

Tuesday, December 3, 1957

LOK SABHA DEBATES

SECOND SERIES

VOLUME IX, 1957

(25th November to 6th December, 1957)



THIRD SESSION, 1957

(Vol. IX Contains Nos. 11 to 20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 3rd December, 1957

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Delhi Transport Service Buses

*713. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that the buses run by the Delhi Transport Service are not properly washed and cleaned everyday before putting them on the road;

(b) whether he is also aware of the fact that these buses are not properly maintained; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in this direction in the interest of public health?

The Minister of States in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 16.]

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know when the efforts to wash 50 per cent. of the fleet every day will materialise? How long will it take to put this into effect?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It depends on the strength of staff. As soon as we are able to enrol and recruit the staff, we shall be able to do it to the required extent.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It is said in the statement that sometimes spare parts are not available. May I know what effort is being made to see to it that the Delhi Transport Authority does not suffer from lack of spare parts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Some spare parts have got to be obtained from foreign countries which means that foreign exchange is involved. We have recently sanctioned foreign exchange for this purpose to the tune of Rs. 1.26 lakhs for the import of spare parts from the U.K. for 40 Albion and 25 Guy buses.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know if the D.T.S. has a well organised repair workshop so that there is no necessity to send the vehicles for major repairs to workshops owned by private entrepreneurs?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have got a central workshop. We have got a well organised system of workshops so far as that is concerned.

Shri Rameshwar Tanti: May I know if all the buses are supplied with First aid boxes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as I know, they are. In case there is any complaint, I shall look into it.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: May I know whether most of our buses are purchased from hard currency or sterling areas?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think, mostly from the sterling area.

Shri T. B. Vittai Rao: May I know if there is any proposal before the Transport Authority to standardise the buses? We have got so many types, Albion Leyland, etc. We can have only one of these.

Mr. Speaker: We are straying away from the question.

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is a laudable object which we shall keep in view.

चीनी का उत्पादन

*७१४. श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या साक्ष तथा कृषी मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि १९५६-५७ के गन्ना पेरने के मौसम में मजदूरों तथा मिल मालिकों में झगड़ों के कारण कुछ चीनी मिलों में धीरे काम करें की नीति के फलस्वरूप चीनी का उत्पादन कम हुआ है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वे मिलें कौन-कौन सी हैं ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इन झगड़ों को तय करने के लिये कोई उपाय मोचे है ?

सहकार मंत्री (डा० पं० शा० बेशमुख) :

(क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) और (ग). प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि चम्पारन की हरिनगर शुगर मिल्स में बराबर 'गो स्लो' की पालिसी रही है और वहाँ प्रोडक्शन कम हुआ है ?

डा० पं० शा० बेशमुख : हमारे पास दो जगहों से ऐसी इतला आई है, लेकिन यहाँ से कोई ऐसी इतला नहीं आई ।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या फूड ऐंड ऐग्रिकल्चर मंत्रालय की तरफ से कोई जांच पड़ताल हुई है कि किस मिल में 'गो स्लो' की नीति बरती जा रही है और प्रोडक्शन कम हो रहा है ।

साक्ष तथा कृषी मंत्री (श्री अ० प्र० जैन) : हमारे पास झांझड़ा आते हैं । हमारी

तरफ से कोई इन्स्पेक्शन नहीं होता । यह राज्य सरकारों का काम है ।

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: What are the reasons why the production of sugar in most of the mills in Bihar has gone down?

Shri A. P. Jain: It is not a fact that production from most of the mills has gone down. In certain mills it has suffered.

Rain of Fish at Ghaziabad

*715. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported rain of fish at Ghaziabad village near Delhi on or about the 15th September, 1957 has been brought to the notice of the meteorological experts of the Government of India;

(b) if so, whether the phenomenon has been examined; and

(c) the nature of the findings in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Except for newspaper reports, the Meteorological Department of the Government of India has no information on the subject.

(b) and (c). No examination of the phenomenon was possible, as there is no meteorological observatory at or near the place where the rain of fish is reported to have fallen.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if any attempt was made to check up these newspapers reports by the

Meteorological department and what was the nature of the check up?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Fisheries Department in the U.P. is likely to receive a report from the District Magistrate of Meerut who is concerned with this area.

Mr. Speaker: This was on the 15th of September. Whatever happened there, does it require so much time to get reports even?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think the newspaper report is of the 15th September.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Is it not a fact that such a phenomenon is very rare? It has happened. Has not this been examined by the Meteorological department?

Mr. Speaker: They have not got the materials. What is the examination?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Except the Biblical story where fish and food came from the sky, there is no other case of fish coming down from the sky. When fish is carried by cyclone from one pond, it comes down

Mr. Speaker: What I would like to know is this. If it should have happened, it is an extraordinary phenomenon. There is some newspaper report. Whether it ought to have come here before Parliament or not is another matter. The persons in charge of the area should have gone there and verified the reports if the report appeared in a very important paper. What steps have been taken so far as that matter is concerned. It is one thing to say, we have found it is a myth. It is another thing to say we have no report. We are prepared to condemn it from here. How does it happen that no information is being given to the House?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Information was received. But, what we have come to know

from the Meteorological department is that they have not been able to find anything authentic so far in connection with that particular matter as to whether there was actually fish rain at Ghaziabad. They are unable to make any further investigation into the matter. It is true the U.P. Government is also making certain enquiries. But, we have not received any report from them so far. Our Meteorological department does not attach much importance to it because they feel that this phenomenon has happened at several other places in the country. It has happened many a time in Bengal. There is some explanation for that as the Deputy Minister of Food said just now about cyclones sucking fish and then the fish coming down with the rains. The department concerned does not attach much importance. As they are the experts, we cannot say anything further. Fortunately, all the questioners happen to be vegetarians. I do not think they need be so much interested in fish rain.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: All that the hon. Members want to hear, evidently, is this. Is that a fact? The people are there. It is not the concern of one paper reporter. There are a number of persons there. Whoever goes there can easily find out if there was really fish rain, though the fish may not appear on the soil today.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Much as we would like to study on the spot, the fact remains that we do not have a meteorological check post at Ghaziabad. We shall not have first hand information. Whatever information we will be able to collect now will be hearsay.

Mr. Speaker: Ten days' notice is given. It is not a Short Notice question. In ten days, can't the Government collect information if it was or was not a fact. Ghaziabad is not thousands of miles away.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: If you so like, we can send a man from the department. But, it may not produce any result.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Next question. It would not produce any result. What can be done.

Foodgrain Prices in Calcutta

*716. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether "direct action" movement was launched in Calcutta in the month of September, this year to protest against the increase in the prices of foodstuffs there;

(b) what has been the increase in the prices of foodstuffs in Calcutta in the months of August and September, 1957, over the prices prevailing during the corresponding months of 1956; and

(c) whether the prices are still going up?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas):

(a) There was some agitation about rise in prices for 3 or 4 days in September, 1957.

(b) There was increase in the prices of some items of foodstuffs and decrease in others during August and September this year as compared to last year. The extent of increase varied from 3.1 per cent. to 38.7 per cent. The extent of decrease varied from 1.2 per cent. to 18.8 per cent.

(c) No, Sir. The prices are more or less steady.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the efforts made by the Government to bring down the prices which have gone up?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The House knows that we have a number of fair price shops. In the Calcutta industrial area itself, there are as many as 3053 fair price shops. About 94 lakhs of people throughout West Bengal are now covered by identity

cards. We have also supplied substantial quantities of foodgrains to the fair price shops. It has been made clear on a previous occasion that about 65,000 tons of rice are being given to the State Government for the months of September, October, November and December. Adequate quantities of wheat are also being supplied to the State Government.

Shri E. Ramanathan Chettiar: What is the present level of prices in Calcutta compared to September?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In August-September, the prices in 1957 to which year the question relates, was 23.25 (in September) for coarse rice, whereas in 1956 it was 20.50. In August, 1956 the price of coarse rice was Rs. 20 and in August 1957 it was Rs. 24.25.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if the Government is aware that the amount of food given for distribution does not cover the number of cardholders for modified and for cheap rations?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes, it covers. We are now supplying at the rate of one seer of wheat and one seer of rice per adult per week.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that many of the cardholders in the rural as well as the city areas are not able to buy because there is no stock in the shops?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): We have not had any such reports.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the factors which led to the increase in price, and to what extent was the drought responsible for increase in price in Calcutta?

Shri A. P. Jain: Of course, the reports of the drought have been responsible to some extent for the increase in price, but it is rather difficult to determine to what extent drought has affected the prices.

Report of Gokhale Committee

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 *717. { Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:
 Shri R. L. Reddy:
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:
 Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1412 on the 3rd September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether the Gokhale Committee has since inspected the Buckingham Canal and has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The Gokhale Committee has inspected the Buckingham Canal. They have informed Government that a detailed traffic survey of the region is necessary before they can submit their report. Arrangement for the traffic survey is being made.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know who is carrying out this traffic survey?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think it would be carried on by the local Government authorities in consultation with the Central Government Officers.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether a copy of the report of the Gokhale Committee will be laid on the Table of the House?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As and when it is presented.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know what amount of money has so far been spent during the Plan period on all these investigations?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I think the amount is Rs. 52,000. It has been placed at the disposal of the Governments of Madras and Andhra.

Mr. Speaker: Shri R. L. Reddy.
 Sardar Iqbal Singh. Shri M. V. Krishna Rao. Shri Chettiar.

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether after receiving the report of the Gokhale Committee this work will be taken up during the Second Plan period?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The expansion or the improvement of the canal has been accepted in principle by the Planning Commission and the project is included. Provision has also been made in the Second Plan to the tune of Rs. 115 lakhs, and as I said, a grant of Rs. 52,000 has been already made to the Governments of Andhra and Madras for preliminary investigation. So, it is obvious that as soon as the report is received and is vetted and passed, we shall go ahead with the scheme.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the answer to a similar question in the last session saying that the Madras Government was not prepared to give any categorical reply as to the widening and deepening of the canal? Has any further reply come from the Madras Government, and if so, what action has been taken?

Shri Raj Bahadur: My information is that the Madras Government and the Andhra Government both gave certain suggestions about the improvement of the canal. It is only on the basis of those recommendations and suggestions that the proposals in the Second Plan have been formulated.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: When this proposal to widen and make it navigable for motor launches was included in the Second Plan, it was on the basis of the traffic carried by this canal which was twenty times more than what it was during the war period. So, where is the necessity for a further traffic survey? May I also know whether the traffic survey will be conducted jointly by both the Madras and Andhra Governments or by only one of the Governments?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): We can arrange for a joint survey. This survey is yet to start and the money has been placed at the disposal of both the Governments, and I think it would be better if a joint survey is made on behalf of both the Governments.

As regards the Madras Government, what Shri B. S. Murthy said was slightly right in the sense that formerly we did not receive any report from the Madras Government whereas we had received a report from the Andhra Government, but I had a personal talk with the Chief Minister of Madras, and since then he has taken up the matter. We have received some reports from them also, I hope it should be possible to carry on a survey with the help of both the State Governments.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Because it involves both the Andhra and Madras Governments, may I know whether an official of the Central Government is placed at their disposal for helping both the Governments as far as the survey as well as other work is concerned?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I do not think it would be necessary for us to send one of our officers for that work, but in case they suggest so, we will have no objection in placing one of our officers at their disposal.

उत्तर प्रदेश में बिजली सगाने के लिये ऋण

*७१८. श्री भक्त बर्तन : क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को व्यवसाय-प्राप्ति के अवसरों की वृद्धि के निमित्त बिजली की सुविधाओं के विस्तार की योजना के सम्बन्ध में २३५ लाख रुपये का ऋण दिया गया था;

(ख) क्या द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत भी कोई ऋण देने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि हा, तो अब तक कितना ऋण दिया जा चुका है; और

(घ) दूसरी योजना की शेष अवधि में उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को कितना ऋण दिया जायेगा ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री (श्री स० का० पाटिल) : (क) से (घ). अपेक्षित जानकारी का विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया है। [बेजिये परिशिष्ट III अनुबन्ध संख्या १७]

श्री भक्त बर्तन : इस विवरण से ज्ञात होता है कि प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का जो २ करोड़ ३५ लाख रुपये का कर्जा देना स्वीकार किया गया था अभी तक उसमें से केवल १ करोड़ रुपा खींचा गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस कार्य में इतनी देरी क्यों हो रही है।

श्री स० का० पाटिल : जितना उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने मांगा उतना दिया गया। एक बार १० लाख रुपया मांगा दूसरी बार ५० लाख रुपया मांगा और तीसरी बार ४० लाख मांगा। अभी मैं मानता हूँ कि इस वर्ष ३० लाख की मांग है और दूसरे बजट में १०८ लाख की मांग है। तो यह योजनाएँ बनाने का काम तो राज्य सरकार का है।

श्री भक्त बर्तन : यह ऋण इमजिये स्वीकार किया गया था ताकि रोजगार की सम्भावनाएँ बढ़ायी जा सकें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक उत्तर प्रदेश में रोजगार की सम्भावनाओं में कितनी वृद्धि हुई है और प्रागे के लिए कितना मारजिन रखा गया है ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : वह तो कुछ कर्जा देने का बचन था। इस काम में कितनी वृद्धि हो गयी है यह जानकारी तो मेरे पास है।

समय नहीं है। अगर नोटिस मिलेगा तो वह इनफार्मेशन लायी जा सकेगी :

राजा सतुम्ह प्रताप : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार कुछ जाँच करेगी कि वह रुपया कैसे खर्च किया जाता है। मैं कल ही कोसी कलां से होता हुआ गुजरा हूँ, वहाँ पर बड़ी खराब हालत हो गयी है। वहाँ बिजली काट दी गयी है और जिसको कर्ज दिया गया है उसने बिजली की दर बढ़ा दी है। तो यह देखना जरूरी है कि जिसको कर्ज दिया जाये वह उसका गलत इस्तेमाल न करे। क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार पर यह कैंद लगायेगी कि वह गलत आदमियों को कर्जा न दे और यह कैंद वह किस तरह से लगायेगी ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल : हमने तो कर्जा दिया है। उसे खर्च करना राज्य सरकार का काम है। लेकिन हमको ऐसी कोई खबर नहीं है कि उसका गलत इस्तेमाल हो रहा है।

श्री भक्त बान : क्या इस रुपये को देने में इस बान का ध्यान रखा जा रहा है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के जिन इलाकों में अभी तक बिजली नहीं है या जहाँ बिजली की बहुत कम सुविधा है वहाँ पर इस रुपये को खर्च किया जाये।

श्री स० का० पाटिल : योजनाये बनाने का काम राज्य सरकार करती है। योजनाये बनती है और उनकी स्वीकृति हो जाती है तो लोन दिया जाता है। लेकिन कहाँ के लिए योजना बनायी जाए, किम गाँव या शहर के लिए बनायी जाए यह काम तो हिन्दुस्तान सरकार का नहीं है।

Stipends to Dai Trainees

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*729. { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hasda:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to

Starred Question No. 1409 on the 3rd September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the recommendation of the last Health Ministers' Conference about the increase of the present quantum of stipends give to dai trainees;

(b) if so, what is the amount of increase; and

(c) how many dais were trained during the First Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). Matter is under consideration.

(c) No Dais were trained by the State Governments during the First Five Year Plan with Central assistance.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Government intend to increase the training period for dais at present?

Shri Karmarkar: The six months training period which is envisaged is deemed to be quite sufficient.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Government will be able to reach the target of producing these dais during the Second Plan with the steps being taken at present?

Shri Karmarkar: Whether the target will be reached?

Mr. Speaker: Training sufficient number of dais, not production of dais.

Shri Karmarkar: That is our ambition.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What is the difference between the training given to the hospital assistants and dais?

Mr. Speaker: Hospital midwives and dais?

Shri B. S. Murthy: Yes.

Shri Karmarkar: This scheme is to give a sort of refresher course to the

illiterate dais who are already in charge of delivery of babies in the villages. Eighty-five per cent. of our population is going without any expert advice in the matter at the time of delivery. So, the idea is to take over the dais who are practising in the villages, give them six months refresher course, give them a sort of equipment bag costing about Rs. 50 and allow them as replenishment for each delivery one rupee so that the services already there may find improvement.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: In view of the fact that the six months training is admittedly very inadequate, what proposal has the Government to ensure that all these girls are under proper supervision of trained public health nurses or health visitors after training? Has Government any idea how many of them are working under such supervision and how many of them are just let loose on the public with inadequate knowledge?

Shri Karmarkar: The idea is not to let loose anybody on the public. All the dais are undergoing training under the supervision of Health Visitors. That was our programme.

Mr. Speaker: I would only appeal to hon. Members that wherever any possible misconception can be put upon the language that is used, loose language may not be used.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I do not think there was any looseness in language. It is, I think, a simple English expression. If they are allowed to go and work in the public without regular supervision then they are let loose on the public. However, if the.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. lady Member was saying, ladies let loose on the public.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: I beg your pardon, Sir. I wish to state this is not a laughing matter. I wish to state that if inadequately trained people are allowed to practise in public, it

is letting them loose. However, if you object to that, I would withdraw the expression.

Mr. Speaker: As far as possible, let us not use such expressions.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: What I want to know is not about supervision during training. But, after training. To the best of my knowledge a very large number of them are not under any regular supervision. Therefore, I would like the Health Minister to tell us if he has any proposal that every one who is given this 'six months' training is under regular supervision and how many of them have come under this scheme, if any.

Shri Karmarkar: As I said before, so far the scheme makes it that these dais will be trained under expert supervision of Health Visitors. It is not as if I am sending somebody new to the villages. The idea is that there are midwives in the villages. Those of them that are willing to undergo training would be brought back after training for six months. Thereby they will be better off for the training. As I said, the idea is to equip them with better knowledge and a special equipment bag at a cost of Rs. 50 so that when they do their work they will be better than what they were before.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: How many of the dais trained under the First Five Year Plan are still unemployed and what is the number to be trained under the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri Karmarkar: The hon. Member must know that this was not to create employment. Already they are employed in their respective villages. As I said before, no dais were trained under the First Five Year Plan by the State Governments with Central assistance. We were prepared to give the assistance; but they did not take it.

Family Planning Centres in Kerala

*723. **Shri Narayanankutty Menon:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of family planning centres established in the Kerala State so far;

(b) the allotment given by the Central Government to the Kerala State for the purpose of propagating family planning; and

(c) in view of the comparatively higher rate of growth of population in the Kerala State, what additional steps the Government propose to take to meet the situation?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). I place a statement on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix, III, annexure No. 18.]

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: In view of the fact that this small number of family planning clinics are not patronised by the women folk of the villages, do Government consider taking this assistance to their homes?

Shri Karmarkar: It is not a question of taking assistance to their homes. There are various clinics and they are there to cater for the respective populations where they have been established. Those of them that have been done by voluntary organisations are working well. We hope, in view of the assurance given by the Health Minister of Kerala last time, that the Government ones are also functioning. In case there is anything going wrong, I shall be grateful to the hon. Member for information so that I can take it up with the Kerala Government.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Is the hon. Minister aware that many of the family planning centres run by the Government are being run by the midwives without any medical supervision; and, if so, what proposal has the Government to rectify this situation as early as possible?

Shri Karmarkar: Our work is to give aid. I am not aware that proper medical personnel is not available to some States. I have not received any information where a State has started a family planning clinic without proper personnel. In any case, the scheme is that we give assistance on the condition that the proper personnel will be appointed. If there are any cases, I shall be grateful to hon. Members if they bring them to my notice so that I shall go into them.

Dr Sushila Nayar: Is the Government aware that the centres that are being run in Delhi fall under that category and do not have adequate medical personnel and supervision and also of the fact that even doctors need special training to run these centres effectively? In view of that fact how far is it right to have these centres run by these midwives?

Shri Karmarkar: With regard to centres being run by the Delhi Administration, I shall check up before replying. Regarding centres that are being run under the CHS, my hon. friend's information is entirely wrong.

Shri Dasappa: The hon. Minister was pleased to say that these centres have been working very satisfactorily, in Kerala. May I know how long they have been in existence and whether the results of the working of these centres have been assessed and, if so, what they are?

Shri Karmarkar: I did not commit myself to the statement that all the centres are working entirely satisfactorily. At the best, I wish hon. Members do remember that this is a new scheme and we want their sympathies in the matter. In the first year, for instance, wherever our medical and social workers go, we do not expect very sanguine results. It is a question of persuasion and regarding that we must have the sympathies of our hon. friends again. Assessments have necessarily to come at least after 3 years. In Ludhiana where our experiment has been going on for a longer period, our results

show that first the people took to it enthusiastically and then there was a lower curve and people left it off and then now about on-third of the population have taken it up and we have had it for three years. So far as the three years' results are concerned, we have it recorded that they have been successful to the extent of about 50 per cent. That is where it is.

In Ramanagaram in Bangalore, nearer my friend's home, there is also an experiment going on and I hope he will fully co-operate and see to it that good results are obtained and to a larger extent.

Mr. Speaker: The question is confined to Kerala.

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: There are only 5 urban and 24 rural clinics opened. In view of the alarming rate of multiplication of the population in the Kerala State.....

Mr. Speaker: Why all this preamble?

Shri Narayanankutty Menon: I want to know whether the Government will be pleased to open at least one clinics in one town in the Kerala State.

Shri Karmarkar: One for a town may be formidable. There is a definite programme about it. It is a phased programme and I wish the State Government takes full advantage and I am sure the hon. Member will surely co-operate in this scheme. I am not joking because in this....

Mr. Speaker: In respect to these matters let us not enlarge the scope of the question or of the answer.

Shri Karmarkar: I would like to make a special appeal to the hon. Members of this House. This is a rather difficult problem and we want their co-operation in the matter.

Agriculture Ministers' Conference, Srinagar.

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 { Shri Sanganna:
 Shri B. S. Murthy:
 Shri Surendranath
 *724. { Dwivedy:
 Shri Hem Raj:
 Shri Daljit Singh:
 Kumari M. Vedakumari:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the recommendations made by the Agriculture Ministers' Conference in Srinagar on the 13th October, 1957 and accepted by the Government of India; and

(b) the steps taken to implement them?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 19.]

Shri Sanganna: May I know whether the recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee have any effect on the decision taken by the Government of India on the recommendations made by the State Agriculture Ministers' Conference; and, if so, in what way?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In fact, some of the recommendations of the State Agriculture Ministers' Conference deal with the minor irrigation question. The Asoka Mehta Committee also endorsed the same recommendations. We are taking action. We have already given one crore of rupees—additional fund—for minor irrigation this year. Rs. 1½ crores more is to be given to the drought-affected States on the recommendations of the committee which has gone round there.

Kumari M. Vedakumari: As importance has been laid on fertilisers in this Conference may I know whether there is any proposal to start a

fertiliser plant in Andhra to meet the growing demand for it there?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The recommendation was not to start a fertiliser factory but to import more fertilisers so as to meet the entire demand of the country and we are taking action to import as much fertilisers as possible.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The question of a fertiliser factory has come up before the House more than once. The second Five Year Plan provides for the setting up of three fertiliser factories. On account of the foreign exchange difficulties, I do not know whether the programme will be fulfilled and for the time being we are trying to meet the shortfall by imports.

Raja Mahendra Pratap: May I know why Srinagar was chosen for the Conference? Was it a joy ride for the Minister?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa rose—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Ministers need not answer questions which are by way of insinuation or mockery. This is not the House where hon. Members, who are representing 8 lakhs or 800,000 of population, or 16 lakhs of population sometimes, could make all sorts of insinuations or remarks which will elicit more laughter than a serious reply to the questions.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know what steps have been taken to implement all these decisions arrived at the Conference in respect of the recommendations about the fixation of minimum prices and also about the establishment of a committee of experts and administrators?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: About the fixing of minimum prices for agricultural produce, the National Development Council also decided that we must fix the prices, and then the Government of India in the Food and Agriculture Ministry issued a notification on the 15th July stating the policy in that regard.

Shri B. S. Murthy: What about the expert committee? I wanted to know whether any committee of experts and administrators has been appointed according to the recommendations made.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It does not require any committee of experts. There is already a declaration made by the Food Ministry.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: The hon. Minister stated that in view of the difficulties of foreign exchange, the fertiliser factory programme may not come through and the answer also stated that we are going to import fertilisers. May I know what will be the difference in the amount of foreign exchange required for importing fertilisers and the amount which would have been required to set up a factory?

Shri A. P. Jain: Those figures have not been worked out, but surely we will require much more to start a fertiliser factory.

Shri Thirumala Rao: In view of the great necessity for fertilisers, which are in short supply, and also in view of the great demand for foreign exchange, is Government considering as a matter of policy whether they could invite foreign capital to come to India and start the fertiliser industry in India?

Shri A. P. Jain: Formerly, the idea was that the fertiliser plant should be located in the public sector, but of late there has been a shift in the policy, and it has been decided that fertiliser should be set up in the private sector too.

Grants-in-Aid for Non-Railway Schools

*725. **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is provision for giving from Railway revenues grants-in-aid to non-Railway schools where

children of Railway employees are studying;

(b) whether the Utkal Vidyapith at Kharagpur gets such grants-in-aid; and

(c) whether the said institute has got any financial assistance from the Staff Benefit Fund?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether the Utkal Vidyapith asked for any grant from the Railway Funds as a recurring or a non-recurring grant?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes, Sir. They did ask for a grant last year, but their request could not be complied with. They have again put in a request which is under consideration.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know why this request was not acceded to?

Mr. Speaker: It is being considered now.

Shri Panigrahi: Last year they did not get any recurring or non-recurring grant.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: According to the rules in existence, only those institutions are given grants which are running at a loss. This particular institution was not running at a loss.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: Question No. 740 may also be clubbed with question No. 726. They are analogous. The content is the same.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Question No. 740 is concerned with food production.

Mr. Speaker: Both of them can go together. If there is a large production, there is no need for import.

Import of Foodgrains

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*726. { **Shri Bishwanath Roy:**
Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:
Shri Surendranath Dwivedy:
Shri N. R. Munisamy:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present reserve stock position of foodgrains with the Central Government;

(b) the amount of foodgrains planned to be imported during the first two years of the Second Five Year Plan;

(c) whether Government have prepared any revised programme for import of foodgrains after taking into consideration the present food shortage in the country, the failure of crops as a result of drought in several States and the estimated autumn foodgrain production throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the details of the additional quantities of foodgrains that would be needed?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) 7.8 lakh tons.

(b) During the two years 1956-57 and 1957-58 about 5.9 million tons of foodgrains are expected to be imported.

(c) and (d). A revised programme of imports is under preparation. I may also add that the stock that I have mentioned is the reserve lying with the Central Government. With the State Governments, there is a reserve of about 250,000 tons, so that the total reserves will be a little over a million tons.

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know whether any special quota out of the imported grain has been allotted to the deficit areas especially in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh and North Bihar?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Yes; the State Governments have put up their demand and we have met this demand in full.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know how much wheat and how much rice are to be imported and from which countries?

Shri A. M. Thomas: At present, according to our firm commitments or rather current contracts, we have to import about 1,336,000 tons; inclusive our normal marketings. On the 1st January, the stock of wheat would be 630,000 tons, so that the total availability will be 1,966,000 tons. Having regard to the expected demand during 1958, we may have to import a little more than two million tons of wheat and other coarse grains.

With regard to rice, according to our current commitments, we will have about 507,000 tons of rice: from Viet Nam 7,000 tons and from Burma 5 lakhs tons. It is estimated that, adding the quantity internally procured, we will have about 9 lakh tons, and we may have to import about three to four lakh tons of rice.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know how much will be the quantity of coarse grains out of this import?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have not determined what would be the proportion of wheat and what would be the coarse grains. It all depends on the availability, the price and other things.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What is the criterion taken into consideration before launching upon import and how many ounces of consumption is there per adult?

Shri A. P. Jain: In fact, we have received some assessment of the losses from the State Governments and for the time being we have tried to base our imports on the minimum losses that are expected. We have also tried to ascertain from the State Governments as to what their requirements are likely to be, and it is on the basis

of the estimates of the losses and all their requirements that we have based our import programme.

Shri Tyagi: What is the total cost, stipulated, of the foodgrains desired to be imported this year and the next year?

Shri A. P. Jain: 100,000 tons of foodgrains generally cost between Rs. 3 and 4 crores.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: For the two years?

Shri A. P. Jain: The total cost of this additional import of two millions tons will be about Rs. 70 crores.

Shri Tyagi: May I take it that during this year, only Rs. 70 crores worth of foodgrains will be imported totally?

Shri A. P. Jain: Excluding what has been imported.

Shri Tyagi: I wanted to know the total cost of imported grains this year.

Shri A. P. Jain: Does the hon. Member mean 1957?

Shri Tyagi: Financial year.

Shri A. P. Jain: It may be about Rs. 80 crores or Rs. 90 crores so far. I am speaking very roughly.

Shrimati Manjula Devi: May I know the names of the countries from which we are going to import foodgrains and the amount of foodgrains from each country?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want a list of that now? The total may be asked. The total was given.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : श्रीमान्-
बल मिनिस्टर साहब ने फरमाया कि स्टेट्स
की जो रिक्वायरमेंट होती है उनके बेसिस
पर इम्पोर्ट के वास्ते आर्डर दिया जाता है।
मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि किस सूबे की कितनी
रिक्वायरमेंट है सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से
इसकी कोई स्कुटिनी की जाती है, और आया
कि रिक्वायरमेंट दुस्त है या नहीं ?

श्री डॉ० प्र० जैन : जी हां, उन से बात-चीत करके पूरी जांच पड़ताल की जाती है। हम इस बात का भी अन्दाजा लगाते हैं कि हमारे पास कितना गेहूं और कितना चावल मौजूद होगा, और उस के बाद हम उन को देते हैं।

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know the quantity of rice that will be imported from Burma and the value thereof?

Shri A. P. Jain: 500,000 tons.

Mr. Speaker: The value thereof?

Shri A. P. Jain: As I have already said, it will be round about 350 to 400 rupees per ton.

Bilingual Teleprinter

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*727. { **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:**
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shri Vajpayee:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Japanese firm has invented and demonstrated Bilingual Teleprinter for English and Hindi both in New Delhi recently; and

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the possibility of using these machines in India?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) The suitability or otherwise of the machine is under experiment and examination.

श्री बाजपेयी : इस सम्बन्ध में जो प्रयोग किए जा रहे हैं उन के कब तक समाप्त होने की आशा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : निश्चित समय तो नहीं दे सकता, लेकिन इस को चलाने से पहले जांच करनी होगी कि पांच यूनिट कोड या छः यूनिट कोड वाले यंत्रों में से हमारी

आवश्यकता के लिए कौनसा अधिक उपयुक्त है।

श्री बाजपेयी : क्या यह सच है कि अभी हिन्दी और इंग्लिश के टेलीप्रिंटरों की मशीनों का जो किराया लिया जा रहा है उनकी वसूली के मापदंड अलग अलग हैं ? और यदि यह सच है तो इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : हिन्दी के टेलीप्रिंटरों के किराये इन्तहानन कम रखे गए थे, इसलिए कि वह ज्यादा चालू हो सकें।

श्री भक्त वंश : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो हिन्दी के टेलीप्रिंटर बन रहे हैं और जो नई मशीनें जापान से आई हैं, उनकी कीमतों में क्या अन्तर है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : माननीय सदस्य को यह ज्ञात होगा कि हम कोई हिन्दी टेलीप्रिंटर बना नहीं रहे हैं, जो अंग्रेजी के टेलीप्रिंटर से उनको हिन्दी में परिवर्तित करने की कोशिश की जा रही थी, और की जा रही है।

श्री भक्त वंश : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं दिया गया कि दोनों की कीमतों में क्या अन्तर है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : टेलीप्रिंटरें बनाये ही नहीं जा रहे हैं तो मूल्यों में अन्तर का सवाल ही क्या होगा ?

Eastern Railway Press

*728. **Shrimati Benu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1414 on the 3rd September, 1957 regarding Eastern Railway Press and state:

(a) whether Government have finished examination of the enquiry committee's report regarding corruption in the Eastern Railway Press; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Disciplinary action is being taken against three employees of the Press.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether this enquiry was carried out by the Railway Security Staff or by the Special Police Establishment?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The enquiry was conducted by two officers of the junior administrative grade.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know whether they enquired from all sections—both workers as well as establishment officers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As far as we are aware, they carried out a very thorough and extensive enquiry and they consulted various shades of opinion.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know against which of the employees action is being taken?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I cannot give the names of the employees. Action is being taken against three of the employees.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: May I know whether any action has been taken against the Superintendent, against whom charges were made?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: None of the charges levelled against the Superintendent could be substantiated.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Then may I know why the Superintendent was transferred from the Eastern Railway Press to the Central Railway Press?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Due to administrative reasons.

Student Concession Tickets

*729. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket in students concessions tickets for railway travel has been brought to the notice of the Railway Authorities in Bombay;

(b) if so, what is the method of operation of this racket and who are the people involved; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government to stop this racket?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Some cases of misuse of students concessional Suburban season tickets by some Commercial Institutes in Bombay have come to notice.

(b) Some Commercial Institutes running short-term courses were indiscriminately granting student certificates

(c) The Railways, in consultation with the Bombay State Educational Department, have restricted the issue of this concession to students of those Institutions only which prepare candidates for Government Diploma Examinations, providing instruction for a full academic year.

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan: Is it not a fact that proposals were made for a change in the procedure for the issue of these tickets?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No change in the procedure was considered necessary.

Mr. Speaker: Next Question.

Shri Panigrahi: Is it confined to Bombay only?

विद्यार्थियों द्वारा बिना टिकट यात्रा

*७३१. श्री बाजपेयी : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि रेलवे स्टेशनों और रेल गाड़ियों में विद्यार्थियों के बिना टिकट प्रवेश और उससे होने वाले उपद्रवों को रोकने के लिये सरकार किन विशेष उपायों को अपनाने पर विचार कर रही है ?

रेलवे डायरेक्टर (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) : बिना टिकट प्लेटफार्म में दाखिल होने और बिना टिकट रेल में सफर करने की रोक-थाम के लिए आमतौर पर जो कार्रवाइयाँ की जाती हैं वे सब बिना टिकट चलने वाले सभी मुसाफिरों के खिलाफ की जाती हैं जिनमें विद्यार्थी भी शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा कुछ इलाकों में, जहाँ विद्यार्थी बिना टिकट ज्यादा चलते हैं, कुछ खास कार्रवाइयाँ भी की गयी हैं जिनका बयान सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है। [बेसिये रिजिस्ट्रार ३, अगस्त संख्या २०] अब तक जो उपाय बरते गये हैं वे आगे भी जारी रहेंगे और उन पर ज्यादा मैसैदी से अमल किया जायेगा।

श्री बाजपेयी : वे कौनसे खास इलाके हैं जिनमें विद्यार्थी अधिक संख्या में बिना टिकट आते जाते पाये जाते हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : वे खासकर बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के स्टूडेंट हैं।

श्री बाजपेयी : क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में विद्यार्थी संस्थाओं और विद्यार्थी संगठनों का सहयोग प्राप्त करने का विचार रखती है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : जो ऐसा किया गया है और जहाँ यह चीज ज्यादा रूप में है वहाँ के इंस्टीट्यूशन के प्रिंसिपल से दरखास्त की गयी है कि जो तालिबान्म आते जाते हैं उनसे वे कहें कि वे पासेज बनवावें।

Assistant Commercial Inspectors on the N. E. Railway

*732. **Shri Yadav:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that within a period of a few months, three different systems were adopted for the selection of Assistant Commercial Inspectors on the North-Eastern Railway;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the system finally adopted is not in consonance with rules regarding

avenues of promotion groups in force on the North-Eastern Railway; and

(c) whether Government consider the question of scrapping the previous decisions and holding fresh selections according to rules?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The facts of the case have been called for from the Railway administration and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as received.

Development of Horticulture in Punjab

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*734. { **Shri Hem Raj:**
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy or grants sanctioned by the Central Government to the Punjab Government for the development of horticulture during 1956-57 and 1957-58;

(b) the amount utilised by the Punjab Government in 1956-57 out of the sanctioned amount; and

(c) whether any representation has been received by the Central Government of the establishment of an Apple Juice Factory?

The Minister of Co-operation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Rs. 45,810/- and Rs. 1,14,990/- were sanctioned by the Central Government as subsidy for the horticultural development schemes in Punjab during 1956-57 and 1957-58, respectively.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 8,000/- was incurred by the Punjab Government out of the sanctioned grant.

(c) No.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know whether the amount, which is left behind, has been given back to the Punjab Government for the year 1956-57?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I don't think anything is left so far.

Adulteration of Food

*735. **Shri Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Khesari Dhal, a poisonous food stuff is used as an adulterant;

(b) whether Government are also aware that such use leads to incurable paralysis of the limbs;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestions in a leading article in the 'Hindu' of September 1, 1957; and

(d) whether steps will be taken to prohibit both the cultivation and the sale of this noxious stuff?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes.

(b) It has not been clinically established that a paralytic condition, affecting the limbs occur in people who consume Khesari Dhal as a part of their daily dietary. Clinical and field investigations are however in progress

(c) Yes

(d) It is proposed to prohibit the cultivation of Khesari Dhal by propaganda and other suitable methods, if possible, and by legislation, if necessary.

The question of prohibiting the sale of Khesari Dhal in certain States under the P. F. A. Act 1954, is already under examination.

Shri Narasimhan: What are the States in which this poisonous food is produced?

Shri Karmarkar: Not poisonous but undesirable. My esteemed colleague from Bihar says that it is undesirable. But we, both the Food and Agriculture

Ministry and the Health Ministry, have come to the conclusion that it is something that should be discouraged and, later on, prohibited.

The Madras Government have asked for its prohibition and they have passed orders prohibiting the adulteration of other foodstuffs with Khesari Dhal. In other States, at our request, circulars have been issued to bring home to those people the harmful effects resulting from the use of Khesari Dhal.

Shri Narasimhan: I would like to know where these undesirable food articles are being grown and widely used?

Shri Karmarkar: I think in Bihar, Vindhya Pradesh and Eastern U. P.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Is it not a fact that the Madras Government prohibited the sale of this dhal on account of serious food poison and paralysis caused by it?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, the Madras Government had prohibited it. But later on the rules which had enabled them to prohibit the distribution of the dhal earlier were revised, and under the revised rules, that is the Food Adulteration Rules of 1955, no such prohibition could be made. That was their difficulty.

Shri Narasimhan: Who are the scientific authorities who are enquiring into the matter as to the full extent of the harm?

Shri Karmarkar: Various bodies are concerned with it. We considered it in the Health Ministry and we held the view in our Ministry that it was undesirable to encourage the production of this dhal; but the Central Committee for Food Standards appear to think that Khesari dhal is not likely to be injurious to health if consumed in small quantities.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Has the Health Ministry any scheme under its experts for examining the qualities of this

dhal and for analysing its effects on the general health of the people?

Shri Karmarkar: As I said in my answer, it is still under our examination. But the examination that we have been able to make in the Health Ministry shows that it is necessary to discourage the production of this dhal. I should also inform the House that my esteemed colleague, the Minister for Food and Agriculture, has said that in the long run there appears to be little doubt that the cultivation of Khesari dhal should be stopped by propaganda and other measures if possible, and by legislation if necessary. The States are being advised in the matter, and as regards immediate action he said that we should carry on propaganda against it.

Shri Easwara Iyer: May I know whether the poisonous element in the dhal has been isolated by any experiment?

Shri Karmarkar: These experiments have been carried on, I think, on rats, and as it happened. (*Interruption*) We do not attempt experiments and undesirable things on human beings. There are methods for researches. As it happened, no deleterious effect was produced on the animals which were fed on this. But the general opinion that we have been able to arrive at—and pending further expert opinion we must go by the opinion that we hold—is that it is undesirable to produce and distribute this dhal.

Mr. Speaker: His question was whether any experiment or research is being carried on to isolate the poisonous element or portion in such dhal?

Shri Karmarkar: The normal method is not to isolate the poisonous substance. It is not such an easy matter. The method is to try it on some animals to see the effect likely to be created on human beings. That is the accepted way of research in respect of many of these things. The idea is not to go on analysing and

finding out which is the poisonous stuff.

Study of Fisheries Activities in Japan

*737. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Government had sent a team of officers to study fisheries in Japan;

(b) whether the team has submitted any report; and

(c) the total cost incurred on the team?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Yes.

(b) Not yet.

(c) No expenditure has been incurred by the Govt. of India on the visit of this team to Japan, as all expenses on international travel and allowances in Japan were met by the Government of Japan under the Colombo Plan. The internal cost on travel of officers who were included in the team from place of duty to port of embarkation was borne by the respective State Governments.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether there was any proposal to afford special facilities to Japanese investors in India in collaboration with Indian interests and, if so, what are the special terms guaranteed to them?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Before the officers left we gave them instructions to examine the case of Japanese collaboration, that is of Japanese fishing industrialists collaborating with Indian industries on our coasts.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the fact that Japanese vessels are taking a good deal of the fish called duma fish from the Indian Ocean and it fetches a very good price in the American market, may I know whether Government directed our team to study the possibilities of finding out

the technique of Tuna fishery from the Japanese experts and whether they have succeeded in getting it?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In fact we want to take the collaboration of the Japanese themselves, so that the benefit of this Tuna and other fish which is caught will come to India, and we are negotiating with them to start companies on our coasts.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the hon. Minister has had an informal talk with the Leader of the Delegation on his return and, if so, whether there is any possibility, as reported by him, of getting Japanese finance for aiding the development of fisheries in India?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: After the Prime Minister's visit to Japan there is a likelihood of getting their full co-operation in this matter, and we are examining the case of inviting the Japanese fishing industry to aid our industry.

हिमाचल प्रदेश परिवहन सेवा

*७४१. श्री नेक राम नेगी क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश परिवहन सेवा के सोलनडुल्ली क्षेत्र के ११० कर्मचारियों को छंटनी के नोटिस दे दिये गये हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) इन कर्मचारियों ने परिवहन विभाग में कितने समय तक सेवा की है ; और

(घ) क्या उनमें से कोई हिमाचल प्रदेश परिवहन मजदूर संघ का सदस्य अथवा पदाधिकारी है ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्यमंत्री (श्री राम बहादुर) : (क) से (घ). अपेक्षित सूचना के लिये एक विवरण सभा की

मेज पर रख दिया गया है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट ३, अनुसूच्य संख्या २१]

Shri B. S. Murthy: Sir, Question No. 740 was not answered.

Mr. Speaker: I asked him to answer it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: But he did not answer. At that time it was not answered.

Shri B. S. Murthy: You ruled it out.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: He did not rule it out. The Minister did not answer.

Mr. Speaker: I said the amount of imports will be regulated by the quantity of food grown in the country. If it has not been answered, let it be answered now Hon. Members will follow what I say.

Food Production

*740. **Shri N. R. Munisamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any allotment has been made for augmenting food production in India by way of constructing medium size irrigation projects over and above the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): In regard to Second Year Plan as a whole no medium irrigation scheme would be considered out-side it. So far as irrigation sector is concerned, it is possible that in certain States additional schemes aiming at augmenting food production may be considered but these schemes will have to be adjusted within the overall ceiling of the Second Plan.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: What are the States for which these irrigation projects are thought of?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They refer to almost all the States, especially the

South Indian States where there is greater possibility of medium and minor irrigation than in the North.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: May I know the estimated cost that will be involved in these additional projects?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We have set apart Rs. 50 crores for minor irrigation works under the G.M.F. in the Second Five Year Plan. As large funds are required, where we get savings in the agricultural sector they will be diverted to increase the expenditure on minor irrigation works.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: In some of the scarcity areas, medium schemes are being undertaken to provide purchasing power as well as irrigation facilities. What will be the position where they are already not in the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The present position is that we want to lay greater emphasis on minor irrigation works, and when we have any savings from anywhere we would like to divert it for establishing minor irrigation works.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Flood Control Scheme

*719. **Shri Bishwanath Roy:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether Government have prepared any master plan for flood control regarding the important rivers, the Ganges, Ghagra, Gandak Rapti, etc?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): Not yet, Sir

Export of Sugar

*721. **Shri Abdul Salam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints had been received by Govern-

ment regarding the quality and packing of sugar exported by the Indian Sugar Mills Association to countries like Malaya etc. and also whether contracts had to be cancelled recently on account of non-shipment of the same in time;

(b) whether it is due to inability of the Association to exercise proper control; and

(c) if so, action taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). Some complaints regarding quality and packing of sugar exported abroad were received by the Indian Sugar Mills Association and not by the Government. Enquiries revealed that complaints could not be substantiated as sugar was exported after survey and grant of necessary certificates of quality and packing by surveyors of international repute as per terms of contract. Some contracts have been cancelled recently by foreign buyers as the contracted quantity could not be shipped within the stipulated period due to port congestion, inclement weather, etc.

Sarvodaya Sahyog Samitis

*722. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what assistance and co-operation Government intend to give to the Sarvodaya Sahyog Samitis for starting co-operative farming based on Sarvodaya principles; and

(b) whether any co-ordination has been achieved by Government between the activities of Sarvodaya workers, various State Governments and the Central Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The question of Co-operative Farming is under consideration of the Government of India. Sarvodaya Sahyog Samitis will be provided central assistance to the extent to which these are entitled under the rules that are framed.

(b) The policy in this regard is under consideration.

नये हवाई अड्डों का निर्माण

*७३०. श्री ह० चं० शर्मा : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या हलद्वानी (उत्तर प्रदेश) नवगाव (पश्चिमी बंगाल) और रत्नागिरी (बम्बई) में केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग द्वारा नये हवाई अड्डों को बनाने का काम योजना के अनुसार चल रहा है, और

(ख) इन हवाई अड्डों का निर्माण कार्य कब तक समाप्त होने की सम्भावना है ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) (क) और (ख) ३१-१०-५७ तक हलद्वानी में हवाई अड्डे के निर्माण में जितनी प्रगति हुई है उसका विवरण सभा के पटल पर रखा जा रहा है। [बैठिये परिशिष्ट ३, अनुबन्ध संख्या २२] यह हवाई अड्डा नियमित रूप से उपयोग में लाने के लिये १९५८ के अन्त तक उपलब्ध हो जायेगा। आर्थिक कारणों से नवगाव और रत्नागिरी में हवाई अड्डों के बनाने के काम में प्रगति नहीं हो सकी है।

Opening of Telegraph Offices

*733. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have received any representations from the general public and the businessmen of Ferozepore, Guru Har Sahai, Jalalabad, Mamdhot Lekehe Wali, Mandi Roran Wali and Baru Wali and Ladhuka in the district of Ferozepore for opening telegraph offices and public call-offices there; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the

Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 23]

Sugarcane

*736. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to give some sort of incentive bonus to cane growers for improved quality of sugar cane, and

(b) if so, whether this scheme will be put into practice during this season?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to give an incentive bonus to cane growers for improved quality of sugar cane on statutory basis. An experimental scheme has, however, been initiated to examine the possibility of devising a suitable system by which payment of cane price can be made to cultivators on the basis of quality. This scheme is still in an experimental stage. It was tried in 9 factories during the crushing season of 1956-57 and is likely to be tried again during the current season. The results of the experiment in the last season were laid on the Table of the Sabha in reply to Shri Morarka's starred question No 310 on the 24th July 1957.

Death of Railway Watchmen

*738. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that a night watchman near Karaikudi and a night watchman near Tirumangalam in the Madurai Division of the Southern Railway died while on duty,

(b) whether deaths were due to accidents;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to prevent recurrence, and

(d) whether compensation has been paid to the families of the deceased?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 24.]

Canadian Aid for Fisheries Development

*739. **Shri Subbiah Ambalam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed Canadian aid for the fisheries development project at Tuticorin in Madras State fell through;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government are negotiating with other countries like Japan for such aid?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Canadian Department of Fisheries had limited resources which were fully occupied with development of fisheries in their own country.

(c) No, Sir.

Gir Lions

*742. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 173 on the 22nd February, 1956 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken to preserve the gir lions;

(b) how far they have been effective; and

(c) whether the danger of their extinction has been averted?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) (i) The Gir Forest has been declared a sanctuary and is closed for hunting throughout the year. (ii) A second home for the Gir lion has been found in the Chandraprabha sanctuary near Banaras in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The lion population is reported to be on the increase.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Turmeric Exports

*743. **Kumari M. Vedakumari:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the condition of turmeric exports to Pakistan from Andhra as the price has fallen abnormally and farmers have been affected badly?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): The export of turmeric is allowed freely. No restrictions or conditions have been imposed. Data regarding exports of this commodity from different States in India to Pakistan and to other countries is not compiled. The figures of export from India to Pakistan and other countries are as follows:—

	(In tons)		
	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57*
To Pakistan	1096	1204	2231
To all destinations	6838	7556	10407

*Figures for 1956-57 are for nine months only.

The exports, particularly in 1956-57, are on the increase. The fall in price is due partly to larger production of the crop within the country and partly to a fall in the turmeric prices in world markets.

Railway Mail Service Division

*744. **Shri B. C. Mullick:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the criteria followed for grading of Railway Mail Service Division as Class I and Class II?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): R.M.S. Divisions having 250 or more operative sorters (including staff sanctioned to provide weekly offs to the staff) are graded as Class I; the rest as Class II.

Pakistan Opted Railway Employees

*745. **Shri Balkrishna Wasnik:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of Railway employees who

opted for Pakistan, and who had later expressed their desire to be employed on the Indian Railways have not been taken back in service particularly on the Eastern Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): No. All those railway employees who had provisionally opted to serve Pakistan but later changed their option for India Final before 15-2-1948 were absorbed. Those who had opted Pakistan Final but did not proceed to that country and applied for employment were also re-employed on railways subject to the availability of vacancies and their being found suitable. In the case of those who had opted Pakistan Final and had migrated to that country but later returned to India and requested for employment, the Ministry of Railways decided that their cases may also be sympathetically considered for re-employment on railways subject to their being found suitable.

Railway Bridge

*746. **Shri Jagdish Awasthi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how old is the railway bridge on the river between Bilhaur and Araul Makanpur Railway stations on the North Eastern Railway;

(b) when the bridge was last checked by the Railway Engineering staff; and

(c) whether Government are satisfied about the safety of the bridge?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawas Khan): (a) Presumably the bridge referred to is at mile 35/0-1 over the Shan nadi. If so, the bridge masonry is about 76 years old and the steel spans about 22 years old.

(b) This bridge was last inspected in August, 1957, by the Assistant Engineer, Bridges, North-Eastern Railway.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Damage to Assam Trunk Road

*747. **Shrimati Mafda Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Assam Trunk Road (National Highway) between Sibsagar and Dibrugarh has been damaged during September 1957;

(b) if so, the reason thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) The Section from Rajmaji Tea Estate to Demow Charali of the road was raised in level by carrying out some earthwork, because it used to be submerged under water during the rains and traffic had to be suspended for varying periods in past-years.

(c) The earth work has now got consolidated and should give no trouble in future.

Post Offices in Punjab

*748. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Post Offices of all categories in the Punjab Circle are housed in the rented buildings;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to acquire sites for the construction of buildings for the Post Offices in all the districts under this circle;

(d) whether any proposal to construct quarters for the staff working in this circle is under contemplation; and

(e) if so, with what results?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. (See Appendix III, annexure No. 25]

Fifteenth World Vegetarian Congress

Kottayam-Quilon

*749. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have taken any interest and participated to any extent in the Fifteenth World Vegetarian Congress held recently in Bombay; and

(b) if so, the nature of interest and extent and manner of participation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Except that the President of India inaugurated the Session the Government of India have not officially participated in it or taken part in its deliberations.

(b) Does not arise.

Over-crowding in Trains

*750. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether over-crowding in trains from or to Howrah Station has considerably increased in recent times;

(b) whether almost all the trains are reaching or leaving Howrah irregularly;

(c) if so, the causes thereof; and

(d) the steps that are being taken to overcome the difficulties?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) There has been some increase in the extent of overcrowding in some of the trains running to and from Howrah. At the same time there has also been decrease in overcrowding in other trains.

(b) No. But some of the trains arrived at and departed from Howrah behind schedule.

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 28.]

*751. Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state when the Kottayam-Quilon section of the Southern Railway is proposed to be opened?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): By about December, 1957.

Cane Pest and Disease Control Boards

*752. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1143 on the 3rd September, 1957, and state:

(a) whether any decision regarding the setting up of the Cane Pest and Disease Control Boards has since been arrived at; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). It is for the State Governments to take the decision. The Madras and Bombay Governments have decided not to set up such boards. The matter is still under consideration by the Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Orissa and Kerala.

पूना में ग्लाइडर हवाई अड्डों की योजना

*७५३. श्री ह० चं० शर्मा : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पूना में ग्लाइडर हवाई अड्डा योजना पर कितना व्यय करने का विचार है ; और

(ख) क्या राजस्थान में भी ग्लाइडर योजना प्रारम्भ की जायेगी ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री रात्र बहादुर) : (क) प्रावश्यक सुविधाओं सहित पूना के नये ग्लाइडर डीम की लागत लगभग ५.४ लाख रुपये प्राक्क-मित की जाती है ।

(ख) अभी ऐसी कोई योजना विचार-धीन नहीं है ।

Wheat Prices in Himachal Pradesh

*754. **Shrinani Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the prices of wheat in out-lying districts of Himachal Pradesh have gone up very high; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to make available wheat to the people at reasonable prices in the interior?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No report of any abnormal rise in prices of wheat in the out-lying districts of Himachal Pradesh has been received.

(b) 40,000 maunds of wheat has been supplied to Himachal Pradesh from Central Stocks during September-October, 1957 at Rs. 14 per maund F.O.R. destination, and the Himachal Pradesh Administration are arranging supplies to out-lying areas out of these stocks.

Vegetable Oils

*755. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ghee and edible vegetable oils go waste in large quantities, due to the lack of proper storage conditions and get rancid; and

(b) if so, the estimated value thereof every year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) While it is a fact that ghee and vegetable oils get rancid due to lack of proper storage, they are not generally wasted as they can be refined or used for other purposes such as for frying or in industry.

(b) Precise information regarding the quantities of ghee and vegetable oils which get rancid, is not available.

Power Project on Punasa River

*756. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have investigated a power project on Punasa River; and

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) There is no river bearing the name Punasa. Perhaps the reference is to the Punasa Dam Project on Narmada River in Madhya Pradesh. Some investigations to establish project feasibilities have been conducted.

(b) The project comprises:

(i) construction of a 270 ft. high dam across the river Narmada at Punasa, about 45 miles south-east of Indore, with a gross storage of 10 million acre-feet;

(ii) construction of a Power Station at the toe of the Dam with an installed capacity of 385,000 k.w. to enable generation of 330,000 k.w. of firm power at 60 per cent load factor;

(iii) necessary transmission system to reach the various load centres.

Development of Minor Ports

*757. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stage of development of three minor ports of Tuticorin, Cuddalore and Nagapattinam in Madras State; and

(b) whether there is a proposal to direct foodgrains to these ports?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Development of minor ports is primarily the responsibility of State Governments.

A statement showing the present stage of development of the three ports is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 27].

(b) These ports have handled food-grain imports in the past. They will be used for similar imports in the future also as and when necessary.

Discontinuance of Steamer Service

- *759. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Radha Raman:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Jhulan Sinha:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed an Inland Water Transport Enquiry Committee to assess the transport needs of Bihar;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and composition of this Committee;

(c) whether the above Committee has submitted any interim or final report so far;

(d) if so, the main recommendations;

(e) the decisions taken in the matter; and

(f) the alternate arrangements proposed to be made for running ferry services by river to and from Bihar in the event of Joint Steamer Companies discontinuing this service from the 1st January, 1958?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 28].

Anti-Oxidant

*760. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an anti-oxidant has been evolved by one of the Scientists of the Pusa Institute, New Delhi which will ensure keeping quality of vegetable oils and fats;

(b) whether Government of India have investigated the possibility of producing the anti-oxidant to meet the country's demands of this material; and

(c) the source of the material and its efficacy as revealed in the laboratory tests?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes. Resinous extractives obtained from one variety of the *Myristica* seeds showed strong antioxidant properties, but it cannot be recommended for edible oils because of its high toxicity as indicated by preliminary trials.

(b) Question does not arise at this stage.

(c) The anti oxygenic material was obtained from the seeds of *Myristica malabarica*, reported to grow wild on the Western Ghats. In its activity the material compared favourably with butylated hydroxy toluene, one of the commercial antioxidants.

Radio Telephone Service

*761. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with which India has direct Radio telephone service, Radio telegraph and Radio-photo services;

(b) whether there is any programme for the extension of these services;

(c) if so, the nature of the programme with total expenditure estimated; and

(d) when these programmes will be completed?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 29].

Derailment of Engine

*762. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engine of the Madras-Bangalore Mail derailed near Kuppam on the 18th November, 1957;

(b) if so, the reasons for the derailment; and

(c) the extent of damage caused to the engine?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 30].

(c) There was no damage to the engine.

Security Money for Telephone Installation

*763. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to reduce the security money for the installation of a telephone from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 1000; and

(b) if so, the date from which the proposal will be implemented?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) At Kanpur the OYT deposit has been reduced from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 1000. For other places where the OYT scheme is in force, there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

Agartala Municipality

971. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed at present as permanent staff to keep the drains of Agartala Municipality clean;

(b) whether the number is adequate in view of the fact that the drains are all kuchcha; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the drains have become breeding ground for malaria and other diseases, because of lack of drain-clearance?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmakar): (a) Twenty-five.

(b) The number is not inadequate. The drains are cleaned throughout the year, and if occasion demands, the strength of workers is increased by engaging extra labourers.

(c) That is not so.

Production of Food crops in Manipur

972. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated productions of paddy, wheat, maize and other food crops respectively for the years 1955, 1956 and 1957 in Manipur;

(b) the estimated average yield of paddy in maunds per acre in Manipur in the years mentioned above;

(c) the basis of calculation of the estimated annual paddy yields in Manipur; and

(d) the annual quantity of exportable surplus during 1956-57?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 31].

Agricultural Loan in Tripura

973. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether certificates are being issued against peasants for the realisation of agricultural loan in Tripura;

(b) whether it is a fact that due to failure of crop most of these peasants are not in a position to repay the loans;

(c) whether petitions have been made for suspension of certificate proceedings; and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw the certificate notices for the present as a result thereof?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) There is no general crop failure making it impossible for the cultivators to repay the loans.

(c) Out of 1120 persons against whom loanes certificates were issued only 263 persons have submitted petitions requesting for the suspension of certificate proceedings. Each case is being examined and decision will be taken on merits.

(d) No.

Overcrowding on Trains

974. Shri Nanjappa: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) how many coaches have so far been built in the Integral Coach Factory, Madras ever since its inception; and

(b) how many of them have been put into use in the Nilgiri Cochin and Malabar Expresses to reduce overcrowding?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 213.

(b) Nil.

Transfer of the Office of Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa

975. Shri B. C. Mullick: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the office of Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Orissa is likely to be shifted to Bhubaneswar due to lack of accommodation at Cuttack;

(b) whether it is a fact that Orissa Government are willing to transfer the required land to Posts and Telegraphs Department free of cost at

Bhubaneswar for the construction of the office buildings and staff quarters;

(c) whether the construction has been started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d). The proposal is under examination. Negotiations with the State Government are in progress regarding the transfer of land. Construction will be taken up, after the scheme is fully examined and sanctioned.

Ranipet Railway Station

976. Shri N. E. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the public and local bodies to bring Ranipet Railway Station in Southern Railway on the main line between Madras-Bangalore by dismantling the line between Walajah Road Junction station and Mukundarayapuram station and connecting Ranipet Station and Munkundarayapuram by a new line, the distance being the same;

(b) whether the proposal involves the elimination of the present shuttle train running between Ranipet and Walajah Road Station;

(c) whether similar demand was made by the State Government; and

(d) whether such a proposal was before the Railway Board from 1930 onwards and the said proposal was examined and found feasible from operational point of view?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The proposal was examined and was found not justified both from the financial and operational points of view.

Vellore-Conjeevaram Railway Line

977. Shri N. R. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the engineering survey to construct a new line between Vellore and Conjeevaram has been completed;

(b) if so, what are the main towns and places to be connected by the new construction of lines;

(c) whether the proposed new line is to be a metre gauge or a broad gauge;

(d) the estimated cost of this construction; and

(e) when the work is likely to start?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise.

(e) This is not included in the Second Five Year Plan for construction.

Kallar-Adderley Bridge

978. Shri N. R. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the bridge between Kallar and Adderley had been washed away due to heavy rains (Southern Railway);

(b) what alternative arrangements were made for transshipment on the Mettupalaiyam Coonoor Section on the Southern Railway since the bridge had partly been damaged as a result of landslide on the Nilgiri Mountains;

(c) whether the landslides were cleared and if so, when; and

(d) the amount spent on such clearance?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No bridge was washed away. However, on 11th November, 1957, a length of fifty feet of bank in the approaches of bridge No. 23 consisting of two C.I. pipes of 1'3" dia each at mile H.5/12-

13 between Kallar and Adderley slipped during heavy rains, causing a breach of about 20 ft. depth.

(b) As transshipment was not possible, passengers and parcels were cleared by buses between Mettupalaiyam and Coonoor. The train services between Coonoor and Ootacamund however were maintained.

(c) The breached length was repaired at 17.30 hours on 14th November, 1957.

(d) The approximate expenditure involved in the restoration work connected with the above breach is Rs. 10,000.

Committee on Fuel Consumption

979. Shri N. R. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the estimated cost of conducting enquiry and investigation into the question of fuel consumption on Railways by the Committee which has been constituted for the purpose?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Rs. 25,000 approximately.

Loans to Cultivators

980. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total amount given by the Centre to the Bombay State for advancing loans to cultivators during the First Five Year Plan and the Second Plan period so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The total amount given to pre-integrated Bombay State for advancing loans to cultivators during the First Five Year Plan is Rs. 76.50 lakhs.

During the Second Five Year Plan for the year 1956-57 an amount of Rs. 22.75 lakhs was given. During the year 1957-58 a total loan of Rs. 91.74 lakhs has been approved.

Purna River Project, Bombay State

981. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact

that the Purna River Project in the Marathwada region of Bombay has been dropped from the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Brow Bridge

982. { Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Padam Dev:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to widen the bridges at Luri and Brow (Rampur) on river Sutlej in Mahasu District (Himachal Pradesh) to make them motorable for through vehicular traffic;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct another bridge at the upper end of Rampur Bazaar (North);

(c) whether any representation has been received by Government from the people of that area; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d). There is no proposal to widen the existing bridge at Luri. It is, however, proposed to construct a new single-lane motorable bridge at Luri during the current Five-Year Plan. No representation has been received from the people of the area for widening the existing bridge at Luri.

The bridge at Brow (Rampur) is under the control of the Government of Punjab. The Government of India are not concerned with the question of widening this bridge or that of constructing a new bridge.

Work on Ex-O.T.R. Section

983. Shri Anirudh Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay

on the Table a statement showing the following works done in the ex-O.T.R. Section of the North Eastern Railway between the period from the 1st April, to the 31st October, 1957:

(i) addition of passenger coaches to relieve over-crowding;

(ii) the mileage of lines doubled;

(iii) the mileage of new lines laid; and

(iv) the number and names of new crossing stations opened and new marshalling yards constructed or enlarged?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 32.]

New Telephone Connections

984. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state how many applications for telephone connections were received at Delhi in 1955, 1956 and 1957 as far as available?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):

1955	1186.
1956	3153
1957 upto 31-10-1957	2051.

Delhi Displaced Persons' Colonies

985. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) how many owners in the Delhi Displaced Persons' Colonies have applied to Government during 1957 to alter their structures in accordance with the originally approved plans; and

(b) how many applications have been granted?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmakar): (a) and (b). No application from owners of houses in Displaced Persons' Colonies for altering their structures was received by Government. The New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Delhi Development (Provisional) Authority however, received 994 applications from

such persons during the period from the 1st January, 1957 to the 31st October 1957, of which 748 were sanctioned.

Ship Building Training to Indians in U.K.

987. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of United Kingdom have offered to give practical training in ship-building to Indians; and

(b) if so, whether the selection of the candidates has been completed?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No

(b) Does not arise.

National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme

987. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the amount set apart for safe water supply in the Community Project and National Extension Areas during the Second Five Year Plan period under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme; and

(b) the number of wells and tanks to be constructed in each State during the Second Five Year Plan, year-wise?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No amount has specifically been set apart for safe water supply in the Community Project and National Extension Areas under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme during the Second Plan period.

(b) Necessary information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is complete.

Katra Owners in Delhi

988. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer

to the reply given to Starred Question No. 952 on the 17th August, 1957 and state the number of Katra owners in Delhi to whom notices to provide necessary amenities have been given from the 15th of August to the 15th of November, 1957?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): Twenty-three notices were issued under sub-section (i) of section 4 of the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1956 to owners of private katra requiring them to provide necessary basic amenities in their respective katra during this period.

Chandigarh Aerodrome

989. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the modernisation and expansion scheme of Chandigarh aerodrome;

(b) whether it is a fact that some time back Government decided to expand the capacity of the aerodrome in Chandigarh, so that bigger planes may be able to land there;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take in near future to expedite the expansion programme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The existing aerodrome at Chandigarh has been provided with an all-weather runway 1500 X 33 yards with necessary taxi-tracks and apron, technical and residential buildings. Essential equipment and staff have also been provided there, and the aerodrome is fully equipped to meet the needs of Civil Aviation.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Stabilization of Assam Rail Link

990. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred

Question No. 1553 on the 6th September, 1957 and state the cost involved in implementing the scheme for the stabilization of Assam Rail Link?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): A sum of Rs. 3.5 crores has been approved by the Railway Board to strengthen the existing Assam Rail Link Route. The details are being worked out.

Assistant Station Masters (Dinapore Division)

991. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation regarding the determination of seniority of the Assistant Station Masters of the Dinapore Division of the Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that pending any decision of the same, promotions have been given to juniors coming from the ex-Bengal-Assam Railway; and

(c) if so, the causes therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). This does not arise as the seniority of staff concerned was determined in accordance with the directive issued by the Railway Board in 1948 and Government are satisfied that no injustice has been done in the matter.

Training on Diesel Locomotives

992. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees sent by the South-Eastern Railway Zone for training in the U.S.A. on working Diesel Locomotives; and

(b) the period of training and the expenditure incurred thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Seven

comprising of one Officer and six Supervisory staff.

(b) The period of training exclusive of journey period is 4½ months and the estimated expenditure Rs. 1,15,000.

Quarters for Railwaymen

993. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of quarters constructed between the 1st April and the 31st October, 1957 for the Railwaymen on different zones;

(b) the number of essential staff not yet provided with quarters; and

(c) the amount spent since the beginning of the Second Plan upto the 30th September, 1957 for the construction of quarters?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) About 6,430.

(b) 2,16,781 approximately.

(c) Rs. 8 crores and 30 lakhs approximately.

सड़कों का विकास

६६४. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री २४ जुलाई, १९५७ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २६७ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रथम योजना से आई हुई स्वीकृत सड़क योजनाओं के लिये जो १५ करोड़ रुपये की धन-राशि निश्चित की गई है, उनका व्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) उत्तरी और उत्तर-पूर्वी सीमान्त क्षेत्रों की सड़क योजना के लिये जो दो करोड़ रुपये की धन-राशि निश्चित की गई थी, उसको विभिन्न राज्यों की किन किन सड़कों के लिये रखा गया है ; और

(ग) महत्वपूर्ण पर्यटन केन्द्रों तक जाने वाली सड़कों के विकास के लिये जो एक करोड़

रूपों की कम-राशि निश्चित की गई थी, उसका वितरण किस प्रकार किया गया है ?

परिष्कार तथा संस्कार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) अपेक्षित सूचना के लिये विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है [पुस्तका-य में रखा गया है । देखिये एल० टी०-४१२/५७]

(ख) कार्य-क्रम को अभी तक अन्तिम रूप नहीं दिया गया है ।

(ग) एक करोड़ रुपये की पूंजी को अभी तक पूरी तौर पर राज्यों में वितरण नहीं किया गया है । अब तक कुल ४ ४६ लाख रुपये के अनुदान कुछ लाख राज्यों को दिये गये हैं जैसा कि मंत्रालय विवरण से स्पष्ट है ।

Air Crashes

995. Shri A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 268 on the 30th July, 1956 and state

(a) the number of IAC and All planes which crashed since July, 1956;

(b) how many human lives were lost;

(c) the estimated loss to Government, and

(d) what action Government is going to take to safeguard against such crashes?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Six up to 30th November, 1957 All the aircraft belonged to the IAC

(b) Nine No passenger was, however, killed

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha later.

(d) For preventing accidents and ensuring greater safety of air opera-

tions the following steps have been taken:—

1. Recommendations made in the Investigation Reports of aircraft accidents in India and abroad are studied and implemented as far as practicable.

2. Modern and improved equipment is being introduced in the air as well as on the ground to ensure safe navigation of aircraft.

3 The standard of airline and air traffic personnel, including pilots, engineers and Air Traffic Control Officers is being maintained by a high level by careful selection, planned training and strict checking.

4 Air safety literature is circulated in the form of circulars, issued by the Civil Aviation Department to pilots, engineers and others concerned with Air transport.

5 To ensure a high standard amongst commercial pilots the following measures were taken.—

(a) The services of a check-pilot and an Instructor were obtained from K.L.M Dutch airlines A sufficient number of qualified Instructors were trained by them for the Indian Airlines Corporation

(b) The Civil Aviation Department have laid down that all pilots-in-command should have acquired Instrument Rating Certificate by the 1st January, 1958

(c) Pilots are required to undergo route checks and local checks in emergencies and instrument flying once in every six months

(d) For every new type of aircraft ratification check is carried out in addition to the tests prescribed under the Indian Aircraft Rules before the new type is endorsed on the Pilots' 'B' licence

6 To improve the airworthiness of aircraft the following action has been taken:—

(a) The conversion to Fenwal Fire Detection System has been made

mandatory in the case of Dakota aircraft to prevent false fire alarms.

(b) Official supervision of all maintenance work carried out during the night on Indian Airlines Corporation aircraft has been introduced with a view to ensuring compliance with safety requirements.

(c) Stage inspection on both Dakota and Viking aero engines undergoing overhaul at the various Indian Airlines Corporation bases has been introduced.

(d) The period between overhauls has been reduced in the case of Hercules engines fitted to Viking aircraft.

(e) The operators have been advised to make available two persons at wing tip locations for marshalling aircraft when taxiing.

7 All delays in the departure of aircraft, attributed to mechanical defects are investigated and remedial action taken. Similarly, any mechanical failure of any component is subject to thorough enquiry.

Railway Rolling Stock

996. Shri Narayanankutty Menon: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that very old coaches and engines are provided for running on the Ernakulam Kottayam line; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to substitute the old coaches on this line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Of the five engines working on this section, only two are above 40 years of age. Of the 19 coaches working on that section, only two are more than 33 years old.

(b) After the through-connection is established and the track consolidated more powerful locomotives will be provided and the position of coaches reviewed.

Post Offices in Orissa

997. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1205 on the 26th August, 1957 in respect of Post Office in Orissa and state:

(a) whether any house rent allowance is paid to the Posts and Telegraphs staff in lieu of non-provision of Government quarters; and

(b) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) (i) Central Government employees are paid house rent allowance in costlier cities and localities as notified by the Government from time to time. House rent allowance is also paid to those who are entitled to rent free accommodation and who are not so provided on account of non-availability of accommodation.

(b) The requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 33.]

Chupra Kacheri and Chupra Stations

998. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Parcel traffic at Chupra Kacheri and Chupra Stations (NER) has greatly increased and there is shortage of accommodation at these stations;

(b) whether the parcel goods are exposed to rains and sun at these stations and get damaged; and

(c) whether any damage claim has been lodged for damages for these stations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The volume of parcel traffic dealt with at these stations during 1955-56 and 1956-57 is more than that in 1954-55, but it is less in 1956-57 as compared with that in 1955-56. The existing accommodation for parcel traffic

is not sufficient and steps are being taken to increase the same.

(b) No.

(c) No.

हिमालय क्षेत्र में बाढ़ का रोकना।

६६६. श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या सिंचाई और बिजुन् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमालय के क्षेत्र में भूक वृक्ष बाढ़ को रोकने है ; और

(ख) यदि हा, तो क्या सरकार का कोई ऐसी योजना बनाने का विचार है जिससे भूक के वर्तमान वृक्ष काटे न जा सकें और ऐसे क्षेत्रों में जहाँ ये वृक्ष न हो इन्हें लगाया जाये ?

सिंचाई और बिजुन् मंत्री (श्री स० का० पाटिल) : (क) नदियों के बाहक्षेत्रों में उगने वाले भूक वृक्ष ही नहीं वरन् अथ वृक्ष और पौधे भूमि में विशेष तत्वों को मिला कर उसकी शोषण क्षमता को बढ़ाते हुये उसकी रचना में सुधार कर सकते हैं, जिससे बहाव कम हो जाता है । किन्तु भूमि के पूरी तरह से तर हो जाने के बाद, वृक्षों और पौधों का अति बाढ़ बहाव पर कोई महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव नहीं पड़ता ।

(ख) उत्तर नकारात्मक है ।

Telephone Directories

1000. Shri V. C. Shukla: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether Government have considered the desirability of arranging subject matter of telephone directories in a uniform manner to enhance facility of reference?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes

Passenger Sheds

1001. Shri Basumatari: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that when the Deputy Minister for

Railways visited Assam, a delegation submitted to him a memorandum pressing for the provision of passenger waiting sheds in important railway stations such as Barpeta Road, Tihu, Nalbari, Kokrajhar and Fakiragram etc; and

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating the provision of these essential passenger facilities in the Assam Link Railway Stations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Representations regarding provision of passenger amenities, in general, were submitted to the Deputy Minister for Railways during his tour of Assam, but no memorandum regarding these particular stations was received by him

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No. 34]

हिमाचल प्रदेश में विधायक गृहों के चौकीदार

१००२ श्री पद्म देव : क्या साधू तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को यह विदित है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश के वन तथा लोक-निर्माण विभागों में द्वितीय श्रेणी के विधायक गृहों के चौकीदारों का वेतन केवल २२ ५० रुपये है ,

(ख) क्या सरकार को यह भी विदित है कि इन चौकीदारों को वहाँ सदा उपस्थित रहना पड़ता है ;

(ग) क्या सरकार उनकी वेतन-वृद्धि पर विचार कर रही है , और

(घ) यदि हा, तो यह कब तक किया जायेगा ?

साधू तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री अ० प्र० जैन) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) जी हा ।

(न) तथा (घ). इन के विश्राम गृहों (Rest Houses) और सी० पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० (C. P. W. D.) विश्राम गृहों के बीकीदारों के वर्तमान बेतन स्केल (Scale) जो कि अभी हाल में वर्षात् १-३-१६५७ को रिवाइज्ड (Revised) किये गये, क्रमशः २७- $\frac{1}{4}$ -३२ और २५- $\frac{1}{4}$ -२७ है, इसके साथ हिमाचल प्रदेश में ग्राम तौर पर मिलने वाले सब भत्ते और विश्राम गृहों के आउट-हाउसेज (out-houses) में मुफ्त निवास स्थान दिया जाता है। वर्तमान दशा में कोई बेतन वृद्धि का विचार नहीं है।

Marketing and Warehousing Schemes in West Bengal

1003. Shrimati Benu Chakravartty: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1408 on the 3rd September, 1957 and state:

(a) whether schemes relating to marketing and warehousing have since been received from the West Bengal Government,

(b) the number and location of warehouses in the State;

(c) the number and type of marketing societies proposed; and

(d) the total amount sanctioned under these heads of warehousing and marketing?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The Scheme relating to Cooperative Marketing has been received. The scheme concerning the establishment of State Warehousing Corporation is still awaited.

(b) The warehouses of Central Warehousing Corporation viz., one at Midnapore and the other at Cooch-Bihar are proposed during the year 1957-58.

(c) 21. This includes seven marketing societies of the primary type and one apex marketing society to

be newly organised and 13 marketing societies to be reorganized during the year 1957-58.

(d) An amount of Rs. 11.29 lakhs is approved for marketing schemes. No amount has been sanctioned for Warehousing Corporation of the State so far.

First Aid Boxes on N.E. Railway

1004. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 'first aid' boxes maintained on trains have generally no stock therein especially on the North Eastern Railway; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the action taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Freight Charges on Ambala-Nahan Route

1005. Shri Y. S. Parmar: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a marked difference between the freight charged by the private operators and Himachal Pradesh Government Transport between Ambala and Nahan; and

(b) if so, what?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). As the Himachal Government Transport are not operating any goods vehicles between Ambala and Nahan, the question of difference in freight rates does not arise.

Sholapur Station

1006. Shri Sugandhi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sholapur Station of the Central Railway has been built anew;

(b) the amount spent over the construction;

(c) whether it is a fact that after the construction had begun, Government were unable to supply steel materials; and

(d) if so, what was the estimated rate for the steel materials and what rates were allowed for the same to the contractor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated cost is Rs 5,43,346/-. As the accounts of the work have not been finally closed, it is not possible to give exactly the amount spent on the construction.

(c) The original contract for the work stipulated that steel for RCC work will be supplied by the contractor. On change of design of the cantilever roof in front of the station building requiring very much heavier re-inforcement, the contractor expressed his inability to supply steel whereupon the Railway undertook to supply steel and get the work done at a fresh negotiated rate excluding the cost of steel for this portion of the work.

(d) In the circumstances, the question of charging the contractor for supply of steel at any particular rate does not arise.

सिन्दरी के लिये रेल के माल डिब्बे

१००७ श्री अमृतसिंह भटौरिया : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सिन्दरी के कारखाने को कोयला और जिप्सम इत्यादि ले जाने के लिये और वहाँ से उर्वरक लाने के लिये १६५६-५७ में प्रति दिन औसत कितने माल-गाड़ी के डिब्बों का प्रयोग किया गया ; और

(ख) क्या सिन्दरी के कारखाने में परिवहन की कठिनाइयों को देखते हुए वहाँ किसी रेल मार्ग पर बोहरी लाइन बिछाई गई है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खान) :

(क) १६५६-५७ में सिन्दरी खाद कारखाने को जो माल डिब्बे दिये गये उनकी दैनिक औसत तादाद इस प्रकार थी :—

कोयला	६३ माल डिब्बे
जिप्सम	६१ "
दूसरी चीजे	६ "
कुल	१६० "

सिन्दरी से खाद लाद कर जो माल डिब्बे गये उनकी दैनिक औसत तादाद ५५ थी ।

(ख) सिन्दरी कारखाने की माल-डिब्बों की कुल मांग पूरी की जा रही है । सिन्दरी कारखाने और इस इलाके के दूसरे सहायक उद्योगों के बड़े हुए यातायात के लिए इमदादी साईडिंग की शर्तों के अनुसार सिन्दरी मार्शलिंग यार्ड और सिन्दरी कारखाने के बीच एक दूसरी इकहरी लाइन बिछाई गयी है ।

Gur and Khandasari Sub-Committee

1008. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the date when the Gur and Khandasari Sub-Committee of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee met last time;

(b) the main recommendations of the Sub-Committee;

(c) whether Government have considered these recommendations;

(d) whether any of the recommendations have been accepted by Government; and

(e) if so, steps taken by Government to implement these?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 23rd March, 1957.

(b) The recommendations of the Sub-Committee are given in the statement placed on the Table of the Lok

Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 35].

(c) These recommendations will be implemented by the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee and not the Government.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

Cardamom Plantations

1000. **Shri R. Narayanasami:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to encourage the plantation of cardamom in Andaman Island; and

(b) if so, the total area to be brought under plantation there?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). As experiments with cardamom cultivation conducted previously have proved unsuccessful, it is not proposed to undertake any large scale cultivation of cardamom in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Agriculture Department of the Islands will, however, continue to conduct small scale experiments as part of its normal work.

Road Regulator Bridge over Krishna River

1010. **Shri P. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regulator-cum-Road Bridge on Krishna river at Bezwada has been completed; and

(b) the total extra expenditure incurred over the final estimates?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir. The work is however very nearly completed. Progress up to end of October 1957 was 95%.

(b) Anticipated expenditure about Rs. 55.58 lakhs against sanctioned estimate of Rs. 39.80 lakhs.

Ticketless Travel

1011. { **Shri Hem Raj:**
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ticketless travellers in 1956-57 and upto the end of October, 1957 in the Delhi and Ferozepur Division of the Northern Railways and

(b) the categories of the travellers who were mainly involved in this evasion of the Railway revenue?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The number of passengers detected travelling entirely without tickets in the year 1956-57 and upto the end of October in the year 1957 is as under:-

Delhi Division	Ferozepur Division	
1956-57	84,340	1,31,674
April '57 to October '57	56,009	55,398

(b) Statistics of ticketless travellers are not maintained according to categories, and no preponderance of any particular category was noted.

Allowances to Running Staff

1012 { **Shri Hem Raj:**
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amount and rate of current monthly running allowances paid to different categories of the running staff on the Northern Railway;

(b) the names of different categories of running staff on the Northern Railway;

(c) the category under which the Special Ticket Examiners are classified; and

(d) the rate of monthly Travelling Allowance paid to the Special Ticket Examiners on Northern Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The rate of running allowance is not fixed on a monthly basis and, therefore, the amount earned by a member of the running staff would vary from month to month and even from section to section. The rates of running allowance paid to the different categories of running staff on Indian Railways, including the Northern Railway, are as follows:—

Per 100 miles.

	Rs.
Driver Gr. A	4-8-0
Gr. B	4-4-0
Gr. C	3-12-0
Guards Gr. A	2-8-0
Gr. B	2-4-0
Gr. C	2-2-0
Brakes-men Gr. A	1-4-0
Gr. B	1-2-0
Firemen Gr. A	2-0-0
Gr. B	1-12-0
Second Firemen	1-6-0

Per day of 8 hours

Shunters Gr. A	2-8-0
Gr. B	2-8-0

(b) and (c). The different categories of Running Staff are as indicated against Part (a) above. Special Ticket Examiners are not classified as Running Staff.

(d) The rates of monthly Travelling Allowance paid to Special Ticket Examiners are shown below:—

Division	Pay limits (including dearness pay)	Amount of consolidated travelling allowance
		Rs.
(i) Allahabad, Lucknow, Moradabad, Delhi, Ferozpur and Headquarters Divisions except for lady Special Ticket Examiners on Ferozpur Division.	(a) Staff drawing over Rs. 50/- & upto Rs. 100/- per month.	25/- p. m.
	(b) Staff drawing over Rs. 100/- & upto Rs. 200/- per month.	38/- p. m.
	(c) Staff drawing over Rs. 200/- per month.	63/- p. m.

Some of the Special Ticket Examiners who have not opted for Consolidated Travelling Allowance are allowed Travelling Allowance under the normal rules.

(ii) *Lady Special Ticket Examiners on Ferozpur Division.*—They draw Travelling Allowance under the normal rules.

(iii) *Jodhpur and Bikaner Divisions.*—Same as per item (ii).

हिमाचल प्रदेश में औषधीय जड़ी बूटियाँ

१०१३. श्री पद्म देव : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या हिमाचल प्रदेश में बहुतायत से मिलने वाली जड़ी-बूटियों से पूरा पूरा लाभ उठाने के लिये और औषधियों के निर्माण तथा विक्रय के लिये एक फार्मसी बनाने के हेतु कोई योजना बनाई जा रही है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री करमरकर) : जोगेन्द्र नगर में एक फार्मसी पहले ही बनाई जा चुकी है। हिमाचल प्रदेश में उपजने वाली जड़ी-बूटियों से औषधि-निर्माण करने की सम्भावना का पता लगाने के लिये एक अनुसंधान केन्द्र की स्थापना का प्रश्न उक्त प्रशासन के विचाराधीन है।

गोमती नदी पर पुल

१०१४. श्री सूरज पांडे : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गाजीपुर-बनारस सड़क (उत्तर प्रदेश) को मिलाने के लिये गोमती के ऊपर पुल बनाने का काम कब तक पूरा होने की आशा है और उस पर कुल तिना व्यय होने का अनुमान है ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : प्रस्तावित पुल के निर्माण के लिये नक्शा और प्राक्कलनों की जाच की जा रही है। पुल का निर्माण-कार्य वर्तमान पंचवर्षीय योजना काल में आरम्भ किया जावेगा, बशर्ते कि इसके लिये कोष में गुंजायश हो सके। इस पर लगभग २५.१० लाख रुपये खर्चा होने का अनुमान है और कार्य आरम्भ होने के बाद इसके पूरा होने में लगभग तीन साल लगेगे।

Telegraph Office, Gorakhpur

1915. Shri Vajpayee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telegraph Office situated at Gorakhpur Railway Station has been shifted to the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer's office which is more than a mile from the Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been shifted to C.S.T.E.'s office about half mile away.

(b) In sole interest of efficiency and economy?

Railway Station, Allahabad

1916. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount sanctioned for the remodelling of Allahabad Station yard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Rs. 12.46 lakhs. The remodelling scheme includes provision of 3 additional through passenger platform lines and the remodelling of up and down goods yards to make them fit for handling 70 wagons trains.

बीकानेर टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज

१०१७. श्री प० ला० बाबूवाल : क्या परिबहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बीकानेर में तार तथा टेलीफोन कार्यालय के लिये कोई मकान बनाने का प्रस्ताव है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका निर्माण कब आरम्भ होगा; और

(ग) यह इमारत कब तक तैयार हो जायेगी ?

परिबहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर): (क) और (ख). इस मकान का पहले से ही निर्माण हो रहा है।

(ग) मार्च, १९५८ तक।

रेनों में पानी का संभरल करने वाले

१०१८. श्री प० ला० बाबूवाल : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बीकानेर डिवीजन में कितने कर्मचारी रेलवे विभाग के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न स्थानों को पानी पहुंचाने के काम पर लगे हुए हैं और उनका मासिक वेतन क्या है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इनमें से कुछ कर्मचारियों को अपने जानबरो (ऊंटों) पर दूर के स्थानों में पानी ले जाना पड़ता है, किन्तु उन्हें चारे तथा उनकी अतिरिक्त मेहनत के लिये कोई अतिरिक्त भत्ता नहीं दिया जाता ; और

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रम्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं ?

रेलवे डायरेक्टर (श्री शाहनवाज खां):

(क) ४७७। उनका वेतन मान (scale of pay) ३०-१/२-३५ रुपये है।

(ख) जी हां।

(ग) जी नहीं।

मध्य प्रदेश में टेलीफोन तथा तार की सुविधायें

१०१९. { श्री साबोवालाल :
श्री राजे लाल व्यास :
श्री क० मे० मालवीय :

क्या परिबहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के किन किन तहसीब के मुख्य स्थानों पर ३१ अक्टूबर, १९५७ तक

टेलीफोन तथा तार की सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था की गई है ;

(ख) कितने ऐसे तहसील के मुख्य स्थान हैं जहाँ ये सुविधाएँ अभी तक उपलब्ध नहीं हैं और उन स्थानों के नाम क्या हैं ;

(ग) क्या राज्य सरकार इन स्थानों में टेलीफोन तथा तार की सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार से बार बार प्रार्थना करती रही है ; और

* (घ) सरकार इन स्थानों पर कब तक इन सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था कर देगी ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) तार सुविधाएँ : ८० ; टेलीफोन सुविधाएँ : २५।

(ख) से (घ). ऐसे स्थानों के नाम संलग्न विवरण-पत्र में दिखाये गये हैं, साथ ही उन स्थानों के नाम भी जिनके विषय में सम्बन्धित राज्य सरकार के यहाँ से इस सम्बन्ध में मांग प्राप्त हुई थी तथा जिनके विषय में प्राप्त प्रस्तावों की मंजूरी दी जा चुकी है, इस विवरण-पत्र में सम्मिलित हैं। [देखिये परिशिष्ट २, अनुबन्ध सख्या ३६]। शेष स्थानों में इसी प्रकार की सुविधाएँ तभी उपलब्ध की जायेंगी जब कि वहाँ की आर्थिक स्थिति इस बात की इजाजत दे।

सम्बन्धित कार्य के लिये सामग्री के प्राप्त होते ही मंजूर किये गये प्रस्ताव पूरे किये जायेंगे।

तार का भेजा जाना

१०२०. { श्री लाबीबाला :
श्री राजे लाल व्यास :
श्री क० भ० बालाजीय :

(क) क्या एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान को जैसे कि बम्बई, कलकत्ता और दिल्ली के बीच भेजे गये तार विलम्ब से पहुँचते हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इन तारों को ठीक समय पर पहुँचाने के लिये सरकार ने कौन से ठोस कदम उठाये हैं।

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) जी हाँ, कभी-कभी।

(ख) तारों के वितरण में शीघ्रता लाने के लिये निम्नलिखित उपाय कार्य में लाये गये हैं :—

(१) स्वतन्त्र वितरण-क्षेत्र वाले स्थानीय तार-घर खोल कर तार वितरण के कार्य को “वि-केन्द्रित” किया गया है ;

(२) बम्बई व कलकत्ता में सुदूरवर्ती क्षेत्रों में तारों के शीघ्र वितरण के लिये “डाक सवार व्यवस्था” सुलभ है ;

(३) उन प्रेषितियों (addressees) को, जिनके (प्राप्त) तारों में टेलीफोन नम्बर दिये हों, तार टेलीफोन पर वितरित किये जाते हैं। इसके अलावा उन व्यक्तियों के बारे में जिन्होंने सम्बन्धित कार्यालयों के बन्द होने के समय अपने तारों को घर पर यथा-समय वितरित किये जाने के प्रयोजन से अपने संक्षिप्त पतों की रजिस्ट्री करा ली है, “विशेष वितरण” सम्बन्धी अनुदेश भी दिये गये हैं ;

(४) बम्बई में १ मई, १९५६ से जारी की गयी प्रिन्टरग्राम व्यवस्था द्वारा ग्राहकों को वहाँ के केन्द्रीय तार-घर से इस व्यवस्था के अन्तर्गत आने वाले अन्य ग्राहकों तक सीधे टेलीप्रिन्टर परिपथ (circuit) की सुविधा प्रदान की गयी है ; नयी दिल्ली तथा कलकत्ते में भी इस व्यवस्था का विस्तार किये जाने का प्रस्ताव है ;

क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(५) तारों को शीघ्र निबटाने के उद्देश्य से तारों के रजिस्ट्री हुए संक्षिप्त पतों को पूर्णतः उद्भूत करने के प्रयोजनार्थ सब के सब विभागीय तार-घरों में "पता-लेखी" मशीनें लगायी गयी हैं ; और

(६) पहले ही प्रयोग में लाये जा रहे उपायों के अलावा सरकार द्वारा कुछ एक विशेष बातों में जांच करने के उद्देश्य से, जिनमें तारों के शीघ्र वितरण करने का 'डंग भी सम्मिलित है, एक तार जांच कमेटी भी नियुक्त कर दी गयी है। इस कमेटी का जांच सम्बन्धी कार्य अब प्रगति पर है।

माण्डू

१०२१. { श्री लावीवाला :
श्री राधे लाल व्यास :
श्री क० भे० मालवीय :

क्या परिबहण तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में धार के निकट स्थित ऐतिहासिक माण्डू स्थल को देखने के लिये १९५६ में कितने देशी और विदेशी पर्यटक आये ;

(ख) वहां सभी श्रेणियों के पर्यटकों के लिये रात्रि में विश्राम करने के लिये क्या प्रबन्ध किया गया है ;

(घ) क्या सरकार को इस प्रकार के प्रबन्ध की अपर्याप्तता के बारे में पर्यटकों से कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं ;

(ग) यदि हा, तो इन कमियों को दूर करने के लिये सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ;

(ङ) क्या सरकार माण्डू में जहां कि बहुत से पर्यटक जाते हैं टेलीफोन तथा तार की सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था करने का विचार कर रही है ; और

(च) यदि हा, तो यह कार्य कब तक पूरा होगा ?

परिबहण तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) माण्डू में जाने वाले पर्यटकों के बारे में आंकड़े इकट्ठे नहीं किये जाते हैं। फिर भी १९५६ के साल में जिन पर्यटकों ने इस स्थान को देखा उनकी आमतौर पर अनुमानित संख्या २०,००० से अधिक है।

(ख) पुरातत्व विभाग द्वारा एक पुरानी इमारत के कुछ कमरों को विश्रामगृह में परिवर्तित कर दिया गया है, जिसमें भारतीय तथा विदेशी पर्यटकों के इस्तेमाल के लिये अलग अलग चार कमरे हैं। इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था द्वारा और अधिक स्थान प्राप्त करना संभव नहीं है। स्थानीय पंचायत ने आठ अलग अलग कमरों की व्यवस्था केवल भारतीय पर्यटकों के लिये ही की है।

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है, किन्तु वर्तमान सुविधाओं को पर्याप्त नहीं समझा गया है।

(घ) पर्यटन के लिये द्वितीय पंच वर्षीय योजना के अन्तर्गत केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा विदेशी पर्यटकों के खातिर लगभग २०० लाख रुपये की लागत के एक विश्राम-गृह की व्यवस्था को सम्मिलित कर लिया गया। इस विश्राम-गृह के निर्माण के लिये स्थान चुन लिया गया है और सरकारी निर्माण-विभाग इसके नक्शे और प्राक्कलन तैयार कर रहा है। राज्य-योजना के अन्तर्गत १५० लाख रुपये की लागत से कम आम्दनी वाले पर्यटकों के लिये इस स्थान पर एक विश्राम-गृह बनाने की व्यवस्था भी कर दी गई है जिसकी वित्तीय व्यवस्था राज्यीय तथा केन्द्रीय सरकारें मिल कर करेंगी। १९५८-५९ में राज्य सरकार का विचार इस योजना को शुरू करने का है।

(ङ) और (च). इन सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था के बारे में जांच कर ली गयी है और

यह अनुभव किया गया है कि ऐसी व्यवस्था करने में डाक-सार विभाग को बड़ी भारी दानि उठानी पड़ेगी ।

Dining Car on G.T. Express

1022. Shri Subbiah Ambalam: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 463 on the 20th November, 1957 and state what alternative arrangements have been made to cater food to passengers, after the discontinuance of dining car service on the Grand Trunk Express beyond Kazipet on the Bezwada and Madras Section since the 1st November, 1957?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Refreshment Rooms exist at Kazipet, Dornakal, Bezwada, Tenali Ongole, Bitragunta and Gudur stations between Kazipet and Madras, besides which sale of edibles is also being effected at a number of stations on the section from stalls and by vendors.

On the Kazipet-Bezwada section, the G.T. Express trains run during the night in both directions, so that the need for a dining car service does not exist.

On the Bezwada-Madras section, the existing facilities at the Refreshment Rooms have been augmented to cater to the increased demand due to the withdrawal of dining cars. The steps taken include augmentation of equipment and stores at Bezwada, Tenali, Ongole, Bitragunta and Gudur, and appointment of additional catering staff at Bezwada, Ongole and Gudur.

Passenger Amenities

1023. Shri K. U. Parmar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no sleeping accommodation is provided in the "Janta Express" running from Ahmedabad to Bombay; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) So far sleeping accommodation in III class has been provided, as an experimental measure, only on a few selected trains. Two different types of coaches are on trial. The type of sleeper coach to be adopted as the standard is under consideration and as soon as a decision is taken construction of additional coaches and putting them on trains on which the service is not now available will be taken in hand.

Forest Plan of Punjab

1024. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total grants asked for by the Punjab Government for their schemes relating to forests for the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Central Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A provision of Rs. 2.02 lakhs has been made in the Second Five Year Plan for grants for the Forestry Schemes in Punjab. During the first and second year of the plan, the State Government came up with requests for grants to the extent of Rs. 14,100/- only.

(b) Rs. 14,100/-.

Travel between India and Pakistan

1025. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who travelled to Pakistan since the inception of direct service between Amritsar and Lahore by rail, month-wise;

(b) the number of Pakistani nationals who travelled to India since then by rail, month-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to facilitate this travel?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and

(b). A statement showing the number of passengers who travelled from India to Pakistan and vice versa during October, 54 to October 1957 is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 37]. Information regarding how many were Indian and how many Pakistan nationals is not known to the Railways.

(c) The following facilities have been provided to Indo-Pakistan passengers on the Lahore-Amritsar rail route:—

(i) Through carriages have been provided for direct travel between Lahore and Howrah and Lahore and Delhi.

(ii) Passengers can purchase through tickets at Lahore and Amritsar for travel to certain stations in India and Pakistan respectively.

(iii) A separate booking office has been opened at Amritsar on the platform for the convenience of Indo-Pakistan passengers to purchase through tickets without coming out and going to the main booking offices.

(iv) Money Exchange Offices have been provided at Amritsar Railway Station for exchange of India currency into Pakistani currency and vice versa.

स्थानीय रेल-गाड़ियाँ

१०२६. श्री क० भे० मालवीय : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पुरानी दिल्ली और विनय नगर के बीच चलने वाली स्थानीय गाड़ी शनिवार और रविवार को नहीं चलती जबकि इन्हीं दिनों में इसकी सब से अधिक आवश्यकता होती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार का विनय नगर और नई दिल्ली के बीच चलने वाली सभी

रेल गाड़ियों को पुरानी दिल्ली तक कर देने का विचार है ; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेलवे डायरेक्टर (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) :

(क) और (ख). पुरानी दिल्ली स्टेशन और विनय नगर के बीच शनिवार और रविवार को स्थानीय गाड़ी नहीं चलती । चूंकि अब जनता की मांग है, इसलिये १.१.१९५८ से शनिवार और रविवार को भी इसे चलाने का प्रबन्ध किया जा रहा है ।

(ग) जी नहीं ।

(घ) दिल्ली जंक्शन पर प्लेटफार्म की कठिनाइयों और नयी दिल्ली और दिल्ली के बीच खाली लाइन न मिलने के कारण, नयी दिल्ली और विनय नगर के बीच जो शटल गाड़ियाँ चलती हैं, उन सब को दिल्ली तक चलाना इस समय संभव नहीं है ।

नर्मदा नदी पर पुल

१०२७ श्री क० भे० मालवीय : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में नेमावर और हंडिया के बीच नर्मदा नदी पर पुल बनाने की कोई योजना द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना में सम्मिलित की गई है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके लिये कितनी धन राशि की व्यवस्था की गई है ; और

(ग) यह कार्य कब प्रारम्भ होगा और कब तक पूरा हो जायेगा ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) से (ग). प्रस्तावित पुल निर्माण का कार्य मुख्यतः राज सरकार का है क्योंकि यह एक राज-सड़क पर पड़ता है ।

Agricultural Labour in Manipur

1028. **Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total population of agricultural labour in the territory of Manipur; and

(b) whether any proper survey has been made to ascertain the accurate statistics about landless agricultural labour?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) The total number of Agricultural Labour families in Manipur State was estimated at 644 in 1950-51. The average size of these families was found to be 2.5.

(b) According to the Agricultural Labour Enquiry conducted in 1950-51, 20% of the agricultural labour families in Manipur were with some land and 80% of the agricultural labour families had no land.

Corruption on Railways

1029. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total number of bribery cases brought to the notice of Government on Indian Railways in which Railway officials were involved during the current financial year so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): 1028 upto 30.9 1957.

Nagarjuna Sagar Project

1030. **Kumari M. Vedakumari:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Left Bank Canal of Nagarjuna Sagar Project will be extended upto the river Godavari; and

(b) whether Government propose to raise the carrying capacity from 12,000 cusecs to 18,000 cusecs in order to bring under cultivation the dry areas in the west Godavari District?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) No.

(b) No.

Construction of Post Office Buildings

1031. **Dr. Samantnagar:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post office buildings constructed by the Government in Orissa since 1951 and the number of post office buildings constructed in the district of Puri since that year upto now;

(b) since how long money has been sanctioned for the construction of a post office building at Balugaon, District Puri and the cause of delay in its execution; and

(c) when the post office building at Balugaon would be constructed?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 7 in Orissa, including 5 in Puri District.

(b) The proposal has not been sanctioned so far

(c) As early as possible after the purchase of the site is finalised and the building scheme is sanctioned.

Over-bridge, Shornur Junction

1032. **Shri Kunhan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any petition regarding the construction of a Railway over-bridge in Shornur Junction in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Kerala have been requested to indicate whether they recommend construction of an over-bridge and if so, what priority they would like to give to the construction of this bridge. On receipt of the reply from the State Government and the State Governments acceptance to bear their portion of the

cost, further action will be taken by the Railway Administration.

Clocks at Stations on N.E. Railway

1033. Shri Jagdish Awasthi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clocks at several railway stations between Kanpur and Araul on the North-Eastern Railway are out of order;

(b) what arrangements have been made to repair or replace these clocks; and

(c) the reasons why the clocks were not replaced or repaired for several months?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) A clock at Chaubeypur station only is out of order since the last week of October, 1957.

(b) This clock is being repaired. In the meantime Time-piece has been provided temporarily.

(c) The delay was of some weeks. The contractor failed to immediately repair the defective clock at Chaubeypur or to replace it temporarily, for which he has been taken up with.

Shuttle Trains

1034. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to run shuttle trains from Jullundur to Amritsar and Ferozepore to Jullundur on the Northern Railway, and

(b) if so, from when?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). There is no traffic justification for running additional shuttle trains on the sections. However, proposals for the running of Diesel Rail Cars on these sections either in replacement of some of the existing steam trains or as additional services are under consideration.

Railway Platforms

1035. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to raise the platform of stations on Bhatinda-Hindumalkote line on Northern Railway;

(b) if so, when the platforms will be raised; and

(c) the order of priority?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to raise the platforms at Bulluana, Pakki and Killanwali, Punjab. These are passenger amenity works and they will be taken up subject to the approval of the Railway Users' Amenities Committee in order of priority fixed by them keeping in view the availability of funds and material.

Railway Restaurants

1036. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the rent for the restaurants at Railway stations in Northern Railway is fixed;

(b) whether the rent fixed is uniform in all Railway stations on Northern Railway; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (c). There are no restaurants run by contractors on the Northern Railway and the question of recovery of rent for restaurants on that Railway does not, therefore, arise.

Road-cum-Railway Bridge

1037. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme has been drawn up of a road-cum-rail bridge on the Sulej on Ferozepore Jullundur line;

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme;

(c) the estimated cost of the bridge;

(d) when the work is likely to be taken up; and

(e) the time by which it will be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Automatic Telephone Exchange at Ferozepore

1038. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for installing Automatic Telephone Exchange at Ferozepore; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise

Ticketless Travelling

1039. Shri Ganpati Ram: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the passengers in Jaunpur-Aunrihar line (North-Eastern Railway) travel without tickets;

(b) whether it is a fact that tickets are not issued to passengers by booking clerks and are issued somewhere just before the arrival of trains;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Guard, Travelling Tickets Examiners and the Ticket Collectors on this line take the charges of the tickets from the passengers but do not issue even folio tickets (receipts);

(d) whether Government propose to institute an inquiry into the matter and take adequate action against the culprits, and

(e) the measures Government propose to take to prevent such ticketless travels?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Only two cases of this nature came to light in 1956-57 and adequate action is being taken in both cases against staff responsible.

(e) It is proposed to make surprise checks from time to time.

Bikramgunj-Ballia Line

1040. Shri Radhamohan Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a new rail link between Bikramgunj in Bihar and Ballia and Doharighat in U.P. via Buxar;

(b) whether the importance of the proposed route has been studied in the light of its service and utility to the people of two backward areas in U.P. and Bihar; and

(c) if not, whether it is proposed to examine it and carry out a survey thereof in the near future?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). No, Sir. It is not proposed to survey the line at present.

Bridges on National Highways

**1041. { Shri C. L. ...
Shri ... Chaudhury:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road bridges proposed to be constructed on National Highways during the Second Five Year Plan in West Bengal; and

(b) the names of the places and amount allotted for each?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required infor-

mation is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 38.]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, a copy of each of the following Notifications:—

(1) Notification No. F.12(37)/57-MT&CE, dated the 31st May, 1957, making certain amendments to the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

(2) Notification No. F.12(37)/57-MT&CE, dated the 3rd August, 1957, containing a Corrigendum to Notification No. F.12(37)/57-MT&CE, dated the 31st May, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-407/57.]

REPORTS OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): Sir, on behalf of Shri Manubhai Shah I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951, a copy of each of the following papers:

(1) Report (1957) of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of protection to the Non-Ferrous Metals Industry.

(2) Government Resolution No. 22(4)-T.R./57, dated the 2nd December, 1957.

(3) Government Notification No. 22(4)-T.R./57, dated the 2nd December, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-408/57.]

(4) Report (1957) of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of protection to the Bare Copper Conductors and A.C.S.R. (Alumi-

nium Conductor Steel Reinforced) Industry.

(5) Government Resolution No. 3(5)-T.R./57, dated the 2nd December, 1957.

(6) Government Notification No. 3(5)-T.R./57, dated the 2nd December, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-409/57.]

NOTIFICATION UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of Notification No. S.R.O. 3648, dated the 16th November, 1957. [Placed in Library See No. LT-410/57.]

STATEMENT REGARDING ARREARS OF INCOME-TAX

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): On behalf of Shri B. R. Bhagat, I beg to lay on the Table, in pursuance of an assurance given on the 9th September, 1957 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1412, a copy of the statement showing the number of Income-tax payers who have income-tax arrears, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government to recover the balance from them [See Appendix III, annexure No. 39]

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay on the Table the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 1957, passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to by the President on the 29th November, 1957.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THIRTEEN REPORT

Shri Rane (Buldana): On behalf of Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Thirteenth Report of the

Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd December, 1957."

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Yesterday it was decided to recommend to the House that no Bill can be taken for consideration if the Bill is based on a report unless the report is laid on the Table of the House 10 days before. I don't find that that recommendation has been followed here.

Mr. Speaker: I will look into it. Anyhow, the recommendation has been made. I will ask him to submit a supplementary report here for consideration. Was it one of the decisions taken or a recommendation?

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It was a recommendation.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are aware that in regard to Business Advisory Committee, only decisions regarding the Bills are incorporated in the report and other suggestions are shown in the minutes. I shall now put the Motion to the House. The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Thirteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd December, 1957."

The motion was adopted.

RE INDIAN RAILWAYS AMENDMENT BILL

Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan (Coimbatore): According to the Order Paper, the Indian Railways Amendment Bill has to be taken up sometime tomorrow. The report of the Railway Freight Structure Committee has been in our hands only yesterday. We have to study the report before the Bill is taken up for consideration. I would request that this Bill may be taken up for consideration at a later date.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's point is this. Consideration of the Indian Railways Amendment Bill, 1957 may be put off in as much as

the Railway Freight Structure Committee Report was made available only yesterday.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): In the Business Advisory Committee this matter was raised and it was decided to recommend to the Government to put off consideration of the Bill by several days at least because we got the reports made available in the Parliament Library only on Saturday.

Mr. Speaker: In all these matters coming up before the Business Advisory Committee, hon. members are aware that the leaders of various groups are represented there. On behalf of the Government also, we have got somebody. I expect that each one who is present in the Business Advisory Committee will convey the information to his respective group.

Shri Rane: I have asked Secretary to put this off after 2 or 3 Bills. It will not be taken up immediately tomorrow. I think the office must have received that information.

Mr. Speaker: The Business Advisory Committee should have informed the Minister about it. The Minister has no knowledge about this.

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I don't mind postponement of a day or two. All that I want is that this Bill has to be passed by this House and Rajya Sabha during this session.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West-Reserved—Scheduled Tribes): We are running away from the main issue raised by Shri Vittal Rao. When a report is made available to the Members, there should be a time of 10 days at least for the members to study the report. Of course, this will depend upon what decision you give on the point raised now and it would automatically apply to this case also.

Mr. Speaker: It won't have retrospective effect. I have no objection to give time for consideration. I shall

[Mr. Speaker]

see if the report can be circulated a week in advance to Members so that they may be ready by the time the Bill comes before the House. A copy of this has been laid on the Table and hon. Members will have time to study. The Hon. Minister said that he does not mind postponement by a day or two but that he wants the Bill to be passed by both the Houses during this session

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION

Mr. Speaker: The House will now resume further discussion of the motion moved by Shri A. P. Jain regarding the food situation 26 minutes are over and 4 hours and 34 minutes remain. Shri A. P. Jain may continue his speech.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, in the course of my speech I was referring to the measures which the Government have taken to counter speculation in the foodgrains trade I was also saying yesterday that the Government have made Orissa as a rice zone; and Punjab has also been made rice zone. The idea is to procure as much rice as we possibly can by controlling the movement of rice.

In the case of wheat, U.P. has been made into a wheat zone and Bombay and Calcutta have been cordoned off. The results of these measures have been to eliminate avoidable movement and to stabilise prices. By and large the Mehta committee report has given its support to the zoning that we have done, and they say that while they would not rule out further changes in the present system of zoning in the direction of smaller zones, they would suggest that the present zones may continue for the time being.

This brings me to the subject of internal procurement. During the last few months, we have been making

special efforts to procure as much of rice inside the country as we possibly can. The surplus areas in rice are the Delta district of Andhra, the State of Orissa, the State of the Punjab and the Chattisgarh division of Madhya Pradesh. The House would be glad to know that we have been able to procure as much as 150,000 tons of rice and grains.

The House will remember that the procurement machinery had been disbanded after decontrol We took some time for building up the machinery for procurement and it was started not during the harvest season but when the harvest was over Therefore the results of the procurement are by no means discouraging.

So far as the future is concerned, we want to procure as much of rice inside the country from the surplus areas as we possibly can We have got a machinery now and we propose to strengthen it.

12-08 hrs.

{PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair }

Nonetheless we have to be realistic and we should remember that the chances of procurement in Orissa and Chattisgarh which during the normal times used to have anything between 1/2 a million tons to 3/4 million tons are rather meagre. On account of drought conditions I don't think it will be possible to procure any substantial quantity of rice in those areas and whatever could be procured will be mostly locally consumed

The Mehta Committee has recommended that controls in the sense they existed during the war and afterwards should not be revived. They have said that the trade should be controlled in its various activities and some regulation at the end of the producer consumer may also be exercised, but overall controls of the nature which existed during the war

and afterwards may not be revived because of the inherent difficulties in these controls as also the requirement of foodgrains which these controls necessarily entail and the ever-increasing demand and the general averseness of the country to total controls.

We have taken steps to prescribe an Order for licensing the trade, for asking them to submit their returns and for the periodical check of these returns. As a result, the Central Government also have issued an Order for licensing the flour mills. The Order was issued on 1st October, 1957. As a result of our recommendation, five States, Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay have issued control orders. These States Bihar, Punjab, and U.P. have almost formulated their licensing and control orders which are likely to be issued shortly. We are taking up the matter with the rest of the States. The policy of the Government is that trade should be controlled. We must know how and where the stocks are, how they are being disposed of, at what prices they are being disposed of. If we find that the trade is indulging in speculative activities and trying to push up the prices, we shall not hesitate to lay hands on them. In fact, West Bengal has already done it.

The distributive machinery, that is fair price shops and what are known as partial rationing shops, have also been augmented and more intimate supervision is now being applied to them. The present number of fair price shops is 36,000. In areas where the Government has undertaken the responsibility of meeting the food requirements of either the whole of the population or a substantial part of the population, the State Governments are issuing what are known as identity cards. These identity cards are very different from the ration cards. On a ration card, a person is entitled to get a certain quantity. There is no open market from which he can supplement the quantity available on the ration card. On the other hand, the

identity card enables the holder thereof to obtain a certain quantity from the fair price shops. He can also supplement his needs from the open market. As a result of the issue of these identity cards, I have good reason to think that the distribution of food has greatly improved. In fact, quite a number of people who were critical of the fair price shops in the towns have now come and said that the issue of identity cards has very much improved the administration. I know that there is a certain amount of leakage and despite all the efforts that we may make, a certain amount of leakage will continue. The responsibility for running the fair price shops is that of the State Governments. They have been consulting us. We have been giving them advice. I have no doubt that while the administration has improved, yet, there will always be further scope for improvement.

The other day, an hon Member in the House asked me a question about an interview which Shri Asoka Mehta is reported to have given about the smuggling of rice to other countries. In that connection, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Members to page 41 of the report where they say:

"The prices in neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Goa, Ceylon, etc., have been much higher during this period than in India. There has, therefore, been a temptation to smuggle certain quantities of cereals out of the country. It has not been possible for us to collect any reliable figures about the quantities involved. They may not have been much in 1956-57. But, rumours that certain quantities were being smuggled out of the country and were being sold at higher prices added to the bullish sentiment in the market."

Of late, we have taken some stringent measures to avoid all possibilities of smuggling. Transport of foodgrains in certain parts of the border

[Shri A. P. Jain]

districts of West Bengal has been prohibited except under permits. Special pickets have been posted along the border and the patrol staff both of the police and the Excise departments has been alerted to take particular care that there is no smuggling. Booking to North Bihar is now being done in the name of the District officers as the consignee who endorse these receipts to the dealers. There is going to be and there has been in certain parts of the country licensing of dealers. The possibility of these dealers passing on any quantity to other countries will be greatly minimised.

So far as Goa is concerned, the Mysore Government has already created a belt in which movement can take place only under permits. The Bombay Government is also taking similar steps. Regarding Ceylon, there was a report that smuggling through minor ports was being done. The Madras Government has made an enquiry and it is of the opinion that the allegation is not correct. Yet, they have alerted the port authorities to see that all possibilities and chances of smuggling are eliminated. I do not mean to say that no smuggling is being done. With this large border extending over several hundred miles, it is impossible for the machinery to stop all smuggling. I have good reason to think, which opinion, I believe, is shared by the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee that smuggling on any large scale is not taking place. (The bell rang.)

Mr. Chairman: By mistake the bell has been rung. There is no intention to stop the hon. Minister.

Shri A. P. Jain: The bell was smuggled

As a result of the tightening up of the food administration, I think some beneficial results have come into existence. The prices which were 91 in January and had gone up to 112 in August, using 1952-53 as the base that is, assuming that in that year,

the price was 100, came down during the next two months to 107. That is, there was an overall decrease of 5 points in the prices of foodgrains from 112 to 107, but the recent reports of drought have in many places arrested the downward trend, and in some places they have also given rise to bullish trends. In particular, as the crop affected is mostly rice, the price of rice in some parts of the country is now looking up.

The House is aware that Government had an intention to build up a reserve stock of 2 million tons, and we have succeeded in building up a reserve of one million tons, perhaps a little more. The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee has laid great emphasis on the building of the reserve stocks. We were expecting that this would be augmented, but unfortunately the conditions arising from the drought may not permit us to augment this reserve stock, and while we shall take every care to see that the reserve stock does not go down, yet I cannot altogether rule out the possibility of the reserve stock being diminished.

There are certain other very important recommendations of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, namely regarding the price policy to be operated through buffer stocks. That is, during the harvest season the Government enters the market, buys and during the lean season it sells, so that the prices may be kept more or less at an even level throughout the year. The buffer stocks are also meant to eliminate regional disparities. They have recommended a machinery for operating the buffer stocks,—a committee at the price level to be known as the Price Stabilisation Board, and another at the operation level, that is the Foodgrain Stabilisation Organisation. They have recommended the establishment of an advisory body and an intelligence bureau. All these measures are under the consideration of the Government, and we have not come to any conclusions.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): No decision has been reached yet?

Shri A. P. Jain: The report has been recently received.

While the tightening of the food administration is good and must be good, yet it is on the whole a palliative. It can remove some of the undesirable features of our food policy, yet it cannot overcome any shortages that may exist in the over-all economy of food.

We are taking certain steps to observe austerity, to stop wastage of food and to encourage the use of substitute foods. Even so, the ultimate effect produced by all these steps would be of a limited nature.

The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee has examined the trends of the rising population. It has also assessed the requirements which are likely to arise during the next few years on account of urbanisation and the rise in the standard of living and broadly, they have come to the conclusion that in 1960-61 the food requirements of India will be of the order of 79 million tons.

Then, they have examined the possibilities of food production, and on the basis of the information which they could get from the State Governments and on the production trends of the past few years, acreage yield etc., they have come to the conclusion that during the next few years India is not going to produce enough food for its requirements. They think that the shortage would be of the order of 2 to 2½ million tons.

The Committee thought that arrangements for the import of food to make up this shortage should be made. Yet when they re-examined the question, they thought that there is a possibility of stepping up production. On page 104 of the report, they say:

"In saying this we are not advocating a revision of the target of 15.5 million tons fixed by the

Planning Commission. In fact, we believe that if full use is made of the resources, it may well be possible to reach closer to the Plan targets than the above estimates." (i.e. the estimate of 10.5 million tons).

The success of the entire Plan depends upon agriculture. Agriculture contributes nearly 50 per cent to our national dividend, and unless we produce enough of foodgrains for our consumption and also enough of agricultural products to feed our factories and for export, the success of the Plan would be greatly jeopardised. Therefore, the success of the Plan, upon which depends the prosperity of the country, depends upon the prospects of stepping up agricultural production. Agricultural production has gone up, but it has not gone up to the extent of our requirements.

Now, the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee has very closely and carefully examined that question. On page 104 of their report they have studied the achievements of the physical production targets and the financial expenditure targets during the First Plan. I will leave out the financial expenditure targets and I will mainly confine myself to the physical production targets, because it is the physical production targets that really matter and not the financial expenditure targets.

They have divided the entire food production into five sectors: major irrigation works, minor irrigation works, land reclamation and development, fertiliser and manure and improved seeds. The achievements in the major irrigation works are 40 per cent. of what were laid in the First Plan. Under minor irrigation works it was 91 per cent, under land reclamation 77 per cent, fertilisers and manures 50 per cent. and improved seeds 55 per cent. One significant fact which is noticeable from this chart is that while the financial expenditure targets in the case of major irrigation schemes reached the level

[Shri A. P. Jain]

of 92 per cent, the physical production targets were only 47 per cent. In the case of minor irrigation works, it was just the reverse.

Shri Tyagi: Which means the water was not used.

An Hon. Member: Obviously.

Shri A. P. Jain: I am coming to that.

Mr. Chairman: Let him finish. Comments may wait.

Shri A. P. Jain: In the case of minor irrigation works, it was just the reverse, that is, while the financial expenditure targets were only 63 per cent, the physical production targets achieved were 91 per cent, that is, the expenditure was less, but the irrigation was more. This is a lesson which we should take for our future planning.

On the basis of our performance during the First Plan the Committee has tried to work out what are going to be the possibilities of production under the Second Plan, and under the four headings, i.e., minor irrigation, fertiliser and manures, improved seeds and land reclamation and development, as against the target of 10.02 million tons, they have estimated that the production would be 7.58 million tons, that is nearly 75 per cent. I believe, Sir that it is here that there is scope for stepping up for agricultural production. A number of State Governments have approached us with the request that we should make more allocation for the minor irrigation works, and my own experience of the minor irrigation works is that they give the results in the shortest possible time. They are the cheapest methods of increasing production. They are the cheapest methods of making water available to the farmer. And then they do not create the difficulties which are generally inherent in the case of the major irrigation works. Here a man puts a well. He need not build any elaborate chan-

nels. Then he always puts in a certain amount of labour. The well is an achievement which is partly due to his own efforts. He takes pride in making that well a success. Therefore, there is no time-lag. A major irrigation work would cultivate about a lakh acres, two lakh acres or three lakh acres of land which have to develop irrigation potential. A large number of distributaries have to be built. Some channels have to be built. If dry farming the land may be uneven it does not matter much. But if the land is even it is better. The land has got to be levelled. So, it requires a number of operations. It requires a new crop pattern to be developed. The farmer is to be made to realise the benefits of irrigation. Sometimes, Sir, as it has happened in many cases, the irrigation rates are beyond his capacity to pay. So, those are all the difficulties that are inherent in the major irrigation works and also medium irrigation works. That is why during the course of the question hour when a supplementary was asked, I said that our future policy is going to be that whatever money we can save either from the major irrigation work or from the medium irrigation work we will divert all those resources towards the minor irrigation works.

The observations made by the team of the officers which have visited drought-affected areas are that all kinds of minor irrigation works—Kaccha wells, bunding of a rivulet and all the improvised methods—must be adopted to overcome the immediate difficulties. These are the aspects on which we propose to lay the greatest emphasis, and, I think, that it should be possible for us to even exceed the target by one hundred per cent. In the case of minor irrigation works.

Then, Sir, there is another item of the fertilisers. The Indian farmer has become fertiliser-minded. He wants more and more fertilisers. Well, there are sometimes difficulties in the

distribution of fertilisers, and I do not deny that there are cases when the fertiliser does not reach in time. We shall try to improve the distributing machinery. (Interruption). The hon. Member will kindly excuse me. He can have his say later.

Now, Sir, the Indian farmer wants more and more of fertilisers. Unfortunately, this year our supply of fertilisers was 25 per cent. less than the demand. Next year the prospects are still gloomier and according to the present orders for the import of fertilisers which we have to place abroad, the actual supply of fertilisers is likely to be 60 per cent. of the demand, i.e. there will be a shortfall of 40 per cent. I have been pressing upon my colleague, the Finance Minister, as also the Planning Commission that here is one item which can give this country the largest amount of additional yield. In fact, this Committee has worked out the figures and they say that if we spend about one hundred crores of rupees on the import of fertilisers we can produce foodgrains worth about Rs. Two hundred seventy crores. But, then, there is the difficulty of the foreign exchange. My colleagues have all the sympathy with me. I am pressing on them that here is an item which if properly handled, if the supplies are made available, I have no doubt, the agricultural production can be increased and much of the necessity to import foodgrains can be obviated.

Shri Tyagi: What does your colleague say? Do you want our support in the matter?

Mr. Chairman: This is not the way to put questions. The hon. Member is sitting and putting the question. Let him allow the hon. Minister to proceed. The hon. Member himself has been a Minister. I should request him not to interrupt.

Shri Tyagi: When the hon. Minister speaks about the matter being referred to another Minister, the House is entitled to know as to what is the con-

sidered view of the Government as a whole.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The question may be put at the proper time after he has finished. If the hon. Member goes on interrupting like this, the hon. Minister cannot proceed. I would request him not to interrupt.

Shri A. P. Jain: Now, Sir, there is also scope for improvement in regard to the supply of better kinds of seed and we are going to take it up. The first four items mentioned in paragraph 5 on page 105 of the Report are being implemented by the State Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, and I do hope that we shall achieve better results than what are expected by the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee.

Then, Sir, after that item is the item of Improved Agricultural Tractors. My colleague, the Minister for Community Development is primarily responsible for it. We have established a Committee to achieve full integration between the activities of the Food and Agriculture Ministry and the Ministry of Community Development. The Community Development Ministry is now taking every care that the first emphasis in the community development areas must be laid on the food production. And I have good reason to believe that the Community Development Department is now laying more and more emphasis on food production.

Unfortunately, the Committee is of the opinion that only 50 per cent. of the targets prescribed under the heading can be achieved. But I do hope that with greater and greater emphasis on the agricultural schemes in the community development it should be possible to achieve better results. In fact, the Committee on page 115 of their Report have observed:

"...we have no doubt that as the extension gets more firmly rooted and production-oriented,

[Shri A. P. Jain]

substantial increase in production can be brought about by better trained and organised staff."

I have already made a few observations regarding the major irrigation schemes. The House will be glad to know that some beginning has been made now in the areas where the development potential for irrigation was not being fully utilised. Yesterday I mentioned that in the Sambalpur area for the first time 1,50,000 acres of land is being irrigated.

An Hon. Member: That is not quite correct.

Shri A. P. Jain: This is the report of the team which has visited the place and I am saying on their authority. Further they have said that it will be possible to make irrigation for a hundred thousand acres available during the months of February to June.

The figures of the utilisation of water from the tubewells in Bihar is also encouraging. As against 25,000 acres or so of the land which was irrigated in Bihar from the tubewells in Kharif 1956 this year those tubewells are irrigating 70,000 acres. I think, Sir, there is still further scope for increasing the area irrigated from the tubewells. And, I do hope that the State Governments will take due care to utilise the irrigation potential to the maximum. In fact, it is a matter of shame for every one of us should spend our dear money on developing irrigation potential and yet not make use of the tubewells. I think there is greater consciousness and in fact we should not allow any time-lag in the utilisation of water. So far as my Ministry is concerned I do not claim any special virtue. All I can say is that under a difficult situation I am trying my best. I do not say my best is necessarily the best. All that a person can do is to do his best. So far as the agricultural activities are concerned, they essentially fall in the sphere of the State Governments.

I know that there is greater realisation but there should be even greater realisation and I hope that, perhaps, sometimes these calamities and these disasters are a boon provided we can make the best out of them. The great drought which has occurred this year should serve as an eye-opener for us so that we may put in every ounce of our effort to step up food production because it is only food production which can solve the problem and not the food imports. The question of the hour is, 'produce or perish' and we must produce more.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the food situation in the country be taken into consideration".

To this motion I have received notice of as many as 24 amendments. I would ascertain which of the amendments are going to be moved.

Shri Sanganna, Shri Banerjee and Shri Sarju Pandey are absent. Amendments Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 17 standing in their names are not moved. All the other amendments, namely, Nos 1, 6, 7 to 16, and 18 to 24 may be moved.

I will just inform the hon. Members that I have got something like 30 chits with me. There are others also. Those who have not sent their chits are not debarred from speaking. Therefore, I would like hon. Members to take as little time as possible and to make points only when they speak. Ordinarily, I would expect that an hon. Member would not take more than 15 minutes. I should think that we will be able to give time to say about 15 or 16 members because there are, I think, not more than 4 hours now left.

Shri Kalika Singh (Azamgarh): Sir, I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the

opinion that following measures should be taken to relieve the distress:—

(a) multi-purpose irrigation and power schemes related to Grow More Food Campaign be given top priority;

(b) heavy pressure of people depending mainly on agriculture and land areas yielding diminishing returns due to highest densities be shifted to Industries;

(c) family planning scheme be applied to selected areas where the population growth in the decade 1941—51 has been found to exceed 12 per cent.;

(d) grow-more food schemes and agriculture including animal husbandry be given top most priority in planning; and

(e) steps be taken to shift the rural population to urban areas on permanent basis through schemes such as house-building, small-scale industries and co-operatives"

Shri Panigrahi (Puri): Sir, I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that suitable measures be taken for effective internal procurements of food-grains, their quick movement for needy areas and for ensuring their fair distribution."

Shri V. D. Tripathi (Unnao): Sir, I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that—

Whereas the First Five Year Plan with its special emphasis on increasing agricultural production has not yielded satisfactory results and has

particularly failed to meet the additional requirements of fast-increasing population;

Whereas the average availability of foodgrains per capita actually declined at the end of the said plan period resulting naturally in the deterioration of people's health;

Whereas the natural calamities such as heavy rains, floods and droughts, etc. have also conspired to add to the seriousness of food shortage; and

Whereas the efforts made so far have not been able to counter-balance the effects of natural calamities to step up food production and to check the rising prices of food commodities;

This House recommends to the Government to accord top priority to the production of food commodities, and with this end in view to adopt, among others, the following immediate and long-term measures in order to ensure an adequate future supply of this main necessity of human existence in the country and to do away with the heavy import of foodgrains from foreign countries threatening the national economy at this stage:—

1. That the problem of food production should be treated as a national problem and with this object in view the Government should form a permanent commission consisting of representatives of all political parties and of Sarvodaya which may continue in permanent session in order to devise ways and means to meet the situation effectively.

2. That ceiling on land should be fixed and implemented immediately, particularly in those holdings which are not being actually cultivated by legal occupants.

3. That uncultivated land, not required for cattle-grazing and also land released as a result of the fixation of ceiling should be parcelled out immediately to the cultivators having no land or having inadequate holdings, and they should be given all facilities for bringing the new land under cultivation.

[Shri V. D. Tripathi]

4. That irrigation charges should be declared remitted for the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan in case of uneconomic landholders and occupants of 'Nautor' lands.

5. That Gaon-Sabhas should be asked to fix production targets for the village or villages under their jurisdiction and for individual cultivators and the entire planning machinery including the officials should be mobilised to work out such targets in each area and be responsible for their implementation.

6. That security of tenure should be definitely guaranteed wherever it does not exist. Apart from other laws which require immediate change, the consolidation of holdings has created uncertainty, and cultivators have, therefore, ceased to carry out even temporary developments in their holdings as they are not sure whether their holdings will be allowed to remain with them. This uncertainty in the case of Uttar Pradesh is to continue for at least ten years. Hence the Scheme of Consolidation should be postponed at this stage.

7. That special stress should be laid on the construction of wells and other minor means of irrigation in order to meet the immediate requirements of the situation. The supply of fertilisers and seeds etc. should be stepped up and cultivators should be persuaded to adopt improved methods suited to their locality.

8. That effort should be made to protect the standing crops from the inroads of monkeys, wild cows and other wild animals as also from parrots, rats and tiddis.

9. That as a long-range policy, co-operative farming should be seriously encouraged, particularly in areas newly-brought under cultivation and also in such areas where people are generally prepared to adopt it.

10. That, wherever possible, the expenditure earmarked for other purposes

under the Second Five Year Plan should be diverted to the schemes intended to increase the production of food directly or indirectly.

This House as representative of the country, realising fully the seriousness of the situation appeals to all parties and to the people to approach the problem in a constructive way, to face the common danger in a co-operative spirit and to meet the situation with courage, patience and determination."

Shri B. Das Gupta (Purulia): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that the following measures should be taken to increase the food production for self sufficiency and to improve the general food conditions:—

(a) statutory representative committee of the agriculturists be constituted on the State, District, Taluka and village level;

(b) statistics of Agricultural production be collected through them;

(c) thorough minor irrigation schemes be worked out according to their suggestions;

(d) provision and proper arrangement for adequate loan, supply of agricultural implements and cattle at cheap price, be made for the bonafide cultivators; and

(e) a permanent organisation on the State and district level be formed to build up buffer stocks of foodgrains through purchase from the open market for accumulation of sizable stocks for the rainy day and to hold the prices of foodgrains at reasonable levels and to minimise the import of foodgrains from abroad.

Shri L. Achaw Singh (Inner Manipur): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the

following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that following steps should be taken to improve the present situation:—

(a) provision of irrigation facilities and advance of loans for digging canals in the hill areas and widespread introduction of terrace cultivation in these areas in the interests of the tribal people;

(b) adequate measures to ensure proper parity between agricultural and industrial prices;

(c) to guarantee adequate returns and fair prices of agricultural produce to the primary producers;

(d) to curb effectively the rising profits of middle-men and traders and to stop hoarding and speculation on food-grains;

(e) to maintain an accurate and reliable statistics of agriculture and foodgrains by an on-the-spot enquiry; and

(f) provision for adequate supply of fertilisers and manure to arrest the decline in soil fertility "

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava
(Hissar): I beg to move*:

(i) That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that enough attention has not been paid to the basic ideas and recommendations underlying the institution of Community projects as recommended by the Grow More Food Enquiry Committee viz. that full attention be paid to the individual needs and necessities of the cultivators and help extended to enable them to produce the opti-

mum amount of food and further that it is indispensably necessary that targets of food production be fixed for every State, district, tehsil, village and cultivating family and incentives provided to energise them to action, and to this end no efforts be spared to bring to all concerned the realisation of the urgency of the problem and their duty to solve the same."

(ii) That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that there is no real deficiency of food in the country and the panicky talk of the imports of higher quantities of foodgrains is not justified."

(iii) That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that the Government has not shown due care towards cattle in the country as drought capacity of bullocks has undergone serious deterioration and no serious attention has been paid to greater production of fodder and concentrates for the cattle and there has been no full utilisation of farm manures and compost "

(iv) That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that water resources in the country have neither been fully tapped nor economically utilised and there is no proper coordination between irrigation and agriculture authorities to achieve desired results."

*As Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava was in the Chair these substitute motions were taken as moved.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

(v) That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that Central Government should not surrender the demands for imports made by the States unless the Central Government after full enquiry is satisfied that the State concerned has done its very best to produce the maximum amount of food it is capable of producing."

(vi) That for the original motion the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that it is necessary to have minimum and maximum prices fixed for important foodgrains (which must be announced sufficiently before the sowing period) the minimum which the farmer is entitled to get from the Government by selling his produce, and the maximum at which the Government can force the cultivator to part with the produce; these prices must be such as may provide sufficient margin of profit to the cultivator and leave his incentive to produce more unimpaired."

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that following steps be taken to improve the present position:—

(a) intensive cultivation should be popularised and its advantages brought home to every cultivator;

(b) planning should be done not merely on a country-wide basis or State-wise basis but on the village level basis;

(c) food habits of people should be changed as persuasively as possible;

(d) minor irrigation works should be started; and

(e) hoarding should be made a criminal offence."

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Sasaram): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that suitable measures be taken by the Government to increase food production in the country."

Shri Raghunir Sahai (Budaun): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that all out efforts should be made to see that production of foodgrains is stepped up in every part of the country in general and in the areas covered so far by Community Projects, National Extension Service Blocks etc. in particular so as to make the country entirely self-sufficient within the shortest space of time."

Shri Naldurgker (Osmanabad): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that:—

(a) in view of the economic condition of the agriculturists the prices of foodgrains and other agricultural commodities should not be allowed to fall below economic level and Government should take proper steps from time to time in this respect;

(b) the production should be adequate to the country's demand (including steady growth of population) and to that end reclamation of lands and cultivation of fallow lands on large-scale be taken under operation;

(c) immediate arrangements be made for providing loans on long terms basis to the agriculturists so that an incentive be created in them for more production; and

(d) at the same time other agricultural facilities be extended to them which would be conducive to the increase of the production."

Shri Jagdish Awasthi (Bilhaur): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that—

(a) the system of land taxation should be rationalised and there should be no tax on profitless holdings;

(b) the policy of fixing a ceiling on land holdings and redistributing surplus land among the landless and poor peasants should be implemented immediately and vigorously;

(c) a land army of one million should be formed by the Union Government to reclaim fallow land who may later be settled on that land preferably on a co-operative basis;

(d) all development work be entrusted to elected village bodies whose work should be co-ordinated by elected district bodies and the Government at higher levels. The village bodies should be encouraged to execute small schemes of irrigation and methods of intensive cultivation in which they should receive financial help from the Government."

Shri Bhadauria (Etawah): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country, is of the opinion that—

(a) Government should take steps to remove the burden of debts from the peasants;

(b) a ceiling of 30 acres per family should be immediately fixed on land holdings and the surplus land should be distributed amongst landless agriculturists;

(c) a land army of one million should immediately be raised to reclaim fallow lands and cultivable and arable waste lands;

(d) Government should subsidise village panchayats to enable them to produce compost manure from village refuse."

Shri N. B. Maiti (Ghatal): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country, is of the opinion that—

(a) the Report of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, 1957 has been a very valuable document in that it suggests ways and means as to how to meet the present food situation and the exigencies that may arise hereafter in the country;

(b) the suggestions contained therein should be implemented in no time as far as practicable, both at the Central and the State Governments' levels;

(c) to facilitate the object, Cabinet Food Committees should be formed at the Centre and the States consisting of concerned Ministers; and

(d) public opinion should be mobilised by enlisting, among others, the goodwill and services of the members of the Parliament and of the Legislatures in the country by inviting them to help in the work in their constituencies."

Shri S. C. Godsora (Singhbhum—Reserved-Sch. Tribes): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country, is of the opinion that—

[Shri S. C. Godsora]

(a) agricultural experts, technical assistance and fertilizers be provided to cultivators;

(b) minor irrigation schemes be taken up to give irrigational facilities to the cultivators; and

(c) relief schemes, such as construction of bunds, tanks, dams and roads be undertaken to increase the purchasing power, in particular of the Scheduled Tribes/Scheduled Castes in rural areas."

Mr. Chairman: All these substitute motions are before the House.

Shri A. C. Guha (Barasat): Sir, almost every session we discuss the food problem at least for the last few months. Since the 1943 famine of Bengal, I think, there have been a number of committees to enquire into the food question of India. So, I do not know exactly what new light the Government expected from this Asoka Mehta committee report. There are no new facts to be revealed by this committee and I do not think this Committee could have made any suggestion which was not previously made either from the Government side or by some other committees or by Members of this House in frequent discussions on this matter. But still the food problem is the most important subject. It affects the lives of millions.

I come from a State which is deficit in food and which just a few years before the advent of independence suffered from the worst famine with living memory of man. So I have to be somewhat particular about this subject. I find from a Government report that in 1949-50, West Bengal was the biggest rice-producing State in India. And next came, perhaps, Bihar, U.P., M.P., Andhra, Orissa and Assam. Today the crisis is mostly about this rice. From the production trends given in this report, we find that rice production has increased by only 18 per cent during these 8 years from 1949-50 to 1956-57 i.e. from 100 to 118 points. Wheat production has increased from 130 to 138, jowar pro-

duction from 100 to 110 and total cereals from 100 to 119.

As regards wheat, the world situation is not so bad. We can get wheat from some other countries but the difficulty is about rice. Moreover, there is a natural tendency among our people to go to finer cereals and give up the practice of living, as previously, on coarse cereals. There will be more and more demand for the consumption of wheat and rice and the main crisis now is about rice.

I should say that for all these years the Government has been ignoring the regions which have been producing more rice except, of course, the States in the south. In Bengal only—and I think that is due to the East Bengal refugees having done something energetic there—the rice production has increased by about 9 per cent. In Bihar, it has gone down. In Uttar Pradesh it has gone down. In Assam, rice production has gone down and in Orissa it has increased by only 2.5 per cent. But, in some other States, particularly in the south, we find rice production has gone up in some cases by about 75 per cent. as in Madras, 60 per cent. as in Mysore and 50 per cent. as in Andhra. I do not know why the Government should not have given proper attention to the production of rice in North Eastern regions.

Only last week there was a debate here on the drought conditions prevailing in these regions, namely, East Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. The hon. Minister made certain statements and today also he said something as regards the situation. He made particular mention about Bihar, but still, I cannot understand why this particular aspect of production of rice in these States, which were rice-consuming and rice-producing, namely, that of decrease during the last 8 or 9 years, has been allowed to go unattended.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): He does not want to pay heavy price for rice.

Shri A. C. Guha: I should first say about my own State, particularly,

lower Bengal, that is, 24 Parganas, Nadia and Murshidabad. These areas alternately get a year of drought and a year of flood. Unless proper irrigation schemes along with drainage are implemented in these areas, I think this condition will continue. The rivers of these areas, Jamuna, Isamati and Sunthia and others have almost been silted up; they have to be dredged and re-excavated if agricultural production in these three or four districts has to be increased. While the Minister has promised more attention being given to the minor irrigation schemes, I wish he sees to it that the minor irrigation schemes in these areas are taken up along with some drainage, so that whenever there may be heavy showers—and these regions naturally get heavy showers—there may be proper drainage for the water to flow down and not flood the paddy field.

On the northern side of West Bengal there is another peculiar situation. There, rivers flow from Tibet and Nepal. I think nearabout two years ago there was a debate in this House on the situation created by the flooding of the rivers carrying water from Nepal and Tibet. I do not know what action has been taken by the Government since then to meet the situation there. I hope the Minister will pay more attention to this.

The Grow More Food Campaign also, as far as my experience goes, has not done much for these two or three districts of West Bengal. There might have been a few tube-wells erected, in a few community project areas, but I am not sure whether electricity has been provided for those tube-wells to operate. In many places it is known that even if the tube-wells have been connected with electricity the nalas or the channels have not been dug. That is because there was something wrong with the administration and also with the credit policy of the Government. This report has also said, and it is not unknown to this House or to the Government, that the credit policy of the Government helps only those who have something in their own credit. It does not help

the poor peasant and the poor peasant's production has been going down.

This situation has also been aggravated by the incomplete agrarian reforms that we have so far carried out. I hope the hon. Minister will take cognizance of what has been stated in this report. I need not read out the passages. He knows quite well what this report has said about the incomplete agrarian reforms. Last time also I mentioned this in this House and again I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and of his Ministry of this aspect. If we are to do a thing, we should do it quickly and not keep the people in suspense.

Now, there is another proposal about the consolidation of lands, and that also has been referred to in this report. People do not know who will be the owner of a particular piece of land in the process of consolidation. So, they are not developing their lands. If these things are to be done, they should be done quickly. Or, let us declare a moratorium for such experimental things for some time to come till at least we can get some sort of solvency as regards our food supply.

Then, we should also consider another aspect. Food production went down when the prices of foodgrains also went down, and it is natural. We must have to pay the peasant the economic price so that he can carry on, so that he can have an urge to produce more. With the lowering of the food price, not only the production of food goes down but also the urban employment goes down. Because of lower income of the peasant consumption in the country goes down, so, there is less demand for consumer goods. Therefore, the peasant must have to be given a proper price.

We must also take into consideration the economic and fiscal and monetary factors. This is inherent in the present development policy of the Government. Our national income has increased by about Rs. 2,000 crores. Bank credit has increased by about 60 per cent. Money supply has increased by over 30 per cent, and

[Shri A. C. Guha]

during the last Plan—the first Five Year Plan—we had deficit financing only for two years and the total amount was near about Rs. 425 crores. In the second Plan, during the first two years, I think we are going to incur deficit financing of more than Rs. 500 crores. If we expect that this will not have any effect on the price of foodgrains or on the general index of cost of living, then we would be expecting something illogical.

So, we should have to be ready to pay an economic price and a higher price for the foodgrains. But that would mean some hardship for the low income group middle-class people and the landless labourers. Last time also, I pleaded that these sectors should be segregated. We are now spending about Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 crores every year on food subsidy. I think, this subsidy should particularly be given to the middle-class low income group and, if possible, also to the landless labourers, if the Government, by this time cannot provide land to the landless labourers in the near future. With this money being instilled into the hands of the people, there is a natural propensity to consume more and not to stock more. That also is referred to in this report. So the real question would be about the marketable surplus. This Committee has made the estimate that the total requirements in 1960-61 would be about 79 million tons and the production of foodgrains would be about 77 million tons. So, there would be a deficit of 2 to 2.5 million tons, that is, about 3 to 4 per cent. I don't think it is a very serious or panicky situation.

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But I should like to remind the hon. Minister and this august House about one thing. We should not grow panicky over this matter. We should have some confidence in our own Government and in our own peasants. This Government cannot allow anybody to die of starvation. So, we must tell our people that whatever be our food production, there will be

enough food for the people to feed themselves.

During the last few years, the per capita food consumption was never below 17 ounces. Sometimes it was 18 ounces. So, there is nothing to be panicky on this. But I find responsible persons thinking aloud in contradictory terms. I think the hon. Minister himself said something in Rome which was somewhat of a panicky nature. Then he was reported to have said something at a meeting of the Congress Working Committee, which was somewhat reassuring. He is again reported to have said that we require 3 or 4 million tons of foodgrains this year. I think that he should not have given these figures in public; as that gives a handle to the speculators to misuse the opportunity of this knowledge.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member's times is up.

Shri A. C. Guha: I will now conclude. We originally decided to have a buffer stock of about 1.5-million tons. I think we allowed that to go down in 1955 to less than half. That was a wrong step that we allowed the reserve stock to go down when there were low prices and abundance of foodgrains in the country. Now we should try to build up a buffer stock.

Lastly, I want to mention one point about Calcutta. I mentioned this last time also and this report also mentions it in at least three or four places. Big cities like Calcutta and Bombay control and disturb the market prices. The Calcutta market disturbs not only the districts of West Bengal but also the Bihar and Orissa markets. So, Calcutta should be cordoned off and it should be taken over by the Central Government, both for rice and wheat. For a small truncated State like West Bengal, it is impossible to take charge of Calcutta to feed its population. So the Central Government should take full charge of Calcutta. I am glad that West Bengal Government has also made a request to that effect.

I hope the hon. Minister will pay due attention to the disturbing influence of the market of Calcutta and he will pay heed to what this Report has recommended. It has mentioned in at least 3 or 4 places that big metropolitan cities like Bombay and Calcutta are disturbing factors in the food market, not only for the districts of that State but also for the neighbouring States. I hope he will be ready to take charge of the food administration, both in the case of rice and wheat, in big cities like Calcutta.

Shri V. D. Tripathi: In this connection, I must welcome the statements made by my friend, Shri A. P. Jain, the Minister of Food and Agriculture, from time to time and the efforts that he has been making for solving the serious problem facing this country at this juncture. I should also take this opportunity to pay my tribute to my late friend Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, the former Minister of Food and Agriculture, who made his name immortal by his revolutionary efforts in solving the food problem.

I should also refer in this connection to the Report of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, which was presided over by Shri Asoka Mehta. While appreciating the labour that has been put in this Report, I must frankly admit that the contents of this Report are unsatisfactory and even disappointing. The Report is only academic. It has failed to find out a solution for the serious and deteriorating food situation.

In this connection I should also ask the Minister of Food and Agriculture to supply us with the papers that have been referred to on page 53 of the report. Though they have been asked for, so far those documents have not been supplied to us. I would request him to supply those documents so that we may know what they actually contain.

Coming to my substitute Resolution, I must say at the very outset that we cannot and should not be upset or unnerved, though the situation has become sufficiently serious and requires an all-round effort and co-

operation from all parties and all patriotic citizens of the country. As stated in the preamble of my substitute Resolution, the increase of population in our country, the frequent recurrence of natural calamities in certain States and areas and failure to carry out the measures prescribed in the First Five Year Plan have conspired to bring about the shortage of food and consequent rise in the price of food commodities.

It is needless to reiterate that our First Plan was an agricultural Plan, and it must be admitted that it has not been able to fulfil our expectations. This is clear from the fact that the gross availability of foodgrains per capita including the foodgrains imported from foreign countries, was less in 1955-56, that is, the final year of the First Plan, than in 1953-54. The relevant figures are as follows:—

Year	Gross availability, per capita
1953-54	18.1 ounces
1954-55	17.6 "
1955-56	17.1 "
1956-57	18.0 "

This shows that even in 1956-57 the quantity of foodgrains available for each mouth was not even as much as it was in 1953-54.

The increase in population accounts for the increase in mouths to be fed by 1.2 to 2 per cent, and this increase cannot be checked immediately. It may be granted that we cannot have speedy control over the increasing population and also over natural calamities. So what requires a serious examination and analysis is that the targets fixed for the First Five Year Plan for the increase in food production were only partially carried out in certain areas. The Central Government should therefore take serious notice of it in order to prevent the recurrence of such inefficiency and indifference.

I lay special emphasis on the third reason given by me, that is, the failure in certain areas to carry out the measures that were prescribed in the First Five Year Plan for the

[Shri V. D. Tripathi]

production of foodgrains. This is very important. We may not have control over the increase of population, we may not have control over natural calamities; but we can certainly do our best to carry out the programme that has been prescribed in our Plans. But that has not been done, and that is the main reason why there is a shortage of food.

I may be further permitted to give one instance of such indifference and inefficiency. In U.P. there has been an all-round failure to achieve the targets of production programmes under the First Plan. The achievements in respect of each item of the programme, such as construction of new wells, co-operative tube-wells, drainage improvement scheme, contour bunding, installation of Persian wheels, town compost, improved seeds, etc. fell short of their targets,—every one of these items fell short of its target. That is really regrettable. I do not mind the delay in respect of major or medium schemes of irrigation and such other measures requiring time. But these measures that I have enumerated should have been fully carried out by the State Government. That has not been fully done.

The target fixed for the construction of new wells was 80,000 but only 28,108 of them have been constructed. Similarly, a target of 1,950 tube-wells was fixed, but only 797 were constructed. 30,000 Persian wheels should have been installed, but out of them only 6,042 were installed. Similarly, 56 lakh maunds of improved seeds should have been multiplied and distributed, but only 35 lakh maunds were distributed. I can multiply the instances by which I can show that the targets that were fixed were not achieved even by half.

There is one more factor, besides others, which has forced the agriculturists of U.P. to abandon all improvements, and to this I want to draw the pointed attention of our Food Minister. The Consolidation of Holdings scheme has been introduced in more than half of the districts of

U.P. and other districts are to be taken up in due course. It is a tragic example of a good scheme doing havoc, as its execution has been entrusted to a corrupt bureaucracy. On account of corruption and other inherent defects, the poor agriculturists are not sure whether they will be able to retain their holdings or not, as they have not enough means to please the officials. The Revenue Minister has declared that the scheme will take at least ten years to complete. So the scheme will certainly continue for ten years. Hence no increase of foodgrains can be expected from U.P. so long as this scheme continues, because no tenant is sure that he will be able to retain his land as a result of this consolidation scheme. That is natural on account of uncertainty. (Interruption). The reported resignation of the Revenue Minister has no bearing on the question. If the policy of the State Government continues as it is and the conditions remain the same, I think there can be no improvement in the production of foodgrains so far as U.P. is concerned. And U.P. is one of the big grain producing States, and if the condition continues there as it is now we shall not be able to reach our target in U.P. and hence also in the whole of India.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. I have no wish to interfere with the speech of the hon. Member. He can continue as he pleases. But there are only four or five minutes more and I shall ring the bell. He is making some points about Uttar Pradesh, and he has taken more time on that. Not that I am opposed to his doing so, but he will have no time left for touching on all-India questions. I therefore warn him to touch on as many questions as he pleases within the time at his disposal. I find in his substitute motion so many points have been mentioned.

Shri V. D. Tripathi: I have given certain facts regarding U.P. only as an illustration. The same thing may be happening in other States also.

Then we have also to take note of one factor. Sometimes the figures that are given to us are very misleading. Recently, according to the official figures, the all-India average of the additional yield in the Community Development and National Extension Service areas, so far as agricultural produce was concerned, was given out to be 20.25 per cent., while the Balwantrai Mehta Committee made a probe into it and found that it was only 10.8 per cent, just half or even less than half. This is very regrettable. Sometimes Statistics are very misleading. And if we base our future programmes on the basis of these figures, we may certainly be misled and may reach very wrong conclusions.

Mr. Chairman: Is the average not 13 per cent.?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty
(Basirhat). No, 10.8.

Shri V. D. Tripathi: I want to bring another matter particularly to the notice of my hon friend the Minister for Food and Agriculture. Of course it is right that we should not be alarmed at the present food situation; we have to face the situation with courage, and there is no doubt that if we face it with courage and determination we shall be able to solve it. But there should be no complacency about it. God forbid, no war may come; but suppose there is a war or some other emergency. Then, as against that emergency we must have sufficient stock of food, so that there may be no recurrence of the Bengal tragedy. That is why I am pressing this matter on the attention of the Government.

What I suggest in my substitute motion is this, that these matters should be treated on a national basis, and we should take the co-operation of all parties and all groups and all patriotic persons in the country. I have suggested that we should have a permanent Commission which should sit continuously and try to find out ways and means to meet this situa-

tion. This is not a matter which may be delayed, and this is not a matter which may be a matter for one party, or another. We should try to take the co-operation of all parties concerned. I have suggested a number of measures in my motion. I have given particularly ten points for the improvement of the situation and for the increase in food production. If these measures are taken, I am sure, the deficit that we have got in the production of our foodgrains will be met. As the points generally coincide with the points that have been placed by other friends, I need not reiterate them. I am glad to note that the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture has drawn our pointed attention and the pointed attention of the whole country and of his Department to the need of providing minor irrigation works on a mass scale which is certainly very important. These measures along with others which he has suggested will certainly be effective enough to increase the production of food in the country and we shall be able to meet the situation. I do not want to take more time of the House.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khadesh): I was carefully listening to the speech of the hon. Minister of Food

Shri M. P. Mishra (Begusarai): And of none else?

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I listened carefully to him because I am going to attack him. The Food Minister has not told us as to how he is going to feed the country. I was hoping to hear from him as to what were the sources which he is going to tap and at what rate he is going to feed the country. Let me give certain facts here. The world consumes foodgrains at the rate of one million tons a day and India consumes at the rate of a little over one million tons per week. This really means that the reserve stocks of one million tons amounts to India's consumption for

[Shri Naushir Bharucha]

150 hours only. Now, Sir, we were told once upon a time that the total shortage would be of the order of only 10 per cent. If that is so, it means that 3½ crores of people must go without food. Assuming that the picture is better now than what it appeared to be at first sight, and looking into the figures given by the Sivaraman Team, even assuming that the imports have not to be of the order of 7 million tons, and still, may be of the order of 4 million tons—assuming all that—I would like to know from the Food Minister in the first place as to what are the countries from which he expects his food-grains to arrive.

Secondly, wherefrom is he going to get the foreign exchange. The foreign exchange required will be 150 crores, and that is in addition to 700 crores which we already anticipated.

Thirdly, what is the basic per capita quota per day which he is going to give us? Is it going to be 16 ounces or 14 ounces? I don't think we will be able to reach that figure either. Therefore, I would like to know from the Food Minister as to what is the per capita consumption which he allows and on that basis how much of foodgrains are needed and on what basis which are the countries with which he is going to negotiate and what have those countries to say in the matter. I think there is no use saying that the food situation is grave but it is not alarming. It is panicky. There is going to be a huge famine sometime in April or May, 1958.

An Hon. Member: God forbid!

Shri Naushir Bharucha: Let us see. What are the measures we are going to take to meet the situation? The aid we are getting under P.L. 480 must have finished by July, 1957. I do not know whether more deliveries are yet to come from that source. I would like to know how much we are going to get from the present date upto, say, June, 1958 from Burma. I would like the Hon. Minister to tell

us as to how he is going to feed the country. It means feeding one-seventh of the world's population.

I am speaking particularly of the position in Bombay City which has been cordoned off and if you do so, it is your duty to feed it. The thing that is now happening in Bombay city is that the fair price shops are being besieged by people and the people do not get even a seer of rice. That is the position there.

Shri A. P. Jain: Bombay is not cordoned off.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I am told, Sir, that there are long queues waiting for hours together in Bombay city and it is a question of feeding three million citizens. They do not get even half a seer of rice. That is what is happening. I do not know why the Food Minister is fighting shy of introducing overall control or complete control. The hon Minister told us about the difference between ration cards and identity cards. He said that you can get additional food-grains on identity cards. When you are not going to provide half a seer of rice from the fair price shop, how are you going to provide additional rice, excepting through the black-market? I am sure the Hon. Minister will tell us how he is going to feed the Bombay city.

Dr. Krishnaswami (Chingleput): Mr. Chairman, I sympathise with my friend the Food Minister who has to face an unenviable task. I should like to say a word or two about the Food grains Committee. My hon. friend paid great tribute to the men on that Committee and to the report that they have produced. It is a document of some value. It throws a great deal of light on the facts of history. But it is not a policy-document. What is the basic problem that faces the country today? What has happened during the last two² and a half years, from May, 1955 onwards? The index for cereals in the middle of 1955 was 67; today it is about 102.

The prices of food articles including sugar and tea moved up from 82 to 112. This has an effect on cost of living in the country. During this period, we have had to import foodgrains on a sizeable scale. Thus, it is only because of imports that the prices have not risen further which only shows that our supplies have fallen far short of demand. The output of foodgrains which reached its peak in 1953-54 of 68.8 million tons declined in the subsequent 2 years, although in 1956-57, production had recovered almost to the peak level. Although coarse grains production had not got up, the output of rice and wheat have registered new peak according to these figures.

What is the Government's analysis of the situation? It is difficult for me to understand what the Foodgrains Committee have analysed. But I want to ask certain questions. Is it that our statistics are completely awry a shot in the dark as it were? For, obviously, if output has risen so much and we have imported on so large a scale, why should prices have risen so much?

Or, is it that our statistics show a correct picture of the progress in output in 1956-57 but that the demand for foodgrains has increased even faster? Or, is it that the rise in prices, or, a sufficient part of the rise in prices, is due to speculation? One must confess that no clear answers to these questions have been forthcoming from the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee. A Committee which analyses these factors should make an assessment of each one of these factors and find out which factor dominates. It is not enough to write an essay and say that all things are interdependent. That is not the function of a Committee. That is not the function of a scientific thinker either.

The main problem today, curiously enough, about foodgrains is that we do not know what the situation is; nor the Government has clarified the situation. Government ought to assess, the requirements of the coun-

try and also the likely increase in consumption as a result of increased investment and population. A wavering policy as a result of not being able to decide on what the basic facts are may land us in further trouble in the coming few months.

The main problem now is to control prices which have registered high levels especially during the past few months. Control of prices would be meaningless without control over distribution which would require sufficient stocks being in the hands of the Government. These have to be built up only through intensive internal procurement since our foreign exchange resources do not permit our having continued increase of imports. In fact, if we are to import foodstuffs on a large scale, it can be only through the aid programmes or through other similar measures. A determined policy of building up stocks should be kept in view since the basic problem is not so much the ensuring of maximum price to the farmer as the feeding of the community. That is the main issue that is going to face us in the next three or four months. Therefore, the talk in the present context of ensuring maximum prices or fair prices to the farmer seems, to be misplaced. Surely we do not want starvation deaths. The anxiety of the Government or of other influential spokesmen to give fair price to the farmer is misplaced, particularly, in the present context as prices are already on the high side. What is imperative is to ensure a fair price to the consumer not only as an end in itself, but also to prevent the spiral of wage inflation developing which may ruin the remnants of what is left of the Second Five Year Plan.

One way of making the community to pay for the Plan is to keep a reasonable balance in the terms of trade between the rural and the urban sectors. The history of economic development in almost every country has shown ample evidence of the fact that at one time or other, the bulk of the community has had to

[Dr. Krishnaswami.]

shoulder the burden necessary to support a rising tempo of investment. The agriculturists in India are poor, very poor relatively to agriculturists in other countries. But, if we wish to pull ourselves up by our straps, we cannot but induce them to bear their share of the cost of development. It is indeed a difficult problem. From the political point of view it may be beset with difficulties. But, if we embark on a big Plan, if once we decide a rising tempo of investment, we, naturally, will have to face the question sooner or later of who is to bear the cost of the burden of development. It is, therefore, necessary to put the price policy in the proper perspective and determine our procurement policies in the larger context of planned development.

Government should set itself a target of procurement at prices which are not as high as current prices—this should be emphasised again and again—but, which, at the same time, do not impair incentives to increased production. Incidentally, the Foodgrains Committee has suggested that Rs. 9-4-0 to Rs. 11-4-0 may be the price of wheat. It takes 1953-54 as the base year for determining the price to be paid for procurement.

As regards administrative arrangements it would be dangerous, in my judgment, to completely entrust the responsibility to the State Governments. Experience from the days of controls suggests that political pressures might operate to undermine the overall programme of the country. Nor is it desirable to centralise trade in the hands of the Union Government. A *via media* would be to adopt the kind of system which operated during the war in the United Kingdom and which to have many advantages. There the Government became the virtual owner of foodgrains and feeding stuffs although traders purchased and sold in accordance with the terms laid down in licences given by the public authority. This rests on the tacit assumption that the traders can be trusted to co-

operate in such a programme. This should be sufficient and we should not have doctrinaire pre-possessions as the Foodgrains Committee seems to have in favour of socialisation of trade which may mean anything or nothing dependent on the whims, fancies, and caprices of the individual occupant in office. If an efficient system of procurement and distribution can be operated with the co-operation of traders, it will help to bring down prices, which is the prime need of the hour. Provided enough is procured and the needs of the deficit areas are met on an overall basis to be supplied through fair price shops or even modified ration shops, this should suffice for the present. If, however, the demand outstrips supplies at this price, then, the need for introducing full-fledged rationing will arise and Government should be fully prepared for this contingency right from now.

I should like to bring to the notice of this House the well deserved tribute that has been paid to the late Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, a great administrator and a great statesman who was able to see and plan ahead. Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, when he initiated decontrol did not immediately embark on a policy of complete decontrol and suggest that overnight there should be full decontrol. Indeed, one of the valuable tributes that have been paid to the policy of Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai is contained on pages 18 and 19 of the Foodgrains Committee report where we are told of the steps taken to gradually introduce decontrol. Today, we are facing a critical situation in reverse. We are now trying to re-impose controls and when we are trying to re-impose controls, naturally, we cannot re-introduce them overnight, but have to proceed step by step.

Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai's initiative appreciation of the situation was borne out by events.

12-37 hrs.

[SHRIMATI RENU CHAKRAVARTY in the Chair]

On page 19, the Committee in its analysis of historical events,—as I have pointed out, the Committee is good at describing history though it is poor in making policy recommendations—points out in para 37:

"It was, however, recognised that any scheme of decontrol would be attended with certain risks and that it would be necessary to take measure before any substantial relaxation could be considered. The Foodgrains (Licensing and Procurement) Order, 1952, was therefore issued on the 8th July, 1952. Under this Order no person was to engage in any business which involved purchase, sale or storage for sale of any foodgrains except under and in accordance with a licence issued by the State Governments."

Then, it goes on to describe how there was gradual relaxation. Shri Rafi Ahmed Kidwai realised that no administrator could overnight introduce decontrol. I think his successor in office should realise that overnight he cannot introduce controls. Therefore, if you are taking this step, be prepared to take all the steps, but do so in a gradual way, do so on the basis of a policy, do so on an understanding of all the facts of the food situation. The basic problem today is to bring down the prices of foodstuffs. If that is to be done, we have to revert to internal procurement. Today the prices are on the high side. It is therefore not meaningful to talk of having a fair price ensured to the farmer, because, if we do it, it would only set in motion the spiral of wage payment in the whole of India.

I have said that we can have a fair price given to the farmer without necessarily impairing incentives. But,

there is such a thing as the farmer having to pay the burden of the cost of development. We have been saying almost everyday that the community has to bear the burden.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Rajampet): May I interrupt the hon. Member, for a minute? I would like to know from the hon. Member whether he is against even the use of the word 'fair price' in the report?

Dr Krishnaswami: I am not against the use of any word. I am only against the type of argumentation that has been employed there. These problems have not been faced properly. If the committee had, for instance, taken up the 1952-53 prices and set the price at which we should have procurement, I would have understood it. But today when we talk of the very high rise in prices, when we know that the prices have been mounting up, the emphasis should be on assuring a fair price to the consumer. Each situation brings about a change in the emphasis, and the way in which we have to deal with different sections of the community. Today the main thing is to see that there are no starvation deaths, and therefore, when I say that we ought to have a different emphasis, it does not mean that I am oblivious to the interests of the farmer; it only means that I think that if we are going to have the community fed, we should certainly have the emphasis shifted to a fair price for the consumer.

There are other questions which my hon'ble friend the Food Minister raised. One of the interesting points which he raised related to major irrigation works. While the report throws interesting light on certain aspects of this question, I feel it raises also difficult questions of policy. Indeed, I feel that unless we have a special debate, on this question, on what should be the new policy to be followed in respect of major irrigation works and how costs should be scaled down, we will not be able to contribute anything towards an understanding of this question.

[Dr. Krishnaswami]

It is a difficult problem. Countries which have started projects in periods of inflation have been forced to scale down costs in order that the farmer or other consumers be able to avail themselves of the sources of water supply. I only wish that in this session we could have time devoted for the purpose of discussing this particular aspect of the matter which raises as I pointed out many important issues.

I do realise that in the present circumstances, we have to concentrate a great deal more on minor irrigation works. In fact, there is very little else on which we can concentrate, considering the resources that we have, considering the limited amount of cement that we can employ for any of these projects. It is not only a counsel of wisdom, it is also a counsel of necessity that drives us to devote attention to minor irrigation works.

As regards fertilisers, I entirely agree with my friend that we should have as large a supply of fertilisers as possible. Probably we may not be able to afford it with the limited amount of foreign exchange resources at our command. But, when we are thinking of aid programmes, when we are thinking of approaching others for help, let us bear in mind the need for fertilisers, and ask for aid being furnished for obtaining them.

I do not propose to go into the other proposals made by the Asoka Mehta Committee on the type of corporation recommended by it. In fact, I am not surprised that the Government has not been able to make up its mind on this matter because as my hon. friend the food minister admit, the proposals have been drafted in such a vague manner that it is impossible to make up one's mind one way or the other. I should like that idea of a corporation to be examined at greater length and to find out how the traders are going to be associated with it. When I read the recommendations I found that there were many ellipses in it which requir-

ed to be filled up. I do hope that subsequently when the Government has made up its mind on some of the other recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee, they will once again come before the House and place their viewpoints and give us an opportunity if not of improving their understanding, at least of giving expression to our views on matters of policy.

Mr. Chairman: Shri Kalika Singh. He is not here. Shri Bangshi Thakur.

Shri Bangshi Thakur (Tripura—Reserved—Sch. Tribes): Mr. Chairman, the food position in Tripura also is not satisfactory. The yield this year will not exceed 50 per cent of that of previous years. This is due to insufficient rainfall, but I would like to mention here the other causes which are of no less importance.

The majority of the refugees in Tripura have not yet become the productive force of Tripura as they have not got arable land. So, they are being forced to live on selling bamboo and wood fuels; this is the reason why trees and bamboos of many of the hills, terraces and forests of Tripura have been cut down and jungles have been cleared up. So, the velocity of water coming downward and flowing to its natural course has become much greater and more rapid than what it was before. So, the earth cannot conserve the water to that extent as is desired.

At the same time, there exists no schemes of minor irrigation. It is learnt that the Dombor hydro-electric scheme which could have satisfactorily irrigated at least 50 per cent of the arable lands of Tripura, and which could have also supplied sufficient power to run small-scale, village and cottage industries in Tripura, has been abandoned, because the power so produced cannot be fully consumed by Tripura itself. The remaining will be wasted, and hence the idea of the Dombor hydro-electric scheme has been abandoned.

If this is so, then the idea of abandoning it is not wrong, but let me ask you: what about the small rivers, rivulets, streams and streamlets which can serve the purpose of not only irrigating land but supply power for local industries without any wastage, which would be less costly also compared to the bigger plan? The small irrigation schemes can also regulate and control the overflow and underflow of water which can be utilised in times of necessity.

The average yearly yield of Tripura is 75 lakh maunds of paddy and her yearly consumption is 65 lakh maunds, and the Jiratias, by virtue of the Into-Pak agreement, are allowed 13'48 hrs.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

to take away 7 lakh maunds. And as such there is no necessity on the part of the Government of India to supply Tripura thousands and thousands tons of food every year. But actually the Jiratias instead of taking away 7 lakh maunds, take away 21 lakh maunds, and hence the deficit.

My information is that rice is being sold at the rate of Rs. 12 to Rs. 13 per maund at Dharmanagar and Kailasahar of Tripura. Of course, the hoarders and smugglers are active enough to exploit the opportunity. This year 50 per cent of the lands used for jute production is arable land which used to be under paddy cultivation previously. Why has this happened? One maund of paddy is being sold at Rs. 10 but the gross profit cannot meet the production cost. On the contrary, one maund of jute is being sold at Rs. 20 to Rs. 25. So, the producers are naturally allured to produce jute instead of paddy. Hence the Government of India have to send thousands and thousands tons of food every year, and in buying controlled foodgrains the Tripura people are spending yearly lakhs and lakhs of rupees which are going outside Tripura, and thus the people of Tripura are getting poorer and poorer without any circulation of money inside. Under the present

conditions neither the people nor the Government are benefited. Of course, Tripura has made much progress in regard to various constructions but those are unproductive constructions and as such unproductive economy. Many buildings, hospitals, schools and inner roads have been constructed. But, Sir, as soon as those constructions come to an end the workers are thrown out of job. They would not pay as the industrial construction pays recurringly.

The most important problem is the general land survey of Tripura which has been undertaken by the Government very recently. No one knows how many years it will take for the completion of that work. All these are problems which are to be solved satisfactorily.

"We hear that we are short of funds for the working of the Second Five Year Plan. But I am of the opinion that if the forces of the people are mobilised in the right direction, 50 per cent of the work can be done without money. But who is to mobilise these forces. In Tripura we have a committee consisting of producers, consumers, businessmen, leaders of public opinion with ideas and practical knowledge who will command confidence of the people at large. This Committee will control the prices and will supply essential commodities to the people at reasonable rates.

The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee headed by Shri Asoka Mehta has submitted its report in the form of a book. It is valuable and deals in fact-finding causes of food shortage and gives suggestions to cope with the situation. About this I have nothing to say.

One word more and I have finished. I tabled a question a few days ago about the 15,000 maunds of rice which was utilised to fill up a ditch and the answer was that it was unfit for human consumption. My point was not that. My point is when did this 15,000 maunds of rice become unfit

[Shri Bangshi Thakur]

for human consumption. On 2nd June, 1956, flood water came and soaked the rice. This was thrown into the ditch in the month of October 1957, after more than one year. I want to know why Government did not immediately spend one lakh of rupees to save this fifteen thousand maunds of rice worth about four lakhs of rupees. I would like to have a reply to this point.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Mr. Chairman, the last time when I participated in food debate it was regarding the scarcity in West Bengal. Since then new areas of suffering have come into the fore-front. We have seen how Bihar, Eastern U.P., Maharashtra, parts of Telengana, Rajasthan—all these areas have come under these areas of suffering.

Not only that. Sir, today one of the greatest problems is the question of import of foodgrains. The shortage is there to such an extent that when immediate relief has to be given the question of imports assumes great importance. And, therefore, in a context where foreign exchange is so scarce and the difficulties are almost insurmountable, in such a situation the main pivot of the Plan's fulfilment has moved to the food front. That is why the House is very rightly giving so much thought, not only from the humanitarian angle of relieving suffering, but also giving its thought to the very pivot of the Plan i.e. how to increase agricultural production.

Sir, I will not say very much about the question of relief because I was surprised this morning when the hon. Minister says that he does not know, that it has never been brought to his notice that especially in the rural areas where agricultural labour is suffering so much from drought and from loss of cultivation, in these areas even people who have cards come and sit in front of the shops for hours and hours, almost the whole day, and at the end of the day they have to go back empty-handed because there is no stock. This question has been raised not only on the floor of our

own Assembly in our State of West Bengal, but I am sure this is also the case in many other areas. It may be a little better in the cities, but in the villages, I can assure you, the suffering still remains very great.

The question of relief has to be integrated with the question of giving intensive employment to the people; the question is one of purchasing power. And that is why this question of integration of the schemes of the Five Year Plan with the relief measures is important. I should like more labour employment. I should like more work, I should like more immediate relief to the people. This is a very very important question without which we will not be able really to give succour to the thousands and thousands of people right throughout our country who are suffering today.

The main question which I shall come to today is the question of production. That is the real pivot of the entire Plan. And we have been saying this again and again, there have been many conferences fixing targets and we have found that these targets have not been fulfilled. What is the reason for it? For instance, Sir, we were told that the harvest of 1953-54, that the production in the First Five Year Plan has almost achieved the targets. The target was 7.6 million tons and the increase actually came to 7.3 million tons. Today Asoka Mehta Report has stated that which has actually been stated by many people again and again. Today the Committee Report is valuable in so far as it has given into our hands an authoritative document about things we already said, and, therefore, it is good to quote it from time to time. That says that the increase was due to increase in acreage but not due to the per acre yield. Actually in 1955-56 and 1956-57 the total yield was less than what was produced in 1953-54 and 1954-55. So, Sir, we have to do a great deal of heart-searching. It is not only due to certain drought but it is also due to certain very basic fundamental factors which

we can remedy. That is the question to which we have to apply our mind because in our country, a country where majority of the people live on semi-starvation level the marginal surplus may be produced here and there, and suddenly when there is shortage we are told that the people are consuming more. When we try to work out how this has happened and when we try and compare our own mental notes of what we have seen in the villages we are surprised how is it that people are consuming more when we are actually seeing the agricultural labour, the poor peasantry gets not even one square meal a day. And there again I would like to quote what has been stated by the Asoka Mehta Committee. "The majority of the people are undernourished; the per adult availability of food amounts to 2,200 hundred calories against minimum of 3,000 calories." Even this is misleading. It says—I am thankful for their statement—there are large sections of population who hardly get 1,200 to 1,500 calories per adult per day. Sir, it is true certain people are consuming more but it is not right to say that actually the consumption has gone up amongst large portions of the poor population in the villages. That is why we have been stating again and again that whilst there has been a real marginal surplus here and there it can be easily offset by any flood or drought. Moreover, what I am most grateful to the Asoka Mehta Committee for is that they have now actually authoritatively stated—he uses big words:

"The speculative trade is not the vitiating factor but it is the aggravating factor for the shortage and the huge rise in prices."

Sir, from that point of view let us see what is the main thing standing in the way of controlling the situation.

14 hrs.

From that point of view, let us see what is the main thing regarding increase in production. The All India Kisan Sabha for many years have been stating again and again that one of the primary things we have to con-

sider is the question as to how far our land reforms have been successful. It is just here where the Asoka Mehta Committee report has been rather scrappy and they have not given enough attention to this aspect of the matter. Actually, in an agrarian economy we feel that agricultural production can rise only when we are able to remove the impediment to agricultural production and also when we can create an agricultural economy with a high level of efficiency and productivity. Actually, this is very closely linked up with the question of employment. What do we see about the land reforms? This has been reflected in the resolutions of the AICC and also the Balwantrai Mehta Committee and is also mentioned by the Asoka Mehta Committee. What has actually happened is that a large number of actual tillers of the soil have been affected. About 40 to 57 per cent of the total protected tenants, for instance, in Hyderabad and Bombay States, about 12 lakh tenants in Bihar have been affected. I personally know about West Bengal, my State; a huge number of them have been affected. The loopholes in land reform have been so great that actually there has been a larger concentration of land in the hands of the bigger and the richer peasants with the result that they have a much more retaining power.

The Asoka Mehta Committee has pointed out that although in 1956-57 the prices did not fall as they did earlier, a new factor has emerged, a section of richer peasants who are able to keep their hoardings for long and even during harvest time the prices remain high. Later on the prices are very much higher and the marketable surplus has become very much less. This is one of the peculiar questions to which Government should give its attention.

What we would like to be done is that the question of evictions should be dealt with on an emergency basis. Is it not possible to stop evictions by an Ordinance? After that they can go into the entire question of transfers

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.]

that have taken place. There have been voluntary surrenders somewhere; in some places it has taken the form of resumption and in some other places various other methods have been resorted to. The question of banning these evictions and the screening of the transfers is very essential.

Then there is the question of the distribution of the surplus waste lands. According to the figures given today, we come to know that there are 12 crores of acres of land that are available for cultivation. Together with the ceiling on land holdings this is one of the big questions that have to be considered.

Here I have got some reports from U.P. They say that the fallow land has actually increased because the zamindars before the abolition of the zamindari have screened large tracts in their names and today they cannot even cultivate them. But these lands are recorded to be in their possession.

We have other examples also of now these waste lands which were once distributed to the co-operatives are threatened to be taken away. In Andhra, there are examples of how these lands were given to the labourers co-operative societies, the agricultural co-operatives—which is supposed to be one of the schemes of Government. What do we see there? Those who are now slowly trying to come into these co-operatives are being told that they would not be given any special facility which is not given to the ordinary cultivator. In the absence of any preferential treatment to persons who join the co-operative societies how can the scheme expand?

In my State, for instance, there was a co-operative society which was awarded the first prize. But what happened? That society was bringing together small agriculturists who were below the minimum for

agricultural income-tax. As soon as they were all put together they have been put to a high levy of agricultural income-tax with the result that the co-operative society which had been awarded the first prize has now come almost to the point of liquidation because they cannot pay agricultural income-tax.

These are some of the things we should look into. After all, when we want to expand the production, we have to see that the maximum number of people get land and the actual tiller of the soil becomes the owner of the land, and the security of tenure is assured. When they try to consolidate their holdings on a voluntary basis they should be given every sort of help.

Let us come to the question of credit. This is one of the big points which I feel Government has not done enough. One of the schemes of Government was the setting up of warehouses throughout the country. We have also passed an Act here. It should have been accorded the highest priority. That would be the opinion, I am sure, of all sections of this House. We were told that in our State certain warehouses were going to be opened. But uptill now warehousing has remained a dream. We have not yet one warehouse set up and we do not know what is the position.

We find today, even though we are told that the agricultural credit is large and that a large amount is being given to the cultivator, the smaller peasants hardly get any credit. They have to get group loans and even group loans are totally inadequate and they are subject to the pressures of the local authorities who may or may not like to give credit. Therefore, this institutional credit is a point about which we have to take very great care. Without that those people who are actually going to come into the market at the time of the harvest to sell may not be able to have a marketable surplus and we will not

be able to raise their level of life and increase production. That is why this question of warehousing and the question of giving greater credit have assumed such great importance. The Committee has also said that it is the richer persons that have been really benefiting from the institutional credit which we have introduced up to date.

Everybody over here has said much about small irrigation projects. I am glad that my hon. friend Shri Guha has added to that the problem of drainage. In those areas from which we particularly come, we have very heavy rainfall and the water-logging of the rivers and drainage are serious problems. So drainage and small irrigation projects are very important.

For instance, the other day the Prime Minister was asking why not they locally do things for themselves, why do they want the State Government or the Central Government to do things for them. I am glad that the hon. Food Minister has paid a tribute to the initiative of the peasantry which has always been there—it is not that it has not been there—the local initiative of the peasantry. The initiative is there but that initiative has to be helped further by Governmental aid and governmental support. That is the point that we want to make here. That is why when we hear that 30,000 tanks in the State of Andhra have gone out of use, in a State like Andhra which is a potentially great granary for the whole of India, we ask why we are not able to help them to recover these tanks. Tanks are very important.

I may tell the Food and Agriculture Minister that in our areas we do not have even a single pump—in our State where we have whole areas inundated by water, whereas 100 pumps are available in Bihar. But I know that in the vast area from which I come, we were not even able to get one pump when our whole area became flooded. This question of getting little pumps is so important.

Then there is the question of executing the canals and putting sluices which are some of the more important things in the method of drainage in our areas. These are the things on which we want much greater emphasis.

I will not say very much about irrigation rates which have already been referred to by many hon. Members here. But it is also true that the irrigation rates have been too high, and that is why I have got to make this suggestion. I have got figures for Uttar Pradesh and other places, which we can place before this House, to show how that unless the irrigation rates are brought down, it will not be possible for the peasants to utilise them to increase agricultural production.

Now there is the question of manures on which I just want to say a few words. The difficulties in the import of fertilisers have been brought before this House and connected with it, also the question of foreign exchange is a very big problem. But only the other day, I read in the *Yojana*—we have been told all sorts of things like this—that if we can spend two or three rupees seeds on some crop—dhaincha, for instance, we will be able to have green manure for three or four acres. If that is so, why is it that this is not being used on a very large scale? There are other methods by which this can be done, but this question of having much greater popular support and popularisation of these things is of great importance.

One word with regard to speculators. The Asoka Mehta Committee has very clearly stated that the traders have got to be controlled. We have been saying this for a very long time. That is why the question of the Government entering into the field to buy at the time of the harvest is of importance, and it has been one of the recommendations which has now got the authority of a book in the form of a report by the Asoka Mehta Enquiry Committee. It is something

[Shrimati Renu Chakravartty.]

which we have been pleading for, for a very long time. Naturally, the question of minimum prices also assumes very great importance and that question should not be left as it has been left in the past. For instance, earlier, the Kerala Government came to the Central Government and said, "Please buy for us some rice for the Onam festival". But they were not able to give it. They said "Go to the open market", and when they went to the open market and bought it, they had to buy it at a price which was a little more than what the Central Government, by an ordinance or a notification, had fixed in September laid down as the average of preceding three months. That price was a little lower than what prevailed in the open market. People began to shout saying that the State's funds are being utilised by the Communist Party and the Communist Government of Kerala for making personal gains. This will happen again and again, because the market is under the control of the traders and speculators. That is why this question of control over speculators becomes very important, and also the question as to how Government is going to enter into the market to buy. That is one of the most important recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee, because without this, you will not be able to control the "strategic heights" about which the Prime Minister spoke, and without that one cannot bring down the price which has been shooting up every day.

We can assure the Government that although often enough it has been said that food is not a party issue and that it is a national issue—we desire it to be made a national issue because all of us know that we cannot exist without solving the food crisis nor save the Plan unless we do so—it is necessary to have popular support of all the parties. Let us not flinch of this word. We are governed by a political system and we have political parties in this country, and it is necessary to get the co-operation of all political parties. Without that,

neither the grain will come to the Government nor will the prices be stabilised nor the food will be distributed.

That is why this question of having popular committees at every level is something that has to be politically accepted by the Party in power, and if that is done, I am sure that this great national emergency will be overcome by the nation.

Mr. Chairman: When I asked the Members to move their amendments, it appears that Shri Kalika Singh and Shri Sanganna were not present in the House. They have requested me to allow them to move those amendments. Ordinarily, the difficulty is that when the Members speak, the amendments which are sought to be moved later cannot be the subject-matter of those speeches made by those Members. As these hon. Members were unavoidably absent, I shall allow them now to move their amendments.

Shri Kalika Singh: My amendment No. 1 has already been moved, it was done at the very beginning.

Mr. Chairman: Then the amendments of Shri Sanganna may be moved now.

Shri Sanganna (Koraput—Reserved—Sch Tribes): I beg to move:

(i) That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that emphasis may be laid on the small-scale industries in the drought-affected and scarcity areas of the country."

(ii) That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste landless agricultural labourers may be given land for supplementing food production in the country."

(iii) That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that all facilities should be provided in the Tribal and Scheduled Areas of the country to increase the purchasing capacity of the people to purchase foodgrains available from the Government shops and depots opened in these areas"

Mr. Chairman: These substitute motions are also before the House.

श्री बाबूदेवी (बलरामपुर) सभापति जी, प्राज देश में जो भी खाद्य परिस्थिति पैदा हो गयी है उसके कारणों पर अगर हम विचार करें तो इस परिणाम पर पहुंचेंगे कि दूसरी योजना में हमने जो कृषि की उपेक्षा की उसके फलस्वरूप हमारे सामने प्राज का खाद्य संकट खड़ा हो गया है। दूसरी योजना में औद्योगीकरण पर आवश्यकता से अधिक बल दिया गया। कृषि भारत का सब से बड़ा उद्योग है, और हम यदि अधिक विकास करना चाहते हैं तो उसका आधार खाद्योत्पादन की दृष्टि से हमारी आत्मनिर्भरता ही हो सकती है। मैं अशोक मेहता समिति के इस विचार से सहमत नहीं हूँ कि अन्न की दृष्टि से हम आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त नहीं कर सकते। यदि प्रयत्न किया जाये, सही ढंग से और सही दिशा में, तो अवश्य ही देश इस सम्बन्ध में अपने पैरों पर खड़ा हो सकता है, लेकिन इसके लिए यह आवश्यक है कि हम सही दृष्टिकोण अपनायें। यह संतोष की बात है कि हमारे खाद्य मंत्री महोदय ने इस तथ्य को स्वीकार किया है कि सिंचाई की बड़ी बड़ी योजनाओं की अपेक्षा हमें अपना ध्यान छोटी योजनाओं पर केन्द्रित करना चाहिए। देर आयद दुस्त आयद, सुबह का भूला हुआ शाम को भर आ जाये तो भूला हुआ नहीं कहा जाता, लेकिन मुझे डर है कि सबमुच में हम फिर कहीं न भूल जायें।

अशोक मेहता कमेटी ने उत्तर प्रदेश के पूर्वी जिलों के सम्बन्ध में जिस स्थिति पर प्रकाश डाला है उससे पता लगता है कि बाढ़ को रोकने के लिए और सिंचाई के प्रबन्ध के लिए जितनी भी धनराशि दूसरी योजना में दी गयी है, ६ करोड़ के लगभग, उसमें से केवल ४० लाख रुपये खर्च किया गया है। सिंचाई की छोटी छोटी योजनायें धन के अभाव में और सरकारी कर्मचारियों की प्रकम्प्यता के कारण पूरी नहीं हो पाती। और इसका परिणाम हमारे सामने है। अधिकतर जो भी खाद्य के सम्बन्ध में बिचम परिस्थिति पैदा हो गयी है उसके लिए प्राकृतिक कारण भी उत्तरदायी हैं, लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में मानवी प्रयत्नों द्वारा जो कुछ किया जाना चाहिए उसको भी करने में हम समर्थ नहीं हुए हैं। विदेशों से अन्न मगाये बिना अब परिस्थिति का सफलता से सामना नहीं किया जा सकता यह वस्तुस्थिति बिल्कुल स्पष्ट है। लेकिन सवाल यह है कि इस सम्बन्ध में उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए और जो भी उपाय हम करते हैं, उसे उचित दामों पर आम आदमी तक पहुंचाने के लिए क्या प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं?

अशोक मेहता समिति ने एक बिचित्र सा सुझाव दिया है। मैं उसे बिचित्र ही कहूंगा। उन्होंने कहा है कि अनाज के व्यापार के विषय में न तो खुली छूट होनी चाहिए और न पूर्ण नियंत्रण की नीति अपनायी जानी चाहिए। उन्होंने बताया है कि अन्न के थोक व्यापार का पूरी तरह से समाजीकरण किया जाना चाहिए। मैं नहीं जानता हमारी सरकार इसे नीति के रूप में अपना रही है या नहीं। किन्तु इस तथाकथित समाजीकरण का व्यावहारिक रूप क्या होगा इसको स्पष्ट करने की आवश्यकता है। अगर हम यह स्वीकार करते हैं कि देश में प्राज की परिस्थिति में पूर्ण नियंत्रण सफल नहीं हो सकता, तो मुझे लगता है व्यापार के समाजीकरण की बात कहना पूर्ण नियंत्रण का द्राविडी प्राणाधीन है। मेरा अनुमान यह है कि प्राज की स्थिति

[श्री बाजपेयी]

में वह जो समाजीकरण का सुझाव है वह न तो व्यावहारिक है और न उपयुक्त, और हमारी सरकार इसे अपनाये या न अपनाये, किन्तु इस सुझाव के कारण जो दुष्परिणाम होने वाला है वह अवश्य होगा। लोग घनाज बचा कर बैठ जायेंगे, और जब हम चाहें हैं कि सारा घनाज बाजार में आये और उचित दामों पर आम आदमियों तक पहुंचे, उस उद्देश्य की प्राप्ति में भी कठिनाई पैदा होगी।

अशोक मेहता समिति ने एक और भी बिचित्र बात कही है। मेरा अंग्रेजी का ज्ञान तो सीमित है। मैं चाहूंगा कि इसके सम्बन्ध में सफाई की जाये। समिति की रिपोर्ट के ५८वें पेज पर जहां घनाज के दामों के सम्बन्ध में समिति ने चर्चा की है, वहां लिखा है :

"It has to be recognized that in a developing economy a secular tendency to price rise will exist."

यह "secular tendency" क्या है ? मैं खाद्य मंत्री महोदय से इसके स्पष्टीकरण के बारे में प्रार्थना करूंगा। अन्य प्रश्नों पर तो यह सिक्वलरवाद आकर खड़ा हो जाता है, अब दामों की घटती बढ़ती के बारे में भी सिक्वलर टेन्डेंसी की चर्चा की गयी है, उसका अभिप्राय क्या है यह स्पष्ट किया जाना चाहिए।

अशोक मेहता समिति ने एक और भी बिचित्र बात कही है। जहां उसने देश में खाद्यान्न की कमी को पूरा करने के उपाय सुझाये हैं वहां देश में जो पशुधन है, और उसकी राय में निरूपयोगी है, बेकार है, उसको कम करने का भी सुझाव दिया है। इस सुझाव के सम्बन्ध में मेरा इतना ही निवेदन है कि भारत में कोई भी खाद्य नीति तब तक सकल नहीं हो सकती जब तक उस खाद्य नीति के अन्तर्गत पशुधन के संरक्षण और विकास की पूरी व्यवस्था नहीं की जाती। हमारा देश अगर खाद्यान्न की दृष्टि से आत्मनिर्भर होना चाहता है तो हम पशुधन के संरक्षण और

विकास के प्रश्न को अपनी खाद्य नीति से अलग नहीं कर सकते। मेरा निवेदन है कि दूध देने वाले पशु, विशेषकर गाय और भैंस, कभी निरूपयोगी नहीं होते। किसी न किसी रूप में उनका उपयोग किया जा सकता है। लेकिन सरकार ने द्वितीय योजना में जिन गोसदनों के निर्माण की व्यवस्था की थी वे अभी तक बने नहीं हैं। इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार अपने कर्तव्य का पालन करने में असफल रही है। दूध की हमें पौष्टिक पदार्थ के रूप में आवश्यकता है और इस दृष्टि से मैं समझता हूं अशोक मेहता समिति ने जो कुछ कहा है उसे गम्भीरता से लेने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

जहां तक घाज जो खाद्य के सम्बन्ध में परिस्थिति पैदा हो गयी है उसके निराकरण का सवाल है मेरा निवेदन है कि हम दूरगामी उपाय भी अपनायें और तात्कालिक उपाय भी अपनायें।

पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के सम्बन्ध में मैं खाद्य मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि अशोक मेहता समिति ने उन जिलों से घाज को बाहर भेजने के सम्बन्ध में जो सुझाव दिया है उसके सम्बन्ध में उनकी क्या प्रतिक्रिया है। समाचारपत्रों से ज्ञात होता है कि उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने हम सम्बन्ध में केन्द्र को लिखा है। यदि यह ठीक है, तो हम बारे में तुरन्त कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए। इन जिलों से बाहर, जिन में कि मैं बौद्ध जिले शामिल करता हूं, केवल दस नहीं, जो घनाज का निर्यात हो रहा है, उस को रोक दिया जाय और इस बात की व्यवस्था की जाय कि वहां जो विषम परिस्थिति पैदा हो गई है, उस को पूर्ण जानकारी के लिए, उस के निराकरण के लिए, हम केवल उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार पर ही निर्भर न रहें, बल्कि केन्द्र को भी इस सम्बन्ध में अपने दायित्व का पालन करना चाहिए। समाचारपत्रों के अनुसार राज्य सरकार से जो भी रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हुई है, उससे मुझे लगता है कि परिस्थिति जितनी बिगड़ी है, उससे कम दिखाई जा रही है। इस सम्बन्ध में

कोही सी असावधानी भयंकर परिणाम ला देवी। आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि हम परिस्थिति के प्रति सजग हों, और जैसा कि अभी कहा गया, सभी दलों और वर्गों का सहयोग प्राप्त करते हुए इस राष्ट्रीय समस्या के हल के लिए प्रयत्न करें।

इससे अधिक मुझे और कुछ नहीं कहना है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : क्या आप तैयार हैं ?

श्री मोहन स्वामी (पीलीभीत) : समापति महोदय, आज हमारे देश की हालत यह है कि सैकड़ फाइन यीअर प्लेन का चारो तरफ चर्चा है और कल-कारखाने खोलने की बात की जाती है। जहां कभी कोई मुसीबत नजर आती है, तो फ़ारेन एक्सचेंज की बात कही जाती है और उसको प्राप्त करने में जो मुश्किलात पेश आ रही हैं, उन का बार बार हवाला दिया जाता है। लेकिन मुसीबत यह है कि आज यह कोई नहीं सोच रहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान की ३६ करोड़ से ज्यादा आबादी का खाना किस प्रकार दिया जाय और किस तरह से उस को रोटी मुहैया की जाय।

हमारे सामने सब से महत्वपूर्ण सवाल यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान को एग्जीक्यूटिव इकानोमी अपनानी चाहिए या इंडस्ट्रियल इकानोमी। आज हम एग्जीक्यूटिव इकानोमी को भूलें हुए हैं और इंडस्ट्रियल इकानोमी की तरफ़ भ्रमसर हो रहे हैं। हिन्दुस्तान की जो ज्यादातर आबादी है, वह देहात में रहती है और देहात में रहने की वजह से ज्यादातर खेती करती है। इसलिए चाहिए तो यह था कि एग्जीक्यूटिव इकानोमी को डेवेलप किया जाता। लेकिन इस के बजाय सैकड़ फ़ाइन यीअर प्लेन में हम इंडस्ट्रियल इकानोमी पर ज्यादा जोर दे रहे हैं और कल-कारखानों की बात कही जा रही है।

यह ठीक है कि पांच छः साल के बाद हिन्दुस्तान पिग आयरन और स्टील के जरिये

फ़ारेन एक्सचेंज हासिल कर सकेगा और हमारी फ़ारेन एक्सचेंज की कमी पूरी हो जायगी। लेकिन इन कारखानों को खोलने के लिए आज हम विदेशों से जो रुपया उधार ले रहे हैं, उस की अदायगी बाधित होगी। इसलिए आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि एग्जीक्यूटिव इकानोमी को डेवेलप करने के बारे में ज्यादा से ज्यादा सोचा जाय। आज हालत यह है कि हर तरफ़—बिहार, यू० पी०, वेस्ट बंगाल, बम्बई, उड़ीसा में—फ़ाकाकशी की नीबट आ गई है, भूख की बात चल रही है और लोग फ़ाकों से मर रहे हैं।

अधोक मेहता समिति की रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि १९६०-६१ में देश को ७,६०,००,००० टन वार्षिक अनाज की जरूरत होगी, जब कि उस वक्त देश की पैदावार ७,७०,००,००० टन वार्षिक होगी, जिसका मतलब यह है कि द्वितीय पंच-वर्षीय योजना के बाद भी बीस लाख टन वार्षिक की देश में कमी रहेगी। फसल खराब होने से यह कमी बढ़ भी सकती है। कमेटी की राय में यह कमी बाहर से गल्ला मंगा कर पूरी करनी पड़ेगी। यह स्पष्ट हो गया है कि अगर बाहर से गल्ला मंगाए गल्ले की कमी पूरी नहीं हो सकती है और इस देश की खाद्य समस्या दिन प्रति दिन मुश्किल होती जा रही है। खास तौर से यू० पी० के पूर्वी जिलों की हालत बड़ी खराब और भयंकर है। य० पी० के बनारस, गोरखपुर, फ़ैजाबाद जिलों में बराबर कई वर्षों से वर्षा की वजह से बड़ी तबाहकारी हो रही है। १९५५-५६ में बहुत ख़बरेस्त सैलाब आया, जिस से लाखों एकड़ ज़मीन में पानी ही पानी हो गया और सब फ़सल तबाह हो गई। १९५७ में पहले तो बारिश नहीं हुई, सूखा पड़ा और उस के बाद बारिश ज्यादा हुई, सैलाब आया और फ़सल तबाह हो गई। देवरिया और गोरखपुर के इलाके में कई एक नदियां ह—यंडक, छोटी गंडक, बाजरा, गौरह। ये हथार बरसात में सैलाब पर आ जाता है और हथारों बीचा फ़सलों की नुक़सान पहुंचता है।

[श्री मोहन स्वरूप]

बलिया और आजमगढ़ में भी प्रति वर्ष यही हालत होती है। इसी तरह से जौनपुर में गोमती नदी हमेशा सैलाब से तबाहकारी करती रहती है। पविषमी जिलों में भी हाल में ही यही तबाहकारी हुई है, जो कि सायब बाँों से न हुई हो। मेरठ जिले और उसके आस पास के अञ्चला में हजारी मकान गिर गये और हजारों बीघे फसल को नुकसान पहुँचा। पहाड़ी इलाकों की भी यही वशा है। हजारों आधमी मूल से मर रहे हैं और उन की हालत कहने लायक नहीं है।

श्री रघुवीर लहाय : रहेलखंड विविजन की भी ऐसी ही हालत है।

श्री मोहन स्वरूप : वहाँ भी वर्षा और सूखे की वजह से गरीब लोग तबाह हो रहे हैं, मर रहे हैं।

बाढ़ नियंत्रण कमेटी ने बताया है कि बाढ़ का कोई इन्तजाम नहीं है, कोई इलाज नहीं है, सिवाय इस के कि सफ़रख को भले ही कुछ दे दिया जाय, अनाज या रुपया पैसा दे दिया जाय, लेकिन इस का कोई मुस्तकिल इलाज नहीं है। हमारी गवर्नमेंट इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दे रही है कि सैलाब को कैसे रोका जाय, जो कि हर साल इतनी तबाही करते हैं।

हम ने—मे ने, रामजी ने, पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्य लोगों ने—प्राइम मिनिस्टर से कहा कि अगर हमारी पार्टी की तरफ से गेंदासिंह साहब कहते हैं कि पूर्वी जिलों में मुसीबत है, तो कहा जाता है कि यह तो एक स्टन्ट है, पोलिटिकल प्रापेगेंडा है, इस लिए हमारी गुजारिश है कि आप वहाँ जा कर अपनी आँखों से देख लीजिए कि सूरत-हाल क्या है, हम जो बात कहते हैं, वह दुरुस्त है या गलत है। यह सुषी की बात है कि उन्होंने फ़रवरी या मार्च में वहाँ की परिस्थिति को देखने का वायदा किया है।

इस के बाद में यह अर्थ करना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान की आबादी रोज-बरोज बढ़ रही है। १९३१ में यहाँ की आबादी २७६·१८

मिलियन, १९४१ में ३१६·७६ मिलियन और १९५१ में ३६१·२४ मिलियन थी। अगर इस के मुकाबले में यहाँ की पैदावार बराबर बटती जा रही है। १९५३ में पैदावार ५३·३६४ हज़ार टन थी, १९५४ में वह ६३·०२४ हज़ार टन हो गई, १९५५ में वह ६१·१२७ हज़ार टन हो गई और १९५६ में ५८·२१४ हज़ार टन रह गई। इससे बाहिर है कि आबादी तो बराबर बढ़ रही है, लेकिन अनाज की पैदावार बटती जा रही है। अब सवाल यह पैदा होता है कि पैदावार कैसे बढ़ाई जाय। पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए जरूरत इस बात की है कि किसानों को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए, किसानों को तरक्की करने का मौक़ा दिया जाए। लेकिन किसानों की तरफ गवर्नमेंट ध्यान नहीं देती। बड़ी बड़ी कांफ़रेंस होती हैं, बड़े बड़े वायदे होते हैं एन०ई० एस० ब्लॉक्स खोले जाते हैं, लेकिन किसानों की तरफ तवज्जह नहीं की जाती। किसानों के लिए ऐसा सोच लिया गया है जैसे वह इन्सान हैं ही नहीं। ऐसी शकल पैदा हो गई है। आज किसान को चाहिए क्या? इस वक़्त हमारे यू० पी० में चकबन्दी हो रही है। चकबन्दी के रूप में सूरत हाल यह हो रही है कि किसानों को परेशान किया जा रहा है। करपान बढ़ रहा है और चकबन्दी का जो मकसद है वह ज़तम हो गया है। लोग परेशान हैं। आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि किसानों की तरफ गौर किया जाए। जमीन परती होती जा रही है। नतीजा यह है कि हमारे यू० पी० में बहुत से ऐसे लोग हैं जो गरीब हैं, जिन के पास कोई सरमाया नहीं है, वह दूसरों को जमीन उठा देते हैं। लेकिन जब वह जमीन दूसरे लोग जोतने लगते हैं तो उन को बेदखल कर दिया जाता है। आज जमीनों की बेदखलियाँ हो रही हैं। बाज़ार की हालत यह है कि जब किसान अपना पैदावार को बाज़ार में ले जाता है तो जो व्यापारी हैं वह मुनाफ़ाखोरी करते हैं। किसानों से जो गल्ला लिया जाता है उस पर जबर्दस्त मुनाफ़ाखोरी होती है

किसानों की हालत यह है कि कर्जों की वजह से, लगान भ्रष्टा न कर सकने की वजह से उन को अपनी पैदावार फौरन ही बेचनी पड़ती है। जब वह बाजार में बेचने ले जाता है तो शकल यह होती है कि व्यापारी उस को लूटते हैं।

इस वक्त मुल्क की जो खास पैदावार है वह गन्ना है। गन्ने की कीमत गवर्नमेंट ने गिरा दी है। पहले उस की कीमत २ ६० मन थी। अब १ ६० ७ आ० मन गवर्नमेंट ने कर दी है। आज के हालात में अगर गौर से देखा जाए तो गन्ने की कीमत १ ६० १२ आ० से कम कभी नहीं होनी चाहिए। लेकिन १ ६० ७ आ० कर दी गई है और आउटर गेट पर तो १ ६० ३ आ० मन ही है। गुड़ की कीमत भी बराबर घटती जा रही है। गुड़ से जो फायदा किसानों को होता था वह भी घट रहा है।

असल चीज यह है कि आज किसानों को उपदेश नहीं चाहिए, किसानों को लम्बे लम्बे सेक्शंस नहीं चाहिए। उन को सही इमदाद चाहिए। गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से भरोसा मिलना चाहिए, लेकिन वह मिल नहीं रहा है। वह किसी मुसीबत में गवर्नमेंट के पास जाते हैं, सरकार के आफिसर्स के पास जाते हैं तो उन्हें तंग और जलील किया जाता है। अगर उन को कोई कर्ज लेना हो तो वह भी उन्हें वक्त पर नहीं मिलता है, इमदाद नहीं मिलती है। आज मुल्क के उत्पादक जो हैं अगर वही परेशान हों, मायूस हों, गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से इमदाद न मिल रही हो, तो मुल्क की पैदावार कैसे बढ़ेगी? इसलिए मेरी गुजारिश यह है कि हमारे खाद्य मंत्री किसानों की इस बुरी हालत की तरफ तबज्जह दें और उन को हत्तुल इमकान इमदाद दें। अगर उन को यह इमदाद नहीं मिलती तो देश का उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ सकता।

दूसरी चीज जो आवश्यक है वह यह है कि गांवों में छोटे छोटे उद्योग धंधे खोले जाएं। बाउनी और कटाई के बाद किसानों का पांच छः महीनों का वक्त ऐसा होता है जिस में वह बेकार से रहते हैं। उस समय उन को

छोटे छोटे उद्योग धंधे चाहिए जिस में वह काम कर सकें और उन को कुछ पैसा मिल सके।

इस के बाद जो विकास खंड हैं उन की तरफ भी दृष्टि होनी चाहिए। विकास खंडों की हालत यह है कि जो बड़े बड़े लोग वहां के होते हैं, वहां के प्रतिष्ठित लोग होते हैं, वही फायदा उठाते हैं। गरीब जनता को उन से कोई फायदा नहीं है। अक्सर देखा गया है कि विकास खंडों में दो दो तीन तीन मील पर भी कोई दरस्त नहीं है। विकास खंडों को जो रुपया जाता है या एन० ई० एस० ब्लाक्स को जो रुपया जाता है उसे दूसरे लोग खर्च कर लेते हैं। ऐसी शकल में गांवों का डेवेलपमेंट कैसे हो, किसानों को डेवेलपमेंट कैसे हो और जब तक किसानों का डेवेलपमेंट नहीं होता है तब तक मुल्क की तरक्की कैसे हो? सिंचाई, खाद और बीज की व्यवस्था सही होनी चाहिए। जो छोटे छोटे आबासी के जराय हैं उन को डेवेलप किया जाए। आज गवर्नमेंट बड़ी बड़ी योजनाओं पर ही खर्च कर रही है, देश के अन्दर हाइडेल्स पर करोड़ों रुपये खर्च हो रहे हैं, लेकिन छोटी छोटी योजनाओं पर, जिन से कुछ ज्यादा फायदा हो सकता था, ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है। उन को गवर्नमेंट चेक अप नहीं कर रही है इस लिए आज चाहिए कि गवर्नमेंट छोटी सिंचाई योजनाओं पर गौर करे और उन को डेवेलप करे।

मैं अपने खाद्य मंत्री से गुजारिश करूंगा कि आज मुल्क में जो खाद्य समस्या है उस के दो ही इलाज हैं। किसानों को सही प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए, उन की तरक्की हो, उन की होसला भफजाई की जाए। वह गवर्नमेंट में भरोसा करें, उन्हें गवर्नमेंट से कर्ज मिल सके। दूसरे यह कि हमारी हर सप्लाई मजबूत होनी चाहिए। गल्ले की सप्लाई भी दुस्त हो। आज हमें नजर आ रहा है कि हमारी आबादी बढ़ रही है और पैदावार उस के साथ साथ घट रही है। इस कमी को पूरा करने के लिए हमारे पास गल्ले के स्टॉक्स हों, बाहे आप यहां पर डेवेलपमेंट कर के पैदावार बढ़ाएं बाहे बाहर से इम्पोर्ट करें।

Shri Thirumala Rao (Kakinada):
Sir, we are dealing today with a problem that has been baffling successive ministers and it has been the problem of the country; on the face of which our impressions of the future have been belied. I am not standing here merely to defend the report of the Committee, popularly known as the Asoka Mehta Committee which has been submitted to Government recently. The members of the committee do not claim to be omniscient or having knowledge of everything under the sun. They are as much laymen as the Members of the House and they share the ignorance of the majority of Members on an equal footing. Most of the Members have got the experience and knowledge of public matters which have been brought to bear in studying the food situation as it obtains today. I may tell the House that this Committee got the views of some of the eminent people all over the country and gathered the experience that has been afforded by the various State Governments as well as various individuals and organisations, both official and non-official.

Sir, after Independence we have been building up our plans of national development through the Five-year plans and before the First Five-Year Plan was over, the Second Five-Year Plan was finalised. During the First Five Year Plan we had to pass through a very difficult food situation. In the year 1950-51 we were having the worst troubles and we were feeling the pinch of the trouble more actually then, compared to what it is today. There was so much of food shortage in 1950-51 that we had to import about 4·7 million tons of foodgrains from abroad. After a few years, in 1952 and 1953, the position has somewhat eased. We have not had a correct appreciation of the system of procurement or distribution or rationing in the country. There were responsible people—experienced administrators and political leaders—who sincerely believed that our country was not deficit in foodgrains but

that it was self-sufficient and also having some surplus. They were against any sort of control or procurement. There were people in the administration who were obsessed with the immediate realities of the situation to work out a scheme which would deliver the country from the difficulties which faced it.

After 1952, Shri Kidwai accepted the Food Ministry. With his bold and imaginative outlook and his inimitable capacity in understanding the core of the problem, he took courage into his hands and started decontrol. But, unfortunately for us, he passed away in the year 1954 and part of his plans were not completely implemented, and the country has again to face another difficult situation as we find today.

Sir, as hon. Members are aware, the prices have started rising and I do not want to go into this point at length because a good part of the report has been devoted to that aspect and those hon. members who have the time to read the report will understand how the price rise has come about due to various causes.

Now, when prices have risen to such an extent today, when our Second Five-Year Plan has been based essentially on the commodities prices and foodgrains prices, we have got to review the whole situation. That is the genesis of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee.

I want to say something to some of my hon. friends who have criticised the report. I hope they have studied the report before they made the criticisms. My hon. friend Shri Tripathi in his speech has not given credit to anything in the report. I may tell him that this is not a theoretical discussion of the food situation, nor an academic or intellectual feat performed, say, like a newspaper article, for getting some commendation or praise from some quarters. My hon. friend, Dr. Krishnaswamy, with all his airy eloquence, has told us not much. He said that some con-

crete proposals should have been made by this Committee.

I want to deal with the recommendations that have been made and the terms of reference. The terms are wide enough, comprehensive enough, and formidable enough for a humble Committee like ours; but we have striven to the utmost of our ability and tried to gather all the relevant material which was available in the country and presented our conclusions in the best light possible.

Sir, one of the main recommendations of the Committee relates to the formation of the Central Food Advisory Council. Is it not a concrete proposal? Are recommendations of this kind merely an imaginative piece of fiction? Do they not have a basis? What is the composition of the Council that has been suggested in the report? It is composed of representatives of agriculture, trade, industry, workers, consumers, banks, co-operatives, leading political parties and economists. I think my friend Dr. Krishnaswami can come either under the category of 'Economist' or under the category of 'Consumer,' on whichever point he is strong.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Kakinada-Reserved—Sch. Castes): He will come under the second category 'Consumer'.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I am glad that my hon. friend Shri Murthy has given consumers' place to him. Because Shri B. S. Murthy was one of those doubting Thomases, not my friend the Minister Shri A. M. Thomas. He was one of the doubting Thomases of the utility of this Committee when it was appointed and he suggested that it may not have been appointed at all.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My hon. friend Shri Thirumala Rao may leave it to me, I am going to speak, if I am a doubting Thomas or confirming Jones.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): The report is there and its relevancy may be considered.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I cannot leave him alone. We represent the same Constituency.

This is concrete proposal No. 1. You mobilise all opinion, non-official opinion, official opinion, opinions of all political parties in the country, of laymen, of experts, of consumers, tradesmen, primary producers, etc. A comprehensive representative council has to be formed to advise the Government on the food situation in the country. This Council will deal with production, with supply, with prices, with distribution, trade and every aspect of the food problem in the country. It is suggested that it should meet at least twice a year and more often according to the needs of the situation. That is the first thing.

Then, with regard to the Foodgrains stabilisation organisation, I should like to deal with the background of this proposal. This is the main reason we find these acute shortages and high prices in certain areas where there is surplus production in the country. There is a surplus State. You find thousands of tons of foodgrains stored in the villages and in the towns; but the prices are shooting up. That is the most abnormal and unnatural situation that is prevailing in this country. What is the remedy? What are the reasons? We have to look into that.

It is natural for the trader to indulge in speculation, store foodgrains in advance, wait for a higher price and then dump in the market, whatever the difficulties of the consumer may be. This has happened in many parts of the country. We have studied the work of the banks, the bank rate, the credits structure, how the Reserve Bank had to control the operation of many of these commercial banks who have been lending moneys on foodgrains. All these things have been considered and we have come to the conclusion that a Foodgrains Stabilisation Organisation should be formed. It should be an organisation which takes the work of the Director General of Food and also operates as a trader in the grain market. This may be a departmental one, that is, in the Ministry. This may be a statutory corporation or it

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may be a limited company. Its capital has to be about Rs. 100 crores. We cannot be definite on this. This Committee is not a Committee of bankers. This Committee is not a committee of businessmen to tell us whether it should be a State trading one or a limited liability company. All these matters have to be examined in greater detail. But, an organisation has got to be brought into existence which will deal with procurement, storage of foodgrains etc., in the whole country.

My hon. friend, I think it was Dr. Krishnaswami, was talking of both decontrol and control, of procurement and free market. All these things are a little confused in his mind. I may tell you, we have quoted extensively on page 86 how the foodgrains trade is nationalised in democratic countries like Canada and Australia. In Canada, there is what is called the Canadian Wheat Board. This corporation has internal and external trade monopoly with regard to wheat grown in the country. If you want to buy or import wheat from Canada, you have to negotiate with this statutory organisation of the Canadian Government which will allot quotas through the International Wheat Board to all the countries. They secure proper prices and they allot the exportable quotas and assure a reasonably good price for primary producers in their country.

With regard to the Australian Wheat Board, the same thing is there. If you want to buy wheat, you have to negotiate with the Australian Wheat Board and they allot quotas of export. The administration of Food in Australia is tighter. They control internal production also, and internal distribution. With regard to Burma the whole of the rice trade is controlled by what is called the State Agricultural Marketing Board, briefly called the SAMB. The primary income derived by the Burmese Government for their very existence, for their budget purposes is from the rice trade. Therefore, they have got a very effective control over rice. In Italy, paddy is sub-

jected to compulsory deliveries to the Government at a fixed price. In the case of wheat, in Italy, it is partially compulsory. They compulsorily buy all the wheat that is delivered to the Government by the farmers. In Japan also, rice is purchased on a monopoly basis. We have got the example of a large number of countries. Though some of them are surplus in production, to ensure a good price for the farmer and to find external markets, control is imposed.

Much more, therefore, in our country, with undependable seasons and unequal production from year to year, necessity is imposed on us by the conditions in this country that trade should have to be controlled from a Government point of view. But, we have clearly stated that this organisation is not going completely to replace foodgrains trade in this country. It is not going to displace foodgrains trade in the country. As far as I have seen, most of the daily newspapers in India have given a somewhat good chit to this report. In the *Hindu* which is one of the responsible and well-informed papers in the country, while praising the recommendations of the report, they have said in the end in the editorial that this corporation should not be an all covering blanket corporation completely encircling private trade without leaving anything to private trade. It is not the intention of this report to completely have such an inescapable monopoly over these things. By an effort from now on, if you start this organisation with a capital of Rs. 100 crores now, within the next five years, it is estimated that we may be able to control 30 to 40 per cent. of the wholesale trade in foodgrains. If the Government is able to establish their control over at least 30 or 40 per cent. of the foodgrains trade in the country, they will be in an advantageous position to keep off blackmarketeers, to keep off holders, to keep off speculators who artificially push up the price and exploit the market for their own ends. That is the purpose of this organisation.

This organisation will consist of some experienced administrators. The composition of this organisation will be decided by the Government in the light of its experience and in consultation not only with their Advisers, but also with the State Governments.

We are asked to suggest some price control. We have suggested a Price Advisory Board, which is a technical body. We have got many Advisers and the Government of India is now overcrowded with advisory committees of a technical nature, especially statistics. The Food department has got a statistical committee of its own. The Cabinet has got statistical Advisers. The Planning Commission has got its own Advisory Committee. There are one or two more; I do not remember all these names. There are a number of statistical Advisers. They are confused with all these statistics. One group of statistics says that our production has gone up by 143 per cent. The other group says something else. Therefore, the Price Stabilisation Board has been suggested at the highest level, with a person of the status of a Secretary as Chairman. There would be a number of experts and a number of people of administrative experience on this body. It will be assisted by an Intelligence Division for collecting statistics; another, of course. This is another sixth wheel or fifth wheel in the coach. That is the advice we have got. They will be exclusively devoted to gather material information and market trends, prices, not only of foodgrains, but also of such commodities like cotton, jute, oilseeds, sugarcane and several other things in the market. An integrated price structure is very difficult to get about in the country. I think we have made a suggestion and if it is worked out, if a beginning is made in this direction, some fruitful results will come about.

15 hrs.

We had been asked to suggest a price for this year. On the basis of evidence gathered from all the important States, and even minor States, with regard to rice and wheat, we

found that an average price of Rs. 9-4-0 to Rs. 11-0-0 per maund for medium quality paddy would be a decent price, and about Rs. 13 to Rs. 15 per maund for wheat. We have not suggested any wholesale procurement, but as far as wheat is concerned, the margin for procurement is narrow, but it can be purchased in the open market for the requirements of the Government.

As far as rice is concerned, the hon. Minister has already said that the position is difficult. We have to impose an element of compulsion in procurement of rice from the surplus rice-producing areas. That has to be done anyhow.

I do not want to deal with all the matters dealt with by the hon. Minister or other friends in the House. With regard to production, I crave your permission say one or two things and close my speech.

Production is a ticklish question, and it is a difficult problem. In certain States the average production is getting low, in certain States it is going up. Our experience has been that all the southern States are improving in their per-acre yield somewhat, while in the northern States the per-acre yield is declining. That was the unfortunate evidence that we gathered from figures and from information with regard to U.P., and Bihar, but Bengal is not so bad as that, but even Orissa's production is low, and it is not comparatively improving in its per-acre yield. It is one of the main problems that confronts the Ministry of Agriculture with regard to production. They have evolved certain yardsticks that so much has to be grown by fertilisers, so much by good seeds, but good seeds are not coming up.

With regard to fertilisers, I must once again urge upon the Government that it is no use stinting on foreign exchange for fertilisers. We have made a recommendation with regard to Andhra that it should be allowed to have a factory of its own. In the

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whole of India, the Andhra area is the area that did not require any incentive for using fertilisers, and it is the largest single State that is using the largest quantity of fertilisers, and its production on the average is about 30 maunds an acre with regard to rice in the rice-growing areas with assured water supply. We have suggested that the private sector should be encouraged, should be fostered by Government, so that if the private sector is able to find some capital, it may find other investors from outside India also to start some fertiliser factories so that we will be able to overcome the present difficulty and the shortage in fertilisers. Unless we have the seed farms, fertilisers and also the compost and other manurial operations in the villages, this programme of more production will not fructify.

We have got a large number of minor irrigation works in the zamindari areas that have been neglected. Zamindaris have been abolished in Bengal, U.P., Madras, Andhra and Hyderabad areas. These areas have got small and minor irrigation works like tanks, wells, canals etc. All these have been integrated into the new States, but they are being neglected on account of administrative difficulties as they say. All these things have come under the jurisdiction of the Chief Engineers of Irrigation, and it has taken years before these tanks are repaired. In Mysore State, for instance, I know that in an area of 28,000 square miles they have got about 27,000 tanks and many of these are not in good repair. If we put sufficient money into these minor irrigation works, put one of the four Ministers mainly in charge of minor irrigation works and fertilisers and seeds all over the country and organise the States on an almost war footing, then we would be able to step up production.

I do not want to deal with the major irrigation schemes or big schemes. They are already there. I wish to say here what I have said in our party with regard to the administrative set-

up. The agricultural ministry is assigned to a minor role in all the States. I want that it should be given the first priority. The man who considers himself the biggest in the State like the Chief Minister or a man equal to him should be entrusted with the responsibility of working out agricultural production and also distribution of food.

I have not dealt with all the other details with regard to food. We have reserved the sector of food distribution to the private trade. It can be done by the State. We need not be afraid of using the word "socialisation". Our Chairman was fond of that word and we agreed with his pleasure. We need not be worried about "socialisation". When we have agreed to the socialist pattern of society which we want to develop in this country, the word "socialisation" need not scare anybody.

On the whole this is a report which can be studied, and we have with all sincerity tried to give, according to our lights, what little we could, and if it serves the purpose, we are more than satisfied.

Shri J. R. Mehta (Jodhpur): I will start by inviting the attention of this hon. House to the last sentence of the Asokha Mehta Committee report which reads as follows:

"In the great experiment of economic development in political democracy that our country is engaged in, the crucial position is occupied by food policy."

Listening to the hon. Minister this morning, I found that he also stressed the same idea. One might think that it is rather obvious to need any reiteration, but it needs reiteration because of our failure to appreciate the implications of this statement and the predicament in which we find ourselves today.

It is not an edifying spectacle to be told in 1957 that the food policy is

crucial for us, but even now it is not too late, and we must, I submit, at least now realise the implications of what it means.

It has a two-fold implication—the implication from the point of view of foreign exchange, and the implication from the point of view of our internal economy.

Hon. Members must be aware that it has a very serious implication from the point of view of foreign exchange in so far as it might drain away our limited resources in getting imports of food from outside.

So far as its impact on our internal economy is concerned, I dare say the implications are too serious, and in all humility I submit that it is because of our failure to solve this food problem that we have run into difficulties even so far as our Five Year Plan is concerned.

It is clear that food prices have a very vital bearing on other prices, and the rising spiral of prices has hit our Five Year Plan very hard.

I wish to submit that in trying to face this food problem which confronts us, there are certain paradoxes which we must face, and our success will depend on the extent to which we are able to solve these paradoxes.

One of these paradoxes is that higher prices do not, necessarily benefit the producer. This might appear to be a paradox, but it is true because it all depends on how the rise in food prices affects the prices of other commodities which are consumed by the producer. Now, it is very likely that the impact of food prices on the general prices will be so great that the benefit which accrues to the cultivators from the rise in prices of his produce might be washed off by the extra burden which the rise in prices of other commodities imposes upon him. I am prepared to admit that so far as bigger farmers are concerned probably it is true that the higher prices invariably benefit him, but so far as the average

producer, the small producer is concerned, I am very very doubtful whether higher prices always benefit him. In fact, it is even conceivable that if the production of foodgrains tends to bring down prices to an appreciable extent, a stage is conceivable when a reduction in the prices of foodgrains might even prove disadvantageous from the point of view of the producer.

Sir, I shall now pass on to another paradox. Higher prices do not necessarily lead to higher production. I remember, Sir, when some of us appeared before the Asoka Mehta Committee one of our friends here stated there—I think it was Shri Bibhuti Mishra—that a petty farmer with a holding of less than ten acres on the whole produces much more per acre than the bigger farmer. What is the reason for this? The reason obviously is that he must produce from a small holding enough to maintain himself and his family.

Speaking of Rajasthan, I have an experience of a class of landholders who are known as Muafidars i.e. rent-free grantees. They were free from giving any rent altogether. I can inform this House that they were the laziest persons on the earth and they produced less merely because they were rent-free grantees. You know that there is recurring famine in some parts of Rajasthan and people from those parts migrate to the more fertile parts like Bundi, Kotah and Malwa. I know it by personal experience that when there is famine in our parts and people go to Bundi, Kotah and Malwa what the farmers there do is to entrust their farming operations to our labour and they for themselves go and make merry and rest. That is a weakness of human nature; they prefer a life of ease to a life of hardwork provided their reasonable requirements according to the standard of living to which they are habituated are assured. My purpose in mentioning these facts is not that the agriculturist should not be given higher prices wherever they

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may be justified, but my desire is to stress that in order to induce the agriculturist to produce more and more it will be necessary, apart from the attraction of prices—to create in him a strong craving for higher standard of living. This may be a long time process but this has to be attempted all the same.

Now I should like to come to another paradox. I maintain and I wish it is borne in mind that there is no great conflict—taking the pattern of our economy as it is—between the interest of the producer and the interest of the consumer in general. To appreciate the force of this observation we have only to take note of the disparity between the price of food-grains at harvest time and the manner and the extent of rise in the prices as the season advances. Leaving aside the case of the small number of farmers who can afford to wait for higher prices, a large majority of agriculturists sell their produce or a major part of it soon after the harvest. The benefit of the subsequent rise in prices, therefore, goes largely to the middlemen. It follows that if we can adopt a device whereby we can reduce this gap, or check the subsequent rise of price, the interest of the consumer can be safeguarded without hitting the producer. From this point of view I have no hesitation in recommending the suggestion which has emanated from the Asoka Mehta Committee for the creation of a Price stabilisation machinery, because I firmly believe that a great hurdle would have been passed if we are able to bridge somehow the gap between the price which prevails at the harvest time and the prices which the consumer has to pay, or the producer himself has to pay, towards the end of the season.

In this context, I hope, hon. Members will excuse me if I am tempted to cite from my experience in my own State. I have in view a period of emergency when we had a food shortage, and a shortage of such a

nature that even the grain mandies at the capital were looted. I was placed in charge of that emergency. I am not going—I do not think it is necessary—to tell you all the details but there is one item which might interest you in this connection, and it is this. I did the first procurement in Rajasthan which, I think, was a record procurement and that too at a time of scarcity. We decided to procure bajra, wheat and gram. For procuring bajra and wheat we had a detailed and elaborate procedure. But so far as gram was concerned I suggested to the administration that since our requirements were not so great and since the areas in which gram was grown were also limited it was not necessary to follow that elaborate procedure for the procurement of gram. I asked them to leave the procurement of gram to me. What I did was to send a telegram to the district authorities, "Please contact the principal grain merchants at your headquarters and strike a bargain for such and such quantity of gram within twenty four hours". I had telegraphic replies from them saying that so much gram had been procured at such and such a rate. My target was overflowed and I had procured gram within 24 hours. Now, subsequently the administration thought that since we followed a particular procedure in regard to procurement of bajra and wheat they should follow the same procedure in regard to gram. So we cancelled the *ad hoc* arrangement which I had made, and tried to procure gram by the same procedure. And you will be interested to know that we could not procure even half the quantity we were able to procure initially and we had to pay a much heavier price for what we procured.

So, my submission is that if one only knows how and when to enter the market it should be possible to regulate prices. If we have an organisation of the type recommended by the Asoka Mehta Committee it will certainly be useful, though the

success of the organisation will largely depend on the requisite vision.

Sir, I think, I should now pass on from the subject of paradoxes to make one or two observations of a general nature. One thing on which I should like to particularly lay stress in this connection is that I definitely believe that our food problem is mainly one of organisation and management. All these years since the inception of the First Five Year Plan we have been giving attention to the question of irrigation works. We have spent huge amounts on creating irrigation facilities—major and minor irrigation works. We have tried to introduce better seeds; we have tried to give good manures. We have been doing all this; and yet, in 1957 what is the reason that we find that we are where we started? I submit that it is just a question of organisation and nothing else, and our major defect is this. There are too many cooks who are engaged in this business of stepping up production. We have firstly the Ministry of Community Development. So far as Community Development Project areas are concerned, they are responsible. For other areas, the Food and Agricultural Ministry is responsible. Then, at the village level, probably, there are so many departments involved and there is no perfect co-ordination between them. There is the Agricultural Department. The Agricultural Officer is directly responsible to the Agricultural Department. Then, there is the B.D.O. who is directly responsible to the Development Commissioner, and so on. My submission is, howsoever we might be able to ensure it, it is absolutely necessary that there should be unitary control over all the agencies and all the factors which are concerned and which can be effective in the matter of production of foodgrains.

In the end, I have just one word to say and it is this. I do not share the pessimism of the Asoka Mehta Committee in that we cannot make up the shortage of foodgrains in the country. In this context, I am rather

inclined to agree with the optimism of the hon. Leader of the House who says that it should not be impossible to get an extra production of 30 to 40 per cent. In this context, I may be excused if I offer a tip to the Food and Agriculture Minister for whatever it is worth and it is this.

Last session when the Asoka Mehta Committee was meeting, the Director of Agriculture of Rajasthan happened to be here and I asked him in all sincerity to let me know one means which he thought will be more effective than any other in stepping up food production. He said, 'First of all, save us from these VIPs'. He was making a humorous remark. I asked him to give me some concrete proposal. He said, 'My own experience is that nothing will help production so much as more spacing—increased spacing—in the sowing of crops. I forgot the matter and I went during the last inter-session to my constituency. I was travelling in Mewar. I casually came across an intelligent agriculturist and I was talking to him. He confirmed the same view. In fact, he pointed out to me places where *makka* was being produced three times as much was produced in his village and wheat 4 times as much as it was produced in his village. And, he told me that he had himself tried this experiment and it produced marvellous results.

I am placing this tip in the hands of the hon. Minister for whatever it is worth. I shall be prepared to give him the name of the person who gave this information to me. Shri Thirumala Rao knows, I hope I am divulging no secret when I say that, I conveyed this information to the Asoka Mehta Committee and Shri Asoka Mehta told me that he was circulating this information to his colleagues. I repeat that there is no reason for pessimism. Our food problem is capable of being solved; but only if we act with common sense and foresight and not be led away by barren statistics or armchair theories.

श्री अ० सि० सहनल (जंजगीर) ।
समापति जी, जो प्रस्ताव मंत्री महोदय ने
खाद्य परिस्थिति के बारे में प्रस्तुत किया है,
में उस पर अपने विचार रखना चाहता हूँ ।

सब से पहले हम की यह देखना चाहिये
कि जो जिले पहले सरप्लस एरियाज कहे जाते
थे, वहाँ पर खाद्य परिस्थिति खराब होने का
मुख्य कारण क्या है । अगर गवर्नमेंट जिले के
सारे स्टॉक को खरीद ले और गवर्नमेंट्स
लेव्स पर ही दूसरों को दे, तो मैं समझता हूँ
कि हम को काफी मात्रा में खाद्य मिल सकता
है । इस सम्बन्ध में एक कठिनाई यह है कि
मध्य प्रदेश सरकार तो सारे का सारा स्टॉक
खरीद नहीं सकती है, लेकिन भारत सरकार
अगर चाहे, तो उस को खरीद सकती है और
उस के बाद जो भी प्रान्त, जो भी जिला,
कलेक्टर वगैरह उस को मागे, उन को वह बेचा
जा सकता है । जब तक यह मार्ग अपनाया नहीं
जायगा, तब तक खाद्य समस्या हल नहीं हो
सकती है ।

हमारे यहाँ खास तौर से खाद्य समस्या
बहुत खराब हो गई है । जो स्थान खाद्य उत्पादन
के लिए बहुत मशहूर था और जिस ने कभी भी
फ़ैमिन कन्डीशन नहीं देखी थी, आज वहाँ पर
गल्ले का भाव बहुत अधिक बढ़ गया है ।
हो सकता है कि वहाँ पर गल्ला हो ही न ।
वहाँ के जो व्यापारी हैं, वे ज्यादा रकम दे कर
गल्ला खरीदने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं ।

फूड ग्रेन्ज एम्पायरी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट
के सफ़ा २६ पर यह बताया गया है

We would like to emphasise here
that until there is social control over
the wholesale trade we shall not be
in a position to bring about stablisa-
tion of foodgrains prices.

अगर गवर्नमेंट चाहती है कि फूड ग्रेन्ज की
प्राइसिज ठीक स्तर पर रहें, तो यह जरूरी
है कि सारे के सारे स्टॉक्स को खरीद ले और
उस के बाद खुद ही उस को दूसरों को देने
की व्यवस्था करे । पहले हमारे यहाँ जो

स्टॉक्स थे, जिन के जरिये हम दूसरे देशों को
भनाज भेजा करते थे, उन स्टॉक्स को मालवाड़ी
से, जिस में करीब करीब पन्चीस, तीस, पैंतीस
डिब्बे होते हैं, भाज बाहर भेजा जा रहा है,
जिस का नतीजा यह है कि बिलासपुर के
जिले में बड़ी विकट खाद्य समस्या पैदा हो
गई है । मैं आप को पांच स्टेशनों का नाम
बताना चाहता हूँ । आप दर्याप्त करें कि
जो कुछ मैं कह रहा हूँ, वह ठीक है या नहीं ।
वे स्टेशन ये हैं—बाराबार, नैला, चाम्पा,
भकलतरा और बिलासपुर । मे यह जानना
चाहता हूँ कि इन सारी जगहों से जो करीब
करीब तीस लाख टन भनाज बाहर जा रहा है,
उस को रोकने के लिए आप ने क्या कार्यवाही
की है । हम प्रार्थना करते हैं कि इस फूड ग्रेन
को बाहर जाने से रोका जाय, ताकि वहाँ की
स्थिति ज्यादा भयंकर न हो सके । हमारे यहाँ
भिन्न भिन्न स्टेशनों से जो माल गया है, उस की
क्रिगर्ज मिल सकती हैं । मेरा सुझाव यह है कि
यदि आप उचित समझे, तो मध्य प्रदेश की
सरकार और वहाँ के कलेक्टर की राय ले लीजिए
कि क्या उन की यह धारणा है या नहीं कि
वहाँ का सारे का सारा गल्ला खरीद लेना
चाहिए ।

इस सम्बन्ध में छोटी-छोटी योजनाओं
को भी कार्यान्वित किया जाना चाहिए ।
मैं वहाँ के डिप्टी कलेक्टर की सलाहना कलंगा
कि उन्होंने बिना परमिशन के अपना काम
शुरू किया और मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने
भी उन की इस कार्य के लिये सलाहना की,
हालांकि उन्होंने इस को करने का अधिकार
नहीं प्राप्त किया था, क्योंकि वह लोगों को
बचाना चाहते थे, उन को काम देना चाहते
थे । जो लोग उस परिस्थिति से फ़ायदा उठाना
चाहते थे, उन से लोगों को उन्होंने बचाया
और उन की पूरी मदद की । नतीजा यह है
कि वहाँ के लोगों के पास फूड ग्रेन्ज को पहुँचाया
जा सका ।

हमारी जो इरिगेशन की स्कीम्स हैं,
उन को भी काम में लाना चाहिए । इरिगेशन

रेट्स के बारे में फूडसेन्च एन्क्वायरी कमेटी ने कहा है—

We have been told that in many areas the rates are beyond the capacity of the cultivators to pay with the result that full use of water from the tube wells is not being made.

यह बात बिल्कुल सत्य है। ये रेट्स इतने ज्यादा हैं, कि बेचारा काश्तकार उन को नहीं दे सकता है। मध्य प्रदेश में—और खास तौर पर छत्तीसगढ़ एरिया में—, जहां कि फूड स्केरसिटी बहुत ज्यादा है, छोटे छोटे नालों और तालाबों से फ़ायदा उठाना चाहिए। मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि आप मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को इस बारे में प्रोत्साहन दें और पैसा भी देने की कोशिश करें। वहां पर मालगुजारों के बक्त के तालाब हैं, जिन की मरम्मत नहीं हो सकी। रिपोर्ट में भी इस विषय में जिक्र किया गया है फूड एन्क्वायरी की रिपोर्ट में भी कहा गया है

"In some states it was stated that small Irrigation works which were formerly kept repaired by the zimindars are not more being maintained in proper condition after the abolition of zimindaris.

अगर आप उन को अपने हाथ में लेंगे, तो हमारी परिस्थिति बहुत कुछ सुधर सकती है। अगर आप ने इन बस वर्षों के बीच में इन छोटी छोटी स्कीम्स पर काम किया होता, तो यह परिस्थिति हमारे सामने न आती। मंत्री महोदय मुझे माफ़ करेंगे। मैं इस राय से सहमत नहीं हूँ कि इस देश में इस तरह से खाद्य नीति अच्छी तरह से कामयाबी हासिल नहीं कर सकती है। यदि हम छोटी छोटी स्कीमों को हाथ में ले कर काम करें, नालों और तालाबों को बांधना शुरू करें, छोटे छोटे इलेक्ट्रिकल इंजन के पम्प की मदद से और ट्यूब वेल्स शुरू करें, तो हमारी यह खाद्य समस्या बहुत कुछ हल हो सकती है। मैं ने अपने जिले में देखा है कि डार्ड, साढ़े तीन हास पाबर के इंजनों के पम्प से बस, पच्चीस, पचास एकड़ व पछत्तर एकड़ जमीन की इर्गिशन हुई है।

उसकी रिपोर्ट आप मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के मांग सकते हैं। तब आप को मालूम होगा कि इन पम्प के जरिये से हम कितना ज्यादा काम कर सकते हैं।

बढ़ती हुई कीमतों को रोकने का एक तरीका यह है कि को-ऑपरेटिव बैंक्स को प्रोत्साहन दिया जाय और उन के जरिये से सारा ग्रेन खरीद लिया जाय। यह आप को देखना पड़ेगा कि उन के पास रुपया है या नहीं। आप को उन्हें इतनी सहूलियत देनी पड़ेगी कि वे यह काम कर सकें।

हमारे यहां नया धान (गल्सा) आ गया है। व्यापारी लोग उस पर रुपया एडवांस कर रहे हैं। इससे परिस्थिति खराब हो रही है। वह गल्सा बाहर जा रहा है। आप को उस को रोकने की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिए। छत्तीसगढ़ की खाद्य परिस्थिति बहुत खराब है। अभी तक तो वहां पर लोग भूख से मरे नहीं हैं, लेकिन शायद मार्च, अप्रैल व मई जून में ऐसा बक्त आ जाय। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि आप के रहते हुए यह परिस्थिति नहीं आयेगी, क्योंकि आप इस सम्बन्ध में कोशिश कर रहे हैं तथा ज्यादा सतर्क हैं।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि जो सुझाव हम लोगों ने दिए हैं, उन पर ध्यान करने की कृपा करे।

श्री ज्ञानबलनबाला (भागलपुर)

शेयरमैन साहब, खाद्य उत्पादन की समस्या ऐसी है कि इस के ऊपर हमारी समूची इकानोमी निर्भर करती है। हमारे वित्त मंत्री साहब ने सब देशों में घूम कर, बड़ी मेहनत करके, जो विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त करने का प्रयत्न किया है, उस रकम का एक बड़ा भाग शायद हमारे खाद्य मंत्री साहब के महकमों में खप जायेगा। आज हमारी बहुत सी रकम फूड इम्पोर्ट करने में जा रही है। देखना यह है कि हम लोग किस तरह के खाद्य उत्पादन के लिये चेष्टा करे और अपने देश में ही अपना खाद्य उत्पादन करे जिस से हम को बाहर से

[श्री मुनमुनबाला]

अन्न न मंगाना पड़े और साथ ही किसी भावमी को भूखा भी न मरना पड़े। जितना आवश्यक अन्न है वह उन को मिलता रहे। मेरी अग्र बुद्धि में जो आता है मैं उसे आप को बतलाना चाहता हूँ।

हम छोटी छोटी चीजों पर बहुत कम ध्यान देते हैं। बड़ी बड़ी योजनाओं पर, बड़े बड़े डैम्स आदि के ऊपर ही हम लोग का ध्यान आकर्षित होता है। गांव वाले भी उन्हीं की ओर अपना ध्यान रखते हैं और समझते हैं कि जो पुरानी बातें थीं कि छोटी छोटी नहरें, छोटे छोटे कुएं, छोटे छोटे तालाब आदि खोद कर उत्पादन करें, उन का समय खत्म हो गया। आज वे बातें उन की मनोबुद्धि से खली गई हैं। मैं ने इस बार दस बारह दिन तक लगातार अपने चुनाव क्षेत्र में जा कर देखा। देख कर बड़ा दुःख हुआ कि वे लोग इस पर निर्भर करते हैं कि हमारे खाद्य मंत्री कहीं से अन्न ला कर हम को दें। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने कल निवेदन किया था कि लोगों को सरकार की ओर नहीं देखना चाहिये, खुद मेहनत करनी चाहिये और ऐसी चेष्टा करनी चाहिये कि गांवों में लोग खुद अन्न को उत्पन्न करें जिस से सब लोगों को अन्न मिले। उन का कहना बहुत ठीक है, बहुत सत्य है, और जब तक हम लोग ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तब तक हमारे देश की उन्नति कभी नहीं होगी। हम चाहे तीन के बदले दस स्टील प्लाट लगा दें, हमारे देश की उन्नति होने वाली नहीं है। जब तक हम अपने खाद्य के मसले को हल न करें, उस को पूर्ण रूप से सफलभूत न बनायें, हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते। मुझे पूरे आंकड़े मालूम नहीं हैं, परन्तु थोड़ा बहुत इधर उधर देखने से, लोगों की राय लेने से, मुझे यह मालूम हुआ है कि कम से कम ७० फीसदी उपज हमारे देश में छोटे छोटे किसानों की चेष्टा से होती है। छोटी छोटी होल्डिंग रखने वाले किसान करीब ७० फीसदी हैं।

श्री जयराज सिंह : ८६ फीसदी।

श्री मुनमुनबाला : हमारे मित्र कहते हैं कि, ८६ परसेंट। तब तो और भी बुरी स्थिति है। यदि उन की संख्या ८६ परसेंट है, तो मैं खाद्य मंत्री साहब से पूछूंगा कि जो यह ८६ परसेंट लोग छोटी उपज करने वाले हैं, उन के पास क्या बीज हैं जिस से वह अधिक उपज कर सकें। उन के पास धन नहीं है। उन के पास जो पशु धन या उस का नाश हो गया है। उन के पास अच्छा बीज जो था, जिस से वह उत्पन्न करते थे, आज वह भी उन के पास नहीं है। आज हमारे खाद्य मंत्री ने एक नया आविष्कार किया है कि वह इस नतीजे पर पहुंचे हैं कि सिचाई के लिये जो छोटी छोटी चीजें हैं उन के बिना काम नहीं चलेगा। बहुत दिनों के बाद उन्होंने यह आविष्कार किया। हम को स्वाधीनता प्राप्त किये हुये दस वर्ष हो गये। मैं पूछूंगा कि इस दस वर्ष के समय में इन छोटी छोटी चीजों का क्या हाल हो गया है, यह कभी हमारे खाद्य मंत्री ने सोचा है। आज दस वर्ष के बाद उन्होंने यह आविष्कार किया है कि जब तक छोटी छोटी सिचाई की चीजों का प्रबन्ध नहीं होगा तब तक देश का उपार्जन पूरा नहीं होगा। अगर बड़ी बड़ी सिचाई की योजनाओं में ही हम लगे रहेंगे तो खाद्य उत्पादन होना मुश्किल है। यदि उन का यह स्याल है है तो जैसा मैं ने अभी कहा, मैं ने अपने चुनाव क्षेत्र में जा कर देखा कि वहां पर जो जो छोटे छोटे रिजर्वायर थे, छोटे छोटे कुंए थे, सब खत्म हो गये हैं। कहीं पर भी उन का नाम निशान नहीं है, और वहां पर परिस्थिति यह हो गई है कि जैसे सूखा पड़ गया हो। मैं ने कई किसानों को बुला कर पूछा कि क्यों भाई, यदि आप के यहां समय पर वर्षा नहीं हुई, हथिया नहीं बरसा, तो पहले तो वर्षा हुई थी, क्या उस से तुम उपार्जन नहीं कर सकते थे? उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे क्षेत्रों के पास नहरें हैं, अगर नहरों

का पानी आ जाये तो हम उपाजर्जन कर सकते हैं। मैंने कहा कि पहले तो आप छोटे छोटे डांड बांध कर खेती कर लिया करते थे, तो वे लोग मुझे अपने यहां ले गए कि मैं देखू कि उन डांडों और बांधों की क्या हालत है। मैं नहीं कहता कि ऐसा क्यों हुआ। लेकिन जिस प्रकार आप ने यह आविष्कार किया कि छोटे तालाबों, छोटे कुंभों, डांडों, बांधों, और छोटी छोटी सिंचाई योजनाओं का प्रबन्ध किये बिना उन्नति नहीं हो सकती, उसी प्रकार मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूं, पशु धन के संबंध में। हमारे भाई पंडित ठाकुर दास भागवत कभी यहां पर नहीं बोलते जब तक कि वह पशु धन के ऊपर कुछ न कहें। आप वहां जा कर देखें कि किसानों के पास बैल किस प्रकार के हैं। वे बैल अच्छी तरह से खेतों को जोत भी नहीं सकते। उन को खाने के लिये चारा भी नहीं मिलता। हमारी सरकार इस के लिये क्या कर रही है? हमारे संविधान में भी दिया हुआ है कि हम उस के लिये खास प्रबन्ध करेंगे। बहुत से लोग इस बात को मजाक में उड़ा देते हैं, कहते हैं कि यह काऊ डंग पालिसी है। जो भी हो, यह काऊ डंग एकानामी हो या कुछ और हो, परन्तु आप उन ७० फीसदी लोगों की, जिसे कि हमारे भाई ८६ फीसदी कहते हैं, जैसी स्थिति है, जो कि उपज करने के लिये पुरानी रीति पर ही निर्भर करते हैं, जब तक आप उन के हित में इस नीति को सफलीभूत नहीं करेंगे, आप की खाद्य समस्या हल होने वाली नहीं है और जैसा प्रायः सभी लोग कहते हैं, आप नें भी यह अनुभव किया, जब तक खाद्य समस्या अच्छी तरह से सफलीभूत नहीं होगी, हमारे देश की एकानामी ठीक नहीं होगी।

हमारी पहली फाइव इयर प्लैन में कहा गया था कि खाद्य समस्या को और विशेष ध्यान देना होगा, और उस पर अधिक ध्यान दिया गया, उसी प्रकार इस बार दूसरी फाइव इयर प्लैन में इंडस्ट्रीज

के ऊपर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया गया। परन्तु उन को इस नीति को रिबाइज करना पड़ा और उन को यह कहना पड़ा कि जब तक हम अपनी खाद्य समस्या को अच्छी तरह से सफलीभूत नहीं कर लेंगे, तब तक कुछ नहीं हो सकता। और वह खाद्य समस्या उसी हालत में पूर्ण रूप से हल होगी जब कि हमारे ८६ फीसदी किसानों को आप इस प्रकार की छोटी छोटी चीजों को मुहैया न कर दें। उन के पास घाज पैसे नहीं हैं कि वे अपनी उपज अधिक कर लें, उन के पास पशु धन नहीं है, उन के पास कोई और साधन नहीं है। वह बेकार से हो गये हैं।

15.44 hrs.

[SHRI C. R. PATTABHI RAMAN in the Chair]

मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूं और हमारी नीति भी यही है कि यदि उन को पूर्ण रूप से इस प्रकार की सहायता दी जाये तो लार्ज स्केल प्रोडक्शन जो आप करना चाहते हैं, उस से अच्छी तरह से वह लोग कर सकते हैं।

मैंने कुछ केन एरिया में देखा है कि जहां मिलों ने किसानों को अच्छा बीज दिया, जल का प्रबन्ध किया और मैन्योर का प्रबन्ध कर दिया वहां उन को उपज मिलों की फर्मा की उपज से कहीं अधिक हुई। यह मेरा निजी अनुभव है। जब ऐसी बीज है तो मैं अपनी सरकार से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे ऐसा उपाय करेंगे कि जिससे हमारे किसानों का पशुधन ठीक हो, उनको अच्छा बीज मिले और जो पैसा आदि उन को खेती करने के लिये चाहिये वह समय पर पहुंचाया जाये। जब तक यह बीज नहीं होगी, जैसा मैंने कहा, यह बीज चलने वाली नहीं है और आप की खाद्य समस्या हल होने वाली नहीं है।

अब मैं आपको एक बात और बताता हूं। अब कम्युनिटी प्रोजेक्ट के लिये कहा गया है कि अब उस से इस तरह से काम लिया

[श्री झुनझुनवाला]

जायेगा कि वह उपज बढ़ाने के लिये ज्यादा काम करे। अब वह, अपना समय खेत तमाशों में जगह जगह मामूली से अस्पताल आदि सोलने में या सड़क भावि बनाने में नहीं लगायेंगे बल्कि उपज बढ़ाने में लगायेंगे। यदि वे ऐसा करें तो बहुत अच्छी बात होगी। यदि वे ऐसा करने में सफलतापूर्वक हों तो बहुत अच्छा है। लेकिन हमको डर है कि यदि वे गवर्नमेंट का जो प्रोसीज्योर है उसी को फालो करेंगे तो वे कुछ भी नहीं कर सकेंगे। यदि उन के सामने वे टैकनिकैलिटीज रहेंगी और वे केवल किसानों को हुकम देंगे कि तुम यह करो और वह करो तो दिक्कतें सामने आयेंगी और वे अपने काम में सफल नहीं होंगे। आज किसानों की यह हालत हो गयी है कि वे उस समय तक कुछ भी नहीं कर सकते जब तक कि उनके पास सब चीजें न पहुंचायी जायें। आप उन को लोन देते हैं, उनको बीज देते हैं और उन को फर्टीलाइजर देने का भी प्रबन्ध किया है। मैं सरकार को बधाई देता हूँ कि सरकार बहुत पैसा इस काम की तरफ खर्च करती है परन्तु सरकार को उसके साथ साथ यह भी देखना चाहिये कि यह सब मदद हमारे किसानों तक पहुंचती है या नहीं। हमारे खाद्य मंत्री महोदय ने बिहार के लिये गेहूँ के बीज भेजे, समय पर भी भेजे। परन्तु अक्सर लोग अनभिज्ञ थे और उन्होंने ने उन का इक्वल डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन कर दिया। यानी जहां कम जरूरत थी वहां भी उतना ही भेजा और जहां ज्यादा जरूरत थी वहां भी उतना ही भेजा। नतीजा यह हुआ कि जहां पर ज्यादा बीज इस्तेमाल हो सकता था और उपज बढ़ सकती थी वहां पर पूरा बीज नहीं पहुंचा और जहां ज्यादा आवश्यकता नहीं थी वहां जाकर बीज पड़ा रहा और काम में नहीं आया। इस से हमारी सरकार को पता लग जाना चाहिये कि जो खेती के लिये उसकी तरफ से काम हो रहा है...

limit. The Minister has to reply and he will take twenty minutes, and there are a number of Members from other Groups. So I would request him to conclude now.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: I will take only two minutes, on imports.

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार अपनी बाहर से अनाज मंगा कर लोगों को खिलाने की नीति छोड़ दे। यह नीति अच्छी नहीं है। हम लोगों को कुछ आस्टेरिटी का भी ध्यान रखना चाहिये अगर हमको एक बीज खाने की नहीं मिलती है तो हम दूसरी चीज खायें। हमारे भाई भरूबा साहब ने कहा कि अगर हमको १० परसेंट और अनाज न मिला तो तीन करोड़ आदमी मर जायेंगे। मैं उनको कहुंगा कि वह कुछ और चीज खाकर रहें और यदि दस परसेंट की ही कमी है तो हम सब लोग मिल कर प्रण कर लें कि हम सब लोग दस परसेंट कम खायेंगे लेकिन हम किसी भी हालत में इम्पोर्ट नहीं करेंगे। यदि हम इस प्रकार स्वार्थ त्याग करेंगे और हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब भी और भरूबा साहब आदि सब लोग यह उदाहरण पेश करेंगे कि हमें बाहर से मंगाने की कोई भी आवश्यकता नहीं रहेगी और लोगों को उत्साह बढ़ेगा कि हम देश के लिये कुछ काम कर रहे हैं। मैं अपने खाद्य मंत्री महोदय को कहुंगा कि वे ऐसा प्रयत्न करें और किसानों को इस प्रकार से मदद दें ताकि खाद्य ज्यादा पैदा हो सके।

एक महाशय ने कहा कि हमको दो चीजों को इम्पोर्ट करना चाहिये ताकि एक तो अनाज का और दूसरा दवाओं का। यदि खाद्य पदार्थ का इम्पोर्ट बन्द कर दिया जाये तो मैं समझता हूँ कि बम्बई जैसे शहर में जो बीमारियां होती हैं वे नहीं होंगी और फिर दवाओं को भी इम्पोर्ट नहीं करना पड़ेगा।

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member has exceeded his time

Mr. Chairman: Shri Braj Raj Singh.

Shri N. R. Munisamy (Vellore): Nobody from Madras side has spoken.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): You cannot take advantage of the State of the Chairman!

Mr. Chairman: I have a list prepared by my predecessor and I am sticking to that list.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: There should be equal distribution.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the younger section will have a chance?

Mr. Chairman: After all I have to be guided by the list and the requests of Members which have been recorded here. I took charge only now. After Shri Braj Raj Singh I shall call Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and then the others. And I would request hon. Members to confine themselves to ten minutes, if possible.

श्री बजराम सिंह : सभापति महोदय, हमारे खाद्य मंत्री माननीय अजित प्रसाद जैन ने ७ जुलाई को लखनऊ में कहा था : "भारत और अमेरिका के बीच उधार गेहूं मिलने के बारे में बातचीत प्रायः तय हो चुकी है इस सहायता के कारण देश में अब संकट नहीं रहेगा ऐसी आशा की जाती है" । स्टेट्समैन, ८ जुलाई, ५७ । इस के बारे में चार महीने से कम बाद उन्होंने एक बयान इस देश के बाहर दिया जहां वह गये हुए थे । उन्होंने यह बयान रोम में दिया जहां वह खाद्य और कृषि, संगठन की बैठक में भाग लेने गये थे । वह बयान उन्होंने रोम में ५ नवम्बर को दिया था । वह इस प्रकार है : "हिन्दुस्तान के उत्तरपूर्व के लगभग १,६७,००० वर्ग मील के क्षेत्र में लगभग ७ करोड़ ६० लाख लोग, जो ग्राम तौर से खेती पर निर्भर हैं, प्रायः अकाल की हालत में हैं । हमारी दिक्कतें पूरे १९५८ में रहेंगी । १९५८ के मध्य तक हमारे पास अन्न बिल्कुल नहीं रहेगा । अगर १९५८ के दूसरे हिस्से में सूखे से पीड़ित लोगों के लिये

अन्न नहीं मिला तो हम लोग सचमुच गम्भीर परेशानी में फँस जायेंगे ।" यह ६ नवम्बर के हिन्दू में रिपोर्ट हुआ था । मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी इस सरकार के जो लोग हैं, अक्सर दो जवानों से बोलते हैं । जब जिस तरह की उन्हें आवश्यकता होती है उस तरह का बयान दे देते हैं । मैं अपने खाद्य मंत्री से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब वे जुलाई में बयान दे रहे थे तो उन को वह बात नहीं मालूम थी जो कि उन को चार महीने बाद नवम्बर में मालूम हुई ।

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, with your permission, may I clarify a point?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, it may benefit the discussion, and after all the further discussion of the point may not be necessary.

श्री अ० प्र० जैन : आपने जो पहली स्पीच की रिपोर्ट को पढ़ा है वह ठीक नहीं है । अगर आप मेरे सलनऊ के बयान की रिपोर्ट जो पी० टी० आई० ने दी है वह पढ़ें तो आप को मालूम होगा कि जो मैं ने कहा था इस से बिल्कुल मुक्तलिफ था । इस के अलावा इन चार महीनों में हालात भी बहुत बदले ।

श्री बजराम सिंह : मैं स्टेट्समैन की रिपोर्ट पढ़ रहा था । हो सकता है कि जो खाद्य मंत्री महोदय कह रहे हैं वह ठीक हो । लेकिन जो भी हो मैं सिर्फ यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अक्सर हमारे मंत्री लोग दो जवानों से बोलते हैं ! यह तो चार ही महीने की बात है । हम पिछले सात साल से देख रहे हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान की खाद्य समस्या के बारे में तरह तरह की बातें कही जा रही हैं । कभी कहा जाता है कि वर्षा अच्छी हुई, नीलम अच्छा रहा इसलिये पैदावार अच्छी हुई है और किसी तरह का संकट नहीं है । कभी इस समस्या के बारे में संकट की बात कही जाती है । मैं सिर्फ यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह की बातें जो हम करते हैं उन के क्या नतीजे होते हैं । हम अपनी नीति में कोई मौलिक परिवर्तन

[श्री बजराम सिंह]

करने की बात सोच नहीं रहे हैं। अक्सर कमेटीयां बनती हैं, कमीशन बनते हैं, लोगों को मुकदर किया जाता है, टीमें जाती हैं, वे तहकीकातें करती हैं, उनकी रिपोर्टें आती हैं और उन रिपोर्टों के आने के बाद कोई मौलिक परिवर्तन की बात नहीं की जाती। आप जानते हैं कि हमारी आबादी लगातार बढ़ रही है और अगर उस के साथ ही साथ हमारा खाद्य उत्पादन भी नहीं बढ़ता है, तो हमें निश्चित रूप से भूखो मरना पड़ेगा। लेकिन इस सम्बन्ध में कोई मौलिक परिवर्तन कर के कोशिश नहीं की गई है, जिससे उत्पादन बढ़ सके।

16 hrs.

सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार लगभग साढ़े आठ करोड़ एकड़ से दस करोड़ एकड़ तक ऐसी जमीन है, जिस पर खेती हो सकती है और उसको तोड़ कर खेती की जानी चाहिये। लेकिन जब तोड़ने की बात होती है, तो इंस्टर आर्गेनाइजेशन की बात की जाती है, मशीनों से तोड़ने की बात की जाती है, परन्तु किसानों को प्रोत्साहन नहीं दिया जाता है कि वे स्वयं उस जमीन को तोड़ कर बहा खेती कर सकें। अगर सरकार की तरफ से ऐसी योजना होती कि बेकार जमीन का किसानों की मालिक बना दिया जाय, जोकि उसको तोड़ कर वहाँ गन्ना उपजायें, तो करोड़ों एकड़ जमीन पर गन्ना पैदा होने लगता और पैदावार में बहुत बृद्धि होती लेकिन उस तरफ ध्यान ही नहीं दिया जाता। :

सोशलिस्ट पार्टी की तरफ से पिछले सात साल से यह बात कही जा रही है कि जिस तरह मुल्क की रक्षा के लिये आप फौज रख रहे हैं, उसी तरह पैदावार को बढ़ाने के लिये एक लैंड आर्मी—एक भूमि सेना—बनाइये। दस लाख व्यक्तियों की भूमि सेना से आप इस देश की खाद्य समस्या को हल कर सकते हैं। अगर फ्री आदमी

१००, १२० रुपये प्रति मास दिये जायें, तो भी सिर्फ १२० करोड़ रुपये सासना खर्च होते हैं, जबकि आप गन्ने के आयात पर ७०० करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर चुके हैं। विदेशी मुद्रा बहुत कीमती थी, जिससे कई दूसरे जरूरी काम किये जा सकते थे। उसको आप ने खाद्य आयात करने पर लगाया, लेकिन यह कोशिश नहीं की कि एक भूमि सेना बना कर इस समस्या को हल किया जाय।

मुल्क में ८६ फ्री सदी किसान ऐसे हैं, जिनकी जमीनों में मुनाफ़ा नहीं होता है, जिनके पास भलाभकर जोते हैं और उनसे करीब पचास करोड़ रुपये लगान आता है। अगर उस लगान को माफ़ कर दिया जाय, तो पचास करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान होगा, और वह भी केन्द्र को नहीं, राज्य सरकारों को। अगर आप यहां से उस नुकसान को पूरा कर दें, तो कितना फ़ायदा हो सकता है। वे ८६ फ्री सदी किसान यह समझने लग जायेंगे कि हमें वाकई आजादी मिली है। इससे उन को एक प्रकार का इन्सेन्टिव—प्रोत्साहन—मिलेगा और अगर आप अपील करें, तो वह आपसी पैदावार को दस प्रतिशत बढ़ाने पर तैयार हो जायेंगे।

मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि क्या आपकी एक निश्चित कर-नीति है। जिस व्यक्ति की आमदनी किसी खास सीमा से कम होती है, उससे कर वसूल नहीं किया जाता है। लेकिन इसके विपरीत अगर कोई काश्तकार एक बीघा भी जमीन जोतता है, तो उससे लगान वसूल किया जाता है। जब दूसरे मामले में आप एक कर-नीति निर्धारित करते हैं, तो आप भूमि के सम्बन्ध में इस बात के लिये तैयार क्यों नहीं होते कि जिन लोगों को खेती से मुनाफ़ा नहीं होता है, उनसे लगान न लिया जाये। जिन लोगों के पास भलाभकर जोते हैं, अगर आप उनका लगान माफ़ कर दें, तो

पचास करोड़ रुपये के नुकसान में आप खाद्य समस्या को हल कर सकते हैं।

भूमि समस्या के बारे में बार बार यह कहा जाता है कि हमने जमींदारिया खत्म कर दी है, लेकिन मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि उन राज्यों में जहाँ जमींदारिया खत्म हुई लाखों लोगों को बेदखल किया जा रहा है। जब तक किसान को भरोसा न हो कि अगले साल भी मैं इस जमीन को जोत सकूँगा, तब तक वह पूरी हिम्मत के साथ मेहनत कर के खाद्य उत्पादन नहीं करेगा। इस सम्बन्ध में नीति में मौलिक परिवर्तन करने की आवश्यकता है कि बेदखलियों को तुरन्त रोक दिया जाय।

१९४६ में पहले खास तौर से उत्तर प्रदेश में सिंचाई पर कुछ स्थानों में ढाई आने बीघा लिया जाता था, लेकिन १९५२ में तीन रुपये दो आने कर दिया गया—बीस गुना कर दिया गया और फिर यह उम्मीद की जाती है कि हमारी खाद्य समस्या हल हो जायगी और उत्पादन बढ़ेगा। इन बातों से किसान को कोई प्रोत्साहन नहीं मिल सकता है।

जब लोग कहते हैं कि सिंचाई के दर ज़रा कम करो, भूमि सेना बनाओ, बिना मुनाफे की खेती को लगान से माफ कर दो, तो आप नहीं सुनते, बल्कि आप उन को जेल में भेज देते हैं। १९५७ से उत्तर प्रदेश में पांच हजार आदमियों को इसी कारण जेल भेज दिया गया। तामिलनाडु में इस सबाल को ले कर चौदह सौ आदमियों को जेल में भेज दिया गया। एक तरफ इस देश में ८६ फ्रीसदी काश्तकार ऐसे हैं, जिन की खेती अलाभकर है, जो पूरी मेहनत के साथ काम करने के बाद भी मुनाफा नहीं कमा पाते हैं, दूसरी तरफ ऐसे भी आदमी हैं, जिनके पास हज़ारों बीघे के फ़ार्म हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस सरकार के आदमी

देश की समस्याओं को हल करने का मस्तिष्क नहीं रखते। आप हिन्दुस्तान को बरबादी की तरफ ले जा रहे हैं। आप सोचते हैं कि बाहर से गल्ला मंगा कर देश बन जायगा। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान एक खेतिहरो का देश है। जब तक यहाँ पर खेती की समस्या को सब से ज्यादा प्राथमिकता (प्रायटी) नहीं दी जायगी, तब तक यह मुल्क बन नहीं सकता।

मैं पूछना यह चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में आपकी नीति क्या है। आप पच वर्षीय योजना में खेती पर कितना रुपया खर्च कर रहे हैं। किस तरह से उस को खर्च कर रहे हैं? इस बारे में कम्यूनिटी प्राजेक्ट्स का नाम बार बार लिया जाता है, लेकिन सबाल यह है कि उसके नाम पर आप गावों में जो रुपया दे रहे हैं, क्या वह वाकई उन किसानों को पहुँच रहा है, जो कि उसके हकदार हैं? मेरा कहना है कि नहीं पहुँच रहा है। बीघ में ही लोग उसको खा रहे हैं।

मैं फिर कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह कमेटिया बनाने में और उन की रिपोर्टों से मुल्क नहीं बन सकता है। आप यह बात नहीं समझते हैं, इसीलिए दिक्कतें होती हैं। आप अन्दाज़ा लगाते हैं कि पैदावार बढ़ जायगी, लेकिन वह बढ़ती नहीं है। आप सारी नीति को गलत तरीके पर चला रहे हैं। इस देश को खेतिहरो का मुल्क कहा जाता है। कहा जाता है कि यहाँ पर दूध की नदिया बहती थी, लेकिन आज हमारी यह अवस्था हो गई है कि हमको खाद्य समस्या पर चर्चा करनी पड़ रही है, करोड़ों रुपये के खाद्य पदार्थ विदेशों से भगवाने पड़ रहे हैं, लोग भूख मर रहे हैं। भले ही कोई इन्कार करे कि मौतें नहीं हुई हैं, लेकिन इस बात को मानना पड़ेगा कि मौतें हुई अवश्य हैं—हो सकता है कि वे

[श्री बजराम सिंह]

बिल्कुल भूख की वजह से न हुई हों, खाने की कमी से हुई हों—धीरे यह एक बड़े अकसोस की बात है।

खाद्य समस्या को हल करने के लिए आप छोटी सिंचाई योजनाओं को प्रोत्साहन देना चाहते हैं, यह खुशी की बात है। लेकिन मैं इस सम्बन्ध में एक चेतावनी देना चाहता हूँ और वह यह है कि अगर आप इस विषय में पूर्णतया सतर्क नहीं रहेंगे, तो काम नहीं चलेगा। जिन लोगों पर आप यह काम डालना चाहते हैं, वे इसको नहीं करेंगे। उनका दृष्टिकोण ही दूसरा है। वे मुल्क का यूरोपीयकरण करना चाहते हैं। वे यूरोप के ढंग पर काम करना चाहते हैं। मुझे यूरोपीय ढंग पर कोई एतराज नहीं है, कोई दुश्मनी नहीं है, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि रूस अमरीका और दूसरे ऐसे देशों से हिन्दुस्तान का मुकाबला नहीं हो सकता है। उनमें आमदनी का फर्क है। वहाँ प्रति व्यक्ति जमीन ज्यादा है, यहाँ कम है। वहाँ अधिकतर कामों में मशीनों का आश्रय लिया जाता है और वहाँ साइन्स का बहुत विकास हुआ है। हम उनका मुकाबला नहीं कर सकते हैं।

इस खाद्य समस्या को लड़ाई की समस्या की तरह देखना चाहिए। अगर इस सम्बन्ध में हम को कोई कुर्बानी करनी पड़े, तो वह हमको करनी चाहिए। आप पच्चीस करोड़ रुपये की फूड सब्सिडी की बात करते हैं। आप पचास करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान सह कर किसानों के लगान को माफ क्यों नहीं करते? आप दस लाख आदिमियों की भूमि सेना संगठित कर के इस समस्या को हल क्यों नहीं करते?

उस दिन प्रधान मंत्री ने कह दिया कि पांच रुपये में कच्चा कुम्हा बन सकता है। पता नहीं सरकार के लोग को इस देश के सम्बन्ध में तजुर्बा भी है या नहीं। कौनी बात कर बेते हैं। अगर बीस, पच्चीस, तीस रुपये

की बात कही जाती, तो सामय ठीक होता। आप चीजें इतनी गिराई हैं कि वह इतने में नहीं बन सकता है।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि वाकई आप कच्चे कुम्हे भी बनाएं, पक्के कुम्हे भी बनाएं। बड़ी बड़ी सिंचाई योजनाएं जो हैं वहाँ छोटी २ चीजों के जरिए भी सिंचाई करने की कोशिश की जाए। अगर हम इस पर ध्यान दें तो १० फीसदी कमी पूरी होनी मुश्किल नहीं है। लेकिन मुझे शक है कि बार बार खाद्य संकट पर बहस होने पर भी जो कुछ यहाँ बताया जाता है उस पर कमी सोचने की कोशिश नहीं की जाती कि इसके लिए हमें कौन सा रास्ता अपनाना चाहिए। बाहर जो कुछ होता है उसके लिए तो मैं क्या कहूँ? जो लोग इसके लिए कुछ तरीका बतलाते हैं उन को जेलों में ठूस दिया जाता है। ऐसे लोगों को जो कि हमारे साथी रहे हैं, संगी रहे हैं, गिरफ्तार करके जेल में रख दिया जाता है। जिस आदमी के गोधरा में सन् ४६ में सात दिन तक जेल में रहने पर महात्मा गांधी कह सकते थे कि डा० लोहिया जब जेल में हैं तो उन का बाहर रहना मुनासिब नहीं है, आज उन्हीं के शिष्यों को कहो, तो कहते हैं कि हमें इससे मतलब नहीं है। एक एक महीने तक ऐसे सवालियों पर गौर नहीं किया जाता और लोगों को जेलों में बन्द रखा जाता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह समस्या को सुलझाने का कोई तरीका नहीं है। आप यह सोचते हैं कि हमारा तो बहुमत है, हम जो चाहेंगे कर लेंगे। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि जब तक आप का बहुमत है, जो चाहे कर लीजिए। यह ठीक है कि चार साल के लिए आप को जनता से मॅन्डेट मिला हुआ है, लेकिन चार साल के बाद आप को फिर जनता के सामने जाना होगा। अगर आप ने ध्यान न दिया तो खाद्य स्थिति ऐसी हो जावेगी, जिसे आप सम्भाल नहीं सकेंगे। इसलिए मैं आपके हित में कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप अपने मार्ग को परिवर्तित

कीबिए और खाद्य समस्या को हल करने के मार्ग पर चलिए। जब तक आप ऐसा नहीं करेंगे खाद्य समस्या पूरे तरीके से हल नहीं होगी, बिदेष्टों से अनाज लेना होगा। इन छोटी छोटी चीजों पर ध्यान दे कर, भूमि सुधार और न कर के संसद् के सत्रों में रखे जाएं। लगान माफी करने, बेदखली रोकने के बगैर खाद्य समस्या हल नहीं हो सकेगी। मैं चाहूंगा कि माननीय खाद्य मंत्री इस बात पर अपने विचार प्रकट करें।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : जनाब चेधरमैन साहब, मैं अशोक मेहता कमेटी को और उसके मेम्बरान को, जिनमें श्री तिरुमल राव भी शामिल हैं, मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने इतनी मेहनत के साथ, इतनी ज्यादा तफ्तीश की, बड़ी तकलीफ उठाई और एक तरह से सारे देश को उन्होंने अपने काम से गर्वीदा किया। जहां मैं यह कहता हूँ कि उन्होंने बड़ा अच्छा काम किया और उन की रिपोर्ट ऐसी है जिस पर देश को काफी तवज्जह देनी चाहिए, उसके साथ ही मैं यह अर्ज किए बिना नहीं रह सकता कि बाबजूद यह ट्रिब्युट पे करने के कई बातों में मैं उनके कन्क्लूजन्स का सख्त मुखालिफ हूँ।

इस देश के अन्तर अनाज की समस्या सन् १९५७ की नहीं है। जबसे हमने स्वराज्य हासिल किया है, शायद ही कोई ऐसा सेशन हुआ हो जिसके अन्दर फूड डिबेट इस हाउस के अन्दर न हुआ हो। हमने वह जमाना देखा जिसके अन्दर यह कहा गया कि फूड का मामला तय हो गया। सन् १९५१ में हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने कहा कि कंट्री ने फूड के मामले में कार्नेर टर्न कर लिया। सन् १९५२ के वास्ते ऐसी स्कीम बनाई जाए कि इस मामले में इस देश को सेल्फ सफिशिएंसी हो जाए। इस एलेक्शन में मैंने गांव गांव में जा कर यह कहा कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट ने इस समस्या को हल कर लिया और इस का ज़ेडिफ उठाया, सही ज़ेडिफ उठाया। मैं यकीन करता हूँ और जोर से कहता हूँ कि जहाँ तक

सेल्फ सफिशिएंसी का सवाल है, मुझे कोई शक नहीं है इस देश में फूड का मसला हल हो चुका। इसे हल करने में मलैक्क अफ मिनिस्टर्स और दूसरे भाइयों का हिस्सा था जिसके यहां दोहराने की जरूरत नहीं है। उनमें से एक साहब तो हमारे सामने बैठे हुए हैं, डा० पं० शा० देशमुख जिनकी मेहनत का और जाफिसानी का फायदा सारे देश ने उठाया। उसके बाद क्या हम किदवाई साहब को मूल सकते हैं। जिस वक्त मुंशी साहब यहां से गए, उसके बाद कोई बारिश नहीं हुई थी हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर, कुछ भी अनाज पैदा नहीं हुआ था, लेकिन अपनी अफसोस की और अपनी दानिशमंदी से इस देश के अन्दर रेगुलेटड डिफेंड्रीस कर के इस देश को कंट्रोल से और उसके लिमिटेशन से उन्होंने हमको आजाद कर दिया। उसके बाद उन का मैन्टन हमारे मौजूदा मिनिस्टर साहब पर पड़ा। जब मैं वह सारी तस्वीर अपने सामने रखता हूँ तो मैं आज उन पहले के मिनिस्टर साहबान को, जिन्होंने इस बारे में कोशिश की, खिराज अदा किए बिना नहीं रह सकता। मुझे श्री मुंशी साहब का जमाना याद है जब उन्होंने अपनी जगह से बतलाया कि हमारे फूड एंड ऐग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्टर को मैक्सिमम अफ इम्पोर्टेंसी हासिल है और साथ में मैक्सिमम ग्राफ रिस्पान्सिबिलिटी हासिल है। यह बात सही है। इस लिए मैं अपने आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब को इस मसले से मुबारकबाद देता हूँ। इस हालत को देखते हुए, इस काम्प्ले-कटेड मसले में मैं जरूरी समझता हूँ कि उनको दाव दू। हमने जिस वक्त कांस्टिट्यूशन बनाया हमको मालूम था कि फूड का मसला, फाडर का मसला और लैंड रिफार्म्स के बड़े बड़े मसले, स्टेट्स के सब्जेक्ट्स हैं, लेकिन उसे बनाते वक्त हमने ३६६ आर्टिकल बनाया जिसमें हमने सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट को कांकरेंट जूरिजिक्शन दिया क्योंकि हम जानते थे कि हमारे सेन्टर के लोग ज्यादा तजुर्बेकार हैं और इस मामले को ज्यादा अच्छी तरह हल कर सकेंगे और स्टेट्स पूरे तौर पर से हल न कर सकेंगे। लेकिन इस में

[पंडित ठाकुर दाम भागवत]

एक गलती हुई। भार सारा डाला सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट पर, रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी दी सेंट्रल को और उसका एग्जिक्यूशन दिया स्टेट्स को। स्टेट बाकों को क्या गरज है कि जा कर मजबूती के साथ, सक्ती कर के प्रोक्योरमेंट करें? सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट को रिपोर्ट दे दी कि चूंकि पैदा कम हुआ है तो ज्यादा प्रोक्योर कैसे करें। इसमें उनका इंटरेस्ट क्या था? उनका इंटरेस्ट यह था कि पैदावार कम बिल्लाएं जिससे उन को प्रोक्योरमेंट न करना पड़े और सेंट्रल पर जोर दें कि किसी तरह में वह गल्ला बाहर ले मंगाएं। चुनावों वफा ३६६ में हमने बड़ी गलती की। मैंने एक वफा हाउस में कहा था कि लैंड, हेल्थ और एजुकेशन तीनों के लिए सेंट्रल में एक मिनिस्ट्री रहे, जैसे कि पहले थी, एक मिनिस्टर इन तीनों चीजों को एडमिनिस्टर करता था। या तो यह किया जाता या फिर यहां सेंट्रल को ताकत न दी जाती। पालिसी ले डाउन करते या न करते, लेकिन उन को रिस्पॉसिबिलिटी न दी जाती। अगर स्टेट बालो के पास यह काम रहता चूंकि यह स्टेट सब्जेक्ट था, और फूड मिनिस्टर की यह ड्यूटी होती कि वह सारे देश के हिसाब से काम करता ऐसा होता तो यह सारी समस्याएं न आती।

अब मैं यहां पर यह कहने के लिए नहीं खड़ा हुआ हू कि प्राइम कोस्टीट्यूशन बदल दिया जावे। यहां पर एक ग्रे मोर फूड कमेटी बनी थी। मैं भी उसका मेम्बर था। मैंने नोट ग्राफ डिसेंट में यह चीज पेश की यह कहना तो गलत होगा, वह नोट ग्राफ डिसेंट तो था। लेकिन जूरिजिडिक्शन के बारे में मैंने जो अर्ज किया था उस पर प्राप मुलाहजा फरमाएं कि मेरा कहना बजा है या नहीं। मैं याद दिलाना चाहता हू कि सन् १९५१ में स्टेट्स बे ८० लाख टन गल्ले की मांग कर दी। स्टेट्स ने कहा कि ८० लाख टन गल्ला बाहर से मंगाओ नहीं तो देश के लोग भूखे मर जाएंगे। हमारी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने कहा कि ८० लाख टन तो एक अक्षय्यक बाक कलौसल किम्व है। इस को मंगाने के लिए

पैसा कौन देगा। यह तय हुआ कि हर एक स्टेट, अपनी जरूरत के अनाज के लिए पैसा देगी। लेकिन मैं इसे सुन कर हैरान हो गया कि स्टेट्स ने अपनी डिमांड कम कर के ४७ मिलियन टन कर दी। कहां ८० लाख टन और कहां ४७ लाख टन। उनकी जरूरत इतनी कम हो गई। सन् १९५० में करीब एक कमेटी कांग्रेस पार्टी ने बनाई, जिसका कन्वीनर मैं था। मैंने एक रिपोर्ट लिखी, सन् १९५० या १९५१ में। उस वक्त मैंने फैक्ट्स एंड फिगर्स के साथ साबित किया कि दरअसल उस वक्त जो कहना था गवर्नमेंट का कि फूड डिफिशिएंसी थी, वह गलत था। हमारे यहां फिल वाकया २ लाख टन हमारी जरूरत से ज्यादा था। उस जमाने में यह सबाल पूछा जाता था कि मुस्क में फूड डिफिशिएंट है या नहीं, उस वक्त भी मैंने अर्ज किया कि इस देश के अन्दर फूड डिफिशिएंसी है नहीं, जिस की वजह से सरकार इतना फूड इम्पोर्ट करती है और हमारे सामने इतनी तकलीफ दिखलाई जाती है। दरअसल बात यह है कि फूड डिफिशिएंसी का साबित करना सरकार का फर्ज है जिसका मत है कि ऐसी कमी है। प्राप बतलाएं कि कितने गल्ले का खर्च है और कितना गल्ला कम पैदा होता है। अगर इसका पता लगे तब तो हम कह सकते हैं कि फूड डिफिशिएंट है, वरना नहीं। बिहार के अन्दर जब हमारे आनरेबल मिनिस्टर तशरीफ ले गए और उनसे कहा गया कि भुखमरी फैली हुई है, लोग शिकायत करते थे कि बहुत सी स्टार्बेशन डेथ्स हो रही हैं, तब बहा मिनिस्टर ने देखा कि गोदाम के गोदाम भरे पड़े थे। आज हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर काफी अनाज मौजूद है, लेकिन लोगों के अन्दर बाइंग कैपेसिटी नहीं है, ऐसा इन्तजाम किया जाना चाहिए कि यह जो लोग होडिंग करते हैं या जिन्होंने स्पेकुलेशन्स से दाम बढ़ाए हैं, उन्हें ऐसा करने से रोका जाये। मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि जो यह कंडिसन पैदा हुई है उसके लिए अशोक मेहता कमेटी ने सिखा है कि दरअसल हार्ड प्राइसेज की जो कंडिशन पैदा हुई

हैं, यह नहीं कहा जा सकता कि सिर्फ इनसफिशिएंट फूड ही उस की वजह है बल्कि और भी वजह हैं। उन्होंने कई वजहों दिये हैं। उन्होंने कहा है कि स्केपर की वजह से यह सब कुछ होता है। और यह बिल्कुल दुरुस्त है।

मैं अब से भर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि सन् १९५२ में गवर्नमेंट ने जो अपना टारजेट रखा था वह पूरा हो चुका है। सन् १९५१ में फूड मिनिस्टर ने बयान दिया कि देश में फूड की कमी नहीं है। तो मैं आज भ्रम से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सन् १९५१ के बाद हमने ६ साल यों ही खोये हैं। अगर मे यह कहूँ कि इस भर्से में देशमुख साहब ने कोई काम नहीं किया तो क्या यह ठीक होगा। मैं जानता हूँ कि उनकी मेहनत की वजह से बहुत ज्यादा गल्ला पैदा हुआ है। क्या यह कहना दुरुस्त होगा कि जबसे मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह काम संभाला है तबसे कुछ काम नहीं किया। अगर कोई ऐसा कहे तो वह गलत होगा। फिलवाकै असल बात यह है कि हमने इस मद में करोड़ों रुपया खर्च किया है। अगर कोई कहे कि हमने ये ६ साल जाया किये तो मैं कहूँगा कि हमने यह बर्त जाया नहीं किया और जो ऐसा कहते हैं वे गलत कहते हैं। क्या सबूत है कि देश में डिफीसेसी है। पहले जो आपने सबूत दिया था वह नाबाजिब था। आप कहते थे कि चूक प्रोक्वोरमेंट नहीं हुआ है इसलिए देश में कमी है। आप कहते थे कि हमको जितना प्रोक्वोरमेंट हुआ है उससे राशन ज्यादा देना है इसलिए कमी है। लेकिन यह रीजनिंग गलत साबित हो चुकी है और कंट्रोल खतम हो चुके। उस सबक के खिलाफ हमने आवाज उठायी थी और श्री किदवाई की मदद करने वालों में मैं भी एक भदना शक्स था और मुझे खुशी है कि किदवाई साहब ने इस मामले को हल कर दिया। अब क्या बराबरी हो गई। अब तो आपका आखरा डैम पूरा होता चला जा रहा है डी० बी० सी० तैयार हो रहा है और हीराकुड तैयार हो रहा है। आपने सालों कुंवे बनाये हैं। हमने तहकीकात

की है और पता लगाया है कि जो आप कुंवे बनाना चाहते थे उनमें से सिर्फ २ पर सेंट नहीं बने हैं। कम्युनिटी डेबेलपमेंट में करोड़ों रुपया खर्च किया जा रहा है। क्या इतने काम का कोई नतीजा ही नहीं होगा। मैं अब से भर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो सवाल आज है यह महज मालएडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का और माल-एडजस्टमेंट का है। गल्ला वहाँ नहीं पहुँचता जहाँ हमको चाहिए। मेहता कमेटी ने कहा है कि चार पाकेट्स हैं जिनमें दिक्कतें हैं। उनका इन्तिजाम कीजिए। मुझे खुशी है कि मेहता कमेटी ने उन चार पाकेट्स के बारे में असल चेप्टर दिया है। लेकिन मेरी समझ में यह नहीं आता कि किस तरह से मेहता कमेटी ने यह करार दे दिया कि हमारा प्रोडक्शन कम है और हमारी जरूरत ज्यादा है। उनके एजम्पलम ठीक नहीं हैं। उन्होंने इस चीज को दो तरीके से देखा है। उन्होंने लिखा है कि हमने जो डिमांड है उसको ज्यादा से ज्यादा माना है और प्रोडक्शन को कम से कम माना है। लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि यह कहा का लाजिक है कि डिमांड का highest consumption लें और pro-duction का lowest सेवें। मैं नहीं समझता गवर्नमेंट इसको कैसे ठीक समझ सकती है।

मैं जानता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट यह बरदास्त नहीं कर सकती कि फूड की कमी की वजह से एक भी डैम हो। जिस तरह से मैं इस बात को कह रहा हूँ उसको मैं समझता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट नहीं मानेगी क्योंकि गवर्नमेंट को फिक्र है कि स्केपर न हो जाय और इस कमी की वजह से एक भी डैम न होने पाये। मैं गवर्नमेंट को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ कि जिस तरह से पहले उन्होंने इस समस्या को हल किया, चाहे उसमें हम बरबाद हो गये, मगर फूड की कमी की वजह से एक आदमी भी नहीं मरने दिया। बाहर से गल्ला मंगाने में जो हमारा १७०० मिलियन का स्टरेलिंग का खजाना था उसमें से बहुत खर्च हो गया। सन् १९५१ में हमने साढ़े ५२ करोड़ का गल्ला बाहर से मंगाया। बालीस करोड़ तो हमने सिर्फ

[पंडित ठाकुर दाम भार्गव]

जहाज बाड़ा ही दिया । क्या कोई मुल्क इस तरह से अपने आवश्यकियों को जिन्दा रखने की कोशिश कर सकता है । अब आप का स्टिमिंग बैलेंस कहां है । अब आप बाहर से अनाज मंगाने के लिये क्या कहां से सायेंगे । आज आप ने एक सत्राल के जवाब में कहा है कि इस साल में आप ८० करोड़ का गल्ता खरीदेंगे । मैं समझता हूं कि यह १०० करोड़ तक हो जायेगा । श्री कालिका सिंह साहब ने कहा था कि रिहन्द डैम के लिये चार करोड़ की जरूरत है वह नहीं मिल रहा है पर आप को १०० करोड़ का गल्ता खरीदना होगा । यह १०० करोड़ कहां से आयेगा । अगर यह सौ करोड़ क्या छोटी सिंचाई की योजनाओं पर खर्च किया जाये तो आप की यह समस्या खत्म हो जायेगी । लेकिन आप इस तरह की बात नहीं मानते ।

कहा जाता है कि हमारी समस्या यह है कि हमारे यहां आबादी बढ़ती जाती है । मैं पूछता हूं कि कौन सा ऐसा मुल्क है जिस में आबादी नहीं बढ़ती । हमारे प्लानिंग कमीशन ने कहा कि हमारे यहां हर साल १.२५ पर सेंट आबादी बढ़ती है । सेंसस के रजिस्ट्रार फरमाने लगे कि १.५ और अशोक मेहता कमेटी कहती है कि २ पर सेंट ? मैं नहीं जानता कि यह ज्यादा बच्चे पैदा करने की मशीन मेहता कमेटी के पास कहां से आ गई । इस तरह से डिमांड को ज्यादा बढ़ा बढ़ा कर बतलाना बिल्कुल गलत है ।

इस के अलावा आप मुलाहिजा फरमायें एडल्ट पापुलेशन कितनी होती है । इस में कई मुस्तलिक रायें हैं । हम ने पहले हिसाब लगाया था उस के मुताबिक सारी दुनिया में एडल्ट पापुलेशन ८० पर सेंट समझी थी । लेकिन जब हम ने कंट्रोल का जिक्र किया तो उसे गवर्नमेंट ने ८६ पर सेंट कर दिया । इसी तरह से कुछ का कुछ हिसाब बिठाया गया है । आप देखें कि इस रिपोर्ट के सफा

४० पर लिखा है कि अगर कोई सक्स एक आउंस की अवधी खुराक की बढ़ा दे तो आधी आबादी के लिये दो मिलियन टन की जरूरत और होगी इस वास्ते पूरी पापुलेशन के लिये चार मिलियन टन भी की जरूरत होगी । पहले सरकार ने मेहनत करने वाली आबादी के लिये १६ आउंस और घरबन पापुलेशन के लिये १२ आउंस हर रोज का हिसाब रखा था । आज न मालूम क्या हिसाब फैलाया गया है । अशोक मेहता कमेटी ने न मालूम किस तरह हिसाब फैलाया है । आप एग्जेलिविलिटी देखिये । सन् १९५३ में १७.६ थी, सन् १९५४ में १८.१ थी और आज यानी सन् १९५६-५७ में १८ है । हम ने १२ आउंस और १६ आउंस के हिसाब के फिगर बनाये थे, पता नहीं कि आज किस तरह से हिसाब लगाया गया है । इस-लिये में अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि डिमांड के जो फिगर बतलाये जाते हैं वे बिल्कुल गलत हैं । इस के अलावा यह बात मेहता कमेटी की खुद आउट आफ कोर्ट है कि कुछ फिगरस के बारे में उस का कहना था कि हमारे फिगर ठीक नहीं हैं, इस पर से अन्दाजा लगाना हैजारडग होगा । एपेंडिक्स ४ में ३१ पर सेंट प्रोडक्शन तो ऐसा है कि उस के वास्ते ठीक अन्दाजा नहीं लगाया जा सकता । और ६९ पर सेंट में १८ पर सेंट कुछ ऐसा है जिस के ऊपर वह नुक्ताचीनी करते हैं । मैं कहता हूं कि यह फिगर गलत हैं । सन् १९५१ में भी फिगर दिये गये थे और बाद में प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने तसलीम किया कि फिगर गलत हैं । इसी तरह मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इस रिपोर्ट में जो फिगर दिये गये हैं वे दुस्त नहीं हैं और खुद अशोक मेहता कमेटी उन को दुस्त नहीं समझती । राजस्थान व यू० पी० के फिगर पर सफे ७०/७२ पर नुक्ताचीनी की गई है ।

फिर प्रोडक्शन को मुलाहिजा कीजिये ।

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should conclude now.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: You may kindly allow me five to seven minutes more.

Mr. Chairman: The Minister has to speak, and I have to call two others, Shri Panigrahi and another Member. He has had 15 minutes, and I would request him to be as brief as possible.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I would like to take five to ten minutes more.

प्लानिंग कमीशन ने कहा है कि प्रोडक्शन २० या २०.७५ पर सेंट ज्यादा होगा। अशोक मेहता कमेटी कहती है कि १३.३ होगा। कम्युनिटी प्रोजेक्ट वालों का खयाल है कि दस पर सेंट होगा। एक अखबार में एक सिविल सर्वेंट कहते हैं कि ६ या ७ पर सेंट ज्यादा हुआ है। यह हाल है फिगरस का। इस के अलावा मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे प्लानिंग कमीशन ने श्री आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब ने दूसरी कानफरेंस में यह बताया था कि हम १५.५ पर सेंट बढ़ायेंगे। हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब तो बहुत ज्यादा कहते हैं। लेकिन मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि पुरानी कहावत पर कमेटी ने अमल कर के कहा कि सौ के रह गये ६०। आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब फरमाते हैं कि हम १५.५ पर सेंट से भी ज्यादा ले जायेंगे। लेकिन रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि १० पर सेंट होगा। किस कायदे से यह दस पर सेंट होगा जबकि आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब और हाउस इतना ज्यादा पैदावार का यकीन दिलाते हैं। मेरी गुजारिश यह है कि अगर आप ने फ़िगरस को मैन्युपुलेट करना है, तो आप जितना चाहे कर सकते हैं। मेरे पास कुछ फ़िगरस हैं, जिन को सुन कर शायद हाउस के दबे हुए दिल को कुछ सहारा मिल सके। यह फ़िगरस पंजाब के मुतालिक हैं। आज के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स के सफे १२ पर लिखा है :

"According to an official estimate, Punjab has exceeded the

1956-57 goal of grain production by 6,77,000 tons with a gross yield of 54,73,000 tons in the first year of the second Plan period as against 44,36,000 tons in 1955-56, the last year of the first Plan."

Working out as an increase of 23.5 per cent against the all-India average of 5.6 per cent. over 1955-56, the additional production of 10,37,000 tons leaves only 4,03,000 tons of food-grains to be produced by the State by the end of the second Plan period which is still four years away.

मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि इस के मुताबिक पंजाब ने एक साल में दस लाख टन अनाज ज्यादा पैदा किया है, जोकि २३.५ पर सेंट का इजाफा है। अभी चार माल बाकी हैं। इस सूरत में किस तरह से आप कहते हैं कि आप के पास गल्ला काफी नहीं है और आप को इम्पोर्ट की जरूरत होगी। मैं गवर्नमेंट का शुक्रगुजार हूँ कि उस ने कोशिश कर के हमारे जिले हिसार से कहत को हमेशा के लिये खत्म कर दिया है। पिछले इलेक्शन के पहले मैं ने वहाँ इतना अनाज पैदा होता देखा, उतना कि मैं ने अपनी सारी उम्र में नहीं देखा था। मैं जब यहाँ वापिस आया, तो मैं न आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब से कहा कि आप कहाँ से गोदाम लायेंगे, जहाँ इतने अनाज को रखेंगे। लेकिन उसके फौरन बाद ही मैं ने सुना कि मुखमरी फैली हुई है, गल्ला नहीं है, बाहर से मंगाना पड़ेगा, बगेरह।

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि गल्ले की कमी की खबर से एक दम मुल्क में एक किस्म का स्केयर पैदा हो जाता है, देश में कोहराम मच जाता है और कीमतें बढ़ जाती हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार की तरफ से इस सिलसिले में कोई मशीनरी इन्साल्व की जाय, जो इस सारी बाबलम पर छन्नी तरह से गौर कर के कोई रास्ता निकाले।

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

आजिर में मैं सिर्फ दो बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात मुझे कैटल के बारे में अर्ज करनी है। उस के मुताबिक मुझे कुछ ज्यादा कहने की गुंजायश नहीं है। मैं बहुत दफा कह चुका हूँ। थारनलड मैन ने कहा है

"The weaker the cattle, the scantier the production, the feebler the nation"

अगर आप चाहते हैं कि यह देश आगे बढ़े, हम तरक्की करें और यहाँ पर अनाज बढ़े, तो यहाँ के कैटल की रक्षा के लिये पूरी कोशिश कीजिये। अभी तक गवर्नमेंट ने इस बारे में मिनिमल नेगलीजेंस की है और उम का नतीजा यह है कि जबकि हिन्दुस्तान में हर एक शस्त्र को ७ ग्राँस दूध १९२४ में मिलता था, आज वह ४ ७ ग्राँस रह गया है। आज हमारे गावों में छाछ तक नहीं मिलता है।

दूसरी बात यह है कि एक दफा हमारे किदवाई साहब ने शुगर का जिक्र किया और कहा कि इतना शुगर इम्पोर्ट कर रहे हैं। मैंने अर्ज किया कि अगर आप दोबारा यह सिलसिला इम्पोर्ट का जारी करेंगे, तो हमें शर्म से मर जाना चाहिये कि एक एग्जीक्यूटिव कमीटी में बाहर से शुगर आये। आप जो ५.९६ करोड़ टन्स का एग्जीमेट कर चुके हैं, वह गल्ला तो आयेगा ही, लेकिन मैं आप से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि आप पर यह मेन्टल पडा है और आप उस गैलैक्सी के पाचवे या छठे मेम्बर हैं, जोकि १९४७ के बाद इस महकमे के साथ बावस्ता रही है। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि डिबेट का जवाब देते हुए आप साफ अलफाब में कह देंगे कि आइन्दा इस देश में इम्पोर्ट नहीं होगा, सिवाय उस के, जिस का एग्जीमेट आप कर चुके हैं। हमारे यहाँ आखरा डैम से गल्ले की पैदावार में बहुत ज्यादा इजाफा हो जायगा। अगर हम ईमानदारी से कोशिश करें, तो कोई समस्या ऐसी नहीं है, जो हल न हो सके। मैं फिर कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक्त भी

हम इस देश में फूड के मामले में सेल्फ-सफिशियन्सी अटेन कर चुके हैं। मेरे पास इस वक्त ज्यादा वक्त नहीं है। मैं कोशिश करूँगा कि मैं किसी वक्त आप को फ़िगर्ज बहम पहुँचाऊँ।

इस के अलावा आप ने कई अनाजों को हिसाब में शामिल नहीं किया है। गवार बड़ी मिकदार में होती है। उस को आप ने शामिल नहीं किया है। ग्राम को आप ने सिर्फ पल्स के तौर पर लिया है। मटर, कुदरी, कट्टी मील वगैरह कितनी ही चीजें हैं, जिन को आप ने शामिल नहीं किया है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि आप के फ़िगर्ज बिल्कुल गलत हैं, प्रोडक्शन के भी धीरे डिमांड के भी। देश में इस वक्त यह समस्या नहीं है। हा, इन्फ्लेम ठीक नहीं, मेल-एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन और मेल-एडजस्टमेंट मौजूद है। अगर यही हाल रहा, तो यह देश जरूर गारत हो जायगा। जब आप फूड इम्पोर्ट करते हैं, तो आप देश की साइकलोजी बिगाड़ते हैं कि यह देश इस मामले में सेल्फ-सफिशियन्ट नहीं है। अब वक्त आ गया है कि हम यह समझ जायें कि देश में सेल्फ-सफिशियन्सी मौजूद है और इसी बेसिस पर अपने मारे प्रोग्राम बनायें। परमात्मा उन की मदद करता है, जो अपनी मदद आप करते हैं। आप प्रोनाउन्समेंट कर दीजिये कि अब हम एक मन गल्ला भी इम्पोर्ट नहीं करेंगे। तभी देश में शान्ति होगी, वरना नहीं।

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry within the time at our disposal I am not able to call all the hon. Members who want to speak on the subject. Some of them wrote to me. Some of them came to me. They come from drought area.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Some more time should be given as this is an urgent problem.

Mr. Speaker: We will have it on another day. For drought we will have three hours. Today we only discussed food situation. Next session also we will have food debate. Now the hon. Minister has to reply.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra (Bagaha): Have his reply tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Even if he speaks tomorrow is there a guarantee that all the hon. Members who want to speak will be finished? Even if I accept the request nobody will be satisfied. Shri Panigrahi.

Shri Panigrahi: Sir, the food policy of the Government of India has remained all these years, as the policy of fixing of targets, shifting them again and again and never attaining them. The Grow More Food Campaign dates back to the year 1942. Towards the close of the year 1948, the Government of India invited Lord Boyd Orr to review the campaign and make suggestions. The objective of this review was to attain self-sufficiency by March 1952, and a target was fixed. The target was set at 48 lakh tons of additional foodgrains over the normal production of 1947 and 1948. The target fixed to be achieved by March 1952 was 47.16 million tons of additional foodgrains. 1951-52 was the last year of this self-sufficiency programme and the first year of the First Five Year Plan. By this time it was realised that this target of self-sufficiency could not be achieved during this period.

The Planning Commission then reviewed the target. And the target was fixed at 5 million tons more than the normal production of 1949-50 to be achieved by 1955-56. The overall target during the First Five Year Plan was fixed at 7.61 million tons of additional foodgrains whereas actually in practice the production-potential created during the First Five Year Plan period was 5.6 million tons of additional foodgrains. The Planning Commission while reviewing this grow-more-food campaign also suggested that during the First Plan period imports of foodgrains at the rate of 3 million tons a year would also be necessary to meet the requirements of the country.

When the Second Plan began, the Planning Commission again reviewed the targets and it was found out that this target could not be achieved during the First Plan period. The

Planning Commission during the Second Five Year Plan originally estimated additional foodgrains of 10 million tons. And subsequently this target was again revised. They decided to increase the target from 10 to 15.5 million tons during the Second Five Year Plan. That is, they decided that by the year 1960-61 India should produce 80.5 million tons of foodgrains to meet the requirements of the country. Now we see that the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee in its report has clearly pointed out that only an additional 10 million tons of foodgrains target can be achieved, not more than that, whereas the Planning Commission has fixed the target at 15.5 million tons of additional foodgrains. We had much hope, as our Prime Minister always discusses, from the community development projects and N.E.S. block areas. To our Prime Minister it has become a panacea for all evils. But what does Balwantray Mehta Committee reveal in its report on these N.E.S. blocks and C.D. areas? Of course, there are two Mehta Committees—one on the foodgrains and the other on N.E.S. and C.D. This Balwantray Mehta Committee in its report has revealed that all-India average of additional food production in the community development and N.E.S. areas is only 10.8% as against 20.25% hitherto quoted by official figures. Well we have some experience of these community development areas and N.E.S. blocks in my own State. I wonder if the Minister for Community Development is aware of the fact—I think he must be aware—that in one community development project in Ghumsur in Orissa lakhs of rupees have been spent and there is no explanation for this waste. This project was considered as a model community development block in the State of Orissa. Also there are many N.E.S. areas where really the targets are not carried out.

Now this Balwantray Committee has also revealed in its report that the figures of distribution of improved seeds is most unsatisfactory in the

[Shri Panigrahi]

community development blocks and also N.E.S. areas. It has also revealed that the progress of establishment of seed farms is disappointing. Only 331 farms have been established so far against a target of 4,328 farms which ought to be set up within the first three years of the Plan. I think, in view of all these, fixing of these targets, has lost all meanings so far as the Government is concerned. Production on the one hand, we say, is increasing—and it is really a fact that the production is increasing; in 1947-48 the production was 43.7 million tons and in 1956-57 it is estimated to be 68.69 million tons of foodgrains. Really, production is increasing, but, of course, not to our expectations.

Look to our imports. In 1948 we imported 2.84 million tons of foodgrains; in 1951 we imported 4.73 million tons and in 1956, because of the drought in Orissa, M. P., Bihar and many parts of West Bengal, we hope that this import may exceed. Naturally, food production is increasing; the imports are increasing and the price is also increasing.

The paradox of the present food situation is this. Taking the index of the wholesale prices of 1940 as the base, the index in 1941 rose to 112 and to 394 in May 1957. There is not much time and I would not quote more.

We are now depending more on foreign aid and imports of foodgrains from outside. I think, because of our appeal, aid will come. But, we must be careful about it. Our Prime Minister is a student of history. And, he must be aware of the fact that in China before 1949, the last regime which was ruling in China got tremendous amount of foreign aid from certain countries but no amount of foreign aid could help the rightwing Kuomintang to remain in power in the mainland and they were pushed out. It is high time that our ruling party realises the gravity of the food situation. They must come forward really with practical measures so that

agriculture which is the mainstay of the people of our country improves and food production is made self-sufficient in the Plan period.

Shri A. P. Jain: Sir, the debate of today has been a very useful one, in particular, as we are considering the recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee. Many hon. Members have made observations on the different recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee. And, I can assure them that in coming to decisions, we shall pay due regard to those suggestions.

The last speaker, Shri Panigrahi has correctly said that we cannot depend upon foreign aid in order to make up our food deficiency. The food deficiency can be made up only by greater production. This morning, while introducing this motion I explained what are measures which we propose to undertake in order to step up food production.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has correctly emphasised that psychology in matters of food is a very important thing. And it would be wrong for us to over-emphasise the seriousness of the food situation as it would be equally wrong to be complacent about it. I said the other day that while we should hope for the best, yet we should be prepared for the worst. This year has been a year of drought and we are making adequate arrangements to meet the situation arising out of this drought.

As you must have observed, many of the suggestions made by the hon. Members relate to agricultural production. They are all very valuable suggestions. But the trend of the speeches of hon. Members themselves indicated that most of the suggestions have been addressed to the State Governments.

My friend, Shri V. D. Tripathi, dealt at length with the situation in U.P. and he has really rendered a service by drawing the attention of this House to the problem of certain deficit areas, the eastern part of U.P. being one. The drought came in and I had drawn

the attention of the Asoka Mehta Committee to certain vulnerable areas. I repeat that these vulnerable areas consist of Bihar, eastern part of U.P., parts of Orissa and parts of Bengal and M.P. This is a very serious problem and we have got to find a solution for it; not that we are unaware of it but the conditions in this area continue to be difficult for a number of years.

This area has suffered from a series of floods; this area has suffered very serious drought, this area is a very densely populated area; this area has practically exhausted all the land that is cultivable; that is, the density of cultivation is very high there and the population is constantly increasing and the availability of land per capita is being less and less. There is single crop economy and that is the economy of rice. There are not many industries in this area and, therefore, unless the problem of this area is tackled as a special problem, we shall be faced with a difficult food situation for a long time to come. The other areas in the country are also backward and difficult areas. But, perhaps, this is the most difficult area. As I said the other day, we are going to concentrate our attention and all our efforts to tackle this problem in an effective manner.

More than one hon. Member of this House have—and Shri Tripathi is one of them—suggested that the food problem should be treated as a national problem. I agree with him wholeheartedly that the food problem is a national problem. We have got our politics of different shades and different opinions; but, so far as food is concerned, it concerns everybody. So far as my Ministry is concerned, I will seek the cooperation of everybody here inside the House and outside in solving the food problem. Any suggestion coming from any hon. Member in this House or from anybody outside will receive the utmost respect and utmost regard from me and my officers.

Another question which has formed the subject-matter of debate is the

socialisation of the wholesale trade. Shri Thirumala Rao, who was a member of the Committee has tried to explain what they mean by socialisation and he has said that they do not mean that every bit of the wholesale trade should be taken over; but the wholesale trade should be controlled and an effective part of it should be taken over by the State. Differences of opinion on this matter have been expressed and, in our conclusion, I can assure hon. Members that we shall keep before us all these opinions.

Shri Guha has rightly drawn the attention to the want or comparative want of progress in production in some of the North-eastern States. He has also rightly drawn the attention of the House to the greater progress which the southern States have made. I do not think that he implied that the Government of India was showing any prejudice against the north-eastern States or any favouritism to the southern States.

Shri Dasappa (Bangalore): None whatsoever.

Shri A. P. Jain: It remains to be a fact that Andhra has increased its production from the year 1952-53 to 1956-57 by 50 per cent.

Shri A. C. Guha: From 1949-50.

Shri A. P. Jain: These are the figures I am giving. All glory to Andhra. Madras during the same period has increased its production by 80 per cent. All glory to Madras. I wish they could achieve more and more.

Unfortunately, the same results have not been achieved with some of these north-eastern States. For instance, the production of West Bengal has remained more or less stationary. In the year 1952-53, it was 4.22 million tons; in 1955-56, it was 4.15 million tons and in 1956-57, it was 4.3 million tons, more or less stationary. The production of Orissa has also been stationary. Bihar during this period has shown a progress of 20 per cent and M.P. 25 per cent. But the House will realise that agriculture is

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a State subject and all these schemes of production are framed by the State Governments and they come to the Centre and the Centre gives assistance, of course, on the same scale and in the same manner to the north-eastern States as it does to the south. I only wish that what Shri Guha has said should serve as an eye-opener to the States of the North-East and they should make greater effort to step up agricultural production. None in this House or none in the whole of the country will be happy than myself if the production of these States goes up.

Shri Dasappa: Durgapur is there. They can draw plenty from it.

Shri A. P. Jain: Shri Guha has drawn the attention of the House to another question, namely, subsidising foodgrains to certain vulnerable classes. That is an important suggestion. The Asoka Mehta Committee has also made certain recommendations in this regard. We are examining this question and I hope we will find out a suitable solution.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty has drawn the attention of the House to the delay in the implementation of the land reforms policy. It is true that any delay in the implementation of the land reform policy has the effect of inhibiting production. It perpetuates a state of uncertainty. The landlord is not prepared to make investment on his land because he does not know whether that land is going to remain with him. The tenant, on the other hand, feels insecure and he is not prepared to make any investment. It is true that in certain parts of the country, despite our efforts to implement the land reforms policy, a large number of tenants have been thrown out of their holdings. So far as the Centre is concerned, we have laid down a policy and we have recommended that policy to the State Governments and one of the important recommendations which we have made is that even during the interim period, when the land reforms are being in the process of implementation, all ejections should be stopped,

particularly the so-called voluntary surrenders.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur): Have they been stopped?

Shri A. P. Jain: I do not say that they have been stopped. I am not satisfied with the progress of the implementation of land reforms. I regret that there is delay. We are urging upon the State Governments, but the House will realise our limitations, that is, the limitations of the Centre. We can draw the attention of the State Governments and we can press them and we can request them, but ultimately, the decisions have to be taken by them.

Shri C. K. Nair (Outer Delhi): It is high time it was done. We have been saying this for the last ten years, and we are feeling—

Shri A. P. Jain: But we are functioning under a certain Constitution under which some responsibility has been placed on the Centre and some responsibilities have been placed upon the State Governments. I am not at all happy with the progress of the land reforms. We have been urging upon the State Governments to expedite the implementation of land reforms. I regret the delay. But, nonetheless, I cannot be held responsible for it. That is what I mean to say.

An Hon. Member: Change the Constitution.

Shri A. P. Jain: I will be glad if they change the Constitution so that they may be quickly implemented, but so long as the Constitution is there—

Shri Braj Raj Singh: The party can change it.

Mr. Speaker: The party is not in question here.

Shri A. P. Jain: There was one question which was raised by Dr. Krishnaswami. Unfortunately, he is not here now. That is not a question

which has been raised for the first time. It is a question which has been raised many times before, and that is the question of the reliability of the statistics. While the hon. Members have been questioning our statistics, nonetheless, they have been placing reliance upon their statistics. The Ashoka Mehta Committee was confronted with the problem as to whether our statistics are reliable or they need any correction. They say on page 42 of the report:

"In view of the recent rise in prices some people doubt whether the increase in production in 1956-57 had in fact taken place."

In fact, in this House there has been a lot of controversy about it—whether our figures were correct or not. Then the Committee proceeds to say:

"The results of some special field investigations carried out on our behalf by various research institutions, over and above our observations and enquiries in the course of our tour of the country however, seem to confirm that an increase in production in 1956-57 over 1955-56 did take place. For instance, special surveys carried out on our behalf by the Programme Evaluation Organisation of the Planning Commission, the Agro-Economic Research Centres and other non-official organisations show that the production of foodgrains in 1956-57 has been, on the whole, higher than in 1955-56".

A number of suggestions have been made about cordoning off this area or that area.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister must have an idea of time.

Shri A. P. Jain: Only five minutes more. Not more than that. All these matters are under examination. We know that the food administration in the difficult conditions of today is a very important matter, and we do not want that any of these speculative or hoarding tendencies should be allowed

to have their play. Nonetheless, this is a very difficult matter and we have to keep the picture of the whole of India before us. Placing of the cordon in one area increases the scarcity in the other. For instance, take the case of Bombay, about which hon. Member **Shri Naushir Bharucha** has raised the question. Bombay used to receive large quantities of rice, fine quality of rice, from Andhra. It also used to receive some rice from the Punjab. Now, we have created a self-sufficient zone of the South with a view to meet the deficit of that area by local production. The result is that the flow of rice from Andhra to Bombay has been cut out.

Similarly, a number of suggestions have been made here about procurement in the Punjab. In order to do that procurement, we had to cordon off Punjab. Therefore, rice has ceased to go from Punjab to Bombay. Both these things have added to the deficit of Bombay. We have taken steps to increase the supply to Bombay, but, as the House knows, the rice position is difficult not only inside the country, but the availability of rice in the world is limited. So, in future, wherever such a situation arises, we shall have to fill up the gap created by any cordoning off, not with rice but with alternative foodgrains.

I do hope that while it will be possible for us—in fact I feel confident that it will be possible for us—to fill up the gap, maybe it may not be possible to fill up the gap by any particular kind of foodgrain.

I again thank the hon. Members for the suggestions they made, and I can assure them that we shall carefully look into them. As regards the amendments, I am prepared to accept amendment No. 18 moved by **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh**.

Mr. Speaker: Does any hon. Member want to have his amendment put to the vote of the House?

Shri Jagdish Awasthi: My amendment No. 21 may be put.

Mr. Speaker: I shall put amendment No. 21 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country, is of the opinion that—

- (a) the system of land taxation should be rationalised and there should be no tax on profitless holdings;
- (b) the policy of fixing a ceiling on land holdings and redistributing surplus land among the landless and poor peasants should be implemented immediately and vigorously;
- (c) a land army of one million should be formed by the Union Government to reclaim fallow land who may later be settled on that land preferably on a co-operative basis;
- (d) all development work be entrusted to elected village bodies whose work should be co-ordinated by elected district bodies and the Government at higher levels. The village bodies should be encouraged to execute small schemes of irrigation and methods of intensive cultivation in which they should receive financial help from the Government."

Those in favour of the motion will say 'Aye'.

Some Hon. Members: Aye

Mr. Speaker: Those who are against the motion will say 'No'.

Several Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: The 'Noes' have it. There seems to be difference of opinion among the Opposition itself. I shall put it again to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country, is of the opinion that—

- (a) the system of land taxation should be rationalised and there should be no tax on profitless holdings;
- (b) the policy of fixing a ceiling on land holdings and redistributing surplus land among the landless and poor peasants should be implemented immediately and vigorously;
- (c) a land army of one million should be formed by the Union Government to reclaim fallow land who may later be settled on that land preferably on a co-operative basis;
- (d) all development work be entrusted to elected village bodies whose work should be co-ordinated by elected district bodies and the Government at higher levels. The village bodies should be encouraged to execute small schemes of irrigation and methods of intensive cultivation in which they should receive financial help from the Government"

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Speaker: The motion is lost. There seems to be difference of opinion among the Opposition itself.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Not at all.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: No difference.

Mr. Speaker: Does not matter. They will have another chance.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: On this matter there is absolutely no difference. We all press it. Whether it is to be put to the vote or not, it is left to the mover of the motion.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: We press it.

Mr. Speaker: What is the good of just encouraging him to press? The motion has been lost.

I shall now put the substitute motion No. 18, moved by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, to the vote of the House.

The question is:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the food situation in the country is of the opinion that suitable measures be taken by the Government to increase food production in the country."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The substitute motion is carried. All the other motions are barred.

INDIAN TARIFF (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL*

17 hrs.

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934

Mr. Speaker: It is a taxation measure. This is the end of the day. They do not want the country to know in advance. Now all the shops are closed. I am aware of a single case where two annas excise duty was imposed on silver. Somebody got knowledge of it and overnight he amassed Rs. 30 lakhs by purchasing silver and selling it. Now the question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Manubhai Shah: I introduce** the Bill.

CASHEW INDUSTRY

Shri Kodliyan (Quilon—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I am raising this discussion to focus the attention of the House and the Government on three important points (1) inadequate Central aid to the cashew industry, (2) non-availability of imported cashew-

nuts at reasonable prices, causing frequent closure of factories, and (3) lack of adequate Central aid for the promotion of export of cashew kernels

Although the cashew industry is very much concentrated in Kerala State, apart from it being of vital importance to the economy of that State, it is equally important for India as a whole. In recent years while our export earnings have declined almost in every exportable items, the export of cashew kernels has produced more and more foreign exchange. In the context of a sharpening crisis in the nation's foreign exchange resources, the export of cashew kernels acquires an even greater importance.

From the hon. Minister's reply to a question on the 14th November, it can be seen that in 1956 alone it has earned over ten crores of rupees, an increase of Rs. 1.6 crores over what was earned in the previous year. To my own State the industry is of great value as it provides direct employment to about one lakh of workers, of whom 80 per cent. are women. The development of the industry has been such that although it is only two decades since the industry started, all the raw nuts produced in the whole of India taken together do not meet the requirements of keeping the factories working. So, we have to depend for half of our requirements of raw nuts upon the African countries.

One of the difficulties that prevents the development of the cashew industry is the non-availability of raw nuts in sufficient quantity. So the main problem of this industry is to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of producing raw nuts in our country. The Spices Enquiry Committee, appointed by the Government of India, has stated on page 123 of its report:

"In all these regions, extensive cultivation of the crop on a plantation basis should be encouraged.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II Section 2, dated 3-12-57.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri Kadiyan]

The forest departments in the producing States should also encourage its spread and growth in all the reserve areas and arrange to collect the nuts along with other minor forest produce. Wherever possible, the Public Works Departments should also undertake to extend the cultivation of this crop in suitable lands under their jurisdiction. A Coordinated Ten Year Plan (Cashewnut Plantation Scheme) should be prepared in this connection in consultation with the State Governments and put through expeditiously."

Despite these pious resolutions and pompous recommendations and despite some schemes for increased cultivation nothing substantial has been achieved so far in the matter of attaining self-sufficiency in the production of cashewnuts in our country, in order to relieve our dependence on foreign countries. While the Indian cashew tree is capable of yielding nuts five or six years from planting and while we have tens of millions acres of waste land all over the country, it is regrettable that all the tall talks of the Government have not reduced our dependence on foreign countries even by one per cent.

It is true that Government have some schemes to increase the cashew cultivation in our country and some amount has been allotted to State Governments to give advance to private growers at the rate of Rs. 150 for every additional acre planted with cashew nuts. But how many private growers have taken advantage of this scheme and as a result of the scheme how many additional acres have been planted with cashew? Of course, when we examine the result of the achievement of this scheme, we find that the achievement so far is not commendable.

So far as Kerala State is concerned, the Centre of course, knows our limitations on land and resources. But the Centre has not discharged its

obligations to Kerala, which has been giving them a commodity, which is earning more and more foreign exchange in the present difficult position of our foreign exchange resources. The foreign exchange earning capacity of the cashew kernels alone justifies and demands more of Central assistance to every aspect of the industry. Calculated at the present rate of yield, i.e. of 25 lbs. per tree and two hundred trees per acre, we require for self-sufficiency an additional acreage of one lakh acres. But, as I have already pointed out, the achievement so far gained is not so much commendable.

In this connection I wish to ask the Government whether they have a well-planned scheme for achievement of targets, say, a ten-year target to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of producing raw nuts in this country.

Secondly, Government is not taking any serious action for checking and controlling the loot by certain firms operating in Bombay. In reply to a question yesterday, the hon Minister has said that licences are issued for importing raw nuts to actual users. But the Spices Enquiry Committee, on page 104 of its Report, has stated:

"The imports and distribution of these African nuts are arranged by a few leading firms operating in Bombay. Having branches at the East African ports and established long business connections with these regions, these firms are very influential and hold almost a monopoly in the import trade and all the processing factories are obliged to obtain their requirements through them. The factory owners place their orders through these firms which then arrange to import the required quantities through their branches in East Africa."

Again, while submitting their recommendation they have said:

"While the bulk of the Indian cashewnut crop is collected by itinerant merchants, the imports of

foreign nuts are done mainly through a few influential firms for whom this forms only a side-business. The Government should, therefore, give all assistance to the factory owners in regard to the procurement of raw nuts from foreign countries."

The loot by these few firms at Bombay is continuing. And nothing has been done by the Government to check the loot.

The *modus operandi* of their looting is like this. The merchants who import raw nuts from Africa are merchants who have established themselves in the concerned African ports for over half a century, and even if the licences are thrown open to all, no newcomer can get raw nuts from Africa unless through the mercies of these monopolists. They hold up the imports when the Indian crop comes to the market. The local producers, the poor agriculturists are offered only the lowest of prices, and on the strength of such low prices the factory owners enter into firm commitments with the overseas buyers. Within a few months the indigenous raw nuts are exhausted and they have to depend on foreign imports. And at this time, the importers who know the trend of the prices through secret means rather than fair means, raise the prices to the maximum and the factory owners are forced to pay the maximum prices. That is taken as an excuse by the factory owners to close down factories. In fact several factories in my own State have been closed down, and thousands of workers have been thrown out of employment even this year, and now satyagraha is going on in Quilon for the reinstatement of the retrenched workers.

Today as a result of this the position of the industry is far from satisfactory; the whole industry is in a crisis. This crisis has not come about suddenly. It has been a recurring feature for the last so many years.

And then, working conditions in the factories are not merely unsatisfactory but miserable and inhuman. No protective measures are taken to save them from contracting occupational diseases. Take for example the cashew peelers. The corrosive substances extruded in the process blister the palms of the workers permanently making workers look like being leprous. That is the position. And the minimum wage fixed in this industry is extremely low and inadequate. Even that low minimum wage is not given; the bonus question is pending. No unemployment relief is given. Such is the position so far as the workers are concerned.

Therefore, Sir, I would submit to the hon. Minister that certain immediate steps should be taken to develop this industry. The import of raw cashew nuts should be taken over by the State Trading Corporation, and the State Trading Corporation should distribute the imported African raw nuts to the factories on an equitable basis. Then the export also should be taken over by the State Trading Corporation. If it is not possible for the State Trading Corporation at present to take over the import and export of cashew nuts, I would request the hon. Minister to consider the suggestion of setting up a separate Cashew Corporation charged with the responsibility of collecting and pooling together all the indigenous raw nuts and also the imported African nuts and then distributing it on a fair basis to the factories. Then again, the processed cashew kernels should be bought by this Cashew Corporation. Then again....

Mr. Speaker: I have allowed fifteen minutes to the hon. Member already.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): Only twelve minutes, because after five o'clock we had voting.

Mr. Speaker: Even then, I do not allow more than ten minutes. He will have an opportunity of replying for two minutes.

Shri Kadiyan: I am now closing, Sir.

[Shri Kodiyar]

Therefore, there cannot be any industry which from the point of view of better labour amenities, for ensuring a better deal to the workers and for augmenting the foreign exchange resources of the country, has more claims than the cashew industry. Ensure regular work and no more closures to the workers, import raw nuts on government account, buy up all the kernels produced at fair prices and export on government account; diversify the trade on the basis of a definite plan. To enable all these things Government should forthwith have a comprehensive scheme for planting at least one lakh acres with high yielding nuts. And to deal with all the problems connected with the development of this industry and also the problems connected with increasing the cultivation of cashew nut, a Cashew Board should be set up.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Sir, I just want to ask one or two questions.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. No speeches are allowed; only questions are allowed.

Shri V. P. Nayar: From the passage that has been pointed out from the report of the Spices Enquiry Committee, up to now several times Government spokesmen have stated that the import of raw nuts is in the monopolistic grip of a few Bombay firms. But all of a sudden yesterday the Minister said that import licences were being given mostly to actual users. I have the honour to represent an area which has the largest concentration of cashew factories in the whole of India. I have met the industrialists and they still tell me that even in the recent recess they have been at the mercy of the Bombay importers for getting the available nuts. I want to know why it is not possible for Government to buy up all the imported nuts and distribute them at fair prices to the factory owners on some equitable basis, say, on the consumption of the preceding years.

I also want to know why, when it is replete with potentialities of export

it is not possible for Government to monopolise the export of this commodity, the more so in the present context of the foreign exchange position. What are the impediments? It will not involve any transport problem like iron ore or manganese ore which has been taken over. It does not require as much shipping space. And the market is ensured.

Thirdly, I would like to know why Government have not taken adequate steps, when they know for certain that cashew is a tree which yields fruit in five or six years and tens of millions of acres are

Mr. Speaker: All the three things have been referred to by Shri Kodiyar.

Shri V. P. Nayar: True. But I want to know why it is not possible for them to do it.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The hon. Minister may note down that Shri V. P. Nayar also wants to know it.

Shri V. P. Nayar: I want to know why it is not possible.

Shri Achar (Mangalore) rose —

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members must give their names to me in advance. Anyhow, Shri Achar is a new Member. Only one question. I shall waive the notice.

Shri Achar: I am very thankful to the hon. Member who has raised this question, but I must correct an inaccuracy in his statement that the State that is interested in this matter is only Kerala.

Mr. Speaker: Mysore also.

Shri Achar: I am only anxious to point out that Mysore State is as much interested in it as Kerala.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri Achar: The question is this. So far as this cashew production is concerned, there are a large number of applications for granting lands,

that is waste lands in South Kanara, all the while pending and they are not disposed of. Mostly, these cashew nuts come from the Portuguese area..

Mr. Speaker: What can this Government do? If assignments are not made by the State Government, what can this Government do?

Shri Achar: The Central Government can also take some interest in the matter and advise them.

Another thing is this. In view of the present attitude of the Portuguese authorities, what does the Government propose to do? Because, I understand that now the import of cashew nut very much obstructed. In view of that situation, what does the Government propose to do to solve these problems?

Shri Thirumala Rao (Kakinada): The Government are aware that the Agriculture Minister of the Andhra Government announced that special steps are being taken to encourage the acreage under cashewnuts. My part of the country especially is an area which exports cashewnuts to America and other countries. Are the Government thinking of helping the Andhra Government who have come forward to help themselves?

Shri R. Ramanathan Chettiar (Pudukkottai): May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he will be taking steps to rationalise the industry as the manual labourers are working under very difficult conditions in this industry in Kerala?

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Minister.

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): My task is very simple because the Mover himself has produced almost all the replies.

The basic fact, as the hon. Mover himself has pointed out, is the non-availability of the raw material either in the country or from outside. The fact of the matter is that almost 60 per cent of the raw material for this industry has got to be imported.

The Hon. Member quoted something from the report of the Spices Enquiry Committee. He was not perhaps aware that as a result of the report of the committee and due to subsequent events, Government have launched a large-scale programme of encouraging the plantation of cashew-nuts, the details of which, I believe, have been given out on the floor of the House. Roughly, the Central Government will give a loan of Rs. 150 per acre of plantation on very easy terms. Apart from the Central Government, in view of the Spices Enquiry Committee's report, various State Governments, on their own account, have provided enough money for it.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): What is the acreage of new plantation after that scheme was announced?

Shri Kanungo: It has gone into operation more or less 2 years back. Madras has reported 9,000 acres in one year and Kerala has reported 20,000 acres. At this rate, the momentum will go much further. Mysore, Madras and Kerala Governments have provided from their own resources something like Rs. 57 lakhs and I think that is a sizeable quantity which the State budgets provide. To catch up the target of 1,25,000 acres, we require much more efforts. One of the handicaps relate to the question of land and I am told that suitable land is not available. Recently, all the Governments have shown interest in this programme, particularly Andhra and Orissa. Wherever any State Government shows interest in it, the Government of India in the Food and Agriculture Ministry are prepared to advance money as per scheme. Therefore, pending the growth of the plantations, which come to bear in five or six years, we have to face the problem of shortages as it is.

The other problem that my hon. friend pointed out, rationalisation is very difficult. For one thing, packing, conditioning and all that is done in a very cheap way. None of the

[Shri Kanungo]

valuable by-products are being recovered, because to recover byproducts like oil, etc., it requires a rather expensive machinery. We are trying to interest the Council of Industrial and Scientific Research to find out if any cheaper machinery would be possible. But, that is in the realm of wishing more or less, because the present machinery which is available is costly and most of the establishments which are in this trade cannot afford it. Therefore, rationalisation as was asked is just not possible at the moment, unless investors with adequate funds are forthcoming.

I may mention one thing. The ecological conditions and agricultural conditions of this crop are not known very much. Therefore, the Government in the Food and Agriculture Ministry have established one research station in Mangalore and in the course of one year, it has progressed somewhat. But, the results to be applied to the fields will take a little time. First of all, we have to find out what are the breeds which give the best yield and faultless fruit and all that. Of that, we have no knowledge. The best method of propagation has got to be known. The States of Mysore and Kerala have established stations where planting materials of a superior quality are available. But, the basic point is that planters should be forthcoming who show interest in this type. One of the handicaps, I am told, is this, that many planters do not venture to go in for that, because unlike coffee and tea, cashew-nut is not classed as a plantation, which means that they are subject to the limitations of agricultural land which is common to all crops.

About the trading position to which my hon. friend Shri V. P. Nayar referred, the fact of the matter is that today, the actual users get something like 85 per cent of the import licences. The established importers get only 15 per cent. The difficulty is inherent in the sense that in East Africa even, the crop is not grown on a plantation scale. It grows wild and the collec-

tion has got to be organised. It is a very expensive process.

Mr. Speaker: What does it mean: users importers?

Shri Kanungo: That is, factory owners who require raw materials, are entitled to import licences.

Shri V. P. Nayar: They do not import themselves.

Shri Kanungo: They cannot find exporters from the other side, I do not know. But, Sir, as you will realise, the largest producer of this commodity is British and Portuguese East Africa and the relation between Portuguese East Africa and our country being what it is, we can't do anything. From its very nature, the difficulty which most of the operators find is this. To my mind there are too many establishments in the trade than is justified.

A suggestion has been made that the State Trading Corporation should go into it. It will be obvious that for the State Trading Corporation to organise the collection of nuts in East Africa is not a feasible proposition. I need not go into details of it, but whatever nuts are available in the world being available to the actual users, we cannot do anything more than that, because we have realised that the basic solution is in encouraging more plantations.

Mr. Speaker: So far as British East Africa is concerned, the same difficulty also?

Shri Kanungo: Because no one is going to organise collections over there, and it is a very expensive proposition.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Why not Government acquire all the stocks from the importers and then distribute it? We come from that area, and we are told that raw nuts are not available.

Shri Kanungo: It is not so simple as Shri Nayar mentions it. Importers do not stock it in the country. They import it as and when they get a demand, and after all, they are permitted to import only 15 per cent.

As regards the State Trading Corporation taking over the exports, I do not see why they should go into it because it is handled by capable persons in the trade. Anyway, the pattern of production has not suffered very much. The ratio between the export price and the price of raw nuts has been at one to six. It has been steady for almost six years now.

Therefore, until the basic problems are solved, the industry attracts more

entrepreneurs and goes into utilisation of by-products, the position will remain as it is, but in the meantime the Government's efforts in increasing the area under cultivation will show results in another couple of years, and the position will be very much eased.

17.33 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 4th December, 1957.

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1029	Corruption on Railways	3288
1030	Nagarjuna sagar project	3287-88
1031	Construction of Post Office Buildings	3288
1032	Over-bridge Shornur Junction	3288-89
1033	Clocks at stations on N.E. Railways	3289
1034	Shuttle trains	3289
1035	Railway platforms	3290
1036	Railway restaurants	3290
1037	Road-railway bridges	3290-91
1038	Automatic telephone exchange at Ferozepore	3291
1039	Ticketless travelling	3291-92
1040	Bikramgunj-Ballia line	3292
1041	Bridges on National Highways	3292

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE.

The following papers were laid on the Table :—

(1) A copy of each of the following Notifications under sub-section (3) of Section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1949 :—

(i) Notification No. F. 12 (37) /57-MT&CE, dated

COLUMNS

COLUMNS

the 31st May, 1957, making certain amendments to the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

- (ii) Notification No. F. 12 (37)/57-MT&CE, dated the 3rd August, 1957, containing a Corrigendum to Notification No. F. (37)/57-MT & CE, dated the 31st May, 1957.
- (2) A copy of each of the following papers under sub-section (2) of Section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951 :—
 - (i) Report (1957) of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of protection to the Non-Ferrous Metals Industry.
 - (ii) Government Resolution No. 22(4)-T.R./57, dated the 2nd December, 1957.
 - (iii) Government Notification No. 22(4)-T.R./57, dated the 2nd December, 1957.
 - (iv) Report (1957) of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of Protection to the Base Copper Conductors and A.C.S.R. (Aluminium Conductor Steel Reinforced) Industry.
 - (v) Government Resolution No. 3(5)-T.R./57, dated the 2nd December 1957.
 - (vi) Government Notification No. 3(5)-T.R./57, dated the 2nd December 1957.
- (3) A copy of Notification No. S. R. O. 3648 dated the 16th November 1957 under sub-section (6) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.
- (4) A copy of the statement showing the number of income-tax payers who have income-tax arrears the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Govern-

ment to recover the balance from them.

PRESIDENT'S ASSENT TO BILL

3294

Secretary laid on the Table the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current Session and assented to by the President on the 29th November 1957.

REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADOPTED

3294-95

Thirteenth Report was adopted.

MOTION Re : FOOD SITUATION:—

3297—3423

Further discussion on the motion regarding food situation continued. The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jai) replied to the debate. The substitute motion moved by Dr Ram Subhag Singh was adopted.

BILL INTRODUCED

3423

Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Bill was introduced.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

3423—36

Shri P. K. Kodyan raised a half-an-hour discussion on points arising out of replies given on the 14th November 1957 to Starred Questions Nos. 160 and 168 regarding Cashew Industry. The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo) replied to the debate.

AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 1957.

Consideration and passing of Capital Issues (Control) Amendment Bill and Central Excises and Salt (Amendment) Bill and the motion regarding Interim Report of Life Insurance Corporation