

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Monday, April 8, 1985/Chaitra 18,
1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

**Requirement of Milk, Egg, Fish and
Poultry Meat**

*323. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) the per capita requirement for internal consumption per annum of milk, egg, fish, and poultry meat as per recom-

mendation of the National Nutrition Board ;

(b) the existing level of per capita availability of these items ; and

(c) the target of total production and the actual total production achieved of the same during the Sixth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) to (c). There is no National Nutrition Board. The estimated annual per capita availability of milk is 51.8 kilograms, eggs—18, Fish—3.1 kilograms and poultry meat—187 grams. The targets and anticipated achievements for milk, eggs, fish and poultry meat by the end of Sixth Five Year Plan (1984-85) are :—

Item	Unit	Target	Anticipated achievements
(i) Milk	Million Tonnes	38.0	38.4
(ii) Eggs	Million Numbers	13,000	13,500
(iii) Fish	Million Tonnes	2.955	2,850
(iv) Poultry meat	Million Tonnes	Not fixed	0.14

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Sir, each of the items mentioned in the question is of livestock origin and that intake of the foodstuff is essential for human health. The figures regarding nutritional requirements have not been given by the Minister in his statement, but the figures in regard to availability are sufficient to prove that they are much less than the minimum nutritional requirement as re-

commended by the National Commission on Agriculture and other experts in this field. The figures given by the Minister show that per capita per day availability of milk is only 137 gms or something like that, of fish only 12 grams, of meat only 4 grams and in the case of egg, it is only one and a quarter egg. Against this, the nutritional requirement is much higher.

I would like to point out that there is a big gap between the nutritional requirement and the actual availability of the essential foodstuff. Because of this shortfall, the prices of these items are rising and under nutrition are also increasing leading to deaths and physical and mental impairments of millions of our children every year. In order to bridge this gap and to check this price rise as well as under nutrition, and malnutrition, enhancement of production of these foodstuffs as rapidly as possible is highly required. But at the present rate of increase in production, another 15 or 20 years will be required to achieve the minimal nutritional requirement. But by that time, the population will reach the level of hundred crores or more.

I, therefore, want to know whether Government has planned to develop such technology or methodology which will help rapid increase in production per dairy, animal and poultry bird without increasing their maintenance cost, and the measures the Government propose to take to transfer that methodology from the Government to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it a written statement or a question?... I think, it was a written statement before asking the supplementary.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Supplementary question has been put.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, it was a prepared statement before asking the Supplementary.

AN HON MEMBER : Background has to be prepared before asking a question.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, Thank you very much for assisting me. The hon. member has mixed up so many aspects on per capita intake of food by our citizens. But unfortunately as I mentioned in the Statement which was laid on the Table of the House, no such survey has been made and there is no board called the National Nutrition Board on

which the hon. member has based his question. The information that has been supplied to the hon. member is based on some indications given by the Nutrition Advisory Committee of the Indian Council of Medical Research which made its recommendations in 1981 on a balanced diet for a vegetarian. Now the hon. member should realise that the Committee made certain recommendations for vegetarians, whereas the entire question of the hon. member is about non-vegetarian food. My difficulty is how to apply the vegetarian standards to non-vegetarians. (*Interruptions*)

An attempt has been made to convert it by using certain norms which could satisfy the hon. member. For example we have tried the replacement of 50% of pulses for one egg. Similarly replacement of 100% of pulses would be equal to two eggs and in addition we have added 10 grams of fat and oil. On the basis of such calculations we have supplied the answer in the statement form.

About production, the hon. member's apprehensions are not correct. I should like to place on record that in the matter of production in the First Five Year Plan, milk produced in 1950-51 was 17 million tonnes, whereas as at the final year of the Sixth Plan, production has gone upto 38.54 million tonnes. In the matter of eggs, production in 1950-51 was 1,832 millions in number. Now at the end of the year 1984-85, that is the beginning of 1985, the figure has reached 103,500 million eggs. Therefore, this shows that there is considerable increase so far as milk and egg production is concerned. Similarly in regard to fish production also we have done quite a lot.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : What is the per capita increase ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, as I have mentioned, we have based our information on the basis of the Advisory Committee's recommendation.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Population is also increasing. What about that ?

MR. SPEAKER : People are matching the increase in production.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : On the basis of the report of the Nutrition Advisory Committee of the ICMR, the requirements are worked out to be—cereals—43 grams per head per day; leafy vegetables—64 grams; other vegetables—49 grams; roots and tubers—44 grams; fat and oil—34 grams, sugar jaggery—34 grams; milk—220 grams; pulses—47 grams. This is the requirement as indicated by that Advisory Committee in its report. I am sorry, at the moment the actual consumption figures are not available because no survey has been made. We definitely like to make some survey on how much calories and how much proteins are included in the intake of food of average citizens in our country.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : I want to know the number of animals imported in the Sixth Plan period, yearwise and the money spent for the purpose and the outcome of it.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The hon. member has raised the question of increasing the milk production. I was replying to his supplementary. I would like to mention some of the steps taken by the Government to increase milk production and we have worked out a strategy.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He asked about the number of animals imported.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I am sorry I do not have the figure. We are improving our cattle through our various farms by cross-breeding the indigenous ones with imported stock. We have improved the breed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Just now I understood the hon. Minister to say that according to the accepted nutritional standards a *per capita* consumption of, I think he said, 220 grams per day of milk is required. If this is worked out according to population, it will require a

total production per annum of nearly 60 million tonnes of milk, whereas according to his reply, we are now producing 38 million tonnes, and the anticipated achievement is 38.4 million tonnes. So, obviously there is a very big gap.

I would like to know from him : all these years this Animal Husbandry Department, Dairy Development Corporation and all these bodies that have been set up, have been working. In spite of that, the *per capita* consumption in 30 years, i.e. from 1950-51 to 1983-84 has gone up, his official figures have gone up, by four grams per head per day : 133 grams have increased to 137 grams, over 30 years. I would like to know whether he is satisfied with the development that is taking place, and also how much milk has to be imported, i.e. powder milk and other milk from foreign sources; what is the value of the imports of milk which are continuing now ?

There is no provision in the Budget for it this year, I find. There is no specific provision in the Budget for the import of foreign milk powder and milk supplies in the coming year, i.e. 1985-86. Then what are you going to do ? How do you want to bridge this gulf ? The situation will get worse.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : First of all, I would like to share the feeling of the hon. Member and say that we are not very satisfied with the increase in production of the various items : whether it is milk production, meat production, fish production or egg production. But as he has asked me about the basis on which we have worked things out, the *per capita* availability has been calculated on the basis of estimated production of the commodity in the country; we divided the estimated milk yield for 1984 by the human population of 741 million. The level of production of poultry and milk has been estimated, using the following procedure :

The production of milk and egg is estimated by the State and Union Territories Governments, and discussed in the Annual Plan meetings of the Planning

Commission, and is reflected in their Plan documents.

Now about the milk yield : So far as the import of powder milk is concerned, although it does not arise from this question, I have been told by the National Dairy Development Board that they have sufficient quantities of powder milk. On the contrary, they are now having surplus milk, under the operation Flood-II scheme; and at present there is no necessity, as per information from the NDDB, for importing milk powder on a commercial basis. There are no commercial imports of milk powder since 1975. It has not been stopped this year. On an average, milk powder is received as gift to the extent of about 28,000 metric tonnes.

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU: I would like to know how would the hon. Minister take steps to increase the *per capita* consumption of these proteins; and as he expressed concern for the vegetarians, how would he go about providing this *per capita* for vegetarians; would he take note of the recent developments in bio-technology, and take some steps to do something in that direction ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Our primary concern is the production of foodgrains, cereals, proteins and helping the States in raising the fish catch, in raising poultry and dairy farms. We take into account the projections made by the Planning Commission at the time of preparing the Annual Plan and, as I read out just now, the norms laid down by the Planning Commission itself. We keep track on the production side of it, and to make it possible or to see that the various components of an ordinary citizen's diet, whether it is protein or it is fat or it is cereals, has to be viewed both by the Ministry of Food as well as Ministry of Agriculture. Today itself, I have told the Department of Food and Rural Development also to coordinate with the Ministry of Food to have a coordination cell to see that the average citizen of India gets the required calories in the intake of food. No survey has been made. This is the exercise we are going to take in cooperation, with the Ministry of Food.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have a question about the per capita statistics. But when I refer to per capita, it is not referring to human beings but a cow that actually supplies milk. In relation to them I would like to know from him, Right from 1978-79 onwards upto 1984-85, is it not a fact that per capita supply of milk by cows has remained almost constant; it is stagnant. You are (Mr. Speaker) interested in agricultural and related problems. Since this stagnancy is there, they are supposed to have some scientific research by which the supply of milk per cow would be actually enhanced, that is almost remained stagnant. Therefore, there is something wrong in the science and research activities that are going on. Is it not a fact that under the Chairmanship of an irrepressible member of this House, Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu—he is no more with us unfortunately—a committee was appointed to enquire into the allegations of corruption that are going on in this particular field ? Is it a fact that in 1981, in three parts, Reports were also submitted by him ? Would he be prepared to lay those Reports on the Table of the House so that we know exactly what is the position why our scientific research is suffering; and as a result of that why the supply of milk per cow is actually remaining stagnant ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : As far as the House is concerned, the hon. member knows that those Reports were presented by the PAC themselves. There is no question of laying them on the Table of the House. Whether sufficient follow-up action has been taken based on those Reports of that Committee, definitely, we would like to go into it and I will present to the hon. member the action taken on the Reports submitted by that PAC.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What is the objection to laying those Reports on the Table of the House ? They are in three parts.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : They are PAC Reports. They had been circulated to the House.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Not PAC. He is referring to the Committee which was set up with Mr. Jyotirmoy Bosu as Chairman and three-four-others who were experts in this field. It is not PAC Report.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I will have to check up and will let you know. I do not agree with the hon. member's contention that the increase in the production of milk ...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I might be allowed to lay them on the Table of the House.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I will supply them to the hon. member. I will myself see them. So far as the question of increase in production is concerned, I am sorry, I cannot share the figures given by the hon. member. The production of milk and eggs from 1973-74 to 1983-84, the period which the hon. member mentioned, has increased; in the matter of milk, it is 56.4 per cent and in the matter of eggs, it is 58 per cent. By no standard this is the increase which we cannot appreciate.

[Translation]

Equal Remuneration for Women Workers

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*324. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :**
SHRI NARSING RAO SURYA-
WANSHI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a legislation to provide for equal pay for equal work for women workers was enacted in the country in 1975 ;

(b) the number of persons punished for not complying with the provisions of the Act during last three years; and

(c) whether clear definition of equal work has not been given in this Act due to which private owners have been adopting indifferent attitude towards women workers and that is why women workers in the organised sector are only 6 percent even today ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (c). A Statement is placed on the table of the House.

The Equal Remuneration Ordinance was promulgated in 1975 which was replaced by the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. The position regarding prosecutions etc. launched under the Act during 1982-84 in establishments in Central sphere is given below :—

Year	No. of prosecutions launched.	No. of cases disposed off	No. of convictions	No. of acquittals
1	2	3	4	5
1982	15	8	8	—
1983	58	25	25	—
1984	167	40	38	2

The expression "equal work" has not been used in the Act which only provides for equal remuneration for "same work or work of a similar nature", meaning thereby work in respect of which the skill, effort and responsibility required are the same, when performed under similar working conditions, by a man or

a woman and the differences, if any, between the skill, effort and responsibility required of a man and those required of a woman are not of practical importance in relation to the terms and conditions of employment. According to available information the percentage of women workers in the organised sector in 1983