

tion during 1977-78 in the drought affected area.

*Drinking water supply scheme*      *Amount*

1. Bore Well (2547)	Rs. 241.97 lakhs
2. Pipe water supply	100.00 „
3. Deepening of drinking water wells	24.00 „

*Employment oriented scheme :*

4. Afforestation	3.64 lakhs
5. Soil conservation	45.54 „
6. Fair weather roads	98.96 „
7. Special minor irrigation programme	76.89 „
8. Accelerated minor irrigation programme	148.24 „
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>739.24 „</b>

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I would like to know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that during this one year of President's Rule before the results of the Lok Sabha elections were announced, the drought relief funds were utilised by the Administration for election purposes. Congress Party volunteers were recruited and used for election purposes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Do not use the Question Hour for this.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** I have been in Tamil Nadu and I can tell you that youth congress volunteers, congress volunteers were on the pay roll of the Government to work for the Congress party in election and all was budgeted in drought relief. Will the Minister order a probe into the expenditure?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Next question.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** May I know why have you not allowed this question?

**MR. SPEAKER:** You may ask a separate question.

**Storage of Foodgrains by F.C.I. in Open Place**

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**SHRI K. A. RAJAN:**

\*3. **SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 5 million tonnes of the foodgrains stock with the FCI is being stored in open place;

(b) whether this is getting deteriorated and becoming unfit for human consumption; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and what measures are being taken to increase the off-take from F.C.I.?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):** (a). Yes, Sir, under Cover and Plinth (CAP) Storage.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

**Statement**

CAP storage is only a short term and emergent measure. There is likely to be some damage to the grains due to floods, cyclones etc. However, every precaution is taken to prevent such a damage.

The important measures taken to increase offtake of food-grains, are:

(a) The demands of the State Governments for allotment of wheat and milo from the Central Pool are being met in full. The State Governments have also been authorised to place indents for issue of wheat and milo directly on the Food Corporation of India in anticipation of formal allotment from Food Department. Allotment of rice is also being made to the deficit States liberally.

(b) All the State Governments have been further advised:

(i) That the existing scale of ration be increased for the time being from the present level of 8 Kgs. per month to 12 Kgs. per head per month, the extra

quantity being supplied in the form of wheat or wholemeal atta/milo.

- (ii) To supply 12 Kgs. of wheat/wholemeal atta per adult labourer per month without the requirement of ration cards at all major irrigation and construction projects as well as at relief works.
- (iii) To consider paying part of the wages to labour employed on irrigation projects and other developmental works as also labour employed on relief works in the form of wheat and milo.
- (iv) That more ration shops/fair price shops may be opened so as to make foodgrains available closer to the doors of the consumers and the ration shops should be adequately stocked with foodgrains. It has been stressed that Fair Price Shops should be particularly opened in Industrial areas, slum areas etc. which could not yet be fully covered by the Public Distribution System.
- (v) To consider formulation of a suitable scheme for giving advance of money for purchase of foodgrains through the Public Distribution System to their employees as well as the employees of their Public Sector undertakings on the pattern of scheme formulated by the Ministry of Finance for allowing interest free advance to Central Government employees for drawal of foodgrains in bulk through Public Distribution System.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: The reply of the hon. Minister is quite evasive and vague. I would like to know from the

Minister as to what is the actual tonnage which has got damaged under CAP storage.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I wonder if he has not received a copy of the statement. Have you got a copy? Have you received it? I don't know whether he has received it.

SHRI K. A. RAJAN: I have read that statement.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The answer is very simple. I said yes.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: He is a Steel Minister. How can he answer this question? The concerned Minister must come here. There is no Minister here.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Where is the Minister?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The question is very simple. He asked whether 5 million tonnes of foodgrains stocked with FCI is being stored in open place. I have answered it. If the hon. Member does not want to hear the answer, I cannot help it.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: You are not answering it.

MR. SPEAKER: The person who has put the question is waiting to hear the answer. Meanwhile all of you start getting up. This should not happen. Will you kindly allow him to answer? Or else, we will go to the next question.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The hon. Member put a question whether 5 million tonnes of foodgrain stocks with FCI is being stored in the open space. I said about it. He asked whether anything has deteriorated or has become unfit for human consumption and so on and the measures taken to prevent these things. I have stated about all these steps in the statement given.

**SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** I wanted to know how many million tonnes are in the CAP storage and how many million tonnes have got damaged out of it. Secondly, I would like to know....

**MR. SPEAKER:** One by one.

**SHRI BIJU PATNAIK:** He can catalogue all these: I have no objection. I have a good memory.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I will allow him again.

**SHRI BIJU PATNAIK:** The total tonnage under CAP storage is 5.4 million tonnes. The damage is of the order of 25,352 tonnes.

The total food storage is 15.7 million tonnes, and the percentage of damage is less than half.

**SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** It is suggested in the reply under item 5 that suitable schemes are being evolved through a public distribution system to the employees in the public sector and other industrial undertakings. I would like to know whether any concrete and practical measures have been taken in the matter.

**SHRI BIJU PATNAIK:** We have advised the public sector undertakings and the State Governments about what is known as 'Food for Work' schemes. These are being pursued vigorously. Such 'Food for Work' schemes are being undertaken and we putting pressure about these schemes.

**श्री मही लाल :** क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि यह 50 लाख 40 हजार टन अनाज कितने वर्षों से खुले हुए मैदानों में रखा हुआ है और किस सन में इसको खरीदा गया था ?

**SHRI BIJU PATNAIK:** Sir, the total foodgrains in storage, as I said, is about 15.7 million tonnes of which about 5.4 million tonnes is under this arrangement. It is not just kept in open air; It is all covered. These things come in; if something goes out under public distribution system,

something is taken in for levy and other things.

This is a rotating thing. It is not that the whole thing is kept like that. It is a rotating thing. I should say that on an average fifty per cent comes in and fifty per cent goes out. It is continuously rotating and there is no stock today which is more than 18 months old.

**SHRI VINODBHAI B. SHETH:** Will the Minister let us know the cost of construction of godown and the loss of foodgrains and due to the contamination of foodgrains, how much is the loss of lives?

**SHRI BIJU PATNAIK:** There is no loss of life as such. As I explained, the total loss is less than half a per cent which is valued at about Rs.3-1/2 crores.

**SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Sir, the Minister just now said that the foodgrains were being distributed under the food for work scheme. May I know how much of foodgrains has been distributed under such a scheme?

**SHRI BIJU PATNAIK:** This is given generally to the State Governments and we have to get the reports from the State Governments to give the final figure. This has been done continuously even when your Government was in office.

#### Housing the Economically Backward Classes

\*4. **SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding housing the economically backward classes of India;

(b) whether there are suggestions from the Government of Kerala in this regard; and

(c) if so, what action the Central Government propose to take on the same?