

LOK SABHA DEBATES

815

816

LOK SABHA

*Friday, November 20, 1959/Kartika
29, 1881 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Mr. Speaker: *Shri Prakash Vir Shastri.*

Shri Prakash Vir Shastri: Question No 155.

Shri Vajpayee: The Health Minister is not there,—very unhealthy

Mr. Speaker: Next question

Shri Nath Pal: What happens to that question, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: When the Minister comes it will be taken up Next question Well, the Members are absent, the Minister is absent Next question It is about Health It will stand over

Food Zones

+

*158. { *Shri Panigrahi:*
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhad:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharya:
Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:
Shri Warior:
Shri T. E. Vittal Rao:
Shri Kediyan:
Shri N. R. Mankwamy:
Shri Nagi Reddy:

Shri Ramam:
Shri D. V. Rao:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Khushwaqt Sai:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Sanganna:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shrimati Renn Chakravarty:
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Shri Madhusudan Rao:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri Bimal Ghose:
Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
Shri Elayaperumal:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Central Government either to introduce bigger food zones or to readjust the boundaries of the existing food zones,

(b) whether proposals to that effect have been received from the various State Governments; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c) The question whether it would be advisable to have each state a separate zone or to join contiguous surplus and deficit States to form bigger zones was discussed with the Chief Ministers and/or Food Ministers of the States at the last meeting of the National Development Council in September 1959 There was divergence of opinion and no final decision could be taken. The consensus of opinion was that the matter should be examined further in the light of the discussion and separate

consultations held with the State governments if necessary. It was later decided to continue the existing Southern Zone comprising the States of Madras, Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Kerala. The question whether a bigger zone comprising the States of Orissa and West Bengal should be formed has also been discussed with the two State governments, but a final decision has not so far been taken.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of Orissa had strongly objected to the proposal of making West Bengal and Orissa one food zone and, if so, whether the Government of India have opposed the view of the Government of Orissa?

Shri A. M. Thomas: There was a discussion by my senior colleague, the Food and Agriculture Minister, with the Chief Ministers of West Bengal and Orissa recently in Calcutta. A tentative understanding was reached that these two States could be joined provided certain safeguards against prices going up too high in Orissa were adopted. Subsequently, there have been discussions also. There has been some difference of opinion perhaps in the State Government circles. In this matter, hon. Members may also consider certain aspects, because there has been much disparity between the prices prevailing in Orissa and in West Bengal. That has led to a great deal of heart-burning among the producers in Orissa. When the question of procurement and prices came up, several Members in Orissa pleaded for higher prices for the producers in Orissa. The consumers in West Bengal have been paying much more. This led to smuggling and we have not been able to mop up the entire surplus of Orissa which could be distributed in time in the deficit States. These aspects were considered and a tentative decision was taken.

I may assure the hon. Members that all aspects that have been pointed out by the State Governments would be taken into consideration. A final decision has not been taken and if the

zone is formed adequate safeguards would be made to protect the interests of the consumers in Orissa. There would be stocks in Orissa which would be made available to consumers at proper time, and we will see to it that the Calcutta prices do not go up unduly high so that there may not be heavy pressure on Orissa.

Shri Ram Krishan Gupta: May I know whether any request has been received from the Punjab Government to adjust the boundaries of the northern food zone?

Shri A. M. Thomas: At one stage the Punjab Government made a representation to the effect that Punjab should be cordoned off separately. We have not been able to accede to that request. As far as Punjab is concerned, two other areas form part of this zone—Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. They all together form a natural contiguous area, and we could not accede to the request of the Punjab Government.

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed: Will the hon. Deputy Minister give us an idea how the zonal system of food distribution is going to fit in with the scheme of State trading?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to the scheme of State trading, even when a statement was made before this hon. House, the Government pointed out the difficulties that may have to be faced in the absence of the requisite administrative organisation, the lack of storage capacity and also the inadequacy of buffer stocks. In the light of experience, we have faced certain difficulties and that is why we are trying to review the position. For example, it was anticipated that we would be in a position to mop off the surplus in the surplus States which we have not been able to do. The State Governments have their difficulties too. It may not be proper to say that the scheme of State trading has been given up. We are not making a doctrinaire approach but pragmatic one.

" **Shrimati Renuka Ray:** May I know what has happened to the proposals for treating the whole country as one unit and scrapping the zonal system altogether and thus making it possible to proceed with State trading?

Shri A. M. Thomas: At this particular stage it may be difficult

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Is it under contemplation or has it been given up?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to that, the idea of forming more or less self-sufficient zones came up. We want to avoid cross-movements and we also want to facilitate procurement by Government

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What are the grounds for not acceding to the request of the Andhra State Government for forming a separate food zone for Andhra State?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon House knows that Kerala is within the southern zone. Kerala is a deficit State. Its demand comes to round-about 7 lakh tons. The demand of Mysore comes to about 2½ lakh tons. Altogether, it comes to about a million tons. What the Andhra Pradesh Government has undertaken is that they would procure about 4 lakh tons. The Madras Government has undertaken to procure about 1½ lakh tons. That will make, altogether, only 5½ lakh tons, and we would not be in a position to find the balance. As has been pointed out by me, there have been difficulties for the State Governments to mop up the entire surplus which would be available in time for distribution to the deficit States. We cannot wait for the State Governments to have their surplus procured because the needs of the other deficit areas would be immediate.

Mr. Speaker: The question was, why Andhra cannot be made a separate zone by itself. It was a simple question.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I pointed out the difficulty. The Andhra Government has undertaken only to procure about

4 lakh tons which would not be sufficient to meet the deficit of Kerala. As it is, the southern zone is slightly surplus and we may not have to bring from outside for the needs of the States in the south.

Shri C. K. Bhattacharya: The hon Food Minister has stated that in his opinion there is no deficit of food in India. What is the difficulty in proceeding on that basis and using the entire country as one unit, as has just now been stated, without putting any zonal restriction regarding the supply of food?

Mr. Speaker: He has already answered it, I believe.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The question of self-sufficiency has to be judged from a comparative study of the position. Last year we had a good crop. Next year also, we expect there would be a nice crop for us, but, as the hon House knows, 1957-58 was a very, very bad year and so we could not take the risk of abolishing all zones or removing all restrictions. So far as the suggestion of my hon friend is concerned, we cannot afford to take the risk of treating the entire country as one zone. We had at one stage, after decontrol, adopted some such measure but then, subsequently, we had to adopt other regulatory measures and form the zones. Unless we have got sufficient food production to meet the increased demand of the public, we will not be in a position to treat the entire country as one zone.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: There are certain areas in each State from which foodgrains naturally go to another State. The agricultural workers from those areas come during the harvest season to the other area. May I know whether any consideration will be given to the difficulties of such areas while readjusting the zonal system?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In readjusting the zones, our idea has been not to deprive the deficit States of their legitimate and natural sources of supply. Regarding the particular case mentioned by my hon friend about

labourers going from one area to another, if any particular difficulty is pointed out to us, we will certainly take action

Mr. Speaker: I will allow a half-hour discussion on this. There are so many hon Members who want to put questions

Shri Supakar: On a point of order I put a specific question about the Orissa-West Bengal food zone. Unfortunately that has been merged with the general question on food zones. Even if you allow a half-hour discussion on this general question, it will be hardly possible for other Members, except one or two, to discuss the grievances of their particular States. We feel completely helpless, not having been allowed to put a single question

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have suggested that a debate may be held on the food situation. A half-hour discussion may not be adequate to deal with all the aspects. We will table a motion to the effect that the food situation may be taken up

Mr. Speaker: All right

The hon Health Minister was not in his seat when I called him. The House expects the Minister to be in his seat when a question relating to his Ministry is called

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): I am sorry, Sir (Interruptions)

दिल्ली में अनधिकृत निर्माण

*१५५. श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली के किन-किन अनधिकृत उपनगरों का निर्माण रोक लिया गया है ;

(ख) ऐसे कितने उपनगर हैं जिनमें निर्माण कार्य अभी बन्द किया जाना है ;

(ग) जिन लोगों ने इन उपनगरों में भूमि खरीद रखी है उन्हें किस आधार पर पैसा लौटाया जायगा ;

(घ) क्या सरकार ने यमुना के दूसरी ओर (शाहदरा की ओर) बस्तिया बसाने के लिये यमुना नदी पर एक और पुल बनाने का निश्चय किया है, और

(ङ) यदि हा, तो कितने पुल बनाये जायेंगे और किन-किन स्थानों पर ये पुल बनाये जायेंगे ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री करमरकर) : (क) और (ख) निर्माण की स्वीकृति केवल उन्हीं बस्तियों में दी जाती है जिनके प्लान उचित स्थानीय अधिकारी द्वारा स्वीकृत हो चुके हों। अनधिकृत बस्तियों की एक सूची मन्त्रालय की मेज पर रख दी गई है। [बैठकमें परिशिष्ट १ अनुबन्ध संख्या ५४]

(ग) सम्भवतः प्रस्ताव यह है कि सम्बन्धित बस्ती के स्थापकों को उन व्यक्तियों को पैसा वापिस कर देना चाहिये जिन्होंने अनधिकृत बस्तियों में जमीन खरीदी है। यह विषय विगुड रूप से खरीदारों एवं सम्बन्धित बस्ती के स्थापकों के द्वारा तय करने का है।

(घ) और (ङ) यमुना के बायें किनारे पर बस्तिया बसाने के लिये उस पर पुल बनाने का कोई विचार नहीं है। फिर भी सड़क एवं रेलवे यातायात की आसानी के लिये हुमायूँ ब्रकबरे के समीप एक सड़क का पुल और पुराने किले के पास एक रेल का पुल बनाने का विचार है।

श्री प्रकाश बीर शास्त्री : इस पत्रक में लगभग १५० अनधिकृत बस्तियों की सूची दी गई है तो क्या दिल्ली के मास्टर प्लान के कुछ रहस्य जो पीछे प्रकट हो गये हैं इन अनधिकृत बस्तियों के बसाने वालीं ने उसका लाभ उठाया है ?