

by the total population; it gives you the availability per head. I will put it to you, Sir, and the House, that in matters where millions and millions of producers are involved, is it such a simple proposition? It is not by a simple rule of three—production and total population. The whole thing depends on the marketable surplus that is available and that makes the total availability. Naturally the producer who produces it does not content himself with just 10 ounces or 13 ounces or 14 ounces per head on an average. More is certainly consumed by him and it is natural that it is consumed. Therefore, it does not depend on production only. It depends upon what we procure, and what is the available marketable surplus. With that, what deficit we find in the deficit areas has to be supplemented. Therefore, it is very difficult to have anything like a national budget in food, till we have such an organisation the statistics of which will be accepted both by the Centre and the States. At present, that is always disputed, and we are trying to evolve such an organisation, the statistics presented by which will be accepted both by the Centre and the States.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : My question has not been fully answered; what about the zonal system?

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI M. N. NAGHNOOR : Sir, the southern States of Madras, Andhra and Mysore are deficit in gram, dal and pulses since the year 1965-66; there was an overall arrangement, but for the last one or two years there is a breakdown of normal supply of gram, gram dal and pulses which are supposed to be the poor man's food in the south. Will the Government take adequate measures to see that there is normal supply of gram and gram dal to each State and that they are supplied at reasonable rates by the surplus States?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : You want me to reply, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I thought; it does not arise out of this question.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It does not arise here.

MR. SPEAKER : There are a number of questions on food. You need not ask all questions about food production, budget, etc., here.

SHRI M. N. NAGHNOOR : It is an important item.

MR. SPEAKER : I know, but this is the second question on food and the third one is also on food.

SHRI M. N. NAGHNOOR : Gram is sold at Rs. 3 per kilo in the South. That is also as necessary as rice.

MR. SPEAKER : I know; Shri Kunte may now put his supplementary.

SHRI DATTATRAYA KUNTE : In view of the confusion and want of statistics and unavailability, in order to be effective, may I know if the way out of the difficulty is only to do away with the zones so that the market will find its own level and every consumer will get the foodgrains he requires?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : At present there is no proposal under consideration to do away with the zonal system. The matter was recently considered at the Chief Ministers' Conference and taking all the aspects into consideration, we decided to continue the zones. So, at present, there is no proposal to revise it.

DEMAND OF FOODGRAINS IN INDIA

752. **SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total estimated availability of foodgrains from indigenous sources alone during the current agricultural year; and

(b) the estimated demand for and supply of foodgrains in each of the States during the current agricultural year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Final estimates of foodgrain production in India during the year 1967-68 are not yet available. According to present indications about 92 to 95 million tonnes of foodgrains are expected to be produced during the year in the country.

(b) Demands for supply of the specific quantities of foodgrains during the year 1968 have not yet been received from most of the States. It is also not possible to give any quantitative estimate of the supplies that will be made to the different States from the Central Pool during 1968 as the quantities that will be available to the Central Pool and the situation that will develop in each State during the year cannot be anticipated at present. Allocations of foodgrains will continue to be made on a month to month basis, the availability with the Centre being distributed to the different States in accordance with their relative needs as equitably as possible keeping in view the paramount importance of building up of some sizable buffer stocks in a year of good production.

SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: This year's production, as the minister said, would be about 95 million tonnes as against 81 million tonnes last year and 8 million tonnes would be imported. Therefore, the availability would be much more than last year. That means, 130 kilos would be available this year per capita. In spite of that, if there is shortage of food, is the minister of the opinion that it is due to faulty distribution of foodgrains rather than due to low availability of foodgrains? Again to repeat Mr. Kunte's question, may I know whether now the time is not ripe to do

away with food zones so that availability of food is made easier to the people?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Broadly about 12 million tonnes would be required for seeds, feed etc. and 2.5 million tonnes is usually with the farmers. So, almost 15 million tonnes is not available for human consumption even in normal years. So, even if we assume a production of 92 to 95 million tonnes, hardly 78 to 80 million tonnes would be available for human consumption. Again broadly, at the rate of 16 ounces per head, the requirement comes to about 86.5 million tonnes. So, there would be need to supplement it by some imports. The import programme is approximately 7.5 million tonnes, out of which 3 million tonnes has to be set apart for the buffer stock. I do not think removal of zones is the proper solution.

SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH: Is the Government aware that there is smuggling of rice and pulses through Nepal and UP borders to China and also smuggling of bajra from Saurashtra to Pakistan? If so, what steps are Government taking to prevent this smuggling?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: This problem was already raised here. We referred it to the Home Ministry and to the various State Governments. No State Government has reported large-scale smuggling of foodgrains as alleged by the hon. member.

SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA: As given out from US sources, the reduced import aid expectation is 3.5 million tonnes in 1968. In view of the fact that that would require about 7 million tonnes of procurement in the country and in view of the fact that with all the difficulties the zonal restrictions enable higher procurement and their removal will frustrate all procurement, will Government inform the House whether there is any truth in the report that the Central Government is considering or suggesting removal of zonal restrictions?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The hon. Minister has just now mentioned that there is no proposal whatsoever before the Centre to remove zonal restrictions at this stage.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : The hon. member referred to US sources. So far as the zonal system is concerned, my stand has been consistent. Even before I had a discussion with Mr. Freeman on this question, I informed the House that any decision regarding procurement, prices, distribution and restrictions will be the decision of the Government of India and not of any outside agency. So far as the zones are concerned at present there is no proposal, no intention, to revise it.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : मंत्री महोदय ने अभी बड़ी दुड़तापूर्वक उत्तर दिया है कि अभी खाद्य क्षेत्रों की समाप्ति का कोई विचार नहीं है। लेकिन क्या चालू फसल की अच्छी सम्भावनाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए ऐसा कोई विचार है कि कई राज्यों को मिला कर बड़े जोन बना दिये जायें, जिससे देश के अभावग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में पर्याप्त मात्रा में अन्न जा सके और सबको उपलब्ध हो सके ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : मैंने अभी इस प्रश्न का उत्तर दिया है। मैं उसको दोहराना चाहता हूँ। अगर हमारे पास करीब तीस लाख टन का भंडार हो जाये, उपलब्ध करने के दामों और खुले बाजार के दामों का अन्तर हो जाये और अगले साल की फसल आशा-जनक नजर आये, तो उस वक्त इन प्रश्नों पर पुनः विचार करना उपयुक्त होगा। उस समय हम इस बात पर भी विचार कर सकते हैं कि क्या इन जोनों को बड़ा किया जा सकता है। लेकिन जब तक हमारे भंडार में कुछ भी नहीं है, तब तक इस बारे में विचार करना एक खतरे वाली बात हो जाती है।

SHRI RAJASEKHARAN : In view of the serious shortfall in the foodgrains production and also the serious growth

of population, what are the steps proposed by the Government to change the food habits of the people of this country?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Changing the food habits of people is a long-term problem. Of course, Government has certain programmes in this direction.

श्री कंबरलाल गुप्त : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि फूड जोन हटाने के बारे में वह बहुत काशसली चलना चाहते हैं। लेकिन यह बात भी सही है कि जोन बनाने से और कंट्रोल ज्यादा होने से आर्टिफिशियल स्कीयरसिटी हो जाती है। जब अगर शूगर का कंट्रोल चालीस परसेंट हटाया गया, तो उसका भाव छः रुपये किलो हुआ, लेकिन वह आहिस्ता आहिस्ता घट कर सवा चार रुपये किलो हो गया और हो सकता है कि वह तीन, साढ़े तीन रुपये किलो हो जाये। इसकी वजह यह है कि कनज्यूमर समझता है कि जब चीज मार्केट में मिलती है, तो मुझे उसको जमा रखने की जरूरत नहीं है। मंत्री महोदय फूड जोन न हटायें, लेकिन चना, ज्वार, बाजरा, जो, मक्की आदि मोटे अनाज के भाव पिछले एक माघ महीने में सरप्लस और डेफिसिट स्टेट्स में करीब आधे रह गए हैं, लेकिन सरप्लस स्टेट्स के मुकाबले में डेफिसिट स्टेट्स में उन के भाव लगभग दुगने हैं। जैसे, ग्राम में मेज का भाव पंजाब में 85 रुपये और महाराष्ट्र में 150 रुपये। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह फसल अच्छी है, आगे की फसल अच्छी है और मोटे अनाज के भाव गिर रहे हैं, क्या इसको दृष्टि में रख कर मंत्री महोदय कम-से-कम मोटे अनाज की मूवमेंट की रेस्ट्रिक्शन को हटाने पर विचार करेंगे, ताकि गरीब लोगों को मोटा अनाज सस्ता मिल सके।

श्री जगजीवन राम : जिन अनाजों को कुछ इलाकों में मोटा अनाज समझा जाता है, बहुत से इलाकों में उनको मोटा अनाज नहीं

समझा जाता है, बल्कि वही उनका मुख्य सीरियल होता है। दिल्ली, पंजाब और उत्तर प्रदेश में लोग बाजरे और ज्वार को चाहे मोटा अनाज समझें, लेकिन महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात में वही लोगों का मुख्य सीरियल है, वे उनको मोटा अनाज नहीं समझते हैं। इस प्रश्न पर इस बात को ध्यान में रख कर विचार करना होगा कि जिस को माननीय सदस्य मोटा अनाज समझते हैं, दूसरे नहीं समझते हैं और वह उनका मुख्य आहार है। इस लिए अभी उस पर से प्रतिबन्ध हटाने का प्रश्न नहीं है। लेकिन जिस हिसाब से दाम गिर रहे हैं, अगर हम कुछ और दिन देखें कि दामों की गिरावट में स्थिरता आ रही है, तो वह विचार करने का समय होगा।

श्री प्रेम चन्द बर्मा : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार ने इस फसल पर प्रदेश सरकारों के द्वारा जिनता अनाज खरीद करने का टारगेट मुकर्रर किया था, क्या वह टारगेट पूरा हो गया है, अगर हो गया है, तो क्या मंत्री महोदय यह समझते हैं कि जैसे 1967 में अनाज की कमी हुई थी, वैसे 1968 में नहीं होगी। मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या पंजाब और हिमाचल प्रदेश की सरकारों ने एक जोन करने के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार से कोई दरखास्त की है।

MR. SPEAKER : There are so many supplementaries clubbed together, unconnected with each other. If he wants he can answer them. The supplementaries should be connected.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : So far as procurement is concerned, it is too early at this stage to say whether the targets are fulfilled. Normally, the peak period for market arrivals for *kharif* cereals is from January to March and for *Rabi* cereals from April to June. So, this is not the period when we can say whether the targets are fulfilled.

श्री सरजू पाण्डेय : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने यह बताया है कि चूँकि उनके पास पर्याप्त स्टॉक नहीं है, इस लिए वह बड़े जोन नहीं बना सकते

हैं। जिन प्रदेशों में सरप्लस गल्ला है और जहाँ के लोग कहते हैं कि उनको गल्ला बाहर भेजने की छूट दी जाये, उन सरप्लस स्टेट्स और डेफिसिट स्टेट्स का एक जोन बनाने में, जिस से सारे देश में तीन चार जोन बन जायें, सरकार को क्या कठिनाई हो रही है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : लोग यह भी चाहते हैं कि हम डेफिसिट स्टेट्स को देते रहें और अनाज की मूवमेंट में कोई रुकावट न हो, यह भी चाहते हैं कि सब गल्ला खुला रखें और यह भी चाहते हैं कि हम उपलब्धि भी अधिक कर लें। ठंडा और गर्म फूँकना, दोनों एक साथ नहीं चल सकते हैं।

श्री प्रेम चन्द बर्मा : हिमाचल प्रदेश और पंजाब का एक जोन बनाने के बारे में सरकार की क्या पालिसी है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : माननीय सदस्य को यह भी पता नहीं है कि अभी हारवेस्टिंग हुआ है या नहीं। उनको पता होना चाहिए कि अभी हारवेस्टिंग हो रहा है। वह यह सवाल पूछ रहे हैं कि प्रोक्युरमेंट पूरा हुआ है या नहीं। पहली बात यह समझ लेनी चाहिए कि सरप्लस स्टेट्स वाले भी यह नहीं चाहते कि उनके यहां से अनाज बाहर निकल जाये, उनके यहां दाम बढ़ जायें और उनके यहां के खरीद कर खाने वाले गरीब तबके को ज्यादा दाम देना पड़े। हम चाहते हैं कि उपलब्धि कर के हम अपना भंडार निर्माण करें। अगर खुला छोड़ दें, तो उपलब्धि कैसे होगी ? इसी लिए अभी उस पर विचार नहीं किया जा रहा है।

श्री सीताराम केसरी : क्या मंत्री महोदय को पता है कि नोगछिया, पूर्णिया और सहरसा, इन तीन डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में मक्का पर प्रतिबन्ध होने के कारण नोगछिया में, जो कि बिहार में मक्का के उत्पादन का बहुत बड़ा केन्द्र है, मक्का का भाव 24 रुपये है और गंगा के उस पार मक्का का रेट 35 रुपये है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : With regard to this, we do not come into the picture. As far as our general approach is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER : The question also would not come into the picture as a supplementary. The supplementaries are going away from the main question.

श्री एस० एम० जोशी : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बता सकते हैं कि जब मोटे अनाज के दाम सरप्लस स्टेट्स में गिर रहे हैं और अभावग्रस्त राज्यों में वे दुगुने दामों पर बेचे जाते हैं, तो जहां मोटे अनाज सस्ते मिलते हैं, वहां फूड कार्पोरेशन की तरफ से उनको खरीद कर अकालग्रस्त क्षेत्रों को क्यों नहीं दिया जाता है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : यही किया जा रहा है। जैसे, अभी माननीय सदस्य ने मक्का की बात उठाई। दिल्ली में इसको मोटा अनाज कहते हैं। हमने फूड कार्पोरेशन के द्वारा दिल्ली को मक्का दी है, और भी देने जा रहे हैं, ताकि जिनको उसकी जरूरत है, वे ले सकें। इसी तरह हमने बंगाल को भी भेजी है। फूड कार्पोरेशन के द्वारा उस की उपलब्धि की जा रही है। इस लिए वहां भी दाम गिर रहे हैं।

श्री मनुभाई पटेल : अभी बताया गया है कि हमारी जरूरत सोलह औंस पर है, लेकिन हमारी सारी जनसंख्या को इतनी मात्रा की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती है। उदाहरण के लिए बच्चों के लिए इतनी मात्रा की जरूरत नहीं है। इस लिए ऐबैरेज आवश्यकता सोलह औंस से बहुत कम पड़ती है। इस बेसिस पर जो कैलकुलेशन की गई है, वे गलत है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार सोलह औंस के बेसिस को छोड़ कर इस बारे में वास्तविक स्थिति को दृष्टि में रखते हुए फिर से विचार करेगी। और दूसरा सवाल यह है कि जितना आज अन्न है उसमें से हजारों टन, बल्कि लाखों टन खाने के सिवाय दूसरे कामों में इस्तेमाल होता है

खास करके शराब बनाने में तो खाने का अनाज शराब बनाने में जो इस्तेमाल होता है इस को भी क्या गवर्नमेंट रोकेगी ?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no answer. Shri Vishwanatham.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : What about the reply to my question? I wanted to know whether the basis of 16 oz. is correct. I would like to have a reply to that.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no answer to your question. How can I help it?

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : Whether my question was wrong or baseless? Can the Minister say that?

MR. SPEAKER : It was an important question. But it does not arise out of this.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL : It is very consistent with this. The total requirement is calculated on the basis of 16 oz. That is the basis. I would like to have a reply to my question on that.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : Any calculation is based on the requirement of adult population and I may inform him that 84 per cent of the total population is taken as adult population. So, what he says about children and other things is taken into consideration.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM : The hon. Minister stated that besides production, they are importing about 8 million tonnes not only for consumption but also for buffer stock. In this country where we are talking so much of scarcity, what is the purpose of having a buffer stock while stomachs are starving? Is it leaving the buffer stock for the benefit of two-legged and four legged rodents ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I do not agree with the hon. Member's contention. Buffer stock would have a great effect on stabilisation of prices and, in times of difficulty, it will be very useful. If we succeed in that, it will be a great achievement.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : The total availability of foodgrains also gets very much affected by the amount of

shortage and wastage involved in storage and transportation. May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the recent study of the Reserve Bank which indicates that in India the total amount of shortage and also the wastage in transportation and storage is to the extent of 7.2 million tonnes? May I know in what manner the Government of India propose to improve on this situation so that the total availability of foodgrains may improve and the shortage reduced on account of wastage?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: This is a perpetual question. I would like to inform the House, specially those who have any idea of rural India, that foodgrain is produced by millions of farmers.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA: That is everywhere in the world.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: I think, anybody who has any idea of rural India will agree with me that there is a large-scale wastage in storage in the farmer's house. There is no dispute about that; that is known. Therefore, unless we provide on a large scale containers to the farmers where they can store their foodgrains, these wastages will take place. So far as the Government godowns and the new warehouses are concerned, they have been constructed properly for storing foodgrains. But still there are some godowns where wastages take place on account of rats and insects and we are taking steps to improve them. Unless we are in a position to provide a large number of containers, small and big, in the rural areas, these wastages cannot be completely eliminated. I have a scheme to manufacture a large number of silos and containers and provide them to farmers so that the wastage can be avoided.

ELECTORAL REFORMS

*753. SHRI R. K. AMIN: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make electoral reforms for the next General Elections; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI M. YUNUS SALEEM): (a) and (b). The Election Commission is considering the question of changes and reforms in the laws of elections to Parliament and the State Legislatures and to the offices of President and Vice-President; the details, however, will be worked out only after Part I (the narrative part) of the Report of the Election Commission on the Fourth General Elections is finalised.

SHRI R. K. AMIN: May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will ask the Election Commission to prepare such electoral reforms as to remove these defects, namely, by getting only 38% of the votes the Government gets more than 50% of the seats in the Lok Sabha; when the Government remains in power, the power is abused at the time of elections; and when elections take place at the same time for Assemblies as well as for Parliament, the considerations which are different at the State level as well as the national level are mixed up and people get confused while electing the representatives. These are the three defects. How can these be removed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): One of the questions is whether a new system of representation can be introduced in India; the second question is whether the elections to the State Assemblies and the Parliament can be held on different occasions. All that....

SHRI R. K. AMIN: Abuse of power also.

SHRI GOVINDA MENON: All that I can say is that there is no such proposal.

SHRI R. K. AMIN: Does he propose to remove the abuse of power at the time of elections? As you know, Sir, no less a person than Acharya Kripalani has complained time and again about the way in which powers are abused, particularly those who are in power abuse the power at the time of elections. What does he propose to do to remove that?