

various States has much improved, and naturally the allotment has to be reduced, taking into consideration the availability of food in the various regions. The figures cannot be compared with the figures that we were allotting to the various States when they were severely affected by drought. The hon. member should appreciate the position. It is not as if we have to go on continuing, making allotments all along on a similar basis.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : The second part of my question was not answered.

MR. SPEAKER : You put it as a second question now.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : जब श्री मुन्नरामय्यम् खाद्य मंत्री थे, तो सरकार की ओर से केरल को कहा गया था कि उस को 75,000 टन चावल हर महीने दिया जायेगा और उस के आधार पर अभी तक देती भी रही है, लेकिन बीच में शायद कमी के कारण, या किसी दूसरे कारण से, जो कि मंत्री महोदय ही बता सकते हैं, उस में कमी कर दी गई। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अब चूंकि खाद्य समस्या कम हो गई है और पैदावार अच्छी हुई है, इस लिए क्या मंत्री महोदय राज्य सरकारों को यह विश्वास दिला सकेंगे, यह फर्म एग्रीमेंट दे सकेंगे, कि अगले साल लोगों के खाने के लिए जितने भी चावल और गेहूं की जरूरत होगी, सरकार उस को पूरा करने के लिए तैयार है।

It is not a question of giving any assurance as such...

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : There is no sense in your assurances; do not give any.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is the joint responsibility of the State as well as the Centre to see....

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : He is evading the answer. I agree that there is joint responsibility. Suppose there is some deficit in a particular state. Will that deficit be compensated by the Centre.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As far as supply to Kerala is concerned...

MR. SPEAKER : He did not ask about Kerala at all.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : The position fortunately this year is much easier than what it was last year. There will be some deficit areas and States and it will be the effort of the Centre to meet the requirements of the States to the maximum extent by supplying wheat, rice and other grains also. It is not only wheat and rice; there is demand for milo, maize and other things also. Taking all these into consideration, I feel that we shall be in a position to meet the reasonable requirements of the States.

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister may answer 652 also; I asked the Minister to answer that also.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO STATES

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*652. **SHRI R. BARUA :**

SHRI D. C. SHARMA :

SHRI BENI SHANKAR SHARMA :

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating reduction in the commitment of foodgrains to the States; and

(b) if so, the main considerations therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Allocations of foodgrains to the States are made on a monthly basis depending on the availability with the Centre and the relative needs of the various States. The availability with the Centre, particularly from imports, has been lower than last year. Also with a good Kharif Crop and with a better Rabi crop in the offing it is expected that most of the States can manage with lower Central allocations as compared to last year.

SHRI R. BARUA : The Government, it appears from a recent report, has stopped the supply of rice to Assam. It is not a wheat producing area but the wheat allotment has been systematically curtailed from 20,000 tonnes in November 1967 to 16,000 tonnes in December and further down to 12,100 tonnes in January 1968. The actual dispersals were much less than the paper allotments. May I know why this anomaly has cropped up and what the Government is going to do to make up the deficit of rice and wheat in that area?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is well known that the kharif harvest season begins in November and normally paddy and other foodgrains are available from November onwards. Because of that it is natural that supplies to some States were reduced to some extent. But the difficulties of the various States were duly taken into consideration while making supplies.

श्री वेणीशंकर शर्मा : मंत्री महोदय जानते हैं कि जहाँ तक वेस्ट बंगाल का प्रश्न है, वह एक डेफ़िन्सिट एरिया है और उस पर कलकत्ता को खिलाने का भी बहुत बड़ा भार है। इसलिए उस की सप्लाय को कम करने का कोई प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता। लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि चूँकि इस बार पैदावार बहुत अच्छी हुई है, इस लिए क्या वेस्ट बंगाल को पूरी मात्रा में चावल उपलब्ध किया जायेगा।

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : We have been supplying 15,000 tonnes of rice every month to West Bengal and nearly 70-75,000 tonnes of other foodgrains. This year, I think paddy and other crops in West Bengal are definitely much better than last year. But my effort is to supply them foodgrains in larger quantities, maize or barley and wheat, and I shall see that reasonable quantities of foodgrains are supplied.

श्री बी० न० जाधव : अध्यक्ष महोदय, महाराष्ट्र के बहुत बड़े इलाके में बारिश ज्यादा हुई इस की वजह से रबी की फसल तबाह हो चुकी है तो क्या ऐसी हालत में

फूड मिनिस्टर माह्व महाराष्ट्र के कोटे को बढ़ा कर वहाँ पर अन्न देने वाले हैं ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : Yes, Sir. In certain areas in Maharashtra, due to late rains and also hailstorm, the rabi crop has been slightly affected and Maharashtra wanted some more supplies during this period so that they can send them to some areas where it may not be possible to despatch the foodgrains during the monsoon. We are making efforts to give them something more during these two or three months to tide over the difficulties.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH OBEROI : May I ask the hon. Minister to let me know whether the quota of rice and wheat promised by the Central Government to Bihar during the period from 1st April, 1967 to 31st January, 1968 has been fully complied with?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I will refer him to the statement.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR : Regarding the quota allotted to Kerala, the previous Food Minister, Mr. Subramaniam, assured as a quantity of 75,000 tonnes. Our new Food Minister, the hon. Mr. Jagjiwan Ram, assured us on the floor of Parliament that, while the requirements of Kerala State were 70,000 tonnes of rice per month, "we would make best efforts to see that the quantity was supplied". While he was in Kerala last year, replying to a question, he said that he can supply only 50,000 tonnes. In this session of Parliament, the hon. Minister replied that they can supply only 40,000 tonnes.

MR. SPEAKER : Put a question.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR : But in 1965, the Central Government allotted to Kerala 9.8 lakh tonnes of rice. In 1966, they gave us 7.63 lakh tonnes and in 1967, he said in his reply that 5.34,000 tonnes were allotted, but the supply was only 3.80,000 tonnes of rice. But there in Kerala the Congressmen are demanding more rice, but here—

MR. SPEAKER : The food debate will come again. Put your question now.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR : May I know whether the Government will increase the allotment of rice to Kerala or whether the Central Government will advise the Kerala Congressmen not to resort to satyagraha for an increase in the quantity of rice ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We have to make our best efforts to see that as much rice is supplied to Kerala as is within our means. Moreover, it has been assured on the floor of the House that if at any time due to factors beyond our control there is some shortfall in rice, that will be made up by the supply of wheat, and that is far as the total requirement of Kerala is concerned, that will be looked into.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : In the past, in the drought years, the rice-consuming States were asked to take wheat as a substitute. May, I know, since the food position has now improved, whether the Government contemplate reducing the quota of wheat from the rice-consuming States so that we may not need to import a large quantity of wheat from abroad ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Actually, as I have said, the availability in the various regions of the country has improved considerably and this is bound to reflect in the allotment to the various States. As the hon. Member is suggesting, I agree with him.

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : श्रीमन्, अगर मैं मूल नहीं करता हूँ तो पिछले अधिवेशन में कृषि मंत्री श्री जगजीवन राम ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि आगामी फसल की संभावनाओं को ध्यान में रख कर ही हम यह निर्णय लेंगे कि खाद्यान्नों के क्षेत्रों को विस्तृत करना है या समाप्त करना है ? यह जो राज्य सरकारों को इस प्रकार से अभाव की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो रही है उस में स्वाभाविक रीति से इन राज्यों को अन्न मिल सके इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए और वर्तमान फसल क्योंकि आ गई है उस बात को भी ध्यान में रख कर क्या अब सरकार कुछ अन्तिम निर्णय उस संबंध में लेने जा रही है ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : रबी की फसल अब आने को है और हर रबी की फसल के आने के पहले संबंधित मुख्य मंत्रियों से सलाह मशविरा करके रबी के संबंध में क्या नीति हो उसका निर्णय लिया जाता है तो अभी आगामी 16 तारीख को मुख्य मंत्रियों को बुलाया गया है, उन में बातें कर के ही इस संबंध में निर्णय लिया जायगा ।

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद : उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी हिस्से में फसल तो अच्छी है लेकिन कुछ हिस्से में ओला और पन्थर पड़ा है जिस से मटर, मसूर और चना की फसल खराब हो गई है तो क्या यह मोटा अनाज वहां देने का व्यवस्था करेंगे ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : उत्तर प्रदेश में इस साल रबी की फसल इतनी अच्छी है, हो सकता है इतना बड़ा देश है, कुछ तो इलाके ऐसे होंगे ही कि जहां पर ओला भी पड़े होगा, पानी भी ज्यादा पड़ा होगा लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में रबी फसल इतनी अच्छी है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के खाने में कुछ अधिक ही होगी ।

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : I am also constrained to say that the answer given by the Minister to the original question as far as Kerala is concerned is really misleading. When the Government had to send something like 7½ lakh tonnes of rice, they could send only 3½ lakh tonnes. But they go on saying that they made the biggest allotment of rice to Kerala compared to other States. That is a fact, but they ought to have put it in the right perspective. A State with a deficit of 50 per cent is cordoned off; it is a single State zone. In September, 1964 the Government of India gave the solemn assurance that Kerala will be supplied 75,000 tonnes of rice per month taking into account the supplies from outside for the last ten years. Now the minister talks of a bumper harvest and is painting a very rosy picture. In this context, can we at least now expect the Central Government to fulfil its commitment of sending 75,000 tonnes of rice to Kerala ? I want a solid assurance.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I have made it clear on more than one occasion in this House that it will not be possible to supply 75,000 tonnes of rice to Kerala.

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : Why ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : Because it is not available. Bumper crop means not only rice, but foodgrain crops. I can assure the House that so far as the supply of foodgrains to Kerala is concerned, its total requirements will be met.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA : May I know whether the Government of India is taking any serious steps to overcome the continuous deficits especially in Kerala and West Bengal? They want the Congress Governments to overcome their deficit. Will the Central Government advise the State Governments, especially of Kerala, to overcome this continuous disease of deficit by changing the pattern of crops from commercial crops to foodgrains?

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR : If you do not want foreign exchange, it is all right.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : There is no doubt that even in Kerala active steps have been taken and are being taken to introduce high-yielding variety of paddy and to bring some new areas under paddy cultivation. But considering the pattern of agricultural production in Kerala at present, I will not insist that they should change it from those commodities to rice.

SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI : The Minister of State said that no definite assurances were held out about specific quantities to be supplied to the States during the period in question. Our information is otherwise. At least since the administration of West Bengal was taken over by the President definite statements have been made by officials of the Food Department of the Government of West Bengal, which is under this Parliament now, that on the basis of specific assurances held out by the Central Government about the quantity of foodgrains to be supplied to

West Bengal about two lakh tonnes is the present shortfall and in view of the fact that procurement this year, for various reasons—I do not want to go into the reasons, but it is an admitted fact—in spite of there being a near bumper crop, till now has been very poor, will the Government see to it that this shortfall of past years in the supplies of rice and other foodgrains to West Bengal is made good and there is no break-down at least in the statutory rationing in that State?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I have already said that we have been supplying on the basis of 15,000 tonnes of rice per month. I have said that we will continue to do that. So far as supplies of other foodgrains are concerned I have assured the Government of West Bengal that we will be in a position to give maize, barley and other foodgrains to meet the requirements of West Bengal.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Is the hon. Minister aware that forward sales are being transacted at Hapur at Rs. 50 and Rs. 60 a quintal for wheat and in Delhi the prices are falling every day in anticipation of the removal of barriers from the adjoining States; if so, in the circumstances, will the Minister give an assurance that at the meeting on the 16th a firm decision will be reached about the zones because it is not fair to the cultivator that a panic or some kind of an uncertainty like this is induced by the inaction and delay on the part of Government?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I do not think there is any inaction or delay. I know there are certain opinions in this House and outside about *laissez faire*. I am not expected to give a categorical answer. I can say that the whole country is not going to be treated as a zone at present.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is not the time when assurances are to be given.

SHRI G. S. REDDI : While Andhra Pradesh is supplying all the rice requirements of the Central Government, is the Central Government supplying the milo requirements of Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It should be possible to meet the reasonable requirements of Andhra Pradesh.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या यह बात सही है कि मध्य प्रदेश शासन ने और वहां की संयुक्त समिति ने उज्जैन में जो शीपस्थ मेला होने जा रहा है, उस के लिये अतिरिक्त कोटा मांगा है? यदि हां, तो उस के लिये सरकार ने क्या उत्तर दिया है? पिछली बार जब हमारे कृषि मंत्री रतलाम गये थे, तब उन्होंने वहां कृषकों को आश्वासन दिया था कि मध्य प्रदेश को चीनी और चावल का कुछ अधिक कोटा देंगे, उस के बारे में क्या किया है?

श्री जगजीवन राम : इस साल मध्य प्रदेश में फसल बहुत ही अच्छी है—चावल की फसल भी बहुत अच्छी है और गेहूं की भी बहुत अच्छी है। जहां तक चावल का प्रश्न है, चावल हम उन से खुद ले रहे हैं, तो यदि देना होगा तो वहीं से लेकर उन को देना होगा। उसी तरह से गेहूं भी हमारे प्रदेशों को देने के लिये हम उन से कुछ लेने के लिये कहने वाले हैं। चूंकि वहां पर मेला है, इस लिये वह चाहते हैं कि उन्हें मसना गेहूं मिले, तो हम ने कहा है कि हम कुछ उन को भेज देंगे।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : चीनी के लिये क्या किया?

श्री जगजीवन राम : चीनी तो बाजार में है।

श्री डा० ना० तिवारी : बहुत से ऐसे राज्य हैं, जहां अच्छी फसल होने के बावजूद भी वे राज्य डेफिसिट हैं, उनके खाद्यान्न की पूर्ति उनकी अपनी पैदावार से नहीं होती है और उनकी फूड-प्रेन्च की अवेलिबिलिटी पर-कैपिटा बहुत कम है। जैसे कहीं पर 14 औंस है, तो वहां 11 औंस है। तो जब बम्पर क्रॉप हुई है तो उन प्रान्तों में जहां अवेलिबिलिटी कम है, और जगहों में उन को पर-कैपिटा कम मिलता है, उस की पूर्ति करने के

लिये समूचे आल-इण्डिया के स्तर पर फूड-प्रेन्च की अवेलिबिलिटी एक समान हो, क्या इस के लिये प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It has been mentioned that it should be possible to meet the reasonable demands of the State Governments.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : The attitude of the Centre to Kerala is like the attitude of the mother-in-law to the daughter-in-law. She wants her son to die so that then at least tears would come in the eyes of the daughter-in-law. The Centre wants the people of Kerala to die so that then at least there would be tears in the eyes of the United Front Government. The Centre cannot say that the State should have a hand to mouth existence. Any sensible Government should take a tentative decision regarding supply of rice to the various States during the coming months. I would like to know whether the Government have taken any tentative decision regarding the supply of rice to Kerala during the coming months and, if so, what are the broad details of that decision?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As I have already indicated in the main part of my reply, out of the Central availability of rice, which means whatever foodgrains would be available to the Centre from the various States and out of imports, a substantial share would go to Kerala.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI : I want to know from the Government if they think that this zonal system will bring about greater integration of India and do they think that those States that stand for the zonal system will ever consent to its abolition?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : The zonal system is a strategy for procuring foodgrains in order to supply to the deficit areas. It is not only the surplus States which were in favour of the zonal system but even some of the deficit States were in favour of the zonal system. . . . (Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER : Question.

MR. SPEAKER : He is giving the view of the Government.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM :....because, there is an assured supply to them. But, as I have said, when the situation improves, it is always subject to review. As I have said, it has been used only as a strategy.

SHRI J. B. KRIPALANI : I asked whether the Government thinks that this zonal system makes for greater integration of India.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I am not going into that question. I said, it is a strategy.

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

*633. **SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the figures of procurement of foodgrains and demands for allotment from the various States for the year 1968-69;

(b) if so, what are the demands of each State and how much of it is likely to be met from procurement from the country; and

(c) whether these demands would be adequately met taking into consideration the next year's foodgrains import programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The 1968-69 marketing season has not yet started and the question of supplying figures of procurement for that year does not arise at this stage. The demands for allotment of foodgrains for that year have not also been received from any State so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : देश के विभिन्न प्रान्तों में सरकार ने जो प्रोक्वोरमेंट की

कीमत सुकरिर कर रखी है, उस में खरीद पर कितने फीसदी खर्च डाला जाता है तथा मेल-प्राइस और परचेज प्राइस में कम से कम और अधिक से अधिक कितना अन्तर निश्चित किया गया है? क्या सरकार को ऐसी शिकायतें मिली हैं कि इम्पोर्टेड व्हीट और कन्ट्री व्हीट में 30 पैसे में 40 पैसे किलो का फर्क कीमतों में रहा है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : In fact this question does not arise out of the question asked by the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, this question relates only to procurement of foodgrains and demands from various States.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, वह तो इमी से उत्पन्न होता है। मैंने तो बड़े साफ़ तौर पर पूछा है कि किस भाव पर खरीदते हैं और किस भाव पर बेचते हैं।

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is asking about the price of imported wheat etc. which has no relevance to this question. Let him ask the second question.

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले साल की तरह इस साल भी किसी सूबे में अनाज की कमी नहीं होगी और न ही भाव चढ़ने दिये जायेंगे और वे भारत सरकार से जितने अनाज की मांग करेंगे उतना अनाज उनको दिया जाएगा? क्या इसका भरोसा आप दिलाते हैं?

श्री जगजीवन राम : पिछले साल की अपेक्षा अवस्था अधिक संतोषप्रद रहेगी, यह निश्चित बात है। लेकिन यह कहना कि जितना मांगेंगे उतना दे दिया जाएगा, ऐसा नहीं बल्कि जो मुनासिब होगा वह दिया जाएगा।

SHRI HEM BARUA : The progress of procurement by most of the States is slow and sluggish. Even the State of Assam has fulfilled only one-third of the procurement target. At the same time, the Government propose to build a buffer stock of foodgrains, partially by