

Food Production in 1964-65

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- *30. { **Shri Hem Barua:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri D. D. Puri:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. B. Patil:

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a statement in the FAO report to the effect that the total output of food in 1964-65 is unlikely to be higher than in 1963-64; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). In their Report on the State of Food and Agriculture, 1964, the FAO have discussed the agricultural production outlook for 1964-65. It may be mentioned that the year 1964-65 referred to in the F.A.O. report relates to 1963-64 agricultural year as far as India is concerned. Exact quantitative estimates in regard to the production of foodgrains during 1964-65 have not yet become available. According to certain qualitative indication, the production of Kharif cereals is expected to be higher this year than last year.

Shri Hem Barua: Replying to the Food Debate during the last session of Parliament, the hon. Food Minister said that the next rice crop was going to be as good as last year's crop. If the last year's crop was as good as that, may I know why is it that there is such an abominable scarcity all over the country today? Is it because of bad planning or bad distribution or too much of optimism on the part of the Food Minister?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): During

the last year, that is, 1963-64, the production of rice was 36.5 million tons. As a matter of fact, this year the preliminary estimates show that it will be higher than 36.5 million tons, a little better than that. All the harvest has yet to come. It has commenced just now. Therefore, the effects of it will be known only when the harvest is in full swing and market arrivals are there.

Shri Hem Barua: If it is a fact that the FAO report has also pointed out that whatever increase in rice production may be expected is going to be vitiated by reduced output of grains, pulses, wheat, etc., may I know what steps Government have taken to improve the production in the matter of these food commodities?

Shri C. Subramaniam: On the agricultural side, we are trying to increase per acre production in the country as a whole. That is being done by more fertilisers, better seeds and better use of irrigation facilities.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that India has been placed by the FAO at the bottom in the matter of present *per capita* availability of protein in foodgrains and, if so, may I know whether there is a proposal for increasing the *per capita* availability of Protein in foodgrains in the Fourth Five Year Plan?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is true that our per acre production is one of the lowest in the world and that is why it is a case for hope and because it is at the lower level it is always easier to improve the production. That is why we are taking all the measures of giving better fertilisers, better seeds and better irrigation facilities on the basis of which alone the production can increase.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know the reasons given by them in support of their views and whether the Government is convinced by their reasons?

Shri C. Subramaniam: As I already stated in the main answer, the FAO

was talking about 1963-64. As a matter of fact, they have given the reasons for the shortfall. There have been heavy losses in the spring crop.

Mr. Speaker: Is it an accessible document?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is an accessible document.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से यह पता नहीं लगा कि सरकार एफ० ए० ओ० की इस रिपोर्ट को सही मानती है या ग़लत । अगर वह इस को सही मानती है, तो फिर इस कमी को दूर करने के लिए उस ने क्या कदम उठाया है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: With regard to 1963-64, the FAO have reported only the facts available. There is no question of their being incorrect. But, as I already stated, their report relates to 1963-64. During that year, the crops were affected by severe winter conditions. They themselves have referred to it. We cannot avoid weather being unfavourable to us at any time.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether the FAO, while commenting on the low yield for the period 1963-64, has given the reasons for that? May I know whether they have put the blame on the farmers for inefficiency or whether they have given any reason for the maladministration under which farmers are not getting proper facilities for everything. What are the main reasons given and what Government is doing with regard to that?

Shri C. Subramaniam: You have suggested, Sir, that if it is an available document, the reasons can be looked into. As far as we are concerned, the main reason given is the adverse weather conditions, particularly the severe winter conditions. As far as the other things are concerned, we have to improve the techniques, we have to improve the techniques of the farmer for which we have to take action.

श्री हुसम चन्द कछवाय : मैं यह जाना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार का विचार अनाज का उत्पादन ज्यादा करने के लिए नकद-फसलों, अर्थात् मूंगफली, गन्ने और कपास आदि, पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने का है ।

Shri C. Subramaniam: We are not putting any restrictions on cash crops. They are also needed for the country.

Shri P. R. Patel: In spite of our spending more than Rs. 200 crores for the improvement of agriculture, the per-acre production has not increased. May I know whether the defect lies in our approach to the agriculturist?

Shri C. Subramaniam: There has been an increase. There is no use saying that there has been no increase at all. But I do agree that it is not adequate. We are trying to have more fertilizers, improved plant protection methods and better irrigation facilities.

Shri P. R. Patel: My question was whether the approach to the agriculturist is not proper and that is the reason.

Shri C. Subramaniam: If the approach to the farmer is with reference to the prices which have been made available to him, I may say that is why we have fixed a remunerative price. With regard to extension services we are trying to improve them, so that the farmer may be better influenced to have better farming.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: May I know whether the dilatoriness and the inertia existing in the Food Ministries of the State Governments also contribute to the fall in agricultural production and, if so, the reaction of the Government towards the proposal made by the Chief Minister of West Bengal to use the services of an army officer to eradicate these things in the State Food Departments?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do not think the use of the army in this field will give very beneficial results.

श्री बूटा सिंह : आजकल जब कि गेहूं की बुवाई बहुत ज़ोरों पर है, पंजाब में किसानों को खाद नहीं मिल रही है, जिस की वजह से आने वाले वर्ष में पैदावार बिल्कुल कम हो जायेगी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आजकल सरकार किसानों को खाद देने के लिए क्या कदम उठा रही है, ताकि खाद की सप्लाई ज्यादा हो सके।

Shri C. Subramaniam: I do agree, I am unable to meet the demand for fertilizers not only in the Punjab but throughout the country. Fortunately the demand has increased. It is a healthy sign. But we do not have sufficient fertilizers to meet the demand and we are trying to import more fertilizers.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : क्या मंत्री महोदय को पता है कि सरकार ने अन्न सम्बन्धी आंकड़ों में दस-पन्द्रह सैकड़ों की वृद्धि करने का आदेश अपने नीचे के अफसरों को दे रखा है और अगर उन को पता है, तो इस बारे में उन्होंने क्या किया है ?

Mr. Speaker: I could not follow Dr. Lohia.

Shri C. Subramaniam: As a matter of fact the increase in food production for the Third Plan was not fixed at 15 per cent. but even a little higher. But for the last two years there has been a stagnation in the production, and it has remained stagnant because of the adverse weather conditions.

श्री नाथपाई : मंत्री महोदय का उत्तर प्रश्न से बिल्कुल भिन्न है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : हुजूर तो सवाल समझ गये होंगे ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं खुद नहीं समझा इसलिए मैं मिनिस्टर साहब को नहीं समझा सकता। If other talks cease I might be able to follow the hon. Member.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : क्या मंत्री जी को पता है कि सरकार ने अपने अफसरों को आदेश दे रखा है कि अन्न-पैदावार सम्बन्धी आंकड़ों और अन्दाजों को दस-पन्द्रह सैकड़ा—कुछ लोगों ने तो पच्चीस सैकड़ा बताया है, मैं सिर्फ दस-पन्द्रह सैकड़ा कह रहा हूँ—बढ़ा कर बताया करो ?

Mr. Speaker: Whether there is any direction by Government that the officers should show . . .

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपना प्रश्न पूरा कर लूँ। अगर उन को पता है, तो उन्होंने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या किया है ?

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री त्याग) : माननीय सदस्य ने पढ़ा गलत है।

Shri C. Subramaniam: In which case they have disobeyed our instructions and have not shown any increase.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, अगर मज़ाक ही करना है तो फिर मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इनकी जितनी भी हिदायतें हैं, सब की उन्होंने अवज्ञा की है और सारा काम ही पोंगापंथी है।

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member said that there was a directive by Government, but Government deny that.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: If I have heard the hon. Minister correctly, I think he said that if such instructions had been issued, they had not been obeyed by the Government servants?

Shri C. Subramaniam: That is one way of contradicting it. If my hon. friend is not able to appreciate that, I am sorry.

Shri Koya: The hon. Minister has just now stated, if I have heard him aright, that the food position has improved this year. If that be so, what

is the justification for his statement that we must have rationing for seven years to come?

Shri C. Subramaniam: With all the increase, it is not enough to feed the increasing population in our country. After all, the target fixed for the Third Plan was 100 million tons. With all this increase, we would not be reaching anywhere near that figure of 100 million tons.

Third Shipyard

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- *31. { **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up a third shipyard to meet the country's growing demand for ships; and

(b) if so, where this shipyard will be located?

The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: In view of the fact that the Japanese Government are taking rather long in coming to a final decision regarding the Cochin Shipyard Project, may I know why the Indian Government do not consider it desirable to think in terms of setting up a third shipyard as early as possible in collaboration with some other foreign country, for obvious reasons?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As I had explained earlier in the House, there has been a wide area of agreement in regard to the terms and conditions for the setting up of the second shipyard at Cochin. However, one or two points such as fees for royalties or consultancy, currency, exchange, etc., still remain to be finalised. The Japanese

are considering our final proposals in these matters and we are expecting a reply from them in the next one week or so.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: May I know what is our Fourth Plan target for new tonnage, and would the existing shipyard at Visakhapatnam and the proposed shipyard at Cochin be able to fulfil this target, during the Fourth Plan period?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It would be premature for me to say anything about the target in the Fourth Plan. We intend to put it at a figure of about 3 to 3.5 million GRT roundly.

So far as the capacity of the shipyards is concerned, the augmented capacity of the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. would be in the neighbourhood of 55,000 to 60,000 GRT, and to begin with, the capacity of the Cochin shipyard would be 63,000 GRT as per the project or scheme given by the Japanese Government, which can be raised up to 125,000 GRT, which means a total of about 180,000 GRT which would be good enough for meeting the replacement needs of the order of 200,000 tons per annum, when our fleet stands at 4,000,000 GRT.

Shri Subodh Hansda: In view of the fact that the demand of the shipping corporation would not be met by the Cochin Shipyard, may I know whether Government propose to survey the new Haldia port that is coming up for the next shipyard?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We would like to take full advantage of the capacity of the Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., and the second shipyard at Cochin. There is a proposal to enable the Garden Reach Workshop, which is also a Government-owned shipyard, to produce ships up to 10,000 GRT.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the comprehensive survey made by the Indian and foreign experts about the location of the second shipyard at Cochin will be taken into