

LOK SABHA

Thursday, June 15, 1967/Jyaishta 25,
1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Food Aid by U.S.A.

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- *511. Shri Madhu Limaye:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Finance be
pleased to state:

(a) how much of the ten million
tonnes food aid is likely to be given
by U.S.A.; and

(b) how much is likely to be given
by other countries?

The Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji
Desai): (a) and (b). The aid already
pledged will make it possible to im-
port the following quantities:

USA (PL 480)	3.65	million tonnes
Canada	0.80	Do.
USSR	0.20	Do.
Australia	0.15	Do.
TOTAL :	4.80	Do.

In addition the U.S. Government has
indicated its willingness to make avail-
able a quantity of upto 3 million
tonnes subject to appropriate match-
ing by other countries.

श्री मधु लिमये : अखबारों में खबर
आई है कि अरब इजराइल के मामले में
हिन्दुस्तान का जो रख रहा उस को ले कर
अमरीका की सरकार और अमरीका की
कांग्रेस बहुत नाराज हो गई है। मैं मंत्री
महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या खाद्य
के बारे में सहायता करने का जो निर्णय है
उस पर भी इस का कुछ प्रसर होने वाला है ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : अब तक तो ऐसा
कोई आसार नहीं है कि इस पर कोई प्रसर
होने वाला है।

श्री मधु लिमये : इस 40 या 45 लाख
टन के अलावा जो दूसरी 30 या 32 लाख
टन की मदद देने की बात है उस के लिये यह
शर्त है कि अगर दूसरे देश भी इसी तरह
सहायता करेंगे तो अमरीका भी मदद करेगा।
मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस के सम्बन्ध
में दूसरे देशों के साथ कोई बातचीत हुई है
और उस के बारे में क्या कोई आश्वासन
मिला है ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : दूसरे देशों के साथ
बातचीत हो रही है और आशा है कि दूसरे
देशों से जो कहा गया है उस के मुताबिक
उतनी मदद मिल जायेगी। यानी शायद
इतने फूडग्रेन्स न मिलें लेकिन फर्टिलाइजर
वगैरह के लिये फारेन एक्सचेंज की सहायता
दे दें तो हम उतना दूसरे देश से खरीद सकते
हैं और यह शर्त पूरी हो सकती है। इस लिये
6 मिलियन टन सब मिला कर मिलेगा ऐसी
आशा है।

Shri Umanath: Speaking on food
from the United States of America,
our Prime Minister, Mrs. Gandhi, in

her speech in Ambikapur some five days back, week back, carried by all the papers, is reported to have said that our Government has had to face pressures from the United States Government on the question of food aid on various occasions till recently. She made that statement and it was reported in all the important papers of the country. I would like to know whether such pressures were exerted, what sort of pressure was exerted in return for giving food to us, and what stand our Government took with the United States.

Shri Morarji Desai: I do not know what statement was made by the Prime Minister. I find the report in the press, but on that I cannot go. Personally, as far as I know, in these negotiations no pressures have been put. When they make this condition of matching grant, that is not a pressure on us. That is for enabling us to get from other countries, that is they are trying to utilise their influence with other countries to give us help by way of matching grant of foodgrains or adequate other things in lieu of it. Therefore, I do not see how there are any pressures put on us.

श्री मधु लिखड़े : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। यह सरकार खंडित सरकार है। इस सरकार के एक अंग को जो पता है उस का पता दूसरे अंग को नहीं है। यानी प्रधान मंत्री को पता है उस प्रधान मंत्री को नहीं है। या तो साथ प्रधान मंत्री को बुलवा लीजिये और इस का बुलासा करवाइये या उस प्रधान मंत्री स्वयं इस की जांच कर के बाद में बयान दें।

Mr. Speaker: The Deputy Prime Minister has heard what you said and he will consider that.

श्री मधु लिखड़े : क्या वह बाद में जानकारी हासिल कर के बयान देंगे? मैंने कहा था कि सरकार के एक अंग को जिस बात का पता है उस का पता दूसरे अंग को नहीं है। हो सकता है कि प्रधान मंत्री के भाषण की रिपोर्ट

गलत हो। तो क्या उस प्रधान मंत्री उसकी जांच करवा कर कोई बयान इस सदन में देंगे?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : मैं अखबारों की रिपोर्ट्स की कोई जांच करने वाला नहीं हूँ।

श्री मधु लिखड़े : मैंने सवाल पूछा है। प्राप को जांच करनी चाहिये।

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: On a point of order, the Deputy Prime Minister says that there is no question of having any investigation into the alleged report of the statement of the Prime Minister in relation to this question. I wish to know from you in particular what is the position when it so happens that the reputable sections of the Press report a statement by the Prime Minister which goes uncontradicted and it is referred to in this House and the Prime Minister is not here herself to contradict or affirm the reports. The Deputy Prime Minister says something on his own and refuses even to assure us that he would make some investigation into the matter and let the House know that perhaps the Prime Minister was mis-reported and he would let us know. How is it that we can go on the basis of uncontradicted report of the Prime Minister's speech which is not even looked into by the Deputy Prime Minister who deputises for her and does everything on her behalf? Where do we stand? What do we do in regard to this statement?

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest you to do this. The Deputy Prime Minister may not be aware of the position under what circumstances it was reported. Why not you directly give the question to her. This question is different, in general terms about food aid. On the statement made by the Prime Minister, there may be a separate question.

Shri Umanath: A question was put; a short notice question was framed from our Group and sent to the Prime Minister but that had been rejected

on the ground that the Prime Minister is not prepared to accept the short notice question. That is already over. Now that the issue has come up on the floor of the House, it should be answered. If the Deputy Prime Minister of India says that he is not aware of such a report how can we believe? All the important newspapers have published it.

Mr. Speaker: He has not said that he has not seen the report; he has seen the report. If the Prime Minister is not prepared to accept a short notice question, the Speaker cannot compel any Minister to accept it. You know the rules. After all I can only forward it to them. If they accept it, we put it. If they do not accept, there are other methods of eliciting information.

श्री मधु लिनये : प्राप उन को निर्देश दे सकते हैं कि वह पता लगा कर भेदन को बतलाये ।

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : अभी उपप्रधान मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि यू० एम० एस० प्रार० से 2 लाख टन अनाज मिलेगा । पिछले दो तीन वर्षों में जब रूस में बहुत अच्छी पैदावार हुई है तब मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार ने यू० एस० एस० प्रार० से थोर गेहूँ की मांग क्यों नहीं की है ? थोर अंगूर की है तो उस का क्या उत्तर मिला ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : मांग करने का सवाल नहीं होता है । वह देश जितना देना चाहे दे दें । हम कैसे कह सकते हैं कि इतना दे दो ?

Shri Swell: On account of the policy that we pursued in relation to the recent West Asian crisis, there have been very insistent demands in the Western countries, America, Britain and perhaps also in Canada, that all kinds of aid to India should be stopped. Now, I would like to know from the Deputy Prime Minister whether his Government has made any assessment as to how far this public demand re-

fects the attitude of the governments of America and Britain and whether there is any likelihood of the food aid drying up from those countries and in the event of the food aid drying up, what alternative arrangements Government have made to meet the situation?

Shri Morarji Desai: I have already replied to this question that I see no signs of these things affecting the foodgrains coming here. But supposing they do not give us, we have to meet the situation here in the best manner we can.

Shri Sradhakar Supakar: May I know the difference in prices of the food aid available from these different countries, namely, U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Australia and so on, and whether the aid that is given by the U.S.S.R. and Australia and other countries will be matched by an equal quantity by the U.S.A.?

Shri Morarji Desai: The USA has given much more than what other countries have given. There is no question of matching it. I do not know about the prices; I have not got those figures just now with me. If notice is given, I shall certainly convey them.

Shri Kandappan: In view of the closure of the Suez Canal, the ships that carry the foodgrains will have to take a distant route with the result that the freight rate would be increased. I would like to know specifically whether this increase in freight will be passed on to the consumer, or whether the Government is going to subsidise that also?

Shri Morarji Desai: The Government has still to consider that question.

Shri M. Sundararama: What will be the effect of the closure of the Suez Canal on the freight on foodgrains sent from the U.S.A. and other countries to India?

Shri Morarji Desai: The arrivals will be delayed and the freight will be more. That is the obvious effect.

Shri Hem Barua: Apart from the fact that 10 ships have been detained during the Arab-Israeli conflict blockading the Suez Canal at present, may I know whether the attention of the hon. Deputy Prime Minister is drawn to a statement made by President Nasser to the effect that unless the Israelis vacate the Arab territory occupied by them, the Suez Canal will never be opened for other nations—that is the statement made by President Nasser, which means it delays the movement of food ships from the U.S.A. to India—and in that context, may I know what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to persuade Nasser to open the Suez Canal so that our starving millions might not starve further due to his megalomania?

Shri Morarji Desai: I do not know what the hon. Member wants this Government to do. If President Nasser does not want to open the Suez Canal, we cannot force him to open.

Shri Hem Barua: You need not force him. But the world knows that this country is a friend of Nasser. Can't you persuade him to come to our help in this critical hour on humanitarian grounds?

Shri Morarji Desai: I do not want to beg of anybody in this matter.

Shri Hem Barua: It is persuasion; not begging.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयान में कहा है कि लगभग पचास लाख टन गल्ला हमको मिला है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार को कम से कम कितने गल्ले की इस वक़्त जरूरत है और इसके अलावा किन-किन देशों से भारत सरकार को इसके मिलने की आशा है ?

श्री नीरारजी देसाई : सब बता दिया है। बार-बार क्या बता सकता हूँ।

Shri Baburao Patel: I want to know where is the necessity of importing any food from America when President Nasser has promised to give us dates which are a more nutritive food?

Mr. Speaker: No answer; Shri Jha.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा : जो फूड एंड अग्रीकल्चर से मिलती है उस में कौन कौन से पदार्थ हैं कौन कौन सी आइटम्स फूड की हैं। जहाँ तक उसकी क्वालिटी का सम्बन्ध है क्या आपने यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि हमें जो कंडेम्ड क्वालिटी है वह दी जाती है जिस को अग्रीकल्चर लोग नहीं खा सकते हैं वह क्वालिटी हमें दी जाती है ? यह ऐसी क्वालिटी होती है कि जिस को खा कर बीमार भी हो सकते हैं, क्या यह सही है ?

Shri Morarji Desai: It is absolutely wrong to say that that condemned quality is sent here. The same quality which is used there is also sent here. If it is different from what we produce, there is no question of any choice. I do not think it is of a quality which is not consumable.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether it is a fact that the aid-giving countries insist that the entire aid given should be utilised for purchasing foodgrains from those countries and that the ships should be chartered from their countries instead of our own?

Shri Morarji Desai: We are not forced to buy from any countries; we can buy from wherever we can.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The Food Minister has stated more than once that the Government of India has negotiated for an agreement covering 15 lakh tons of wheat for the second half of this year. The negotiations are over and only the President of U.S.A. has to give the green signal. Reports have appeared in the press that he refuses to give that green signal for that agreement to go ahead. Does the Deputy Prime Minister think that there is some pressure or bargain or

that the President does not find time to give the green signal? What is his opinion about the delay in signing this agreement?

Shri Morarji Desai: The USA also is a democracy, just as ours is a democracy. Just as there are pressures on us here, there are pressures on him also.

श्री भ्रमरत नाहाटा : क्या सरकार को यह मालूम है कि राजस्थान के प्रकाल प्रस्त क्षेत्रों में जा आयातित लाल ज्वार वितरित की जा रही है उसको इलाकों में क्या पशु भी खाने से इकार कर रहे हैं ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : मैं इसके साथ महमत नहीं हूँ ।

श्री हुकम खन्व कछवाय : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि जो प्रनाज हल्की क्वालिटी का होता है उसे बाजार में सप्लाई न करके जबरदस्ती घाटा मिलों को घाटा पीसने के लिए दिया जाता है । बाहर से जो प्रन्न घाटा है उस में से कुछ खाने में भी खराब हो जाता है । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि खराब गेहूँ उनको पीसने के लिए दिया जाता है और जब वे इन्कार करते हैं तो दबाव उन पर डाला जाता है ?

श्री मोरारजी देसाई : दबाव कुछ नहीं डाला जाता है । वह घाटा मैंने भी खाया है । वह इतना खराब है ऐसा मैंने नहीं देखा है ।

Shri G. S. Reddi: Is there food aid promised by Russia to India?

Shri Morarji Desai: It is given already.

Shri S. S. Kothari: On a point of order, Sir. How is it that this question has been put down for answer by the Finance Minister instead of by the Food Minister?

Mr. Speaker: After so long you have discovered it! Next question

Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad

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*512 **Shri Ram Kishan Gupta:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Baburao Patel:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 335 on the 17th November, 1966 and state.

(a) whether the Security Paper Mill at Hoshangabad has been commissioned,

(b) if so, what is the present schedule of the production in the Security Paper Mill at Hoshangabad,

(c) the time by which the Mill is expected to go into full production, giving details of the country's annual requirements of security paper and the Mill's contribution towards this, and

(d) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons for the delay?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) Yes, Sir. Trial runs of the first two machines of the Four Machine Mill have commenced.

(b) During the year 1967-68 the production is expected to be of the order of 700 tonnes and in 1968-69 about 1500 tonnes.

(c) The Mill is expected to go into full production in 1969-70. As its rated capacity is 2700 tonnes per annum it would fully meet the anticipated requirements of 2300 tonnes of Currency and Bank Note paper during that year. Efforts would also be made to utilize the surplus capacity for meeting part of the requirement of about 850 tonnes of other types of security paper used for Stamps, Postal stationery etc.

(d) It was estimated that trial runs would take place towards the end of March, 1967. There has been a slight delay occasioned mainly by the belated delivery of the process