

## Zones

12.33 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: CREATION OF  
WHEAT ZONES

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Swaran Singh):** In the light of the supply and price position of indigenous wheat in different States and of the prospect of current wheat crop, Government have reviewed the question of forming wheat zones. Government consider that such formation of zones is necessary in order to conserve supplies of wheat in important wheat consuming areas and to concentrate on the areas of shortage in which Government could distribute supplies of imported wheat from Central stocks. It has accordingly been decided that with immediate effect the following wheat zones should be formed:

1. Punjab and the Union Territories of Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. Export of wheat and wheat products from this zone to Jammu and Kashmir will be permitted.
  2. Uttar Pradesh.
  3. Rajasthan.
  4. Madhya Pradesh.
  5. Bihar.
  6. Maharashtra. Export of wheat and wheat products from this zone to Goa will be permitted.
  7. Gujarat.
  8. Southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore, Kerala and Pondicherry.
  9. The residual zone of the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Nagaland and the Union Territories of Tripura and Manipur.
2. Export of wheat and wheat products from, and import into, each of the zones will be prohibited except

under permits to be issued by the State Governments with the concurrence of the Central Government. The intention is that such permits should not be normally granted on private trade account. In the circumstances, inter-zone movement of wheat would be restricted to Government or State-sponsored accounts.

3. The State Governments have been asked to take measures required to enforce the zonal system and to check smuggling between States.

4. Government hope that this step will not only improve the price and supply position in important wheat consuming States but also enable Government to meet better the needs of other States for imported wheat. The supplies of imported wheat to Roller Mills in all States will continue undiminished and, if required, even at an accelerated pace.

**Shri Ranga (Chittoor):** May I know whether the State trading or State operations with regard to this matter would be carried on on a no-profit-no-loss basis or whether the exporting or importing State Governments will be allowed to make profits in these transactions?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** It is a matter of detail, but in the trade operations if private trade can make some reasonable profit, I am not in principle opposed to a State making a small profit. I cannot say that it will be on such a basis that there will be no profit of any type.

**Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun):** In these days of scarcity when increased dearness allowance is being given, there should not be even a small profit made by the State.

**Shri Nath Pal (Rajapur):** The creation of these wheat zones, as we understand it, is one of the measures to meet the shortage of wheat in the country. Is it a fact that Government have also contemplated entering into a new PL-480 agreement with

[Shri Nath Pai]

the USA to build up the buffer stock in the country, and the hon. Minister is going to the USA for that purpose?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** It is our intention to explore the possibility of importing more wheat, but so far as the current year is concerned, we have already got considerable quantities of wheat which can be imported under the earlier agreement, and as for all the quantity that cannot be brought in by June, we are already requesting the US Government to extend the period by a further year or so so that the remaining part of those supplies which we have not actually received, based on the earlier contract could be available.

**Shri Ranga:** The hon. Minister has enunciated a very dangerous principle which has never been adopted by Government so far.

**Mr. Speaker:** That can be discussed on a separate motion and not now.

**Shri Ranga:** That will take too much time.

**Shri A. P. Jain (Tumkur):** I do not dispute the statement of the Food Minister that normally some profit may be made even on the grain trade. But in the present circumstances, when the main intention of undertaking all these steps is to lower the price, how does he justify the making of any profit by the States, howsoever small that may be?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** I am not saying that they will necessarily make any profit. I expect that no profit will be made, but I do want to make it clear ....

**Shri Tyagi:** We shall not permit any profit on foodgrains.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is going to be a debate on the Demands for Grants relating to the Food and Agriculture Ministry on the 25th inst., and these points can be discussed then.

**Shri Tyagi:** We cannot permit any profit on foodgrains.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** When we talk of State trading in foodgrains, or trading on State-sponsored account, where a thing has to move on State-sponsored account, it is true that normally the consumer will get it at a price which will definitely be lower than would be the case if the wheat moves on private account. But to make a categorical statement with regard to each transaction, ...

**Shri Ranga:** The hon. Minister is enunciating a new policy....

**Shri Swaran Singh:** ...that it will be purely on a no-profit-no-loss basis is difficult....

**Shri Ranga:** This is a new policy which the hon. Minister has enunciated. Let the Prime Minister make the position clear.

**Mr. Speaker:** On the 25th instant, we are going to have the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. And these points can be discussed at that time.

**Shri Nath Pai:** I think that it should be a matter of national policy that foodgrains should be subsidised. That being the position, if it is said that the State can make a small profit, then does the hon. Minister want the State to be reduced to a middle-man?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** May I clarify the position? I think that it is not the intention of the exporting States, that is, the surplus States, to make any money over this issue. But let us try to understand the position. In the present circumstances, when any quantity of wheat moves from a surplus State to a deficit State purely on normal trade account, the profits that are made are . . . unconscionable ....

**Shri Ranga:** There should be no profit. Why use the word 'profit' at all?

**Shri Swaran Singh:**...I do not know whether my hon. friend opposite has ever raised any objection to that . . . .

**Shri Ranga:** There should be no profit. The word 'profit' itself should not be used. It is most immoral.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** It is our intention to cut down the heavy profit of the middlemen, and in the process, we have to recover various items like the cost of transport, cost of storage and a number of other items.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty** (Barrackpore): Profit is different from the cost of carriage etc.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** These are the various items, the biggest items which cannot be ignored, and it will not be correct to expect that with regard to each lot a separate account will be kept. But, on the whole, the intention is not to use this as an instrument of making any profit.

**Shri Ranga:** I hope the Prime Minister will assert himself over this matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** Day after tomorrow the Food and Agriculture Ministry's Demands are coming up for discussion.

**श्री बड़े (खारगोन):** अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार जो प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्राइम काश्तकारों को देती है, क्या वह उसी प्राइम पर कन्ज्यूमर्ज को देगी, या उससे महंगा देगी और प्राफिट कमायेगी ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** मिनिस्टर साहब ने स्टेटमेंट किया है। वह इन तबालात का जवाब बाद में देंगे।

**श्री बड़े:** वह कहते हैं कि वह प्राफिट देंगे।

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया** (फर्रुखाबाद) अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय अन्न मन्त्री ने यहां पर भी और बाहर भी अनाज के दाम में घट-बढ़ के बारे में आश्वासन दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह कब तक बतायेंगे कि वह अनाज के कम से कम दाम और ज्यादा से ज्यादा दाम में घट-बढ़ कितनी रखना चाहते हैं, क्योंकि उसके बिना . . .

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** वह सवाल दूसरा है।

**श्री राम मनोहर लोहिया:** . . . उसके बिना अनाज की कोई नीरत वन ही नहीं सकती है।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल कर दिया। मिनिस्टर साहब जवाब देंगे।

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया:** इस बारे में भ्रान्ति फैली हुई है। कम से कम दाम का अर्थ यह ममजा जा रहा है कि जो किसान को दिया जायेगा। मैं यह साफ कर दूँ कि कम से कम दाम और ज्यादा से ज्यादा दाम का मतलब यह है कि किसी एक जगह पर कोई भी अनाज किसी समय कम से कम दाम में, यानी ले आने का खर्चा या उचित नफा जोड़ कर, उसमें और जो ज्यादा से ज्यादा दाम हो, दोनों का फर्क होना चाहिए, वना आजकल . . .

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** मैं इस वक्त स्पीच की इजाजत कैसे दे सकता हूँ ?

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया:** मैं स्पीच नहीं दे रहा हूँ।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** माननीय सदस्य और क्या कर रहे हैं ?

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया:** आजकल देश में जो चीजें हो रही हैं, वे बहुत खतरनाक हैं।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय:** जब ऐसा स्टेटमेंट हो, तो एक शार्ट कन्वेंरिफिकेटरी क्वेश्चन तो

[अध्यक्ष महोदय]

किया जा सकता है, लेकिन एक सारी प्राप्ति-शान को यहाँ पर बयान कैसे किया जा सकता है ?

**डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया :** सवाल कुछ और है, लेकिन वह मतलब कुछ और समझ जाया करते हैं। मैं क्या करूँ ?

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** ऐसी हालत में मेरी भी बेवसी है।

**Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur):** While laying down the principle of inter-State transport, has Government fixed any price against the prevailing price, and what will be the price at which Government expects that one State will be able to export to another? Is there any fixed price stipulated for the purpose?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** No. We have not discussed that matter either with the surplus States or with the States to which any surplus may have to be moved.

**श्री त्यागी :** मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक इन गन्दा बरसों में जिन-ट्रेडिंग स्टेट ने किया है, उसमें एक पैस के भी प्राफिट की इजाजत नहीं दी गई थी। आज पहली मर्तबा इस पार्लिसी का ऐलान किया जा रहा है कि छोटे-मोटे सौदों पर स्टेट प्राफिट की इजाजत दी जायेगी। अभी तक सिर्फ खर्च निकालने की इजाजत थी। यह डिपाचर है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट या नो गवर्नमेंट, मैं पब्लिक की तरफ से कहना हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट को प्राफिट की इजाजत नहीं दी जायेगी।

**Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur):** Is this wheat zones plan also linked with fixing of procurement price and whether there will be fixation of ceiling price in each one of the zones?

Why is the Minister not prepared to make a categorical statement that no profit will be made on this? What is the reason?

**Shri Swaran Singh:** There are two questions the Member has asked, one, is as to whether there is going to be any price fixed by way of procurement. The intention is not to have the type of statutory procurement which is resorted to in the case of procuring rice because I think large quantities are not likely to be thrown up by way of surplus. The present position is that floor prices with regard to wheat in different parts of the country have already been announced. That is really a floor.

**Shri Ranga:** So far as the peasant is concerned, that is the real price.

**Shri Swaran Singh:** So far as the other issue is concerned, I have already clarified the position and have nothing more to add.

12.44 hrs.

#### STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (AMENDMENT) BILL\*

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman):** On behalf of Shri Manubhai Shah, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman:** I introduce the Bill.