

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Quality of Wheat and Rice at Cossipore Godown, West Bengal.

SNQ. 24. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU:

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

(a) whether wheat and rice at Cossipore Godown in the State of West Bengal are not fit for human consumption;

(b) the quantity of such grain in that godown; and the reasons for the negligence;

(c) whether there are any godowns stocking foodgrains in this condition in the country; and

(d) if so, the places and the quantities ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). According to the information furnished by the Food Corporation of India, except for a small quantity of damaged foodgrains already declared unfit for human consumption and awaiting disposal as cattle/roultry feed, the stocks of wheat and rice held in the Cossipore Godown are all fit for human consumption. Out of a total stock of about 38051 tonnes of wheat and rice stocked at Cossipore, about 250 tonnes is reported to be unfit for human consumption.

(c) and (d). A statement indicating State-wise stocks unfit for human consumption, held in FCI godowns, is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(Quantity in tonnes)

States/Union Territories	Quantity of foodgrains declared unfit for human consumption held in FCI Godowns as on 1-7-1977
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	5961
2. Bihar	777

1	2
3. Gujarat	5034
4. Haryana	156
5. J. & K.	364
6. Karnataka	66
7. Kerala	26
8. Madhya Pradesh	743
9. Maharashtra	2663
10. Orissa	34
11. Punjab	36
12. Rajasthan	2323
13. Tamil Nadu	20133
14. U.P.	1414
15. West Bengal	468
16. Delhi	20
Total	40218

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: What are the reasons for allowing foodgrains to become deteriorated ? In Tamilnadu I find that 20,133 tonnes became unfit for human consumption. Why is this so ?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: In Tamilnadu there was a cyclone and because of that this was damaged. They were lying in what is called CAP, under covered polythene sheets and they became damaged. It caused the largest damage in that State. That is why the same has been mentioned here as 20,133 tonnes.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I want about West Bengal also.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: In West Bengal the total was 468 tonnes.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: What about the reasons ?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Some of the godowns were leaking also. Some damage was done due to cyclone. These are the reasons.

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Is the Government intending to export wheat to other countries because of large stocks ?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA:
Government is not intending to export any wheat to any country.

श्री कंभर लाल गुप्त : स्टोरेज और ट्रांजिट में पिछले आठ सालों में एक सी० आई० को 210 करोड़ रुपये कानुकसान हुआ है, इस बात को एक० सी० आई० के मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर ने स्वीकार किया है। बंगाल को खराब चावल भेजे जाने के बारे में एक सी आई के जनरल मैनेजर ने कहा है कि गोडाउन से निकलने के बाद ट्रक वालों ने कुछ गड़बड़ की है, कलकत्ता की राशन शाप्स पर जो चावल और अनाज बेचा गया है, वह वह नहीं है, जो हम ने भेजा था, उस को बदल दिया गया है। उधर बंगाल के फूड मिनिस्टर ने कहा है कि ऐसा मालूम होता है कि एक० सी० आई० ने किसी पोलिटिकल प्रेशर में आ कर गंदा अनाज खरीद लिया है और उसे वापस नहीं किया है। बंगाल के फूड मिनिस्टर मंत्रा महोदय के पास आये और उन्हें वह अनाज दिखाया। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि वह अनाज खराब है, उस को बदल दिया जाये। इस के अनुसार एक० सी० आई० ने उम अनाज को बदल दिया।

एक० सी० आई० और बंगाल के फूड मिनिस्टर इन दोनों के ध्यान बड़े डैमेजिंग है। बंगाल के फूड मिनिस्टर ने कहा है कि किसी पोलिटिकल कन्सिडरेशन की वजह से गंदा अनाज खरीदा गया है। यह बहुत गम्भीर बात है। और अगर हबारां टन अनाज गोडाउन से निकलने के बाद बदल दिया गया है, जैसा कि एक० सी० आई० ने कहा है, तो वह भी बड़ी गम्भीर बात है। क्या मंत्री महोदय यह एनक्वायरी करायेंगे कि इस मामले में तथ्य क्या है और उस एनक्वायरी की रिपोर्ट का सदन के सामने रखेंगे ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : यह सही है कि बंगाल के फूड मिनिस्टर मेरे पास आए और उन्होंने क्लिकायत की कि वहां पर जो फूड है, पर्टीकुलरली इस काशीपुर स्टोरेज

में वह ठीक नहीं है और वह कुछ सैम्पल भी लेकर आए। मैं ने फौरन आर्डर किया एक टीम वहां भेजने के लिए और 19 तारीख को सुबह वह टीम वहां पहुंची। उन्होंने वहां के आफिसर्स को साथ लिया, कुछ और गवर्नमेंट आफिशियल्स को साथ लिया और स्टोरेज को बड़े डीटेल में चैक किया। चैक करने के बाद जो उन्होंने रिपोर्ट की उस रिपोर्ट में बताया कि—

“The Food Minister and Supply Minister of West Bengal were satisfied with the arrangements proposed for improving the quality of stocks. These arrangements were mutually agreed and these were some of the arrangements:

1. there should be a joint inspection of each stock of the foodgrains. That will be carried out by the Officers of the State Government and the F.C.I.

2. Before issue, bag to bag checking, at the time of the delivery, by the F.C.I. staff would be strictly enforced. Because our relations with the State Government in Bengal have been very good and F.C.I.'s relations were also good they have agreed for a joint checking up of bag to bag to avoid complaints from the consumers who generally do not prefer raw rice”.

Their complaints are only when the raw rice is issued as these stocks do not conform strictly to the specifications and certain foreign matter affecting the appearance adversely. They are cleaned or re-conditioned before their issue. The F.C.I. was making adequate arrangements in this regard. We are doing that already.

Further it is stated :

“The State Government would tighten the inspection by the State Government officials at the ration shops to ensure that there is no mixing up of bad quality of stock by unscrupulous licensees and lastly.”

“The ration shopkeepers would be advised personally to go to the F. C. I. depots for lifting the stocks and satisfying themselves fully about the quality instead of leaving this entirely to the transport contractors as at present.”

Now, Sir, in Calcutta, the ration depot holders used to have contractors and they used the FCI godowns bringing the

stocks from there for all the ration depots. In between, there was some hanky-panky as my hon. friend was referring to just now and joint supervision/inspection of the FCI and the State Government officials at the delivery points and at the rationing shops would be carried out at least every month.

These are some of the measures adopted.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, in the Congress regime, the FCI had been the looting ground. We have the case of Shri Iqbal Singh, former Congress Minister now in prosecution, who was making a bucketful of money in the Congress party regime. West Bengal is a deficit State; there are other States also. We produce jute and we bring money for the Central Exchequer. We have been saying that the Congress regime has kept us as baggers who cannot be the choosers. In that part of the country, we have been compelled to buy in fact, the par-boiled rice but the food Minister was saying that it was raw rice—I am sorry to say it—which was full of foreign matter, dust and powdered old rice, substandard—poor quality and moisture and husk.

Now, there is a formula laid down for the supply of rice known as a fair average quality—F. A. Q. This is absolutely obligatory on the part of the Government and the F.C.I. On the 14th July, the Food Minister of West Bengal, the Food Commissioner and the F. C. I.'s Regional Manager made a random joint sampling and Shri Barnala had seen the samples. In fact that was a very very shocking quality. On the 19th July, the F. C. I. Quality Control Manager and Dr. Agarwala of the Food Ministry, after inspection, admitted that in Calcutta the rice was sub-standard and it was more in high yielding variety. That is because there are also powerful big landlords, speculators and hoarders' lobby as also in Delhi and in some other places. The question is: Why was the FCI allowed to operate a seller's market compelling us to take a large quantity of sub-standard stocks? There, the standard laid down by the FCI was much less.

My question is: Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us why the standard laid down by the F.C.I. is much lower as compared to what the standards were as laid down by the West Bengal Government? What arrangements is he making—forget about what has happened in the past, we are looking forward to the future and the present—for fixing the toleration limit of moisture, rejection limit of foreign matter, specification etc. etc.

Sir, the raw rice is being supplied without being polished. It is the coarse-rice. Before polishing, the rice is of poor quality. I want him to answer this. I want to ask one more question. You will kindly give us a specific answer as to why the FCI is preventing the West Bengal Government from getting the paddy instead of the rice? Why are they stopping them? We want paddy instead of rice which should be of good quality.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : So far as per boiled rice is concerned, the availability of par boiled rice is not enough to supply the entire need of West Bengal. In Kerala also, there is a demand for par-boiled rice. For that reason, we have not been able to supply the entire quantity. But we are now encouraging par-boiled rice by giving incentive to the rice mills. Rs. 5 per quintal are given as an incentive to Haryana and the Punjab mills. A lot of mills have taken par boiled paddy for Elling. From this season some more par boiled rice will be coming for availability to these States. So far as the quality concerned, we have got 4 categories of rils. They are A, B, C and D varieties. So far as 'A' is concerned, we have got the details. A, B and C categories are issued as per the details available with us. In the case of D category of rice, it is not issued straightaway. It is issued after cleaning wherever it is necessary because in that case there is a mixture of some foreign materials as was suggested by others sometimes back. Some sandy part are also here and that is cleaned. Only then it is issued, not before that.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : I want to put a specific question. Whether the hon. Minister will allow the West Bengal Government to procure and import paddy instead of rice?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA
There is a difficulty in that because procuring of rice is done in the States which are producing surplus rice. They also want to do the shelling of the paddy. They have their own shellers. They will become useless if they start exporting paddy as such. So, that difficulty is there. But we will examine this question again.

SHRI JOYTIRMOY BOSU : Sir, this is a vital question. We have been starving for so many years. Let the hon. Minister tell us that he will give us paddy as such as possible. Whether he will allow the West Bengal Government to procure or import a part of paddy?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : The West Bengal State Government is already procuring some rice for their own.

use. About one lakh and sixty thousand tonnes are already being procured by them.

PROF. R. K. AMIN : Now, The Government of India is having more than 20 million tonnes of foodgrains in their stock and whatever prevails in West Bengal is prevailing elsewhere also. A greater portion of the stock has been kept under open conditions which leads deterioration of foodgrains. Secondly, the market price is so high for the deteriorated stock and the Government also insists on that price. That is why they are unable to sell them. May I know from the hon. Minister whether, in view of the heavy stock of foodgrains with the government, he will think of keeping the stock according to what normally we can keep and disposing of the rest for whatever price we can get in the market so that further deterioration can be stopped ?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : The observations made by my hon. friend regarding keeping a majority of stock in the open is also wrong. About 5 to 6 million tonnes are kept under CAP.

PROF. R. K. AMIN : 8 million tonnes.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Our first effort was to keep stocks in the covered capacity. When all that was completed, then we have to adopt this means of plinth and cover. So we have adopted that method. It is also wrong to say that the stock under CAP is deteriorating; it is not so. In some cases due to the application of heat the condition under CAP is very good. In some places a lot of stock is being lifted and we are making all efforts so that more and more stocks are lifted. That is why we have told the state governments that we will be able to supply all the wheat that they need; we are meeting their demand in the case of rice also; most of their demand is being met.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : मैं माननीय मंत्री जी की जानकारी में यह तथ्य जाना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय राजस्थान के अन्दर जहाँ कहीं भी फूड-कारपोरेशन का माल पड़ा हुआ है, उस में जो माल पोलिथीन की चद्दर से ढका हुआ है, आधी और तूफान के कारण वे पोलिथीन की चद्दरें अधिकांश स्थानों पर फट गई हैं और अब वर्षा के कारण बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में वह अनाज खराब हो रहा है, उसको बचाने की अभी तक कोई व्यवस्था

नहीं हो पाई है और स्थिति यहाँ तक पहुँच गई है कि वह अनाज अब फूटना शुरू हो गया है। इस से पहले कि वह अनाज खराब हो जाय, क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई ऐसा कदम उठायेंगे कि उस अनाज का 10 रुपया कम दाम पर बाजार में बेच दिया जाय ? बहुत शीघ्र राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन होने वाला है—क्या आप इस सवाल को वहाँ पर भी रखेंगे, ताकि यह अनाज 10 रुपया कम दाम पर बेच दिया जाय, इस तरह से वह अनाज आप के पास से निकल जायगा, खराब होने से बच जायगा और साथ ही जो मंहगाई बढ़ रही है, उस पर भी रोक लगेगी।

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : मैं आनरेबल मेम्बर को धन्यवाद देता हूँ—उन्होंने मुझे यह जानकारी दी है कि राजस्थान में कोई ऐसा वाक्या हुआ है। इस बात की पड़ताल कराई जायगी और मुनासिब कदम उस को ठीक करने के लिये लिये जायेंगे। जहाँ तक अनाज को कम रेट पर बेचने का ताल्लुक है—ये कम से कम रेट पिछले कई सालों से चले आ रहे हैं। हम ने परचेज प्राइस 110 रुपये कर दी है लेकिन ईशू प्राइस जो 125 रुपये है, पिछले तीन सालों से उमी तरह से चली आ रही है, इसलिये इस में अभी कमी करने का कोई विचार नहीं है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : वह खराब हो कर बेकार हो जायगा, अगर उस को बेच देते तो ज्यादा अच्छा था।

SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY : The hon. Minister says there is damage only due to leakage in the godown, in the tarpaulins. Even today in Andhra Pradesh thousands of tonnes of wheat are under the cover of tarpaulins. Those tarpaulins were imported last year. One monsoon has already gone and they have deteriorated. The second monsoon has set in. The heat under this tarpaulin has further deteriorated. I should agree with the request made by the hon. Member over there. The home Minister should reduce the price and dispose of it. Other

wise you will have to throw it out. What-action he going to take in this matter ?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Wherever tarpaulins are damaged in any manner, they are replaced. This process is carried on from time to time.

श्री तेज प्रताप सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय को विदित है कि झांसी में भण्डारण की व्यवस्था बहुत खराब है। मुझे हाल ही में वहां जाने का अवसर मिला और मैंने देखा कि वहां काफी गल्ला सड़ गया है। वहां के लोगों को सड़ा हुआ गल्ला दिया जा रहा है, जिससे उन की सेहत और तन्दरुस्ती पर बुरा असर पड़ने वाला है? क्या मंत्री जी इस बात को कोशिश करेंगे कि इस को जांच कराई जाय और जो गल्ला सड़ गया है, उस को बितरित न किया जाय ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : झांसी के बारे में अभी तक मेरे पास कोई ऐसी रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है, फिर भी मैं इस की जांच कराऊंगा। लेकिन ऐसी कोई बात नहीं है कि कहीं पर अगर अनाज सड़ गया है तो उस को ईशू किया जा रहा है। जहां अनाज सड़ जाता है, उस को अलग कर लिया जाता है, उस को फीड के लिये इस्तेमाल किया जाता है, ह्यूमन कंजर्वेशन के लिये इस्तेमाल नहीं किया जाता है।

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : फूड कारपोरेशन ऑफ इण्डिया घोखाधड़ी का एक बड़ा अड्डा बन गया है—मंत्री महोदय इस बात को अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं। वहां के अफसरान और गोदाम-कीपर गेहूं को चोर-बाजार में बेचते हैं और उस फैक्ट को छिपाने के लिए हजारों मन गेहूं और चावल निकाल कर बाहर डाल देते हैं जिस में कीड़े लगते रहते हैं। अभी बरसात चल रही है और वह अनाज सड़ रहा है। मंत्री जी भी इस बात को जानते होंगे। मैं उन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि मैं अभी गया (बिहार) गया था। वहां पर 200 क्विंटल अनाज, 200 नहीं बल्कि 2,000

क्विंटल अनाज बाहर पड़ा सड़ रहा है और उसमें पीछे जम गये हैं। इसलिये मैं मंत्री जी से यह जाहूंगा कि वे बिहार के एफ०सी० आई० के गोडाउन्स के बारे में बड़ी तेजी से क्षमतापूर्वक और बुद्धिमता से परिपूर्ण जांच करवायें वहां 2,000 क्विंटल से ज्यादा अनाज बिल्कुल सड़ गया है और हजारों मन अनाज बिल्कुल बेकार हो गया है। क्या इस बारे में मंत्री जी जांच कराएंगे? इसके अलावा जिन अफसरों की मिली भगत से अनाज की चोरी हुई है, उन को सजा देंगे ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : जहां तक चोरी का सवाल है, केस रजिस्टर होता है, केस चलता है और कई केसज में कनबिक्शन भी हुई है और होती है। जहां तक बिहार में अनाज के नुकसान का ताल्लुक है, वहां पर नुकसान बहुत कम हुआ है। इसीलिए मेरे लायक दास्त कभी 200 क्विंटल कह रहे हैं कभी 2,000 क्विंटल कह रहे हैं और जो सही फैक्ट्स हैं, उन का उन को पता नहीं है। बिहार के बारे में जो यह बताया गया है कि वहां पर काफी अनाज सड़ रहा है, ऐसी कोई रिपोर्ट हमारे पास नहीं आई है।

श्री ईश्वर चौधरी : वहां पर बहुत ज्यादा अनाज का नुकसान हुआ है और मैं गया हो कर आया हूँ। आप इस मामले की जांच करवाएं।

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will not allow you. You won't get any more chance.

SHRI D.D. DESAI : In view of the excellent monsoon and bumper crop that will be coming forward in another two months time and in view of the existing storage problem, would the hon'ble Minister consider disposal of the foodgrains stored in CAP under the 'Food for Work Programme' to relieve extensive rural unemployment and enhance developmental activity in the rural areas?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Sir, we have formulated a scheme which is named as 'Food for Work'. Under that scheme we are supplying some foodgrains at subsidised rates to some States where public works and maintenance of public works are going on. This is being done so that the States can give it to the workers when they are engaged on public works and maintenance in the rural area particularly.

श्री भानु कुमार शास्त्री : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे मंत्री महोदय के पास न जाने शिकायत क्यों नहीं आती है। एक ० सी० आई० के जो गोडाउन्स हैं, उन में अनाज खुले स्थानों में पड़ा हुआ है और बाहर अनाज पड़ रहने के कारण काफी उस में से सड़ गया है। मैं आपको राजस्थान में उदयपुर की बात बताता हूँ। वहाँ पर फेयर प्राइस शाप्स से जो गेहूँ दिया जाता है, उसको खराब होने के कारण लोग खरीदते नहीं हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूँगा कि जो अनाज ह्यूमन कन्जम्पशन के लायक नहीं है, उसको वे फैंकना पसन्द करेंगे या सस्ते दामों पर बेचेंगे।

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : जैसा मैं ने पहले बताया है, जो अनाज ह्यूमन कन्जम्पशन के फिट नहीं है, उस को इशू नहीं किया जाता है और फेयर प्राइस शाप्स द्वारा नहीं दिया जाता है। जो अनाज थोड़ा खराब होता है, उस को मिल्स को दे दिया जाता है और वह केटिल फीड के इस्तेमाल में आता है। इसलिए ऐसी बात नहीं है कि जो सड़ा हुआ अनाज है वह बाजार में जा कर बिकता है।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

**Decline of Nitrogen and Phosphate
Fertilizers in Madras**

*628. **SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for decline in the production of Nitrogen and Phosphatic fertilizers in Madras Fertilizers Ltd. during 1976-77; and

(b) the extent of utilisation of capacity of the undertaking and the constraints noticed for non-utilisation of the capacity in full ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) & (b) . The production of Nitrogen and P 205 in Madras Fertilizers Limited during 1976-77 was short by 15,000 tonnes and 4,000 tonnes respectively as compared to the production in 1975-76. The capacity utilisation of the plant during 1976-77 was 78.53 per cent in the case of Nitrogen and 63.6 % in the case of P 205 as compared to the 88 per cent and 70.6 per cent respectively in the year 1975-76.

2. The shortfall in production was mainly due to the shut-down of the plant for about 36 days on account of maintenance turn around and other mechanical problems.

**Steps to Reduce Consumption of
Petroleum products**

*629. **SHRI S.R. DAMANI** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the special efforts made during last year to reduce consumption of petroleum products ;

(b) the result they have yielded and how much saving was effected ; and

(c) the steps proposed in the current year towards further saving ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) to (c) . A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

(a) *The following are the special steps taken to reduce the consumption of petroleum products during the year 1976-77 :—*

(i) Introduction of an improved version of kerosene wick stove with a thermal efficiency of about 60% as compared to the normal thermal efficiency of about 40% to 45% in similar kerosene stoves.