

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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### LOK SABHA

Tuesday, March 28, 1967/Chaitra 7,  
1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

#### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Import of Foodgrains Under PL 480

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- \*79. Shri Indrajit Gupta:  
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:  
Shri K. N. Tiwary:  
Shri C. Janardhanan:  
Shri P. C. Adichan:  
Shri Vasudevan Nair:  
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

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

(a) whether Government have entered into any new agreement for

Commodity	Supply period (United States fiscal year)	Appropriate Minimum quantity (Metric tons)	Maximum Export Market value (in million)
Wheat/wheat flour	1967	1,200,000	\$ 79.8
grain sorghum (Milo)	1967	800,000	\$ 42.3

This agreement provides for sale entirely against local currency.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** This agreement was, according to the Minister, signed on 20 February. May I draw his attention to the fact that on 2 February, a little more than two weeks before this agreement was signed, the U.S. President in his message to the U.S. Congress on the question of food aid to India—my question arises out of that—said:

the import of PL. 480 foodgrains from U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the terms of the new agreement; and

(c) the quantum of import to be made under the new agreement and the total value thereof?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation Shri Annasahib Shinde:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). An agreement was entered into with the Government of U.S.A. on the 20th February, 1967 under the U.S.A.'s Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (PL-480) as last amended by the Food for Peace Act of 1966. The Agreement provides *inter alia* for the supply of 1,200,000 Metric tons of wheat/wheat flour and 800,000 Metric tons of grain sorghums (milo). Details are as follows:

"The developing nations can no longer take food supplies for granted, while they concentrate on industrial development a'one or spend vitally needed resources on unnecessary military equipment".

Two weeks after this the agreement has been signed. I want to know whether this official statement of the U.S. President does not clearly indicate that this agreement, the text of

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which is not made available to us, implies that this food is being supplied to India on the basis of an undertaking that we will not concentrate on industrial development or spend vitally needed resources on what is called unnecessary military equipment. Have we accepted such an undertaking?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** Whatever may be the views of the U.S. Government or the President, we do not necessarily subscribe to all their views. It has already been made clear that we will do nothing which will endanger our sovereignty.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** I would like to know what are the terms of this agreement? Is there any protocol attached to the agreement? If so, will it be laid on the Table so that we can be satisfied.

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** I do not think in the public interest it can be done.

**Shri A. B. Vajpayee:** On a point of order. What public interest is involved?

**Shri S. A. Dange:** It is the public which consumes the wheat, not the Government.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjiwan Ram):** I do not think there is anything in the agreement which precludes the Government of India from emphasising the development of industry in this country. At the same time, we will have to emphasise the development of agriculture so that we become self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains at the earliest opportunity.

**Shri A. B. Vajpayee:** That is not the point.

**Mr. Speaker:** They want to know whether a copy of the agreement will be laid on the Table.

**Shri Jagjiwan Ram:** I cannot say offhand; I will examine it and let the Chair know.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** On a point of order. The hon. Minister, Shri

Jagjiwan Ram, has made a definite statement that it is not in the public interest.

**Shri Jagjiwan Ram:** I did not say so at all.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Unless there are any secret clauses which they consider should not see the light of day, why should they plead public interest?

**Shri Jagjiwan Ram:** I am not pleading public interest. I have said that I will look into it and let you know whether it was possible to place it on the Table.

**Shri Indrajit Gupta:** That means there is something fishy.

**Shri A. B. Vajpayee:** It is not for the Government to claim whether the disclosure of that agreement will be in the public interest or not. It is for the Chair to be satisfied whether the agreement should be laid on the Table or not.

**Mr. Speaker:** Therefore, he has said that he would submit it to me.

**Shri A. B. Vajpayee:** Why this contradiction, then, between the Minister and his colleague?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we should be satisfied with this now.

**श्री क० ना० तिवारी :** रिब्यू ग्रान्ट फूड स्केअरसिटी सिचुएशन इन इण्डिया में लिखा गया है कि देश में 6 मिलियन टन की कमी होगी उसमें से पी० एल० 480 के अन्दर जो एग्सीमिटेड हुआ है सेकेण्ड हाफ ग्राफ दी पीरियड में 2 मिलियन टन अमरीका देगा। बाकी जो 4 मिलियन टन की कमी होगी वह कहां से पूरी की जायगी ? क्या दूसरे देशों से इस सिलसिले में कोई नैगोशियेशन की जा रही है या इन्टरनल प्रोक्वोरमेन्ट से इसको पूरा किया जायगा इस सम्बन्ध में गवर्नमेंट की क्या पोजीशन है ?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** What we have indicated is that our requirements from June onwards till the end

of the next year may be to the tune of six millions tons more. We are trying to find out from where we could get this quantity. The U.S. Government has announced that it would be prepared to give three million tons more provided there is matching allotment from other countries.

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:** So we go begging round the world.

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** I am giving factual information. We shall try to get from Canada, Australia and other countries whatever we could get.

**Shri C. Janardhanan:** In view of various complaints about the utilisation of PL-480 funds by the U.S.A.; will the Government take immediate steps to stop any subversive activities by the utilisation of PL-480 funds by US intelligence agency or other agents?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** Such instances have not come to our notice.

**Shri P. C. Adichan:** May I know whether the Government is assuring itself that there will be no need to import foodgrains after 1971?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** Yes, Sir; that has been our approach to the problem; importing foodgrains is becoming more difficult and unless we become self-sufficient, there will be great difficulties. That has been announced by the Government.

**Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Following up the question by my friend Mr. Adichan in the statement circulated to us yesterday, Government says that the total import of cereals during 1966 was 10.4 million tons as against 7.5 million tons in 1965 and 6.3 millions tons in 1964. The imports are steadily going up year after year. How can they stop imports by 1971 and what steps are they taking to do this?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** The hon. Member is aware that we had two successive years of drought. Because of that our import figures have gone high. Our main plank in increasing

production is the use of scientific methods, science of genetics, fertilisers, modernisation of agriculture and some other steps.

**श्री श्रीकार लाल बरबा :** श्रीमन् मैंने राजस्थान में देखा है कि पी० एल० 480 के तहत जितना गेहूँ आता है वह हाथ से मसलने पर भूसी की तरह उड़ जाता है तो क्या सरकार ने कोई सँमूल उनको बतलाया कि इस सँमूल के अनाज को लाना चाहिए या वह भूसी ही लायेंगे ? कैसा अनाज आये इसका क्या कोई नमूना सरकार ने बतलाया है ?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** We check up the wheat that we received from the USA and other countries at various points; we tried to find out whether it is fit for human consumption or not, and if there is any specific complaint of the hon. Member, we will see that it is done properly. But by and large, recently, we have no such complaint.

**श्री श्रीकार लाल बरबा :** आप ने भी कभी खाया उसको ?

**श्री मधु लिनये :** मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। खाद्य मन्त्रालय से शायद इनका पहले से संबंध रहा है। पिछली बार बरसाती सत्र में श्री सुब्रह्मण्यम् को माफी मांगनी पड़ी थी क्योंकि उन्होंने यहां पर कहा था कि अमरीका में हम अनाज का निरीक्षण करने का बाध करने का काम करते हैं। मैंने उसका खण्डन किया था सबूत के साथ और तब उन्होंने माफ़ी मांगी थी और यह कबूल किया था कि अमरीका में खरीदे अनाज का इंसपेक्शन करने का कोई इनका इन्तजाम नहीं है जबकि घरबों रुपये का गेहूँ हम लोगों ने मंगाया। अभी जैसा कि उन्होंने फरमाया कि वेरियस प्वाइंट्स पर अनाज को "चैक" किया तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या जहाँ से हम अनाज लाते हैं अमरीका के बन्दरगाहों का भी उसमें समावेश है...

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no point of order.

**श्री शिव नारायण :** अध्यक्ष महोदय मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस पी० एल० 480 को कब सलाम करेगी और अमरीका के अलावा क्या सरकार ने और किन्हीं सोशलिस्टिक कण्ट्रीज़ से भी दरखास्त की है कि वह आप की मदद करे ?

**Shri Annasahib Shinde:** We have approached even the socialist countries for that. As I have already submitted, our plan of approach to this problem is that we should try to become self-sufficient as early as possible.

**Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** May I know whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a statement made by Shri Annadurai, Chief Minister of Madras, that he will contact the Burma Government for the supply of rice in lieu of the compensation that has to be given to the repatriates from Burma, and if so, what is the reaction of the Government?

**Shri Jagjiwan Ram:** I have seen that report in the newspapers today. Shri Annadurai is coming here. If he has any such proposal, we will discuss that.

**Shri S. A. Dange:** May I know from Government how many times since 1952 they have set up such heroic deadlines and have failed in that? (Interruption). He should give us the information.

**श्री मधु लिमये :** बैठें क्यों हैं, कोई काबीना का सदस्य उठे ।

**Mr. Speaker:** I think he wants notice for that.

**Shri S. Kandappan:** Does he say it? You are saying so on his behalf.

**Mr. Speaker:** I meant that he may not be able to collect all of a sudden. (Interruption.)

**Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta:** Will he inform the House about this?

**श्री मधु लिमये:** बहुत मुश्किल है । आप की बात बिलकूल ठीक है यह काम इन मंत्रियों के लिये बड़ा मुश्किल है ।

**Shri Hem Barua:** The hon. Food Minister just now said that he would look into the agreement before deciding to place it on the Table of the House. Since the agreement has been signed, may I know what is there to look into it? Did he sign the agreement without looking into it or is there something fishy in the agreement that he wants to hide from the Members of Parliament?

**Shri Jagjiwan Ram:** It is quite obvious. I have only recently taken over the Food Ministry. To be very frank, I have not examined the entire agreement. I am not pleading privilege "in the public interest." As I said, we will go through it and if necessary I will talk to the Chair and inform the House.

**Mr. Speaker:** Question No. 80.

**Shri Hem Barua:** Sir, on a point of order.

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:** I have a very important question about the trade ban. (Interruption.)

**Mr. Speaker:** He has put enough number of questions.

**Shri Jyotirmoy Basu:** I have not, Sir.

Several hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** There are 50 people wanting to have the chance. How can I help it? Next question.

**Concessional Imports after 1971**

\*80. **Shri Yamuna Prasad Mandal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have taken a firm decision that no concessional imports of wheat would be sought after 1971;