

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: The oil jetty has been commissioned in 1968 and some of the oil tankers are coming. Regarding the draft of the proposed harbour area, we have already taken a decision that 32 feet draft will be ready by 1974, 35 feet will be ready by 1975 and 40 feet will be ready by 1980. At present the contract given to Hall and Company is progressing and we expect that it will be ready by 1974, 32 feet. Thereafter, by our indigenous dredgers, further increase of the draft will take place and 40 feet will be ready by 1980 when it will be in a position to accommodate the large type of tankers which are being manufactured nowadays.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Upto one lakh tonnes?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Above one lakh tonnes.

Responsibility of F.C.I. for sale of adulterated stuff from Fair Price Shops

*165. **SHRI P. GANGADEB:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen the press reports recently regarding selling of adulterated stuff by fair price shops in various parts of the country, particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, to what extent Food Corporation of India is responsible for this; and

(c) the steps taken in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). Government do receive complaints from time to time about quality of the grains issued by Fair Price Shops. Allegations regarding quality of foodgrains issued from the

fair price shops are always investigated. Foodgrains issued from the F.C.I. depots conform to prescribed specifications. The fair price shop holders are required to display sealed samples of foodgrains actually received from the F.C.I. Depot. The fair price shops have also been instructed to get foodgrains from the F.C.I. depot; replaced if the quality of grain is not as per specifications.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there has been any success in regard to the effectiveness of the quality control at the time of purchase by FCI, and if so, to what extent?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Of course, it would be very bold on my part to say that there are no failures, human or otherwise, anywhere. For the administrative machinery standing instructions are there. But my own impression is—and recently some of our checks also indicate—that many times mixing up takes place at the fair price shops level also. Therefore, I think the system whereby sealed samples of foodgrains issued from the depots of the Food Corporation are required to be maintained by the fair price shops may be in a position to help us to have appropriate checks.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: In view of the frequent attempts made by FCI and the fair price shops to shift responsibility on to each other for sale of adulterated foodgrains, may I know whether steps are being initiated to have a unified control over the fair price shops vested in the FCI or for that matter making the fair price shops retail distribution centres of the FCI?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The standing instructions in this regard are very clear. The fair price shop holder is given the option to satisfy himself about the quality by using *parqui* in each bag and replacing such stocks as may not conform

to the prescribed standard. Moreover, a joint sample of foodgrains issued to each fair price shop holder is sealed in the measures of the shopkeeper and an official of the Delhi Administration or the respective Government. All parties, that is, the fair price shop holder, an official of the Delhi Administration and the FCI representative put their signatures in token of having satisfied themselves about the quality of foodgrain issued. This signed sample is put in the sealed sample bag along with the foodgrains. These are the standing instructions for the whole country.

श्री राज रतन शर्मा : अध्यक्ष जी, क्या मंत्री महोदय को पता है कि फुड कार्पोरेशन आफ इंडिया के माध्यम से जो नया अनाज खरीदा गया वह भारत वर्ष में किसी भी सस्ता गल्ले की दुकान पर नहीं बेचा गया बल्कि अमरीका से आया हुआ सड़ा अनाज ही बेचा जा रहा है? क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह भी पता है कि दिसम्बर और जनवरी के बीच में यही दिल्ली में खास तौर से नार्थ एबन्धु, साउथ एबन्धु, राजेन्द्र प्रसाद मार्ग में मसूने गल्ले की दुकानों में जो अनाज बेचा गया उसने सड़ा हुआ गलना था?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Some MPs brought to my notice complaints which we did refer for further inquiries. There were complaints that some sub-standard wheat was being supplied.

Even the Chairman of the FCI took a round along with the officers and some Delhi Administration officials and many of the shops samples confirmed what is being said, and samples were found to be bad and there were suspicions that the shopkeepers had already mixed up some of the materials.

श्री हुकम चन्द्र कछवाय : जो अनाज खरीदा लैबी के रूप में उस को आज तक बेचा नहीं गया।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप अपना तो करने ही हैं, दूसरों के सबाल में भी शुरू करते हैं।

श्री राम रतन शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कम से कम यह तो बता दिया जाय कि जो अनाज लैबी के रूप में ऐफ०सी०आई० ने खरीदा था वह नहीं बेचा जा रहा है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: In order to meet the requirements of the public distribution system, we are distributing both the locally procured grain and the imported grain. It is a well-known fact.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : अध्यक्ष जी, क्या मंत्री जी के ध्यान में यह बात आयी है कि देश के देहाती इलाकों में अपमिश्रित अनाज भी मसूने गल्ले की दुकानों में नहीं है जिस के चलते बिहार में त्राहि त्राहि मची हुई है। यदि हा, तो इस दिशा में सरकार क्या करने जा रही है?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I would seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. The question is not about Bihar.

It says, "selling of adulterated stuff by fair price shops in various parts of the country, particularly in Delhi;"

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : देश के देहाती इलाकों की बात हम ने की थी वम में बिहार की भी चर्चा की थी।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रश्न दिया करें, दूसरों के प्रश्न में क्यों घुसने हैं। यह प्रश्न तो दिल्ली के बारे में है।

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: "...in various parts of the country, particularly Delhi;" Various parts constitute Bihar also.

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : देश की बात हम ने की थी।

MR. SPEAKER: You have found a way to get at it!

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The only point is, though this question is about the foodgrains issued in the country, it is only concerned about adulterated foodstuffs that is issued. So, if you direct, I shall reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Though the question generally refers to various parts of the country, it refers to Delhi in particular. So, I would advise the hon. Member to send a separate notice.

Now, already two lady Members are standing. They should consider themselves as hon. Members rather than as lady Members. They are all hon. Members here. There is no question of preference to any lady Member here in this House. Shrimati Roza Deshpande.

SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: The foodgrain supplied from the FCI is the dirtiest foodgrains that we are getting. In the last two years in Bombay, there have been such supplies made, and agitations have taken place in Bombay. Then, wheat was mixed up with argot and when we made representations, the Government assured us that they would get it cleaned. Why mix it up first and then get it cleaned? Is it done in order that, in the programme of *garibi hatao* employment may be given for the workers? (*Interruptions*). We are getting good foodgrains outside Bombay. Outside Bombay, just 20 miles away, good rice and wheat are given. Why can't you see that good foodgrains are distributed by the FCI throughout?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very long question. Do not have introductory before a question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The hon. Shrimati Deshpande was not an hon. Member of this House when this position was explained. Nobody mixed up argot deliberately. The reported wheat is mechanically harvested in other countries. Naturally that gets mixed up.

SHRIMATI ROZA DESHPANDE: It is poisonous, for your information.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: That is true. We are aware of this problem. We have requested the State Governments to take the necessary precautions. It was suggested that, as far as possible, wheat should be issued only after cleaning and preference should be given to the flour mills which have cleaning arrangements for cleaning this.

SHRIMATI M. GODFREY: The hon. Minister has admitted that the fair price shops are mixing something else with grains and adulterating it. What action is being taken against those fair price shops which are indulging in adulteration?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Normally our advice to the State Governments is that the licences of such fair price shops should be cancelled.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I had brought it to the notice of the Ministry that the fair price shops are getting foodgrains from the FCI which are adulterated, mixed up with all kind of rubbish, including Argot. The policy formulated by the Central Government was that it should be cleaned by the flour mills and then issued.

But that policy was abandoned because in that process there is a shortage. So, the FCI passed it on to the State Government and to the fair price shops, without taking the responsibility of cleaning it upon

themselves to avoid shortage. The fair price shops and the State Governments say that they cannot meet the loss on account of cleaning. So, how are you going to meet the shortage? Are you going to take the responsibility for that, or are you going to share it with the State Governments? Otherwise, adulteration cannot be stopped.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not try to take the time of the House by asking long questions.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: There have been mutual consultations with the State Governments and some arrangements have been worked out so that all necessary precautions are taken.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: They are not working.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: The Minister has admitted that adulteration of food is being indulged in by the fair price shops. May I know whether the Government have gone into the question of finding out who is more responsible for this: is it the fair price shops or the source, namely the FCI? If so, what concrete steps of a punitive nature have Government taken against those officials? Because the Minister himself is on record about corruption and inefficiency of those people, what are the steps the Government of India are taking to see that the FCI functions effectively and cleanly. Otherwise, it would go on like this. What is the Minister's answer to this question?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I can assure the hon. Member that if any FCI official is found to be fault, we will not hesitate to take strong action against him, even penal action. I have already explained the procedure for issuing grains from the FCI.

MR. SPEAKER: I would request hon. Members not to be on their legs all the time, especially those who get a fair chance. Let others also get an opportunity, especially those who are back-benchers.

श्री प्रो. वर लाल बोरडा : क्या ए.स्टेलिया में ऐसा गेहूं भी आया है जिसे में काले दाने हैं और जिसे में उहुर था और उसको नमक से घोष कर पत्तिका को दिया जा रहा है?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I will find out whether that is happening. To my knowledge, no such matter has been reported to us.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Indo-Soviet Agreement for Cooperation in Agriculture

*166 SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian and the Soviet Union signed an agreement for further co-operation between the two countries in the field of agriculture;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the specific spheres of cooperation in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) to (c). The Government of India and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic signed a protocol on the 10th April, 1972 for scientific and technical co-operation for the year 1972 and the first half of 1973. The protocol provided for exchange of visits by U.S.S.R. Scientists/experts and Indian scientists/trainees in the fields of Oilseeds research and improvement, cotton technology, sheep breeding and research in sheep pox vaccines, soil testing, plant protection and quarantine, reclamation of saline alkaline land etc. The protocol also provided for exchange of scientific material, literature, seeds as well