर इन जिलों की आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिये क्या कुछ विषय उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

श्री जलजीवन राम : जहां तक उत्तर प्रदेश का सम्बन्ध है, प्रारम्भिक प्रवस्था

में निरजापुर में काफी इन्तजाम नहीं था, लेकिन अब वहाँ इन्तजाम पर्याप्त हो गया है और काम भी अच्छा हो रहा है। जहाँ तक बेटी जानकारी है, वहाँ पर उत्तर प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट और वीर-सरकारी संस्थाओं के द्वारा अच्छा काम हो रहा है।

श्री प्रकाशचौर शास्त्री : वहाँ से भारत सेवाक समाज को तो वापस बुला लिया जाये।

श्री मनुभाई पटेल : भारत सरकार ने यह एगान किया था कि हम 1971 तक सारे देश में ग्रान-स्वावलम्बन हासिल कर लेंगे। क्या फीऊ मिनिस्टर्स कांफरेस में इस बबली हुई परिस्थिति में इस लक्ष्य की प्राप्ति के लिये विचार-विमर्श किया गया था; क्या अब भी सरकार का यह विचार है कि हम 1971 तक ग्रान-स्वावलम्बन हासिल कर सकेंगे, यदि हाँ, तो इस के लिए क्या ठोस कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है?

श्री जगजीवन राम : पहले के सम्मेलन में इस पर विचार हुआ था और उस के हिसाब से कार्यवाही हो रही है।

Mr. Speaker: Shri Barwa:

Shri Nath Pai: We are also on the list of questioners.

Mr. Speaker: But I called the hon. Member; he was not here. He has not come. There are fifty questioners in the list.

Shri Nath Pai: I have the same list which you have.

Mr. Speaker: I called the hon. Member in the beginning.

Shri Nath Pai: Is that the punishment for coming late?

Mr. Speaker: No. But before I come back to him for a second time, I should call the others at least once.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : आज राजस्वान की सवा दो करोड़ जनता में से तेरह लाख ग्रामजीवन के तिकार हैं। हाल ही में खाद्य मंत्रियों और मुख्य मंत्रियों के जो सम्मेलन हुए, उन में राजस्वान का प्रतिनिधित्व किसी ने नहीं किया। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन सम्मेलनों में राजस्वान के बारे में क्या चर्चा हुई, राजस्वान का प्रतिनिधित्व किस ने किया और राजस्वान को क्या सहायता देने की योजना है।

श्री जगजीवन राम : राजस्वान का प्रतिनिधित्व था।

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : किस ने किया?

श्री जगजीवन राम : राजस्वान के एडवाइजर ने प्रतिनिधित्व किया। जहाँ तक सहायता का सम्बन्ध है, हम राजस्वान को बालीस हज्जार टन प्रति-माम दे रहे हैं।

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : सवा दो करोड़ लोगों के लिये केवल बालीस हज्जार टन ?

Mr. Speaker: I find so many hon. Members rising in their seats. We have already spent over 35 minutes on this question. If it is the desire of the House that we should take one hour on this question, I do not mind.

श्री मधु लिसवै : ग्राम्यता महोदय, अगर मेरे मुझाव को मान कर प्रश्न संख्या 151, 152, 153, 155 और 156 को एक-साथ से लिया जाता, तो पांच प्रश्न भी निपट जाते और सब माननीय सदस्यों को भीका भी मिल जाता।

Shri K. Suryanarayana: May I know whether the Government is aware that the Food Corporation is charging more to the consumer than the ordinary dealers in surplus areas like the West Godavari district for the same quality of rice?

Mr. Speaker: We are going into details that are not covered by this question.

Shri Nath Pal: In reply to my question in the last session of the Lok Sabha, Shri Jagjivan Ram answered to the effect that he was expecting that the preparation of a national food budget would be finalised at the Chief Ministers' conference. The meeting has taken place but the reason for the non-preparation of the budget that is now given is that sufficient data was not available. Is it the reason for not producing a national budget or is it the even more dangerous reason—the decline of the authority of the central leadership to take any kind of lead or to take any initiative; and (b) I want to know whether any State Chief Minister made a suggestion that he should be allowed to import food directly and, if so, which were those States. You have given a sort of a reply to my friend Mr. Barua in your letter. I want to get an answer to this question because we keep on hearing that some State Chief Ministers are in a position to import directly and the Central Government is coming in the way. Has the Government considered this question of policy?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Of course some sort of a national budget was circulated to the various States and at the Chief Ministers' conference, it was felt that the data obtained therein was not acceptable to all the States: No question of the authority of the Central Government *vis-a-vis* the State Government was involved. We do not have any constitutional authority in this matter. Food and Agriculture is a State subject and it is only with the goodwill of the State Governments that we can function.

Shri Nath Pal: A national budget is a necessity to save the nation. It was felt, and I personally feel, that the formulation of a national food budget will require thorough investigation into the production figures of the various States and also the consumption pattern in the various States and different areas in the same State. Therefore, that question does not arise.

Shri Hem Barua: What about the erosion of leadership?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: When Shri Hem Barua gets corroded and eroded, he thinks of erosion.

श्री मधु सिन्हा: प्रावश्यकता इरोजन की नहीं है, घोर-घरो की है।

श्री डा० ना० तिवारी: विनाकूल विकिण है।

Shri Jagjivan Ram: (B) No proposal to that extent has been made by any State Government.

Shri Nath Pal: What is your attitude?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not going to answer any hypothetical question.

Shri N. K. Sanghi: It has been admitted that there is a growing shortage of food in the country. May I know from the hon Minister if a national policy for destroying pests and sparrows is under contemplation of the Government?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: How does this arise from the main question, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Kachavalya

श्री हुकम चन्द कच्छवाय: माननीय मंत्री जी ने मध्य प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों के बारे में बताया कि इतना घनाज उन्हें भेजा है। मैंने 29 अप्रैल से 4 मई तक महहोल जिले का दौरा किया, इतने दिनों में वहाँ पर पीपल की पत्ती और मांस की पत्ती मैंने स्वयं खाई, वहाँ पर कहीं भी घन घाने को नहीं मिला। एक घटना जो मैंने वहाँ पर देखी घानको सुनाता हूँ—एक व्यक्ति का बिल मर गया, उसका मांस चोरों की तरह लूट कर ले जाते हैं, क्या सरकार बतावेगी कि उप जिले में जो घनाज भेजा है, वह बराबर लोगों को बढा है? मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने क्या दिया या कि 5 लाख लिब्रल गैलू

7 लाख बन्टन प्यार कीर 29 लाख बिबटल पने की बतूनी की है, में जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस बतूनी में से उन जिलों को कितना धनाज भेजा गया है तथा जहाँ पर बतूनी की है—क्या उन लोगों को लेवी देने बाब इस बात की छुट्टी दे दी गई है कि वे खुले मार्केट में बने ? यदि हाँ, तो केंद्रीय सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या करने जा रही है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : ये सब प्रश्न राज्य की सरकार से पूछने चाहियें, इस से मेरा कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है।

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : उन्होंने बताया था कि इस में इतना धनाज नहीं भेजा है—जिस जिले का, मैंने उल्लेख किया है, क्या सरकार ने जांच की है कि उस जिले में बहुत धनाज बराबर बंट रहा है—क्या सरकार इस बारे में कोई जानकारी दे सकती है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : That is none of the responsibility of the Central Government. So far as the distribution inside the States is concerned, the State Governments are quite competent to do that.

श्री जयू लिये : बिलाना तो प्रायकी ही जिम्मेदारी है।

श्री जगजीवन राम : हम हर जिले में जा कर जाँच कर सकते हैं।

श्री Shrivastava S. Deshpande: Against the background of the hon. Food Minister's own statement, that the formation of State food zones has reduced the situation to this level, namely, it is now easier to import food from the United States to the deficit States, than procuring foodgrains from the surplus States to the deficit States, and the question of procurement has come to this, namely, that it is easier to purchase food in the United States than to procure it locally, and on the insistence of

the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, they are paying Rs. 80 per quintal as the cost of procurement, does the Food Minister propose to have any semblance of similarity in the procurement prices and the restriction on the State food zones?

श्री जगजीवन राम : I do not think there can be any similarity between states in and the procurement prices. Various factors as given by the States have to be taken into consideration, and on the request of the State Governments who, having taken all these factors into consideration, approached the Central Government and, by and large, we have accepted the recommendations of the State Governments so far as food procurement prices are concerned.

श्री Kanwar Lal Gupta: One question about Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: I am calling the hon. Member Shri Xavier. Why don't we give him a chance? He is also rising.

श्री S. Xavier: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for procurement and distribution of foodgrains in every district, there are the District Supply Officers and their staff, and Taluk Supply Officers and their staff and the village officers. In the State capitals, there are the Civil Supplies Commissioners. In view of all these establishments, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the expediency of abolishing the Food Corporation as an unnecessary and superfluous body and divert the expenditure to other schemes for food?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Jyotirmoy Basu.

श्री Jyotirmoy Basu: In case the State Governments apply for a licence for importation of foodgrains from abroad, will he be prepared to grant a licence, as in the case of private individuals?

श्री जगजीवन राम : It is a hypothetical question.

Shri Jyotirmay Bawa: It is not a hypothetical question at all. This has been mentioned by the Chief Ministers a number of times that they want to import foodgrains.

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: In para 4 of his statement, the Minister says:

"Every effort should be made to intensify the procurement of rice within the country both in surplus and deficit States...."

The tendency has been that the deficit States have been exaggerating the deficit and the surplus States have been minimising their surplus. In certain cases, the deficit States have been exaggerating their deficit and blaming the Centre and the other surplus States. In view of this, may I know what efforts the Ministry are proposing to take to get at the real figures of production?

Shri Anasahib Shinde: In fact, all these matters—a national food policy and other issues—were discussed in the Chief Ministers' conference. The local situation differs from State to State. We are trying to understand each other's difficulties. (Interruptions).

Shri Trilokh Kumar Chandhuri: The hon. Minister took shelter.....

Mr. Speaker: Some members say I should go on to the next question, I wish the leaders do not get up so frequently, so that I can look behind and give opportunities to the back-benchers.

श्री हुकम चन्द कश्यप : कितने लोग बरे हैं इतना तो बतला दें ।

प्रत्यक्ष सर्वोच्च : प्रायः स्वरचना करने के बाद बोल रहे हैं, यदि ऐसा होगा तो मैं दूसरा स्वरचना के सुता । इस से क्या फायदा होगा ।

Shri Trilokh Kumar Chandhuri: The hon. Minister took shelter under the plea that under the Constitution, food

and agriculture is a State subject. May I remind him that production and distribution of foodstuffs and price control thereof is a concurrent subject? May I know whether the Central Government, who have proceeded with making legislation and formulation of policies so far as concurrent subjects are concerned have on their own accord thought of a national food budget and considered the question of abolition of food zones and creating a national food zone consisting of the whole of India or they have gone on surrendering to the States?

Shri Jagjwan Ram: I do not know how the hon. member has presumed that I have taken shelter under that plea. I am not trying to take shelter under that plea. I have stated the facts of the situation as it is in the Chief Ministers' conference and I have said that we will have to carry the Chief Ministers with us in the common endeavour and the responsibility will have to be discharged jointly by the Central Government and the State Governments. That is the effort that we are making. Certainly, at times, the question of removing all the zones has been considered by the Central Government, but it has been found that in the context of the present food situation it will be advisable to continue the food zones. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. From tomorrow I am going to make it a point, however, much the leaders might get angry, since they are not able to help me, to call the back-benchers. The leaders get up every time and the moment I do not call them, Shri Nath Pal, Shri Barua and others, they get wild. But from tomorrow I will be looking behind and call only the back-benchers.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, you have set up two records today. One is that only one question has been covered in one hour and the other is your decision that from tomorrow you are going to call only the back-benchers.

Mr. Speaker: What to do; I am not able to help it (Interruptions).

Shri Shri Chand Goel: Could you tell us where the front ends and from where the back benches start?

Shri S. Kunda: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Those who sit in the back would definitely not like to be called back-benchers. It would be better if you call us "those who sit slightly behind from the front".

Mr. Speaker: All right.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : जी: मिनिस-टस और फूड मिनिसटर्स की कॉन्फेंस में जिस नेशनल फूड बजट की चर्चा की गई थी नया उस फूड बजट के तहत एक प्राइमी को एक साल में 128 किलोग्राम मोसत अनाज देने की बात तय की गई है; यदि हां तो बिहार और केरल के लिये 110 किलोग्राम प्रति व्यक्ति प्रति साल क्यों रखा गया है? उन को इतना कम देने की क्या वजह है? क्या हां के पांच और मूर्खों की उपेक्षा कम खात आते हैं?

श्री जगजीवन राम : उन राष्ट्रीय खाद्य बजट को स्वीकार नहीं किया गया है इसलिये उनके आंकड़े यहां पर कोट करने से कोई लाभ नहीं निकलने वाला है।

श्री बासोकी चौधरी : क्या मंत्री गणेश्वर यह बतान की हुवा करेगे कि उन से प्रान्तों के खाद्य मंत्रियों भयबा मुख्य मंत्रियों से खाद्य सम्बन्धी बातचीत हुई है तो क्या वह आप की बातचीत से संतुष्ट होते हैं? यदि हां तो फिर उन का बक्तव्य विपरीत क्यों होता है? वैसे वक्तव्य के खंडन का कोई तरीका है या नहीं?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: The policy is evolved as a result of the general consensus out of the discussions.

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: We shall go to the next question now.

नूत से नूत

* 152. श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा :

श्री श्रीहम स्वल्प :

श्री श्रीरंग नाथ :

श्री प्र० के० देव :

श्री क० प्र० सिंह देव :

श्री अट्टकार रूपकार :

श्री जिलानगि पाणिपही :

श्री यशपाल सिंह :

श्री न० कु० सांजी :

श्री पी० तोपात्म :

श्री सुरेंद्र नाथ द्विवेदी :

श्री हेम बरवा :

श्री अष्टाहम :

श्री विद्यानाथ मेहन :

श्री उमानाथ :

श्री एस्कोस :

श्री कंधर लाल गुप्त :

श्री रा० स्व० बिष्टापी :

श्री बेनीशंकर शर्मा :

श्री श्रीरंग कुमार शाह :

श्री स० श्री० बनर्जी :

श्री मधु लिये :

श्री राम मनोहर लोहिया :

श्री जाधव करमबीज :

श्री मंगभाई जे० पतेल :

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद :

श्री वी० अ० शर्मा :

श्री ईश्वर रेड्डी :

श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशाहा :

श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी :

श्री हुकम शर्मा काश्यप :

श्री राम सिंह अयरपाल :

श्री शारदा मज :

श्री भारत सिंह चौहान :

श्री रमजीत सिंह :

श्री श्रीकार सिंह :

श्री रामशैलक शर्मा :

श्री स० अ० प्रसाद :