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Monday, March 2, 1964.
Phalgun 12, 1885 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Seventh Session)



(Vol. XXVI contains Nos. 11—20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA

Monday, March 2, 1964/Phalgun 12,
1885 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

External Publicity

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372. { Shree Shri Narayan Dass:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri P. C. Borooh:
Shri Sidheshwar Prasad

Will the Prime Minister be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the arrangements for
India's external publicity have
recently been reviewed; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Measures have been undertaken to reorganise the External Publicity Division at Headquarters and our information posts abroad so as to make out external publicity more effective through all possible audio-visual media. Such measures are aimed at achieving a better understanding of our publicity requirements on a regional basis and for a more rapid transmission of our views to our information posts abroad.

Amongst other things, they have resulted in the increase in publicity

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posts in Africa, the doubling of our production of pamphlets and brochures during the last year, the publication of a fortnightly paper in English and French, projecting Indian thinking on major political and economic issues.

More emphasis is also now being placed on dubbing our documentary films in foreign languages and on organizing exhibitions, essay competitions etc. It is also hoped to re-organise our information posts abroad so as to make for more effective personal contacts.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: In the statement it has been said that measures have been undertaken to re-organise the External Publicity Division at Headquarters. May I know what are the important features of such measures?

Shri Dinesh Singh: It is largely an administrative reorganisation. We have brought in a senior Joint Secretary who will be co-ordinating the work of External Publicity Division.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know whether the efforts made in the direction of having a high power transmitter have been finalised.

Shri Dinesh Singh: It is a matter which has been discussed in the House and the Minister for Information and Broadcasting has already given the details.

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : विवरण में बतलाया गया है कि विदेशों में प्रचार के लिए अंग्रेजी और कंच में साहित्य दिया जा रहा है और

पत्रिलाएं निकाली जा रही हैं तो क्या अंग्रेजी और कंच के सिवाय दूसरी ऐसी और कौन कौन भाषाएं हैं जिनमें कि सरातर पत्र-पत्रिलाएं या साहित्य निकालने का विचार करेगी ?

श्री दिनेश सिंह : जी हां, बहुत सी भाषाओं में यह निकाले जाते हैं। पिछले सदन की बैठक में मैंने बहुत सी जबानों का जिक्र किया था जिनमें कि हमारी पत्रिलाएं और साहित्य आदि निकाला जाता है जैसे अरबी है, स्वाहीली है और भाषा इंडोनेशिया है।

Shri Indrajit Gupta: Is it a fact that the majority of our Legations abroad have got no public reading rooms or libraries attached to them where the citizens of those countries can freely avail themselves of literature on various aspects of Indian life?

Shri Dinesh Singh. I think most of our Missions abroad have libraries attached to them.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: I asked about public reading rooms also.

Shri Dinesh Singh: They have also got reading rooms; they may not be very large but they are there.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Have we any mechanism for ascertaining how far our external publicity is producing results particularly in view of the apparent failure of our publicity in comparison with what is being sought to be done by Pakistan?

Shri Dinesh Singh: I would not say there is any failure of our publicity. Or stand is very well known. I would like to mention, in this connection, that it is always that a certain country takes an attitude because of the publicity as such; there are also national interests of countries which come in in determining their policy. But the publicity work goes on. We try to inform the public at large of our points of view and our policy on various matters, and I think by and large we are doing well. So far as the assessment of it

is concerned, it is very difficult to lay down a machinery which will assess it, because it is a long-term effort. But we constantly review it in the Ministry.

Shri Kapur Singh: Have the causes of our publicity ineffectiveness hitherto been assessed as merely methodical or are human factors also involved?

Shri Dinesh Singh: There is no failure. The hon. Member is insinuating that it has failed. It has not failed.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The statement says at the end that "it is also hoped to re-organise our information posts abroad so as to make for more effective personal contacts." Has this woeful deficiency been brought to light only recently after the massive Chinese invasion of October, 1962 and the successful penetration on the diplomatic front of not merely the Chinese Premier but also of Chinese personnel into Asia, Africa and Europe?

Shri Dinesh Singh: There is no woeful deficiency.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: You have admitted in the statement that it is a woeful deficiency.

Shri Dinesh Singh: No. The point is, we feel that the work we are doing is never perfect, and we are trying to improve upon it all the time.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: For 16 years you have been doing it.

Shri Dinesh Singh: Not only for 16 years in the past, but also in the future we have to improve upon it constantly.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But do it more quickly, more expeditiously.

Shri Joachim Alva: Have you really been able to go to the bottom of this chronic complaint of dissatisfaction in your Ministry, viz., the bureaucrats have refused to enlist

the aid of patriotic young journalists and draft them for publicity work in the External Affairs Ministry? Secondly, they are never given good posts. There are very few cases in which the journalists that are there have been given permanent jobs. All of them are kept in a sort of permanent dissatisfaction.

Shri Dinesh Singh: It is a suggestion for action. It was mentioned in this House, I think last year, that we have decided to have a service and we shall take young people in the regular service on permanent jobs.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: Even when our cause is so just and right why do we find ourselves so forlorn on international forums if our publicity is successful? In the recent Security Council meeting there was lack of understanding even on the part of the non-aligned Afro-Asian nations on the Kashmir issue.

Shri Dinesh Singh. That has nothing to do with publicity. That is a political matter.

Rohini Gliders

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*373. { **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:**
 \ **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) how the cost of Rohini gliders compares with the cost of similar type of gliders imported from the U.K.;

(b) the number of gliders produced so far by the Aircraft Manufacturing Depot, Kanpur; and

(c) the percentage value of components or parts imported and of those made indigenously?

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri RaghuRamaiah): (a) No gliders have been imported in recent years but in 1956, the landed price of a similar glider imported from the UK was Rs. 17,230. As against this, the cost

of a glider manufactured at A.M.D., Kanpur, is Rs. 16,500 including packing charges of Rs. 1500.

(b) Forty gliders have been completed so far and 3/ others are at various stages of completion.

(c) 10 per cent of the contents of the gliders at present being produced at Kanpur is being imported from abroad.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Can we have an idea as to by what time it would be possible for us to increase the percentage of indigenous parts to be used in the manufacture of glider?

Shri RaghuRamaiah: 90 per cent is already being manufactured locally. Out of the 10 per cent, 5 per cent constitutes special alloy steel and the balance certain proprietary items.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Keeping in view the manufacture of 30 and 40 gliders, are we to understand that we are having more and more demand for this type of gliders in our country?

Shri RaghuRamaiah: Yes, Sir.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is the Defence Minister aware of a glider made by an ingenious aeronautical engineer, Mr. Antonius Raab, in the past in 1948 he was detained in India by the British during the war, the Defence Minister was a Deputy Minister in the Bombay Government then, in 1948; the Prime Minister knows the case; he made it in Baroda, working under the then Baroda Government practically from scrap at the phenomenally low cost of Rs. 10,000 and, if so, are the records pertaining to the manufacture of the glider available in the Baroda district files today and, if so, would they be referred to in this connection?

Shri RaghuRamaiah: I have not quite followed the question.

Mr. Speaker: There was a project or design made by one engineer who belonged to UK....

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: No, Sir. It is not so. May I know whether a glider made by an ingenious aeronautical engineer, Mr. Antonius Raab in Baroda in 1948 under the then Baroda Government—it was not part of Bombay State then—at a low cost of Rs. 10,000 and, if so, whether the records belonging or pertaining to that project are available today?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): I remember to have heard about it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I saw it myself.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: We have not gone into the details. I think we can certainly try to find out further details from the Baroda files.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Make an earnest now.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The price of gliders manufactured in AMD, Kanpur here is less than that of the imported ones. May I know to what extent the prices are likely to come down if the production of gliders is increased?

Shri Raghuramaiah: It is very difficult to say, but I may add that it is certainly cheaper than those produced indigenously elsewhere. There are some private companies who are producing them.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Shri P. C. Borooah—absent. Next question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I would suggest that Q. No. 380 may also be taken up, along with Q. 375.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection if the Minister finds it convenient to do so.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): They are different subjects.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. One is "consumer co-operative societies" and the other is "cheap grain stores".

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Only different words are used.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

उपभोक्ता सहकारी समितियां

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*३७५०। श्री सरजू पाण्डेय :
श्री प्र० र० चक्रवर्ती :

क्या श्रम और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि करवरी, १६६४ के अन्त तक श्रीदांगिक उपक्रमों में उपभोक्ता सहकारी समितियां स्थापित करने का निश्चय निया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो देश के लितने ऐसे प्रोद्योगिक उपक्रम हैं जिनमें अब तक उपभोक्ता सहकारी समितियां स्थापित गईं की गई हैं ?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) The decision taken at the last session of the Standing Labour Committee was to set up either cooperative stores or consumers' stores and fair price shops, to be converted into cooperative stores later, in the industrial undertakings by the end of February, 1964.

(b) The time-limit expired only a few days back and we have not yet got up-to-date reports from all States. The information, when available, will be laid on the table of the House.

Mr. Speaker: If it is convenient for him to answer the other question also, he might do so.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The other is 380.

Mr. Speaker: Then that might be answered separately.

Shri Warior: In the Labour Conference it was decided that if these grains shops are not opened in the factories upto 29th February, 1964, the Government itself would take

action. May I know whether the Government is still hoping to have the grain shops opened or the Government is prepared to bring forward statutory measures in this regard?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: It is true that the 29th February, 1964 was the last date. There has been a fairly satisfactory implementation. They are pursuing the matter. I can, if necessary, give the figures so far as the implementation is concerned. The latest position with regard to stores is that there are 755 cooperatives societies in the States and the Union Territories; cooperative societies opened by Central Government undertakings—384; cooperative societies for coal miners—166; cooperatives societies for mica miners—12—it all comes to about 1317 plus one wholesale store. The implementation, I think, covers roughly 60 per cent.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : जिन संसायटियों के द्वारा मार्केट प्राइस से भी ज्यादा महंगे भाव पर चीजें बेची जा रही हैं, उनके बारे में सरकार क्या कर रही है, ताकि राइजिंग प्राइसिंग को रोका जाये ?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Actually, the fair price shops are also there. But the advantage of these cooperatives societies is that the labourers can purchase things on credit. That is the main advantage here. But there are always the central co-operative stores.

Shri K. N. Pande: Is it a fact that the purpose of opening these consumer stores was to supply good material at cheaper rates? As the societies have to meet the requirements from the open market, is it not defeating the purpose of such stores?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: That is why there are wholesale cooperative societies for the purpose.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know if the foodgrains that are sold to the consumer cooperative societies are being subsidised so as to make

them cheaper for the workers to buy?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Not subsidised; we are buying them wholesale.

Shri A. P. Sharma: The Indian Railways are a big industrial undertaking of the Government of India. May I know how many such consumer cooperative societies have been opened throughout the Indian Railways and what is the reason that such cooperative societies are the smallest in number in that undertaking?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I have got the break-up so far as the public sector is concerned. So far as the Railways are concerned, there are 245 units employing 300 or more workers. The number of existing cooperative societies is more than 200. They supply various items of foodstuff.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if it is not a fact that these consumer cooperative societies suffer from one very great disadvantage that even after depositing the money for withdrawing wheat or other things they have to wait a long time for the withdrawal of the things as compared to the private traders who get it in 24 hours?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I do not think it is quite correct. If that is so, coming from the hon. Member, we will make enquiries.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : बहुत सी उपत्रेय में आने वाली वस्तुओं को सरकार क्य के विदेशों को नियंत करती है, जिस से महंगाई बढ़ती है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इससे रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या यत्न कर रही है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो विलुप्त अलाहदा सवाल है।

Shri Daji: Has the Government prepared any approved list of essential requirements and commodities which will be sold in the stores, or is it that only the grains will be sold?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: We have prepared it. We are actually increasing the number of items.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the co-operative societies openend in the industrial sphere sell their goods dearer than what is sold in the free market?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I do not think it is quite correct.

Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Go to Barauni and see.

Shri Man Singh P. Patel: Am I to understand that these consumer co-operative societies in the industrial undertakings will be located in the industrial area itself or in the residential area and whether these will be restricted to the industrial workers only?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Actually the question was that in Bombay where industrial workers come from a long distance whether the stores must be where they live. We are concerned here with these stores in the various industrial units.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that these co-operative societies are not getting the co-operation of Government themselves and also whether the sugar quota which was to be released to these co-operative societies has not been released even to the extent of about 50 per cent and has been released only to the extent of about 6 per cent?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: It covers both public and private sectors, and there is no question of Government not co-operating at all.

श्री रामसेवक यादव : श्रमी मन्त्री महोदय ने बताया कि उन्होंने खाद्यान्नों के अतिरिक्त भी जीवनापयोगी व तुरंगों की सूची तयार की है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वे कौन सी वस्तुएँ हैं।

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The list comes to about 80 to 90 items. We had only 20 in the beginning, but now we have increased the number.

Consumer Price Index

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*367. { **Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:**
Shri P. C. Borooh:
Shri Warior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Daji:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri A. N. Vidyalankar:
Shri Sezhiyan:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Dr. Saradish Roy:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of living or consumer price index as on 1st February, 1963 and on 1st February, 1964;

(b) whether decision has been taken to link dearness allowance with the said index; and

(c) if so, the mode of operation of the nexus?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour & Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) The All-India Consumer Price Index number for February, 1963 and 129. Information for the month of February 1964 is not yet available.

(b) In some sectors of employment the Dearness Allowance is already linked to the Consumer price index in terms of Agreements or Awards of Tribunals.

(c) The mode of operation varies according to the terms of such Agreements and Awards, the extent of neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living ranging from 60 per cent to 100 per cent.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Is it a fact that the hon. Home Minister, Shri Nanda, at a conference or seminar or meeting—I do not remember

which, because there are so many of them going on nowadays, and I am not able to put my finger on it—in January last, that is, about two months ago, admitted that the consumer price index had been wrongly computed by someone, and if so, has any inquiry been held in order to ascertain who was responsible for the wrong computation of the cost of living index, and what action was taken against him?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: It is true that he admitted that so far as some items were concerned, the figures were not correct. That was the allegation made by the workers union in Bombay, and the hon. Minister had admitted that the figures in respect of some items were not correct. We are now taking steps to correct the figures. Actually, we are trying to get the figures for the 1960 series, and they are being published also. Actually, the Maharashtra Government are at it. And the figures are being published. Some State Governments have not accepted the figures, and we are in correspondence with them.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I am sorry the Deputy Minister has not answered my question. He says that for the future Government are doing something. I want to know whether any inquiry has been made to find out who was responsible for the wrong computation? What action has been taken against the person responsible for the wrong computation?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: As I have stated, when possible the allowances have to be linked with the new series. Actually, this was the point that I was trying to answer. For the purpose of clearness allowance, the allowances have to be linked with the new series, and the defect has to be rectified in the old series.

Mr. Speaker: Because the Deputy Minister has admitted that the Home Minister did make that statement, the hon. Member wants to know whether the man responsible for such miscalculation has been found out, and whether any action has been taken against him.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Actually, it was not a case of one man, but it was really a bureau. It was the Labour Bureau.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The bureau is manned by some men, I believe.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not repeat his question, when the answer is being given to it already.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The Labour Bureau is collecting all these figures, and the figures are being published. Actually, I have got the figures up to December, 1963. But it is true that so far as some areas are concerned, the figures of the concerned State were different.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member says that the Labour Bureau is also composed of persons against whom some action can be taken.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: We are already having an inquiry, and we are inquiring internally.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Warior.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I have not asked my second supplementary question....

Mr. Speaker: He has asked two supplementary questions already.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: But the first question was wrongly answered, and I wanted your protection, and you were kind enough to agree.

Mr. Speaker: He has had his chance already.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: I was able to ask only one supplementary question.

Mr. Speaker: All right, I shall give him an opportunity afterwards.

Shri Warior: In view of the finding of the Bombay Committee and the Ahmedabad Committee, may I know whether Government are intending to have an all-India survey of the index in order to rectify the wrong computations wherever they have occurred?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The survey is not only concerning the industry, but we are also getting a break-up for the various areas, including plantations, and those figures are being published.

So far as the error is concerned, I may assure the House that if necessary we shall take action. It is being inquired into.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that the recent increase in dearness allowance to the tune of Rs. 2 Rs. 5 and Rs. 10 in the case of the Central Government employees has only neutralised the rise up to 125, which was the figure in 1961? If that is correct, may I know whether Government are taking a decision to revise the dearness allowance further in view of the rising cost of living in 1963?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The neutralisation is 70 to 100 per cent. In many cases, the neutralisation is 100 per cent. It is true that the figure is 125. We take note of it and consider it. It is true that we are not able to provide it for all workers because the whole population is concerned and we cannot pump in so far as industrial workers alone are concerned.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: My question has not been answered. I have not asked for the whole country.

Mr. Speaker: He says it is being considered. They have taken note of it and they will consider it.

Shri Daji: Is it a fact that in the tripartite conference held, it was decided that the dearness allowance should be linked to the cost of living index and the Government should take steps to that end. What steps have been initiated to get the dearness allowance of industrial workers linked to the cost of living index in terms of that decision.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The general rule is to link it up. But there are certain awards by tribunals which vary. There are also in certain cases agreements between workers and employers. We have to take into account all those things. Generally, we are keeping in touch with this.

Shri Nath Pai: Is the hon. Minister aware that the present all-India living cost index is totally unrelated to the realities of the price index that prevails in the market and a wrong index is arrived at because the basis of computation is wrong? Secondly, will the inquiry to arrive at a new formula be held publicly and not secretly as it is done today?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: It is not done secretly.

Shri Nath Pai: It is done secretly.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Actually, there is a Bureau collecting these data. It is at Simla. Most of the findings are published in the labour journals. It is open for anyone to see.

Shri Nath Pai: My question was not understood. He is labouring under a misapprehension that the formulation of the living cost index is done after a public open inquiry in which those who can come and give evidence are invited. Today that is not so with the result that wrong conclusions are reached.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: There is a regular procedure for the collection of these data. People who are collecting these data are experts on the subject. They collect data at various spots of the prices of certain materials. It is just possible that there may be variations. For example, Indian wheat may cost slightly more than imported wheat. They are keeping their fingers on the pulse, as it were.

Shri Nath Pai: I seek your protection. He admitted in reply to Shri Kamath's question that a mistake was made. He is making a second mistake by not answering my question directly. The mistake was not accidental. It was inevitable in the method adopted to reach their conclusions. Therefore, I am asking again and again whether the new formulation will be on the basis of an open, public inquiry.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: It is really not an inquiry in that sense. They are collecting data. But whether it has to be done as a court of inquiry is a different matter. We have to consider it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: In answer to part (a) of the question, the Minister stated that the cost of living index as of February 1, 1964, is not available. Is the Minister aware that there has been a steep rise in the index during the last six months at any rate? If so, is this phenomenon, in spite of the very extensive powers with which Government is armed under D.I.R., due to the fact that the Government is either unwilling or unable or incompetent, or all the three put together, to deal with it?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: No doubt, there has been a rise recently in the prices of certain items. If necessary, I can place on the Table the details upto December 1963.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: My question is whether Government is unwilling, unable or incompetent in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Should Government choose one of these three?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Let them be frank. The Finance Minister said the other day....

Mr. Speaker: Shri Saraf.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know what agency or agencies, official or non-official, are being employed in compiling these indices in order to arrive at correct conclusions?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The Labour Bureau has got its own set of officers. They go to places. They can co-opt people locally, make inquiries and collect data.

Shri Iqbal Singh: May I know whether there is a proposal to take the consumer index in rural areas into consideration, if not why not?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: No, Sir, not to my knowledge.

Shri Iqbal Singh: Why not?

Shri K. N. Pande: Is it not a fact that at the last meeting of the Labour Standing Committee it was decided in principle that dearness allowance would be linked with the rising cost of living, but that while recording the proceedings, this aspect was not mentioned, and therefore the labour organisations brought this to the notice of Government? Has the necessary correction been made?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The Wage Census and Labour Investigation Committee Surveys show that the payment of dearness allowance linked to the consumer price index number is common in textiles, bicycle manufacturing and repairing, petroleum refineries, soap factories, tobacco-curing works, coal mines and coir industry. I have got a big list here. Dearness allowance has since been linked with consumer price index numbers in sugar, cement and jute industries and banking and insurance companies.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether among the urban areas, Bangalore tops the list as the highest?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I am not able to say whether it tops the list.

Shri Mohammad Elias: Since the Maharashtra and Gujarat Governments have accepted their fault in calculating these price indices, may I know whether the Central Government is proposing, and if so how long it will take them, to rectify all the price indices in the different States?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: Not much, perhaps soon.

Overseas Broadcasts on A.I.R.

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*377. { **Shri Kolla Venkaiah:**
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:

Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1704 on the 16th December, 1963 and state:

(a) the percentage of Telugu speaking Indians in Burma and South-East Asian countries;

(b) the duration of different language programmes broadcast to different South-East Asian countries on A.I.R. each day;

(c) whether there is any proposal to include some more regional languages in the programmes broadcast on A.I.R. to South-East Asian countries; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):

(a) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as possible.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2433/64.]

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All India Radio's present resources in technical equipment do not permit the introduction of any new programmes in its External Services. Even programmes in certain foreign languages, the broadcast of which is considered necessary in order to project India's view-point to foreign listeners, cannot presently be introduced for want of resources.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: From the statement laid on the Table, we find that Tamil has been allotted two hours for these broadcasts that are made to overseas listeners. May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that all the South Indians, to whichever language group they belong, are being grouped as Tamilians, with the result that though there are a number of Telugu-speaking people in that area, they are not being given any facility from this broadcast? If that is so, may I know whether the Minister would consider the desirability of introducing Telugu?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I do not know whether all the South Indians are considered to be Tamilians.

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the attention of the Minister has been drawn to the fact that many Telugu-speaking Indians residing in Rangoon and other areas, where they have been running a weekly in Telugu also, have sent representations to this Government urging the desirability of introducing Telugu in the time allotted for Tamil broadcasts, and if so, what is the decision of Government?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: This is a very old question. I find this question has been considered and reconsidered since 1955. Once, the Cabinet also considered it in the year 1955, and they came to the conclusion that it was not necessary that special news reels in Telugu should be introduced. I may tell the hon. Member for his information that in the classical vocal

music programme in Tamil, 50 per

Shri Nath Pai: Out of Tamil, 50 per cent consists of Telugu, is a statement which we cannot grasp.

Mr. Speaker: Though ostensibly it is given out that the programme is in Tamil, half of the actual broadcast in music is in Telugu.

Shri Nath Pai: Thank you very much for the clarification.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Classical music is mostly in Telugu language.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: While noting with regret the Government of India's inability to widen the scope for external broadcasts in other languages, may I know whether the broadcasts that are made at present are heard in the South-East Asian countries even now?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The House is quite aware that because of our weak transmitter, it is not possible and therefore we are in search of a high-powered transmitter.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether the VOA agreement can be finally pronounced as dead and if so what is being done to acquire more powerful transmitters in the light of the reply that was given?

Mr. Speaker: It was answered two days back.

Shri Heda: May I know whether Government knows that most of the labourers in tin mining industry, plantations or paddy cultivation know Telugu very well and only a little of Tamil but the leadership of this class is entirely Tamilian and if so would Government think of switching a major portion of their broadcasts into Telugu?

Mr. Speaker: It is a suggestion for action.

श्री यशपाल सिंह: जैसा कि सरकार से मानूम हुआ है साउथ ईस्ट एशिया के देशों में

दस लाख से ज्यादा पंजाबी स्पीकिंग लोग वसे हुए हैं। क्या उनके लिए कोई पंजाबीब ब्राडकास्टिंग का इन्तजाम किया जा रहा है?

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह: मैंने बताया कि मजबूरी है। इस बबत सबसे बेसी जरूरत तो उन भाषाओं में ब्राडकास्ट करने की है जो कि साउथ ईस्ट एशिया के देशों में बोली जाती हैं ताकि हम हिन्दुस्तान की हालत को उनको समझाने में समर्थ हो सकें। इसके लिए हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इस बबत किसी दूसरी हिन्दुस्तानी भाषा का ब्राडकास्टिंग शुरू करना नामुमकिन रहा है।

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if Government are aware that a secret radio station is being mysteriously operated from somewhere in Assam broadcasting to neighbouring countries in South-East Asia and if so, whether Government have tried to find out how far the broadcasts of this secret radio station operating from somewhere in Assam interfered with our broadcasts?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I am sorry. I have no information. Hon. Member can write to me and we will have it examined.

Shri Hem Barua: I have given information. I can further tell him that this secret station was operating from Gauhati....(Interruptions.)

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of the importance of our publicity in neighbouring countries, has the Government explored the possibility of starting broadcasts in Nepali, Pushtu and Sinhalese languages?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: No, Sir. So far as Nepal Government is concerned, we are doing that: we have got broadcasts in Nepali.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: What about Sinhalese?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: That is a different thing.

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: In view of the inadequate arrangements for some of the South-East Asian countries may I know when the Government intends to get the necessary technical equipment for broadcasting the viewpoint of India?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Everybody knows that we are trying for a high power transmitter and as soon as we get this all the difficulties will be remedied.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: The new broadcast could not be started because of lack of resources. May I know whether adjustment is going to be made to enable the broadcast of Swahili, Arabic and Lebanese languages?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I do not know if some broadcasts are done at present even in these languages. As I explained, the main difficulty is technical resources.

Shri Joachim Alva: We are giving 7 hours and 15 minutes every day to the South-East Asian region. Have we been able to monitor the broadcasts from Peking to this region and if so what is the proportion of our broadcasts to those of Peking?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I am sorry I cannot give the information.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, may I seek your guidance . . .

Mr. Speaker: I am not here to give guidance, but only to decide the issues as and when they arise.

Shri Hem Barua: It is a very important issue?

Mr. Speaker: What is the issue?

Shri Hem Barua: It affects the security of the State, and so may I request you to direct the Minister to collect the information, because in monitoring all these broadcasts our security is involved. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Now that he has raised it, the Minister will take note of it. Next question.

Alleged Eviction of Muslims from Tripura

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*378. { **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shri Krishnapal Singh:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the London "Times" despatch of 6th December, 1963 from its special correspondent in Comilla, East Pakistan, alleging that thousands of Indian Muslims have been forcibly evicted from their homes in Tripura and expelled to East Pakistan; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in the matter?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government felt that the report carried by the London "Times" in its issue dated 6th December, 1963, on the so-called 'eviction' of Muslims from India was based on Pakistan versions and completely one-sided. Government therefore instructed their High Commission in London to take this up with the editor of the London "Times". The Acting High Commissioner in London sent a letter to the "Times", presenting the correct facts and requesting the editor to publish the letter in the columns of the newspaper.

The New Delhi representative of the London "Times" was invited to see an official of the Ministry of External Affairs, for a discussion on the problem of Pakistani infiltration into Assam, Tripura and West Bengal, so that he could get a correct picture of the magnitude of the problem and its various implications. The correspondent of the London "Times" called at the Ministry of External Affairs on December 14, 1963 and after a full discussion, sent another report to his newspaper, giving facts and figures and other details on the problem of infiltration. His subsequent report

corrected, to some extent, the one-sided impression that had been created by the report carried in the London "Times" dated 6th December, 1963. The second report was published in the London "Times" on 16th December, 1963.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether the original letter or statement which was issued in London by our High Commissioner was published by the *Times*?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: No, Sir. It was not published.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: May I know whether the Government are taking any additional steps to ensure that any marginal cases of error or mistaken identity which might occur inadvertently are minimised or eliminated altogether in the case of those people who have infiltrated and are now being evicted?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Every precaution is taken and in fact a Committee of Lawyers was appointed, and they have found that there is only one doubtful case among the cases that were examined.

Shri Mohammad Elias: May I know whether the tribunal which was assured by the Home Minister, Shri Nanda, will go into all these cases where the people have actually infiltrated illegally into India from Pakistan and whether those cases will be enquired into, so that no innocent Muslim is put into trouble?

The Minister without portfolio (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): So far as the enquiry into the cases is concerned the Government of India have issued definite instructions to the Tripura Government, and I might inform the House that immediately, after sometime, these people went over to Pakistan, we had issued instructions to stop evicting those people unless full and proper enquiry was made.

Shri Nath Pai: The hon. Minister of External Affairs stated that the clari-

fication given by our acting High Commissioner in London was not published; that the London *Times* declined to publish it. But today, in the newspapers, we have read also that a clarification given by the Indian High Commissioner in Nairobi stating that a letter alleged to have been written by Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed was a forgery,—this clarification also was not published by the same paper which published the forged letter. May we know from the Prime Minister—where the official representatives of the Government of India issue clarifications, they are voluntarily rejected by papers in the capitals of the Commonwealth countries—whether this is an indication of the unreality of the so-called Commonwealth link or of the dwindling influence of this Government abroad?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The reason why this letter was not published was because of its length. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: It was not published because of its length.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: They said it should be reduced to 300 words. In 300 words, we could not give all the information correcting the position.

Shri Nath Pai: I have raised a more important matter; wider issues. Why do they evade the issue?

Mr. Speaker: He has put two alternatives; the Government would be prepared to accept neither of them.

Shri A. P. Jain: When the letter which was sent to the London *Times* was not published by that paper, may I know whether any attempt was made to get that letter or a gist of the contradiction published in other papers in England?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Not that I know of. But the hon. Member knows that the correction has been made by the Ministry inviting the London *Times* correspondent.

Mr. Speaker: Members feel agitated and want to know whether, if that paper itself does not publish the contradiction that was sent, we did not make any attempt to get it published in other papers? (Interruptions).

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I hope the hon. Members heard that part of the reply which clearly states that a contradiction was issued and a statement was published in the same paper itself on the 16th December, 1963. Of course, we may not be fully satisfied with that statement. Yet, the position was made quite clear in the statement which was published in the *Times* itself.

Shri Tyagi: It is a very serious matter. While Pakistan makes all types of propaganda against India and as a result of the Pakistan Government's policy of "kill, convert and compel to quit", more than 75,000 people have migrated to the Garo Hills, including 35,000 Christians, why is our External Affairs Ministry failing to give due publicity to these activities of Pakistan? Is it deliberate? Why was it not publicised?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: How does it arise out of this question, Sir?

Shri Tyagi: I want to know what is the publicity.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It has been publicised. Hon. Member is aware that foreign correspondents as well as our correspondents went there, interviewed the refugees, the migrants, and have given full publicity to what they have seen.

Shri Tyagi: Even in India, this was not given sufficient publicity. (Interruptions). Is it the policy to suppress the publicity?

Mr. Speaker: No. Not at all. (Interruptions). Order, order. There ought not to be speeches on this.

Shri Nath Pai: It reflects the anxiety of the House.

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री : श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरायर के हाई कमिशनर ने जो लंदन "टाइम्स" के प्रतिनिधि

को त्रिपुरा में मुसलमानों की संख्या और उनको निकालने का उपाय बतलाया और यहाँ भी सरकार ने जो उनके प्रतिनिधि से बातचीत की तो उसमें त्रिपुरा में कितने मुसलमानों की संख्या बताई और वह बलात् नहीं निकाले जा रहे हैं अपितु किसी वैधानिक उपाय से निकाले जा रहे हैं तो वह उपाय उन्होंने क्या बतलाये ?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The first letter published 47,000 as the number of Pakistanis evicted. But the correct figure is only 20,000. This was published in the second letter, as I have mentioned in the reply.

Mr. Speaker: The representative was called here by our External Affairs Ministry and the whole situation was explained to him as to how we are evicting them after proper enquiry and assessment. The question is, by what method, in what manner, that assessment was being made, after which those people are asked to quit?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I am sorry I still do not understand the question.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry.

श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री : यह जो माननीय सदस्य ने पूछा तो उन को सारी बातें बताई गई हैं कि इस तरहको से हम नोटिस देते हैं। उनको नोटिस देने के बाद फिर उसकी जांच की जाती है। उनको मौका मिलेका हैं कि वह अपना बरान दें। बरान देने के बाद अफसर भी उसको देखते हैं। हम चाहते थे तो जहर हिं उसकी भी जांच पड़ाता है। यह हमारा प्रबन्धनी मामला है लेकिन उनको बतलाया गया कि यह हमारा तरीका है। यहाँ से ४४,००० या उन से आँड़ा था उसने जैसा मंत्री महांराज ने बतलाय २०,००० के करीब तो बेसे थे। बहुतों को नोटिस भी नहीं मिला और वहाँ से कुट्ट नोटिस के अलावा भी चले गये यह बात भी उन को बताई गई।

Letter from Sheikh Abdullah

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Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Kachhavaiya:
*379. Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Guishan:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter from Sheikh Abdullah seeking Central intervention in the existing state of affairs in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, whether a copy thereof would be laid on the Table?

The Minister without portfolio (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): (a) A letter dealing with the present situation in Jammu and Kashmir was received from Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah.

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose the contents of this letter.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether after this letter and in view of the statement attributed to the new Premier of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Sadiq, to the effect that it would be politically desirable to consider the question of release of Sheikh Abdullah.....

Shri Raghunath Singh: He did not say that.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: the Government of India have decided to give any fresh thought to this matter?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: I think he is trying to read too much into this letter and what the new Premier has said.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: May I know whether after this letter the Government have been persuaded to consider the question of repeal of the constitutional provisions relating to the special status of Kashmir; if so, in what manner, and whether the Government are appointing a jurist to go into this matter as suggested by the Kashmir Premier?

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: How do these matters, Sir, arise out of this question?

Mr. Speaker: They do not arise . . .

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: The answer, Sir, given to this question.....

Mr. Speaker: The question put by the hon. Member does not arise out of this.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Because the contents of the letter....

Mr. Speaker: The question is about a letter received from Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah. He wants to know whether article 370....

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: The contents of this letter are not being revealed to us in public interest. We want to know whether on the basis of this letter or on the suggestions contained in this letter any consideration is being given to the question of repeal of article 370 of the Constitution of India?

Mr. Speaker: Should they reveal the contents of the letter?

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: No, Sir. I am only asking what their reaction is to this letter.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : आभी गंतो महंदद्य ने बतलाया कि उस पत्र की बातों का सार्वजनिक हित में बताना उचित नहीं है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उस पत्र में ऐसी बात नहीं है कि आज जो हमारा सरकार वहां वश्वर्मा में वार्यवाही कर रही है उसके मुतालिक उस पत्र में समर्थन मिलता हो ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो माननीय सदस्य ने उस पत्र की बात कर दी है।

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The very fact of the receipt of the letter from Sheikh Abdullah by the Centre is certainly evidence of the importance of the matter. In view of that, may I know if after what has happened in Kashmir, in a more or less happy direction, we may expect the Govern-

ment to use its good offices to see that in so far as Sheikh Abdullah's detention matter is concerned a really pleasant outcome is expected in the near future?

Mr. Speaker: "Pleasant" might have different meanings with different persons.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I want the Government to give an idea of their connotation.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member's connotation might be different from the Government's connotation.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: I am not asking for my connotation to be seconded by the Government. Let the Government say.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: This is a separate matter altogether from the other matters which were recently decided upon or settled in Jammu and Kashmir. However, in so far as Sheikh Abdullah's release is concerned, during the last few months or so it has been constantly engaging the attention of the Jammu and Kashmir Government. It is for the new Government to consider this matter. But, however, I am sure, if they consider over it they will certainly keep us in touch with it.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Sir, may I know how this matter of receiving a letter from Sheikh Abdullah leaked out to those who have put this question?

Some hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Shri Prakash Vir Shastri.

श्री प्रकाश वीर शास्त्री : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि शेख महम्मद अब्दुल्ला ने अपना यह पत्र जो भारत सरकार को भेजा, उस पत्र को प्रकाशित करना जनहित में नहीं है जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने बताता है तो उस पत्र की मोटी मोटी बातें कहाँ हैं और वह उनमें से एक बात * यह भी है कि संविधान की धारा 370 को हटाना जाय ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आंदर, आंदर ;

प्रधान मंत्री, वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री तथा अनु शक्ति मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : ख़त की सारी दाँतों तो बतलाई नहीं जा सकती लेकिन जो ख़त लिखा था शुरू जनवरी में, वह जो पंचव बाल चुराने के बाद, उग मिलनिले में लिखा गया था कि यह बहुत ख़तरनाक काम हुआ है, बहुत रंग है हम लोगों को और उससे नतीजा निकलता है कि और भी यहाँ की हालत अच्छी नहीं है ।

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Sir, on a point of order. It was claimed that it was not in the public interest to reveal anything in respect of this letter. Now we have from the reply of the Prime Minister the main purpose of the letter and the broad outlines of the contents of the letter. Sir, we want protection from you. The Minister without Portfolio says that it is not in the public interest to disclose the contents of the letter and yet the Prime Minister gives a detailed reply.

Mr. Speaker: It was for the Minister to claim the privilege and he did claim it. Probably the Prime Minister thought that there was no harm in disclosing this portion. Therefore, he disclosed only that portion.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order the Government functions under the Cabinet system as a composite whole and one Minister always speaks for the whole Government. So, if the Minister Without Portfolio speaks, we take it that he does so for the whole Government. The Prime Minister differs from him in this respect and discloses something which, according to his colleague, is not in the public interest. How can you reconcile these two viewpoints?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. As soon as that question was put, I almost disallowed it and at once passed on to the next question. But, then, probably the Prime Minister thought that a portion of it could be disclosed, and he did it, which is to the ad-

vantage of the Members. They wanted information. So, when a part of it has been given, why should they object to it?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It shows the malfunctioning of Government.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. But what is it that he wants me to do?

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Sir, you are glad about it, and we too are glad, that some information has been given. But it is a serious matter because the Cabinet is not functioning in an effective manner.

Mr. Speaker: But what is it that he wants me to do? Shri Nath Pai.

Shri Nath Pai: Is it not a fact that in the letter, the contents of which the Government is a good enough judge to disclose, Sheikh Abdullah after stating that he is in prolonged incarceration has repudiated any insinuation that he ever held pro-Pakistan views, and has offered to co-operate completely with the State Government and the Government of India for the fuller integration of that State?

Mr. Speaker: Should I ask for the contents of the letter to be revealed?

An hon. Member: Yes, why not?

Mr. Speaker: One Member puts a question and another answers it.

Shri Nath Pai: I never accepted that answer.

Mr. Speaker: Every Member is also giving his assessment.

Shri Nath Pai: What does this profound silence in reply to my question mean?

Mr. Speaker: That it is not in the public interest to disclose it.

Shri Nath Pai: If that is so, let them say that. The silence itself is very eloquent.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether any reply was sent to Sheikh Abdullah and, if so, the contents of the reply?

Mr. Speaker: The contents of the reply?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: At least whether a reply was sent.

Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri: It was only natural that a reply should have been sent to Sheikh Abdullah.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item this morning to the effect that there is a new diplomatic move made by UK and USA for the partition and autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir on the lines....

Mr. Speaker: Is it connected with this letter?

Shri Hem Barua: It is. I am coming to that. Ultimately, it is for you to decide whether it is relevant and connected or not. If not, you may disallow it.

Mr. Speaker: What is the question?

Shri Hem Barua: Could it not be interpreted as an attempt on the part of UK and USA to keep Sheikh Abdullah's pot boiling? If so, there is a remote connection within the letter sent by Sheikh Abdullah to this Government on this issue.

Mr. Speaker: That connection is too loose.

श्री राम सेवक यादव : अभी प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बताया कि याक़ बाल की जो चंगी हुई थी और उससे काष्मीर में जो वस्तु-स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई थी, जेख अब्दुल्ला उससे प्रभावित और दुखी हुए थे और इसलिए उन्होंने वह पत्र लिखा था। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्होंने इसके अलावा और कोई बात भी लिखी थी और दूसरे, चंकि उन्होंने इस विषय में चिन्ता प्रकट की थी, इसलिए क्या भारत सरकार शेख अब्दुल्ला को छोड़ने की बात उठायेगी।

Mr. Speaker: It is again in the public interest not to disclose. Next question.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: That has been answered.

Shri Yashpal Singh: That was not answered.

Mr. Speaker: That was not answered. At that moment the Minister said that it was connected with another question. Therefore, that was not answered.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: I am sorry. I will answer it.

Cheap Grain Stores

+
 *380. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
Shri Umanath:
Shri P. C. Borooh:
Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the programme for opening up cheap grain stores in industrial units employing over 300 workers has not made much headway;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) whether Government intend to make the provision of such stores obligatory on the part of the employers?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) The progress made under the Scheme for setting up cooperative stores/fair price shops in industrial establishments was reviewed by the Standing Labour Committee in December, 1963 and the managements were given two months' time, i.e., till February 29, 1964 to open them. There are now 1318 consumers' cooperative stores, and 365 fair price shops operating for the benefit of the industrial workers.

(b) and (c). The position will now be reviewed since the target date expired only a few days back, and if it is still not satisfactory, legislation may have to be considered for the purpose.

Shri Yashpal Singh: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इन दुकानों की एक ही कीमतें हैं या अलग अलग स्टेट्स में अलग अलग रेट्स हैं?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: The idea is to have the same price. We have got the break-up so far as the various public-sector undertakings, the private sector and the States are concerned. The idea is to have the whole-sale prices reflected on these items.

Shri Yashpal Singh: इन फेयर-प्राइस शाप्स के खोलने पर्यंत क्या यह खायाल रखा गया है कि मजदूर वी बस्ती में मजदूर को ही वह काम सौंपा जाये और मजदूर ही उस अनाज को तकसीम करें?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: In the fair price shops, the cash is to be paid. Here, they can buy on credit. That is the main advantage. That is why the labourers are asking for these stores.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether these shops are fair price shops as opened by the Rationing Department or they are the cheap grain stores and, if so, whether they are subsidised by the Government.

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: They are fair price shops, not cheap grain stores.

Shri Daji: Is not the Government aware that both the INTUC and AITUC have expressed their dissatisfaction over the setting up of the stores? What is the Government's reaction to the available data thereof?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: As I have already said, 60 per cent implementation is there. Actually, only three days ago the date expired and we are rushing through the information.

Air Space Violations by Pakistani Planes
+

*381. { Shri Nath Pai:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri Kachhavaiya:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been fresh violations of our air space by the Pakistani planes over the Tripura State border;

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter;

(c) the number of times such air space violations by the Pakistani planes took place in 1963; and

(d) the steps taken by Government and result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Defence (Shri D. R. Chavan):
(a) According to the information available to Government to-date, the last violation was on 2nd January 1964.

(b) Protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan and their reply is awaited.

(c) and (d). There were 13 violations of Indian air space over Tripura border during 1963. Protest were lodged with the Government of Pakistan in respect of the violations. The reply of the Pakistan Government in respect of five violations has been received and they have denied those violations. The reply of the Pakistan Government regarding the remaining eight violations is awaited.

Shri Nath Pai: Do the Government realise that these continued and well-calculated violations by Pakistan are not likely to come to an end by the number of protest notes you send but by our ability to intercept the intrud-

ing plane and punish it and, if so, what progress has been made in that direction?

The Minister of Defence (Shri V. B. Chavan): Sir, the hon. Member seems to be quite right. But at the same time the operational priorities will have to be considered. In this matter I do not think it was feasible last year to take any action about that. But certainly this matter will have to be considered again.

Shri Nath Pai: Is the Defence Minister aware and the Prime Minister also, that these blatant violations by Pakistan not only speak for her aggressive intentions towards this country but establish Pakistan's aerial superiority, and the world does not by your refusal or inability to intercept the plane, as an advertisement of peaceful settlement. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It should not be prefaced by a long statement.

Shri Nath Pai: I have not yet completed the sentence. Grammatically, no English man will object to my sentence. I repeat it, if you like. The sentence was one single coherent sentence.

Mr. Speaker: I do not like that the question should be repeated. I am only requesting the hon. Member that the question should not be prefaced with such a long preamble.

Shri Nath Pai: I wish that the Treasury Benches were as quick-witted as you, Sir, are. So, we have to repeat our questions.

Mr. Speaker: That is my difficulty that I am not so ready-witted or quick-witted as the hon. Member.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He said you are, Sir, but the Treasury Benches are not.

Shri Nath Pai: May I know whether these repeated violations not only speak for Pakistan's aggressive designs towards this country but in a way they advertise not our peaceful

intentions so much as our aerial weakness and Pakistan's aerial superiority, and if so, what steps Government are taking to repair this state of affairs?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: In no way do these air space violations establish any air superiority of Pakistan. They only indicate Pakistan's irritating attitude.

—
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS

National Defence College

*374. **Shri P. C. Borooh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1296 on the 9th December, 1963 and state:

- (a) whether the National Defence College has since reopened and, if so, for how long it remained closed;
- (b) the main reasons for its closure;
- (c) its training capacity at the time of closure and whether the capacity has been increased since its reopening and if so, to what extent; and
- (d) whether any alteration has been introduced in the syllabi and duration of courses in view of the present emergency?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) The National Defence College reopened on the 15th January 1964 after a break of 8½ months.

(b) As the College is intended mainly for the training of senior Service Officers and as there was an acute demand for such officers for important duties elsewhere, it was not possible to spare them to undergo training at the College.

(c) At the time of closure of the College the capacity was 34 officers students, and the same capacity exists to-day.

(d) No, Sir.

Conference of Commonwealth Defence Scientists

*382. { **Shri B. P. Yadava:**
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Bishan Chander Seth:
Shri Krishnapal Singh:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a symposium of Commonwealth Defence Scientists was held in January, 1964;
- (b) if so, the number of countries which participated therein;
- (c) the decisions taken; and
- (d) whether any Report has been submitted to the Government of India?

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghu-Ramaiah): (a) A symposium on corrosion was held under the aegis of the Commonwealth Defence Science Organisation.

(b) Six Commonwealth countries participated.

(c) Certain recommendations for combating corrosion were considered.

(d) Not yet. The report is being finalised by the Commonwealth Defence Science Organisation and will be issued by its secretariat in London to the respective governments for ratification and further action.

Employees Provident Fund

*383. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the total collection made by the Employees Provident Funds Organisation so far; and

(b) how much of it has been invested and in what manner?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi

Raman): (a) Rupees 419.74 crores by the end of November, 1963.

(b) On the 30th November, 1963, the total sum of Rs. 340.63 crores stood invested in respect of collections from both the exempted and unexempted establishments. 20 per cent of the collections in respect of unexempted establishments are invested in 12 Years National Defence Certificates and Defence Deposits and the remaining 80 per cent are invested in other Government of India Securities (including National Defence Bonds). In respect of exempted establishments there is no set pattern of investment but the collection from them are invested in Central Government Securities in accordance with the conditions of exemption granted to these establishments.

Employees State Insurance Scheme

***384. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high level Committee to review the working of the Employees State Insurance Scheme has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) the decision taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Ramam): (a) No.

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

चीन के प्रधान मंत्री के विमान की भारत पर से उड़ान

***385.** { श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :
श्री प्र० र० चक्रवर्ती :
श्री गोकरन प्रसाद :
श्री बड़े :
श्री औंकार साल बेरवा :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की हुपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि चीन के प्रधान मंत्री को भारतीय क्षेत्र पर से उड़ान करने की दोबारा अनुमति दे दी गई;

(ग) यह उड़ान कब तथा किस क्षेत्र पर से हुई; और

(ग) क्या उन्होंने जो यात्रा की है इसके लिए कोई और मार्ग नहीं था?

वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्यनंत्री (श्रीमती लक्ष्मी मेनन) : (क) जी हां।

(ब) ४ फरवरी, १९६४ को कराची से ढाका जाने के लिए और १८ फरवरी को रंगून से कराची जाने के लिए, प्रधान मंत्री चाउ-एन-लाई को भारतीय प्रदेश के ऊपर से उड़ कर जाने की इजाजत दी गई थी।

(ग) उपर्युक्त उड़ानों के लिए सब से छोटा रास्ता भारतीय वायुक्षेत्र को पार करके ही पड़ता था।

Accident at Singareni Collieries

***386.** { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shrimati Laxmi Bai:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether three miners were killed and four others injured from the collapse of the roof of Gautama Khani, No. 8 incline of the Singareni Collieries on January 28, 1964;

(b) if so, whether an enquiry has been held to find out if sufficient safety measures had been adopted to guard against such disasters; and

(c) the amount paid *ex gratia* to the families of the deceased and injured miners?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. An enquiry was made into the accident by an Inspector of Mines. It was found that the colliery had taken all reasonable safety precautions.

(c) A sum of Rs. 100 has been paid by the Company to the family of each of the deceased towards funeral and other expenses.

Wage Board for Coal Industry

*387. { Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Dr. U. Mishra:
Dr. Ranen Sen:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wage Board for Coal Industry has submitted its report;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) when the report is expected to be submitted?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) No.

(b) and (c). It is now inspecting various colliery areas and hearing the submissions of the parties. The Board is trying to complete its work as expeditiously as possible.

Indian Mission in Rangoon

*388. { Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Swell:
Shri Dighe:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Embassy building in Rangoon was recently stoned and considerably damaged by some Indian nationals; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent of the damage caused to the Embassy property?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) A few brickbats were thrown at the glass frontage of the Indian Embassy building in Rangoon by some persons of Indian origin who were staging a demonstration in front of the building.

(b) The demonstration was started by a person who had applied for the issue of an Emergency Certificate. As the Emergency Certificate could not be issued to him without making certain enquiries, he was dissatisfied, collected a few of his friends and started throwing stones at the Embassy building. Most of the glass frontage at the entrance to the Embassy building was shattered.

Dragon Project

*389. { Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 175 on the 26th November, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the investigation by the Special Police Establishment into the allegations against some of the officers of the Chief Engineer's Organisation "Dragon" project has been completed; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri V. B. Chavan): (a) No, Sir. The investigations are still in progress.

(b) Does not arise.

Pit Safety Committees in Coal Mines

*390. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Inspector of Mines was asked to ensure setting up of Pit Safety Committees in the coal mines;

(b) if so, the number of such Committees constituted so far;

(c) their powers and functions; and

(d) whether the workmen's representatives on these Committees are nominated or elected?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) The Chief Inspector of Mines was asked in July 1959 to advise all owners of mines, whether coal or non-coal, to set up safety committees on a voluntary basis.

(b) From the replies received so far to the enquiry made by the Chief Inspector in August 1963 it appears that safety committees have been constituted in 154 mines.

(c) and (d). No rules have yet been framed in this regard. In his circular letter to mine managements the Chief Inspector of Mines suggested that the rules pertaining to the constitution and working of the Works Committees under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 should be followed in the case of these Committees and that all matters concerning safety should be brought up before them and discussed.

Assam-East Pakistan Border

391. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri B. P. Yadava:
 Shri Dhaon:
 Shri Bishanchander Seth:
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Dr. P. N. Khan:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri Yashpal Singh
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri Maheswar Naik:
 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:
 Shri Kapur Singh:
 Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 | Shri Nath Pal:

{ Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:
 Shri Kajrolkar:
 Shri Swell:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indo-Pakistani talks on border demarcation in the Lathitilla-Dumabari area, held in January, 1964 between the Surveyors General of the two countries have failed; and

(b) if so, in what circumstances:

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apparently, the Pakistani delegation came to Delhi with their mind made up, and with no desire even to discuss various technical aspects of the problem. This explains why the talks ended abruptly. The Pakistani delegation refused every proposal to thrash out the technical issues involved, or to go to the ground, as was suggested by the Indian delegation. They even went back on their earlier agreement to record the minutes of the discussions, giving the views of both sides, for the benefit of the two Governments, and left without signing any minutes.

New Jemehary Khas Colliery

*392. { Shri Umanath:
 Shrimati Vimala Devi:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Officer on Special Duty and Regional Labour Commissioner (IMP) Dhanbad, who conducted an on-the-spot investigation into the various charges of malpractices against the management of the New Jemehary Khas Colliery has submitted any report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made; and

(c) the steps taken to put a stop to these malpractices?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) Yes.

(b) No recommendations were made. He has, however, found the management responsible for non-implementation of an agreement and an award in respect of wages, annual increments, leave wages and train fares and non-payment of bonus in some cases.

(c) The irregularities have been taken up for rectification with the management and the Indian Mining Federation to which the management is affiliated.

Bridge Blown up by Naga Hostiles

Shri P. C. Borooh:
Shri Himmatsinhji:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri Kapur Singh:
Shri Yashpal Singh:
Shri Kachhavaiya:
Shri B. P. Yadava:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri Bishnachander Seth:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
Shri Kajrolkar:
Shri Tridip Kumar Chaudhuri:

*393.

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Naga hostiles blew up the Karong bridge linking Kohima with Manipur on or about the 11th January, 1964;

(b) if so, the particulars of the incident; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Karong bridge was blown up by Naga hostiles on the night of 11th/12th January, 1964 by using explosive, 1/2 lb, of dynamite and 4 feet of electric

fuse wire were later recovered from the area.

(c) Security measures have been tightened.

Documentary on Lahaul and Spiti Valley

717. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the progress made so far in the preparation of the documentary film on Lahaul and Spiti?

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): The shooting of the film has been completed. Commentary is being written.

Recruitment in Technical Services

718. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for poor response in the recruitment of technical services in the Defence Forces;

(b) whether it is due to the paucity of qualified technical personnel or low emoluments; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the shortage?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). Recruitment to the technical services of the Armed Forces is, on the whole, satisfactory, except in the case of recruitment of graduate Engineers to the Army. The reason appears to be largely the big demand for engineers in the civil sector.

(c) The following measures have been taken:

(i) Grant of two years ante-date to graduate engineers.

(ii) Grant of additional ante-date up to two years to serving officers of Central and State Governments and public sector undertakings.

(iii) For Engineering graduates granted Emergency or Short Service Regular Commissions, reservation by the Central Government and certain State Governments of 50 per cent of the permanent vacancies in Class I and Class II Engineering Services to be filled by direct recruitment.

(iv) Grant of Short Service Regular Commissions on probation to selected Engineering students in the final year of the degree course.

(v) Acceleration and augmentation of existing training programmes and facilities in Engineering colleges and institutions to increase the out-turn of Engineering Graduates.

(b).

Category	No. of applicants on the Live Register as on 31-12-63
I	2
Graduates (including post graduates)	3,460
Under graduates	5,213
Matriculates	30,202
TOTAL	38,875

(c) The information is not readily available

Haj Pilgrims

720. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the quota, if any, assigned to each State for Haj pilgrimage, during 1963 and in each of the preceding five years;

(b) the total number of applications received from Madhya Pradesh from intending Haj pilgrims during the above period;

(c) how many of them were sanctioned; and

(d) the principles or criteria by which the applications were judged, accepted or rejected?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):

(a) No statewise quota was fixed for Haj pilgrimage either during 1963 or in the preceding five years.

(b) No records are kept state-wise of the total number of applications received from Hajees.

(c) The number of passages available of by Hajees from Madhya Pradesh

Employment Exchanges in Andhra Pradesh

719. Shri E. Madhusudan Rao: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Employment Offices in Andhra Pradesh as on the 31st December, 1963;

(b) the total number of unemployed graduates, post-graduates and under graduates registered in these employment offices as on the 31st December, 1963; and

(c) the number of such persons who have not been able to get employment for more than one year?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Ramam): (a) 23.

during the last five years are as follows:—

pilgrims

1958	782
1959	822
1960	889
1961	644
1962	415

(d) The general principles followed was on the first come first served basis. Moreover, according to the recommendations made by the Central Haj Committee the following categories of persons are not permitted to proceed on Haj pilgrimage:—

- (i) Ladies, who were pregnant for more than four months on the date of embarkation from Bombay.
- (ii) Persons with less than Rs. 800/- in Indian currency in their possession for the purpose of going on Haj.
- (iii) Persons suffering from the following diseases/disabilities:—
 - (a) Cerebral thrombosis
 - (b) Pulmonary tuberculosis
 - (c) Congestive Cardiac Failure
 - (d) Acute Coronary insufficiency
 - (e) Infectious Leprosy or
 - (f) Other serious infectious diseases.
- (iv) children between the ages of 5—14 years.
- (v) Persons who had performed Haj during the last five years.
- (vi) The five year limitation also applied to persons going on Haj-e-Badal.

Radar at Srinagar Airport

721. **Shri Yashpal Singh:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to instal radar at Srinagar airport so that the Kashmir Valley is accessible by air without any interruption; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be installed?

The Minister of Defence (Shri V. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). The installation of Ground Control Approach (radar) at Srinagar Airport is under consideration. The date of actual installation will depend upon the availability of the equipment from abroad.

U.S. Peace Corps

722. **Shri R. G. Dubey:**
Shri Vishram Prasad:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar was held in New Delhi of the U.S. Peace Corps from Andhra recently in cooperation with the Planning Commission ;and

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Thirty-two Peace Corps Volunteers from Andhra Pradesh attended a seminar held in New Delhi from December 29, 1963 to January 1, 1964. As a rule such seminars are held to enable the Peace Corps authorities and the Planning Commission to find out whether the Volunteers have been correctly assigned and to plan better utilization of the Volunteers.

Naval Dockyard, Bombay

723. Shri Vishram Prasad: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Naval Dockyard at Bombay is being modernised; and

(b) if so, its estimated expenditure?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). Under a phased programme started in 1954, the Naval Dockyard at Bombay is being expanded and modernised to provide berthing, docking and repair facilities for the Navy at an estimated expenditure of approximately Rs. 30 crores.

Chinese Spies in NEFA

724. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 10 on the 18th November, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the trial of the Central Reserve Police NCO and the personnel concerned has been concluded; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). The Guard Commander and the Sentry on duty have both been awarded one month's rigorous imprisonment and dismissed from service. Two more constables have been punished with 28 days' confinement under the C.R.P. Act and forfeiture of pay and allowances.

A Deputy Superintendent, CRP has also been suspended and departmental enquiries against him are in progress.

All three Mishmis, who were earlier absconding, have surrendered with their weapons.

Coal Mines Welfare Board

725. { Shri Warior:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Daji:
Shri M. K. Kumaran:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal Mines Welfare Board has kept a register of all coal mine workers who are victims of T.B.; and

(b) if so, their number and the percentage of such workers in rela-

tion to the total workers employed in mines?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) Yes—A Register of all T.B. cases reporting to the Fund's hospital for treatment is maintained in the Fund's hospitals and T.B. Clinics.

(b) The number of such Coal Mine Workers is 7,866, and their percentage in relation to the total number of workers employed in coal mines is 1.8 per cent.

Indian Aid to Nigeria

726. { Shri Bishan Chander Seth:
Shri Dhaon:
Shri B. P. Yadava:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Nigeria have requested for assistance from India in setting up a Defence Academy in that country;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto; and

(c) the number of officers that have been deputed to Nigeria for setting up the academy?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Defence (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request of the Government of Nigeria was accepted.

(c) Six Army and two Naval officers have been deputed.

Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi

727. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of the heavy vehicles factory at Avadi; and

(b) when it is likely to start functioning?

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) and (b). 60 per cent of the building construction of the Heavy Vehicles Factory has been completed. Indents for plant and machinery have been placed on the Director General of Supplies and Disposals. The Tool Room of the Factory was commissioned in November, 1963 as scheduled. It is engaged in the production of general shop tools required for the factory. The other shops are expected to start functioning on the basis of phased programme. The first batch of production tanks is expected to be ready during 1965-66.

Bonus Demanded by Textiles Workers in Bombay

728. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile workers in Bombay have demanded equal bonus to workers of all textile units; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) and (b). As the matter falls in the State sphere, information is not available.

Tripura Industrial Institute

729. Shri G. Mohanty: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who completed training at the Industrial Institutes of Tripura;

(b) the arrangements made for their employment; and

(c) whether the successful trainees are provided with implements of the small industry in which they are trained?

* **The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and**

for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) The number of trainees passed out from Industrial Training Institutes in Tripura under the Craftsmen Training Scheme since its inception upto the Trade Test held in July, 1963 is as follows:

(i) Engineering Trades	.. 156
(ii) Non-Engineering Trades	.. 65
Total:	.. 221

(b) All Employment Officers establish contacts with employers who are likely to require the services of such personnel. Employment Officers also visit Industrial Training Institutes to meet the trainees before they pass out of the Institutes so as to explain to them the facilities offered by the Employment Service and to advise them for registering their names for employment assistance.

(c) There is no such provision under the Craftsmen Training Programme, but the scope exists for them to apply for loan under the State Aid to Industries Scheme.

Guidance Notes to Press

730. Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued "guidance notes" to the Press;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the said "guidance notes"?

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):

(a) Yes, Sir;

(b) and (c). The Guidance Notes which have been published in the form of a pamphlet are intended to enable the Press during the Emergency to decide more readily whether a certain news item in their possession should or should not be published keeping in view the provisions of

Defence of India Rules and the Security of the State. The pamphlet is a confidential document.

संलिपि समाचार

७३१. श्री श्रोकार लाल बेरवा : क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रों यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "सैनिक समाचार" अब तक द भाषाओं में प्रकाशित होता था और अब इस सम्बन्ध में कोई परिवर्तन किया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब कितनी भाषाओं में प्रकाशित किया जायेगा ; और

(ग) वे कौन कौन सी भाषायें हैं ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री (श्री यशवन्त राव चह्वाण) : (क) जी हाँ, ५ जनवरी, १९६४ से "सैनिक समाचार" के बांग्मान संस्करणों में मलयालम मंस्करण भी जोड़ दिया गया है।

(ख) ६ भाषाओं में ।

(ग) अंग्रेजी, हिन्दी, मराठी, गोंडखाली, पंजाबी, उर्दू, तिलग, नामिल तथा मलयालम ।

सहकारी खेती के बारे में प्रसारण

७३२. श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्र यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत सरकार रेडियो पर सहकारी खेती के बारे में एक प्रोग्राम प्रसारित करने का विचार कर रही है ?

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो कब से और उसका समय क्या रहेगा ; और

(ग) यह आकाशवाणी के कौन-कौन स्टेशनों से प्रसारित किया जायेगा ?

संसद-कार्य मंत्री (श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह) : (क). से (ग). आकाशवाणी से केवल सहकारी खेती के ही बारे में अलग कार्यक्रम का प्रसारण चालू करने का कोई विचार नहीं है। तथापि आकाशवाणी के बेन्द्रों द्वारा सहायिता आन्दोलन के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर उपयुक्त सामग्री प्रसारण समय समय पर किया जाता है।

संन्य चिकित्सा अनसंध.न समिति

७३३. श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा : क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रो यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत सरकार ने प्रतिरक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास परिषद की देव रेव में सैन्य-चिकित्सा अनुसंधान समिति नियुक्त की है; और

(ख) यदि हैं, तो यह समिति क्या काम करेगी ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय मे प्रतिरक्षा उत्पादन
मंत्री (श्री रघुरामेया) (क) ज. हां ।
परन्तु समिति का सदृ नामपद है आर्म्ड
फॉर्सेज नेटिवल रिसर्च समिति ।

(ख) जांच रेप्रेस्टेंट, सभा: चिकित्सक अनुसंधान सम्बन्धी समस्यायें, उनके चर्यन, उनके संस्थाओं को सौंपे जाने, अनुसंधान कार्यक्रम के निर्वाचन आदि सम्बन्धी, सिफारिशों के लिए समिति को भेजी जाती है। समिति डिफेन्स रिसर्च तथा डिवेलपमेंट कॉमिल द्वारा अधिकृत, चिकित्सक अनुसंधान की प्रगति पर नज़र रखने के लिये उत्तरदायी है, और समय समय पर कॉन्सिल द्वारा विचार योग्य सिफारिशें करने के लिए भी।

Immigration of Indians to U.S.A.

734. { Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the immigration quota for

Indian nationals to settle in U.S.A. each year?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): 100 per year.

Ammunition for Ex-Servicemen

735. Shri Krishnapal Singh: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of ammunition in the market is too high to be within the reach of ex-Servicemen who are in possession of licenced fire-arms; and

(b) if so, whether Government will permit the ex-servicemen to purchase ammunition through the ordnance factories?

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) The current sale prices of civilian sporting ammunition marketed by the Ordnance Factories which is considered to be fair are as under:—

(i) Cartg. SA 12 Bore—Rs. 55.00 per hundred.

(ii) Cartg. SA:22 Rim-fire Ball—Rs. 8.70 per hundred.

The above prices are the maximum that a dealer can charge from a customer and are exclusive of packing, freight charges, sales-tax and other local taxes if any.

(b) The question does not arise. Like any other consumer, ex-servicemen can obtain supplies of ammunition through registered dealers in the country, or the Canteen Store Department (India) to whom regular supplies are made by the Ammunition Factory.

Multipurpose Institute at Kothagudium

736. Shri Eswara Reddy: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment

be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 855 on the 26th August, 1963 and state:

(a) whether the work of construction of multipurpose institutes at Kothagudium has been impeded due to shortage of cement;

(b) if so, whether any steps have since been taken by the coal mines welfare organisation to supply adequate quantity of cement; and

(c) the progress up-to-date regarding the construction of quarters for the staff of Coal Mines Welfare Organisation at Kothagudium?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Arrangements for supply of cement have since been made.

(c) The construction has reached plinth level. At Birly Pit it has reached a height of 5 ft. above plinth.

Air Force Academy

737. { Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a full-fledged academy for the training of the Air Force officers and personnel; and

(b) if so, where it will be located and when it is expected to start functioning?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). Government has decided to establish an Air Force Academy in Hyderabad District at a place 16 miles north-west of Hyderabad city. The proposal will be implemented in stages.

गोरखपुर लेवर रिफ्टिंग डिपो

७३८. *श्री सिंहासन सिंह :*
श्री बालमीकी :

क्या श्रम और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गोरखपुर लेवर रिफ्टिंग डिपो के द्वारा लोहे तथा कोयले की खानों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों की भर्ती में बढ़ोतरी हुई है या कमी और कितने प्रतिशत;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि गोरखपुर के मजदूरों सम्बन्धी विदलीय बैठक में किये गये निश्चय के विरुद्ध सी० आर० औ० द्वाय गोरखपुर में स्थापित मजदूरों के होस्टलों में बाहर के मजदूरों को लेने से इन्कार किया गया ; और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री २० किं० मालवीय) : (क) १६६०-६१ और १६६२-६३ के बीच भर्ती में ३६ प्रतिशत वृद्धि हुई है ।

(ख) ऐसी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं कि गोरखपुरी मजदूरों के अलावा अन्य मजदूरों को इन होस्टलों में रहने की इजाजत नहीं दी जाती । यह २४ जनवरी, १६६१ को हुई विदलीय बैठक के उस निर्णय के विरुद्ध है जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ साथ यह तय किया गया था कि कालियरी थेवरों के कामगारों के लिए स्थापित होस्टल बिना नियमी भेद भाव के सभी मजदूरों के लिए खुले रहने चाहिए ।

(ग) नियोजकों ने इसका कारण सामान्यतः इन होस्टलों में स्थान का अभाव बताया है ।

Dhemo Main Colliery

७३९. श्रिमति विमला देवी: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of the Dhemo Main Colliery has implemented the award of the Central Government Industrial Tribunal dated the 25th May, 1960 (Ref. No. 6 of 1960);

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the award?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) No.

(b) The management considers that as the contractor did not fulfil his obligation under the award the management was not required to implement its part.

(c) The union has been advised to ask the worker concerned to move the Labour Court under section 33C(2) of the Industrial Disputes Act both for the recovery of the amount in lieu of reinstatement and for the payment of compensation awarded to him.

Prosecution of the management for breach of the award is also being considered.

Industrial Disputes in Asansol-Raniganj Coal Belt

७४०. *श्रिमति विमला देवी:*
श्री इंद्राजित गुप्ता:

Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial disputes in relation to Asansol-Raniganj coal belt raised by the Colliery Mazdur Sabha (AITUC) during the period from April to December 1963;

(b) the number out of them settled by conciliation;

(c) the number referred to arbitration; and

(d) the number referred to adjudication?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment (Shri R. K. Malviya): (a) Ninety-three. Out of these forty-eight were withdrawn by the union and eleven others were either dropped or settled during the course of discussions.

- (b) Ten.
- (c) Sixteen.
- (d) Seven.

Punjab Military Pensioners

741. { Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
Shri Ranen Sen:
Dr. U. Misra:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hindu and Sikh military pensioners of the Punjab who had to migrate from West Punjab to East Punjab at the time of partition in 1947:

(b) whether all or any of them have been given increment in pensions which have been given to military pensioners in general in recent years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) The total number of military pensioners who migrated from West Punjab to India in 1947 is 16,966. The number of Hindu and Sikh military pensioners of the Punjab who migrated in 1947 from West Punjab to East Punjab is not available separately.

(b) and (c). In recent years, Indian military pensioners were sanctioned the following increases in pension:

- (1) Temporary increases in pension varying from Rs. 7 p.m. to Rs. 12.50 p.m. to those in receipt of pensions below Rs. 100 p.m. (with marginal

adjustments), with effect from the 1st April, 1958.

- (2) *Ad hoc* increase in pension varying from Rs. 5 p.m. to Rs. 10 p.m. to those in receipt of pensions below Rs. 200 p.m. (with marginal adjustments), with effect from 1st October, 1963.

These increases were not admissible to displaced military pensioners since, in their case, the pensionary liability devolves on the Government of Pakistan. The Temporary increases in pension at (1) above have, however, been sanctioned by Government, with effect from 1st June, 1963, to displaced military pensioners who are now residing in India, if they are in receipt of pensions in India on behalf of the Government of Pakistan, provided that they migrated to India by 30th June, 1955.

Gross Capital Formation

742. **Shri Sham Lal Saraf:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether statistics with regard to gross capital formation in the First and the Second Five Year Plans have been compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation and the Reserve Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether statistics for national income, State-wise, have also been prepared for the said Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Official estimates of gross capital formation for the First and the Second Five Year Plans have not been compiled either by the Central Statistical Organisation or by the Reserve Bank. However, certain preliminary studies have been made in the Central Statistical Organisation the results of which are

not considered reliable enough to be published.

(c) and (d). The Central Statistical Organisation compile and publish estimates of national income only on all-India basis and not on State-wise basis. However, many of the State Governments are now independently preparing estimates of income originating in their respective States and publishing the same in their official publications.

Pak Military Trainees in China

743. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Anjanappa:

Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information with regard to the accuracy of the reports appearing in the Press that Pak military trainees are receiving training in China; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have reason to believe that a few Pakistani army officers are being given military training in China.

Films Shown by Indian High Commission in Karachi

744. Shri P. C. Borooh: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number and nature of the feature films exhibited by the Indian High Commission in Karachi?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): On an average, one new feature film is shown per month. Only quality films are shown.

Some of the films portray aspects of Indian life and culture projecting indirectly inter-communal harmony. Others are mainly for entertainment but with some social significance.

Ishapur Rifle Factory

745. Shri P. C. Borooh: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ishapur Rifle Factory has perfected a rifle better than the corresponding types of the weapon produced in other countries;

(b) if so, its salient features; and

(c) the installed production capacity for this type of rifles?

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not in the public interest to give details.

(c) The present capacity is 2,500 rifles per month.

Recruitment of Army Officers

746. Shri E. Madhusudan Rao: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of 2nd lieutenants so far passed out from different Military schools in the country after the commencement of emergency;

(b) the number of such officers at present undergoing training in these schools; and

(c) whether these officers will be retained even after the emergency is withdrawn?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) The number of cadets who have passed out from the Indian Military Academy and the Officers' Training Schools since the commencement of the emergency and commissioned as 2nd Lieutenants is 8,574. This number includes those who have been granted Permanent Regular Commission, Short Service Regular Commission and Emergency Commission.

(b) The number of cadets undergoing training at present is 3,202.

(2) The case of Officers granted Emergency Commissions for the grant of Permanent Regular Commissions will be considered at the appropriate time. Short Service Regular Commissions are granted for 5 years and Officers granted these Commissions will at the end of this period be considered for extension of Short Service Regular Commissions for a further period or for the grant of Permanent Regular Commissions according to their merit.

इंजीनियरिंग के छात्रों को संनिक शिक्षा

७४७. श्री इ० मधुसूदन राव : क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देशभर में कितने इंजीनियरिंग के छात्र "स समय संनिक शिक्षा प्राप्त कर रहे हैं ;

(ख) उन्हें कितनी अवधि की शिक्षा दी जाती है ; और

(ग) इन छात्रों को संनिक शिक्षा देने का क्या उद्देश्य है ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री (श्री यशवन्तराव चव्हाण) (क) राष्ट्रीय छात्र दल में प्रशिक्षण पा रहे इंजीनियरिंग छात्रों की संख्या २२,७०० है ।

(ख) ३ वर्ष ।

(ग) इन छात्रों को राष्ट्रीय छात्र दल में प्रशिक्षण देने के उद्देश्य हैं :—

(१) शरीरगठन, चरित्र तथा नेतृत्व के लिये क्षमता में उप्रति ; तथा

(२) देश की रक्षा के लिये रुचि की प्रेरणा का संजन करना और सेवाओं की इंजीनियरिंग यूनिटों में प्रयुक्त संनिक साज सामान की छात्रों को जानकारी देना ।

AFHQ Assistants

748. Shri M. N. Swamy: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pay scale of Assistants revised in 1962 has also been made applicable to the Assistants in Armed Forces Headquarters;

(b) if not, how long it will take to do so; and

(c) the reasons for this inordinate delay?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): (a) to (c). On the basis of the recommendations of the Second Pay Commission and the orders issued on the civil side in 1960, the revised scale of pay of Rs. 210-10-290-15-320-EB-15-425-EB-15-530 was prescribed with effect from 1st July, 1959 for the posts of Assistant Stenographer and a few others in Armed Forces Headquarters (including Inter-Service Organisations). Subsequently, the above scale was modified to Rs. 210-10-270-15-300-EB-15-450-EB-20-530 on the civil side. The question of protecting the interests of Assistants and others in Armed Forces Headquarters, who would be adversely affected by the application of the latter scale with retrospective effect from 1st July, 1959 is under examination. The matter is expected to be finalised shortly after which orders extending the modified scale to Assistants and others in Armed Forces Headquarters will be issued.

Educated Unemployed in Punjab

749. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Labour and Employment be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed in Punjab as on the 31st December, 1963; and

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons among them?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and

for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) 31,536 educated persons (matriculates and above) remained on the Live Register of the Employment Exchanges.

(b) Scheduled Castes .. 2,687
Scheduled Tribes .. 7

Indian Emigrants for U.S.A. and Canada

750. Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who migrated to U.S.A. and Canada during 1963-64; and

(b) the nature of their educational qualifications and professional trade?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) (i) U.S.A.—The exact figure regarding the number of Indians who migrated to the U.S.A. during 1963-64 is not available. However, during the period from 1st July, 1962 to 30th June, 1963, 1,173 Indians were given facilities for permanent settlement in the U.S.A. by the Government of the U.S.A.

(ii) Canada.—860 Indians emigrated to Canada during the year 1963. No information is available for January—February 1964.

(b) (i) U.S.A.—No information is available regarding their qualifications and professional trades.

(ii) Canada.—Persons who emigrated to Canada comprised of Engineers, Doctors, Scientists, Teachers, Managers, Agriculturists and Clerks, etc. Their educational qualifications are not available.

Heavy Earth-Moving Equipment Factory

751. Shri N. R. Laskar: Will the **Minister of Defence** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the site for the proposed Heavy Earth-Moving Equipment Manufacturing Factory in Mysore State has been selected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) when the factory will go into production?

The Minister of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence (Shri Raghuramaiah): (a) to (c). It has been decided to establish the factory at Kolar in Mysore State. Further details are under examination.

12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) **EXPLOSION IN MILITARY AREA NEAR TEZPUR**

Shri Swell (Assam—Autonomous Districts): I call the attention of the Minister of Defence to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The explosion in military area near Tezpur on the 21st February, 1964, resulting in several deaths and injuries."

The Minister of Defence (Shri Y. B. Chavan): On the 21st February, 1964, at 10-30 a.m., a land mine exploded at Misamari near Tezpur where training exercise was in progress.

I regret that as a result, one JCO and two O.R.'s were killed on the spot, and two more O.R.'s are in the hospital. 12 other soldiers received injuries. Two of them have since been discharged from the hospital and have rejoined duty. The next of kin of the deceased persons have been informed. A court of inquiry has been ordered.

Shri Swell: I am intrigued by the date of occurrence of this explosion, namely 21st February, because on the very next day, namely the 22nd February, 1964, a large amount of explosives and live cartridges were recovered at Rangiya, an important

[Shri Swell]

railway and military centre at Assam, not very far from Tezpur, and on the same day, that is, the 22nd February, 1964, a large number of pistols and live cartridges were discovered from Hojai in Assam. May I know from the hon. Defence Minister whether there is any connection between all these incidents, and whether it gives room for suspicion that it was a case of sabotage?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: No, as far as my information goes, there is no connection between the two events.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Before the inquiry concludes, many I know whether the family members of those who have died as a result of this accident have been paid some *ad hoc* compensation, and if so, the amount paid?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: Immediate action has been taken to give them certain terminal benefits.

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): In view of the fact that the hon. Minister is not categorical about this explosive substance and to whom it belonged, may I know whether after the unilateral withdrawal of the Chinese from our frontiers, especially NEFA and Ladakh Government have tried to spot out and at the same time destroy the mines and explosives that the Chinese might have planted in those strategic areas, and if not, why not?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: No, it was something which belonged to us, and it was used in exercise, and then it exploded.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah (Adoni): May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to the news item published in *The Statesman* that nearly 17 military personnel have been killed while transporting these explosives, and if so, how far it is true? The hon. Minister has mentioned in his statement that only two persons died.

Shri Y. B. Chavan: I have already given that information.

Shri Krishnapal Singh (Jalesar): I would like to know if this particular mine-field was not marked, and whether our personnel who were conducting the exercise were not aware of the mine at that particular spot where the explosion occurred. As a rule, mine-fields are marked, and our own troops know where they are.

Mr. Speaker: He says that as a rule, our people must have been aware of where the mine was and they ought to have taken precautions in that respect. He asks whether this fact was not known to them?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: All these facts will be disclosed during the proceedings of the court of inquiry. Before that, it is rather difficult to form an opinion.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): He was asking whether the mine-field was not marked.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister says it would be known after the inquiry.

Shri Hem Barua: We have been losing our man like anything. Recently we lost some of them because of an air disaster in Kashmir and all that . . .

Mr. Speaker: He need not refer to other things.

Shri Hem Barua: Here also we have lost. Why is it that Government have not instructed them to be more careful and more particular?

Shri Y. B. Chavan: We have already instructed them.

Mr. Speaker: I will also make the same request to the hon. Member.

Papers to be laid on the Table.

Shri Hem Barua: I do not have to be afraid of mines.

Mr. Speaker: Papers to be laid on the Table.

12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Amendment Rules, Government Resolution Re: appointment of a Central Wage Board; Statement re: ratification of ILO Convention concerning Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Employment and for Planning (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Ramam): I beg to lay on Table a copy of each of the following papers:

- (i) The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Central Amendment Rules, 1964, published in Notification No. GRS 208 dated the 8th February 1964, under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, [Placed in Library, see No. LT-2395/64]
- (ii) Government Resolution No. WB-17(2)/63 dated the 25th February 1964 regarding appointment of a Central Wage Board for the non-journalist employees of the newspapers establishments; [Placed in Library, see. No. LT-2431/64]
- (iii) Statement regarding ratification by India of the ILO Convention (No. 42) concerning Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases (Revised, 1934) [Placed in Library, see No. LT-2432/64].

12.08 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: DISTRIBUTION OF STEEL

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering.

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Heavy Engineering (Shri C. Subramaniam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise . . .

Mr. Speaker: Does he desire to read the whole of it?

Shri C. Subramaniam: It is not a short statement. I would rather read it. (Interruptions). I am in the hands of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri C. Subramaniam: I rise to present a statement of Government's decision regarding the planning of production and control over pricing and distribution of iron and steel.

2. Raj Committee—Terms of Reference.—Members of the House are aware that owing to persistent complaints received from time to time in the past regarding the working of the present system of planning and distribution of steel, the Government of India, in September, 1962 had appointed a Committee popularly known as the Raj Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. N. Raj to examine the entire system.

3. Raj Committee—its findings.—The Committee submitted an interim report in January 1963 and its final report in October, 1963. In its appraisal the Committee has pointed out a number of defects in the present system, such as delays and defects in the planning of indents, uncertain delivery dates, imprecise definition of priority, ineffective allotment and poor execution, long delays in deliveries of steel, black marketing, inability of the small consumer to obtain his requirements at controlled prices, and a pricing system which does not take into account the relative costs and demand conditions.

4. The principal recommendation of the Committee was that a Joint Plant Committee of the steel plants with the Iron and Steel Controller as the Chairman should be set up with the responsibility of planning production and settling rolling programmes in the light of broad priorities indicated by Government. In order to secure

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

more flexibility in the fixation of relative prices of different categories of steel, the Committee should also be responsible for fixing producers' prices subject to the approval of Government. The Committee recommended that beyond this stage there should be no control over prices and if too wide a gap developed between such prices and free market prices, Government should absorb the difference by a levy of appropriate excise duties. While recommending the continuance of freight equalisation products of the main producers, the Committee recommended discontinue of freight equalisation as well as removal of all controls on rerollers. The Committee further recommended that the system of controlled and registered stockists should be abolished and all should be free to trade in steel.

5. Consideration of Raj Committee's Report.— Both the interim and final reports of the Raj Committee were widely circulated and the views of the public including producers were obtained. There was a general discussion on the report in the Iron and Steel Advisory Council in November, 1963. Subsequently the report of the Committee was also examined by a group of Secretaries to the Government of India. I have also had the privilege of discussing this subject informally with the Consultative Committee of Parliament. Based on these views and discussions with other Ministries, we have arrived at certain final decisions, which it is my privilege to announce today.

6. Government's approach to Controls.—Government's approach to controls in the economy has been spelt out on a number of occasions in the recent past. While a system of over all strategic controls is an integral part of a planned economy and while controls must be used to protect the community in a situation of shortage, we have to ensure that controls are not too detailed, that they do not

bring rigidities and abuses in their wake and above all do not become a vested interest continuing beyond the period when they are economically and socially necessary. It has, therefore, been the Government's declared intention to examine how far and how best they could reduce the operations of detailed controls at various points.

7. The general expression 'steel' embraces a variety of categories, shapes and forms required for different purposes. A detailed study of present and the prospective production shows that certain categories of steel, viz., flat products like plates and sheets will continue to be scarce for the next few years. Production at present is hardly enough to meet half the demand and is not likely to increase sufficiently until the expansion of the Rourkela Steel Plant now under way is completed in about three years' time. Government have, therefore, decided that it is necessary to continue in its present form control over the distribution and prices of flat products of steel. On the other hand, with all steel plants producing to full capacity the supply position of non-flat products, such as bars and rods, structurals, rails etc. is relatively good. There will be also an increase in the production of these products in the near future. Government, have, therefore, come to the conclusion that the continuance of rigid control is no longer necessary. On the other hand, greater freedom will enable the pattern of production of various categories to respond more sensitively to the requirements of consumers. Government have therefore, decided to abolish with effect from the 1st March, 1964, statutory control over the price and distribution of all categories of steel, except pig iron and ingot moulds and bottom plate, billets and tin bars, plates, sheets, and wide strip, skelp, tin plates, hoops and their respective defectives. These excepted categories will, as I said earlier, continue to be controlled. So will pig iron the

supplies of which are extremely tight compared to demand and billets which it is necessary to provide re-rolls at a fixed price in order to enable them to continue in production in competition with the main steel producers.

8. Indents for categories of iron and steel which continue to be controlled will have to be backed by quota certificates as hitherto. The revised prices of these categories taking into account the changes introduced by the Finance Bill have been separately notified.

9. In the case of de-controlled categories—which constitute about two-thirds of the total production—government themselves will no longer fix prices. But we expect that the Joint Plant Committee which has been constituted with immediate effect in pursuance of the main recommendation of the Raj Committee, will announce and list prices—base prices as well as extras—from time to time. These will be ex-works price. In order to continue the present system under which buyers of steel all over the country pay the same railway freight irrespective of the distance from the source of supply, the Joint Plant Committee has been directed to add a fixed element of equalised freight to the ex-works price announced from time to time. The main producers will of course continue to pay the actual freights and will make appropriate adjustments with the Freight Equalisation Fund which will hereafter be administered by the Joint Plan Committee. As a matter of practical convenience the Joint Plant Committee will also perform these functions for categories which continue to be controlled.

10. The Joint Plant Committee which is being immediately set up and will be holding its first meeting to-day, will consist of representatives of the main producers and the railways with the Iron and Steel Controller as Chairman to guide the

deliberations and to resolve differences of opinion. The main function of the Committee will be the Planning of production both of the controlled and de-controlled categories. The object of such planning is to make the best use of productive capacity on the one hand and to respond as quickly and sensitively as possible to the requirements of the consumers on the other. With closer knowledge of the plants and day-to-day access to the conditions of production, I expect an organisation of this character to perform this function more expeditiously and efficiently than it has been possible before; particularly if they adopt, as I hope, mechanised methods of handling information and documents. In the planning of production the Committee will give effect to priorities determined by Government from time to time. Government accept the recommendation of the Raj Committee that priorities, in order to be meaningful, should be restricted to really urgent and essential needs. Bulk allocations of steel for such priority purposes will be made by a high level Steel Priority Committee which is being set up under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Iron and Steel.

In effect, the re-rollers will be virtually free from all control, as with an odd exception or two, they are engaged in the rolling of non-flat products. The prices which they can obtain in the market will naturally have to be in line with the prices of similar materials sold by the main producers. In order to enable re-rollers of reasonable efficiency to continue in production and sell their products in competition, the prices and distribution of billets will continue to be controlled as I stated earlier. The Steel Re-rolling Mills Association is, however, being asked to announce and list periodically the prices at which they sell their products. The Iron & Steel Controller will be responsible to make bulk allocations of billets and will continue to keep a watch on the activities of re-rollers.

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

11: The Raj Committee has recommended that everyone should be free to trade in steel. This will hereafter be the position in respect of all decontrolled categories of steel. In the case of categories which continue to be controlled, the existing controlled and registered stockists will function as usual for some time to come. After this transitional period, there will be no distinction between controlled and registered stockists.

12. Hon'ble Members are aware that during the long period of control we have maintained a Steel Equalisation Fund, the principle object of which has been to maintain parity between the prices of imported and indigenous steel by levy of surcharge or payment of subsidy as the case may be. Freight equalisation and a variety of minor consequential transactions have also been put through this Fund. Now that freight equalisation will be entrusted to the Joint Plant Committee and statutory control over price is abolished in the case of the bulk of production, there is no further need to continue the operations of Equalisation Fund. Accruals to the Fund and payments from the Fund resulting from previous transactions will, however, have to continue. Government have decided that as from the 1st March, there shall be no new transactions involving payment either to or from the Equalisation Fund. This means that there will be no longer any distinction between sale prices and retention prices—whether in the case of controlled or uncontrolled categories—and, therefore, no surcharges. Mainly for this reason, the excise duties on various categories of steel have already been suitably revised. Government have also sought powers under the Finance Bill to raise excise duties further should it become necessary to do so because of market prices rising unduly.

13. The Raj Committee has commented on the abuses of the present

system under which barter imports have been allowed to be sold to nominees of the importers' choice. Government have examined this question and are thinking in terms of routing all such imports only through the Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation or through the Joint Plant Committee. Government proposes to further examine this matter and take a final decision shortly.

14. Before I conclude, I must express Government's appreciation of the work done by the Raj Committee which has ably analysed the problem and suggested a number of fresh ideas. I am aware that during the change-over from the present to the new system all concerned—producers, stockists, consumers and Government—will have to make a number of adjustments. But I am sure that these will be found well worthwhile and will lead to better utilisation of productive capacity in response to the changing needs of consumers.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): On a point of clarification I welcome the statement but it is not so short as he promised it to be.

Mr. Speaker: He said that it was rather long.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: He said that it was rather short.

Mr. Speaker: I heard it was rather long.

An Hon. Member: May we request that it be circulated?

Mr. Speaker: All right. I will get it circulated.

12.11 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
BILL*, 1964

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Rama-swamy): Sir, on behalf of Shri Dasappa, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 2-3-64.

and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1964-65 for the purposes or Railways.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of the financial year 1964-65 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I introduce the Bill.

12-11½ hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE) AMENDMENT BILL*, 1964

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Hajarnavis): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judge (Condition of Service) Act, 1954."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Hajarnavis: I introduce the Bill.

12.12 hrs.

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Swaran Singh): Sir I have already placed before the House a statement giving the latest trends about the availability of food and also about the prices. It is not my intention to make any further speech at this stage. I would like to give more time to the Hon. Members and I will make my submission at the end. I beg to move:

"That the Food situation in the country be taken into consideration."

Mr. Speaker: I am told there are some substitute motions as well. I would like to know whether they are being moved.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I beg to move:

"That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

This House, having considered the Food Situation in the country, recommends to Government to—

- (a) ban speculation on foodgrains;
- (b) fix minimum price for wheat and all other foodgrain to assure reasonable price to the farmers and build up a buffer stock;
- (c) start State Trading in foodgrains to check hoarding and black-marketing;
- (d) use D.I.R. to punish the hoarders and black marketeers;
- (e) take over the rice and flour mills;

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II—Section 2, dated 2-3-64.

†Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

- (f) establish a price stabilisation board; and
- (g) free the Central machinery from corruption." (1).

श्री किशन पटनायक (सम्बलपुर) :
मेरे निम्नलिखित विकल्प प्रस्ताव रखना
चाहता हूँ :—

यह सदन देश का गम्भीर वाद्य-स्थिति पर चिन्ता प्रकट करता है तथा समस्या के हल के बास्ते निम्नलिखित फैसले करता है :

१. अन्न सेन (फूड अर्मी) बन कर नई जमींदारों को कृषि-योग्य वन्याय जाय।
२. किसानों और खेतिहार मजदूरों के जीवन में आर्थिक सुधार के लिए शीघ्र कानून बनाए जायें।
३. दो फसलों के बीच दामों को स्थिर रखने के लिए कानून बनाए जायें तथा प्रशासनिक कार्यवाही की जाये।

Shri P. R. Patel (Patan): I beg to move:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House having considered the Food Situation in the country, appreciates attempts done by the Government to ease Food Situation in the country but notes that the Food Situation is aggravated by unnecessary agitations and demands for controls". (3)

Shri D. S. Patil (Yeotmal): Sir, I had also given notice of a substitute motion.

ग्रन्थक महोदय : मेरे पास तो है नहीं आप पता लेकर मेज दें।

That is all. All these three substitute motions as well as the original one are before the House.

Shrimati Vimla Devi (Eluru): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the agricultural sector continues to be the Achilles heel of our national economy. We can ignore it only at our peril because it constitutes the base of all developmental activity in an agricultural country like India. It affects the largest section of our people and contributes a major share to the national income. Therefore, any shortfall or failure in this sector not only creates acute problems but also affects the economy on the whole. It is, therefore, necessary that we discuss it not only superficially and for short-term remedies but deeply for a fundamental and basic change in food policy.

The Ministers for Food are changing rapidly but the policies are not changing radically. We must seek a radical reorientation of food policy of the Government in two vital aspects that is, production and equitable distribution. These two problems are inter-connected and cannot be separated.

Let us take first the question of production. In the first and third Five Year Plans there was emphasis on agriculture. But sadly in the second Plan it went to the background. Because of this, from 1961 agriculture remained stagnant.

The target we set up for food production is not reached. Initially, the target for the third Plan was 110 million tons of foodgrains. Afterwards, it was reduced to 100 million tons. Leave alone reaching this target, but we will be lucky if we can reach the 80 million tons target which was set up for the second Five Year Plan. In the last few years we find instability in food production. In 1957-58, the production of foodgrains went down by 6.7 per cent. In 1960 it went down by 3.9 per cent. In 1963, it has fallen by 2.3 million tons compared to 1962. The rice production alone fell to 31 million tons from 34 million tons.

Our Prime Minister broadcasting to the nation on the AIR in 1948 said that by 1952 our country will be self-sufficient. Again, speaking at Ludhi-

ana Agriculture Institute on the 8th July, 1963, he said:

"I often hang my head in shame when I think that a nation with seventy per cent of its population engaged in agriculture depends on foreign countries for food."

Not only he but the entire Government should hang its head in shame at this state of affairs. It looks as though the Government has forgotten entirely about self-sufficiency, because of Shri Patil's advocacy. I thank the Prime Minister for reminding his colleagues about the self-sufficiency in food.

Till now, we have imported nearly Rs. 2,000 crores worth of grains. We live on PL 480. At the time of the agreement we were told that it would be the first and the last. But Shri Patil got the sanction of the Cabinet to another agreement on PL 480. It shows that our position regarding food has not improved; the import of foodgrains involves huge amounts of freight charges. This policy condemns us to chronic shortage and chronic dependency.

We are spending huge amounts on agriculture but are not able to improve the production. Moreover, the fall of production is happening at a time when the population is increasing, which means the *per capita* income will decline. .

I have gone through the Food Minister's statement laid on the Table on the 29th February, 1963. The main blame is on the Nature. I looked for some radical changes in policy. But none was there. As usual, poor Nature is blamed. While fixing targets for the Plans, the Planning Commission must have looked into the moods of Nature. The Government cannot entirely depend on Nature. It should get the food policy to be based on a minimum stable production. If the nature is good, the Government takes credit. But if there are no good rains, the Government blames the nature. It

is a lame excuse for the Government to hide behind nature and cover its basic policy failure. So, at least now let us not blame nature. We do not require either a Plan or a minister there if we are going to depend on the nature alone.

The short-fall in production encourages rise in prices. No savings will be there for the nation to invest on agriculture from our own revenue. It is a strain and imbalance on our whole economy. So, the question is how to step up production. Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari in his budget speech spoke about incentives to the private and foreign capitalists. What about incentives to our own tillers of the land?

Reorganisation of agriculture is very essential. We hear about land reforms. Many States have failed in implementing land reforms. The Central Government and the State Government wanted to implement the land reforms, but they are not able to implement them properly, resulting in people ridiculing the Land Reform Acts. But the crux of the matter is agrarian reforms and agrarian relations. 3 per cent of the village population hold 30 per cent of the cultivable land. 70 per cent of the agrarian population either hold no land or hold uneconomic holdings. Unless this picture is changed, the production will remain stagnant. The agrarian relation should change to benefit the tiller. Government should give him protection to hold the land. But what is happening? The Kerala Communist Government brought in agrarian reforms. But the President took a long time to give his assent to that Bill. But while the Bhuvaneswar Congress was discussing the food policy and other matters, the Kerala Congress Government brought an amendment to the Agrarian Reforms Act and it was given assent by the President in a hurry. Thousands of acres are owned by big landlords, under one exemption or other. The State and Central Governments have failed to set up ceilings and distribute the taken-over land to the landless poor,

[Shrimati Vimla Devi]

leave alone taking over the lands from big landlords. The Government itself is a big zamindar. It owns crores of acres of cultivable land, but does not distribute it to the landless poor, while in the villages unemployment and under-employment is growing. There is only part-time work for crores of people and they remain idle during the remaining part of the year. This results in wastage of human power and production suffers.

I come from Andhra and it is estimated by the Government that there are 40 lakh acres of cultivable *banjar* land to be distributed among the landless poor. In 1952, the Andhra Government adopted a resolution unanimously to distribute these *banjar* lands to landless poor to step up production and to enable the landless poor to live happily. In 1954, they began the distribution. The present Labour Minister here was the Chief Minister then and we expected that he would fully distribute all the land to the landless poor, but unfortunately for us he did not do it.

The Minister of Labour and Employment (Shri D. Sanjivayya): Not fully.

Shrimati Vimla Devi: I agree partly it has been done. But even now large areas of cultivable land are lying idle. The people are there to cultivate, but the land is not distributed to them. The Andhra Government has taken the stand that unless the jawans return from the front, the distribution of land would not be done. I want to know from the hon. Food Minister whether any direction has been given by the Centre to the Andhra Government to stop the distribution of *banjar* land until the jawans are disbanded. The Prime Minister has said that the emergency may continue for one year, two years or fifty or hundred years. We do not know when the jawans will be disbanded. There is ample land to distribute both to the landless labourers and to the jawans. I think this is the picture not only in

Andhra but everywhere in the country. This is the picture of the entire country. Therefore, *banjar* lands and cultivable waste lands should be distributed to the landless poor immediately.

We must then think how the land in the hands of small land-holders and landless poor can be utilised best. They are not able to cultivate their land due to lack of money. Better facilities must be given to them. It is difficult to get the big landlord section into the co-operative movement. But the small land-holders are realising the necessity of co-operative agriculture, because it is not paying to cultivate their land individually. So, voluntarily they can be brought into the co-operative movement if the co-operatives are run by sincere persons. This 'if' is a big 'if', and I want the Minister for Community Development and Co-operation to look into this matter very seriously.

Supply of good seeds, fertilisers and credit should be given to them in time. Loans have to be advanced without interest. I am sure that the Government which can afford to give crores of rupees to the monopoly capitalists without any interest can afford to give small loans to the farmers. After killing the credit facilities to the small land-holders by bringing in the Gold Control Order, the Government has to provide them with credit. I know what answer the Minister will give. He will say that all these facilities are being given to them. But I come from a district where package programme is implemented. By all these plans only the rich peasants and the influential classes in the villages get the benefit. The common man is outside this planning. He is a stranger to the Plan.

Another factor which is causing great anxiety to the farmers is the increasing land levy in recent years. The ryots are not able to pay these levies. They are constantly in debt. The Reserve Bank survey shows

that more than 62 per cent of the ryots are burdened with indebtedness and it is growing. The Mahalanobis Committee says that the condition in the villages,—the rural economy—is very bad. I will show you, for example, how the levy on land in Andhra Pradesh has risen. In 1956-57 it was Rs. 6.96 crores, in 1957-58 it was Rs. 9.68 crores, in 1958-59 it was Rs. 9.34 crores, in 1959-60 it was Rs. 10.62 crores, in 1960-61 it was Rs. 8.58 crores, in 1961-62 it was Rs. 9.55 crores, in 1962-63 it was Rs. 15.66 crores and in 1963-64 it was Rs. 17.00 crores. In addition to this they are paying local fund and education cess. I need not say much to show how the indirect taxes empty the pockets of the farmers. Additional tax which Andhra Pradesh is asked to raise in the Second Plan was Rs. 11 crores, but they have raised Rs. 21 crores on this account. Out of a total of Rs. 68.64 crores of revenue of our State, Rs. 46 crores to Rs. 48 crores is contributed by the ryots. These levies will heavily affect the rural economy and production. Last year additional levy to the extent of Rs. 9 crores has been put on the ryots. Our ex-Chief Minister, Shri Sanjiva Reddy, did not even bother to send such an important Bill for eliciting public opinion or give enough time to the Select Committee to think over it and allow the public to send in representations. If the Assembly met in the morning the Select Committee met in the afternoon, or if the Assembly met in the afternoon the Select Committee met in the morning. He pushed through this Bill hurriedly and made it into an Act. All the ryots who were dissatisfied with it wanted to offer satyagraha as a protest, but because of the emergency the people kept down their weapons without any protest. But the Chief Minister took this as a blessing in disguise and rushed through with the Bill. The result is that the peasantry in the villages are not able to pay this additional levy. They are thinking, especially the small land-holders, that agriculture is a very uneconomical enterprise. But they cannot go anywhere else because they do

not know any other work and they have no other employment. Therefore, on 3rd February the All Parties Action Committee launched a satyagraha in Andhra Pradesh—the Communist Party, the Praja Party and the Socialist Party together—and till now more than 50,000 of them have offered satyagraha before the district offices and taluk offices. Thousands of women are participating in that. I said that 50,000 people have offered satyagraha, but in the demonstration and processions lakhs of people are following the satyagrahis. But the Government does not realise the seriousness of the problem. In the beginning they said that this satyagraha would be considered as illegal and unpatriotic or anti-national. Now they are not saying that. They want to crush it somehow. They have mobilised all the police force in the State. The normal, ordinary work is not being done by the police in the State. They are all mobilised against the satyagraha. In so many districts like Nalgonda, Srikakulam and Krishna Districts the satyagrahis have been lathi-charged and tear-gased. Women at Gannavaram were beaten with lathis. This is the attitude that the Government has taken. I am glad to inform the House that from 5th March the Swatantra Party, the Republican Party and the Jan Sangh are also launching satyagraha. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, instead of considering all these points, are trying to crush the peasants, the ryots who are participating in this. The Government is saying that ryots are not participating in this movement.

Sir, I know only one meaning for the word 'ryot'. According to me a ryot is one who holds some land. I do not know whether under this Congress raj a ryot means a man who owns 150 acres of fertile land having two rice mills and holding two or four permits for quota in cement and iron. He might be considered as a ryot by the Government. We do not consider such a man as a ryot. We consider

[Shri Vimla Devi]

him as a capitalist. These ryots, irrespective of political parties, with their own flags are participating in the movement. The Government is not prepared even to consider the matter. I want that the Food Minister should go there and intervene in the situation. If he sits here he will only see the report sent by the State Government. Unfortunately, he would not take the reports from us, he will take only the reports from the State Government. They will say that there is no such *satyagraha* and no peasants are participating. I want him to go and see for himself how many peasants are participating in it and how the peasants there are agitated over this. Distribution of *banjar* lands and the question of levies should be considered together.

I have only mentioned about Andhra, but everywhere in the country the levies on land are rising with the result that it is very difficult for the small land-holders to cultivate their lands.

Major projects like Nagarjunasagar have to be taken up by the Centre. The States cannot finance such projects. Nagarjunasagar will irrigate 20 lakhs acres of land. By completing the project the food deficiency of the whole country will be wiped off. We need not import any foodgrains from other countries after that is completed. The irrigation potential is not fully utilised. Great attention has to be paid by the Government about the minor irrigation projects because with little investment and with the labour power available in the villages more food can be produced.

Let us come now to the problem of distribution. This problem rises from the overall deficit. Shri Patil wanted us to believe that the deficit is only 4 per cent. The basic cause of the food falling into the hands of hoarders and profiteers is again the concentration of land in a few hands. These are linked up with the profiteers and speculators. The farmer produces, con-

sumes part of it and sells the remaining at a cheap rate out of necessity. This marketable produce goes into the hands of very rich landlords and profiteers. It goes to the black channels. In this, the banks help them a lot. Again, the same farmer who sold the produce at a very cheap rate during the harvest season buys it for consumption paying exorbitant rates. The other consumers from urban areas also pay high prices. So neither the producer nor the consumer benefits by this. Only the middle profiteer is benefited by this. To stop this the Government should fix a minimum and maximum price for foodgrains. This will benefit the producer and the consumer. The Ashoka Mehta Committee recommended fixing the minimum price for foodgrains, but it has not been implemented. The profiteers after getting hold of the produce in the harvest season, hoard it and sell it at very high prices in the months of August to January after creating an artificial scarcity. We know how in Bengal in 1943 the hoarders and profiteers created artificial scarcity, resulting in famine and 35 lakhs of people died.

This year also the scarcity was felt by many parts of our country. The Ministers at the States and the Centre were giving statements that the food situation is not alarming. Probably, according to them, the situation is bad only if there is widespread famine in the country. In all parts of India the prices were high and in many places foodgrains were not available. Firstly, Assam was facing scarcity of grains, as a result of which there were huge demonstrations. Then came West Bengal. The Chief Minister there stated that there was no food crisis when rice was selling at Rs. 50 to 55 per maund. Orissa, which is a surplus State, faced crisis. Shri Pradhan declared that the situation is assuming alarming proportions. In Rajasthan there was wide-spread famine. The Chief Minister of that State said that 2.8 million people were affected by

this famine. Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh also faced crisis. In Andhra during the period of floods rice was selling at Rs. 74 per bag, and after representations were made to the concerned Minister it began to be sold at Rs. 76 per bag. And this is not accidental. It tells a sad story of our food policies and how the nation is at the mercy of the hoarders and profiteers.

In spite of having wide powers like the Defence of India Rules, the Government could not do anything to deal with the blackmarketeers and profiteers. The Government was either reluctant to touch them or was afraid of these anti-social elements. It could not check the rising prices. There were hunger strikes all over the country to check prices. The working class participated in the demonstrations on the 20th, 21st and 22nd. About 50,000 people participated in the hunger strike. In Bengal and Uttar Pradesh the people themselves took law into their hands, and I believe rightly so and brought the prices down and the grain was available, as if it came from heaven or hell, I do not know which. Since we are deficit in production, great care should be taken to see that whatever is produced is put to best use.

The Planning Commission made a number of suggestions regarding this. Though the fixation of minimum prices was recommended, that was not done. The Commission suggested that the State should enter the wholesale foodgrains market, buy and sell the foodgrains at reasonable prices to the consumer and give reasonable price to the producer at the same time. The Government has not implemented this policy. It did not give it even a trial. On the other hand, it went in the opposite direction under the Ministership of Shri Patil. I want to know whether Shri Swaran Singh intends to take up the implementation of the suggestions of the Planning Commission. Our Prime Minister said that no intelligent person will oppose State trad-

ing in wholesale trade of foodgrains. But the Government has not taken up State trading. I want to know whether the Government is extremely unintelligent or very good friend of the hoarders and profiteers. I ask this question, Sir, because even after the creation of artificial scarcity by the hoarders and profiteers in spite of people's agitation, the wholesale trade of foodgrains still continues in their hands.

State trading in foodgrains is necessary to hold the price line. It is a revenue to the Government and it will have control over foodgrains. Government says that it has opened 6 thousand fair price shops but any number of fair price shops will not solve the problem unless the State can get hold or control over foodgrains trade.

The price policy should be stated clearly. But a mere statement is not enough. The West Bengal Government stated the price policy but could not implement it because the grain was not in their hands. There should be control at the level of both the Centre and the States. Banks should not be utilised for speculative business. At the Bhubaneswar session many Congressmen demanded control of wholesale trade in foodgrains. Yet it is not done. The conference of Chief Ministers with the Central Food Minister took place in February. I do not know the details of the various subjects they discussed. Andhra State suggested in the conference the levy of 40 per cent on the procurement of foodgrains by the mills. After the conference the levy was reduced to 25 per cent. This is very unfair. I would suggest that the levy on the mills should be more in every State. Unless you procure more foodgrains, you cannot open more fair price shops.

Sir, we have reached the stage when we must give up talking in routine terms. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain would say that I have not made any new proposals, but I think my proposals, though they have been repeated in this House quite often, are good

[Shrimati Vimla Devi]

enough. And if the Government implements these suggestions, we will come forward with new suggestions.

It is said that we need 130 million tons of foodgrains by 1971 to feed the increasing population. How are we going to face this problem? We have to go up or down with our agriculture. This vital sector, which accounts for 50 per cent of our national economy, should be tackled with vigorous policies. Solving the food crisis does not lie in building buffer stocks or giving occasional supplies. It can be solved only if the production increases. The producer and the consumer should be given fair prices. The price line must be held. All these things can be done only by large-scale State trading in foodgrains.

Food is the sine qua non for existence. Let me warn the Government that the people are in no mood to tolerate for any long humbugging with their food. In a free India people shall not suffer and die when food rots with the hoarders. Bengal of 1943 shall not repeat for 1964 is not 1943 and people shall sweep aside the hoarders and profiteers and with them their friends in the Government.

—
12.44 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORT-
ANCE—contd.**

(ii) **MIGRATION OF CHRISTIANS FROM
EAST PAKISTAN TO INDIA**

Mr. Speaker: Before I call Shri Krishnapal Singh, Dr. Singhvi might take up the Calling Attention Notice. The Minister is prepared to make a statement.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Which one?

Mr. Speaker: He will know it presently.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): I call the attention of the Prime Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

**"Migration of Christians from
East Pakistan to India".**

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): The House is aware that an unprecedented influx of Hindu and Christian refugees is taking place into the Garo hills district from the Mymensingh district of East Pakistan. It is known that this exodus from East Pakistan into Assam began on January 18th 1964, and that the total number of refugee men, women and children who have so far crossed over into Assam is about 52,238. Of this number, an estimated 35,000 are Christian families who belong to the Garo tribe. The reason for this exodus is that these Hindu and Christian members of the Minority Community in East Pakistan have been compelled to leave their ancestral homes due to organised large scale looting, arson, kidnapping and forcible occupation of their lands by the members of the majority community with the connivance of the Pakistan Police and the Village Defence Corps known as 'Ansars'.

The gravity of this mass movement of the minority population from East Pakistan has been brought out clearly by the recent visit by Indian and Foreign Correspondents to the Garo hills district in Assam where they met refugees and Foreign Missionaries who are looking after them. Father Buccieri, an Italian Missionary, is reported to have told the Correspondents that according to the figures he had collected on the basis of identification cards filled-up by the refugees themselves, on their arrival in camps, 20,000 of the Garos who had crossed into India were Roman Catholics. Two of the American Baptist Missionaries, Reverend Julius Downs and Reverend James Wood stated that

15,000 of the refugees were Baptists. The Correspondents also learnt, at first hand, of East Pakistan Rifles opening fire on a batch of defenceless Garo refugees fleeing into Assam on February 6th, 1964. Dr. M. Hussain, Sub-divisional Health and Medical Officer of Tura, showed them the bullets taken from the heads of the two children who were killed. Dr. Hussain informed the Correspondents that 7 men, 4 women and 2 children were brought to the hospital from the border out-post of Dalu on the night of February 7th, and that 6 of them had bullet injuries and the others had received injuries inflicted by spears and lathi blows. The refugees stated that the total number of persons who were attempting to cross the border was about 3,000 but only 1500 managed to cross the border near the Indian post of Dalu, 33 miles south-west of Tura. The others who are continuing to cross the border into Assam consist of the Hojong Banai, Koche, Rajbansi and Dalu tribes. All the refugees who have crossed into the Garo hills district, are from the 5 Thanas of Nalta Bari, Sribordi, Halvaghat, Durgapuh and Kamlakanda in the Mymensingh district of East Pakistan.

The Government of India in their Note dated February 13th, 1964, presented to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, protested to the Government of Pakistan at the shooting of the helpless refugees fleeing from persecution in East Pakistan. Though Pakistan has not acknowledged the occurrence of this barbarous act, the Pakistan Foreign Minister has had to contradict the reported statement of Khan A. Sabur Khan, Pakistan Central Minister of Communications, that "there is no truth in the Indian Press reports that Christians living in East Pakistan had started fleeing", by admitting in Dacca, on February 26th, that "some exodus" of Christians from Mymensingh district of East Pakistan into Assam had taken place and regretted on behalf of his Government that this "unfortunate exodus" is due to "acts

of highhandedness" by Muslims. The President of Pakistan has also admitted the flight of large numbers of Christians from Mymensingh district to India.

The House will recall that the Government of India in their Note dated February 1st, 1964, presented to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, the text of which was placed on the Table of the House on February 11th, 1964, by the Union Home Minister, had pointed out clearly to Pakistan its responsibilities for the restoration of communal peace and harmony in East Pakistan. If the leaders and the Government of Pakistan had taken heed of our advice, these minorities would not now be pouring across the Pakistan border into India and Pakistan would not have to speculate whether they would return to their ancestral homes from which they have been forcibly turned out. In a note dated February 29th, 1964 delivered to the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, the Government of India has reiterated that the Pakistan Government should take immediate steps to restore communal harmony in East Pakistan and rehabilitate the minorities.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order, Sir. While we are grateful to you for interrupting the other business and calling upon the Government to make a statement in answer to a Calling Attention Notice on an important matter I submit that it would have been much fairer to the House as a whole—of course, Dr. Singhvi and many of us are gratified—if in accordance with well-established procedural conventions an advance intimation had been given that this would be taken up at a particular hour, as has been done earlier. Why has there been a departure from that convention now?

Mr. Speaker: It is not a point of order. I owe an explanation to the House as to why this extraordinary procedure has been adopted at this moment. I had been receiving

[Mr. Speaker]

notices from three or four Members of this House. They have sent me Calling Attention Notices on this subject. I had asked the Ministry to find out the facts and give them to the House. Now, those notices had remained pending and we were awaiting as to what the reaction of the Ministry would be.

Then, this morning just after the Question Hour, I came to know that this information was being given to the other House today. Therefore, the Minister also feared that there might be criticism in this House that while the attention had been drawn to this aspect here, she has given the information there and not here. So, she expressed a desire that if I wanted, she might give the information here also. That was the sudden impulse and, therefore, I decided that even though I had to interrupt the proceedings of the House, she might also escape that criticism and I might also save my skin. Already I have received a very severe reprimand from my friend Shri Mirza, a long letter, that he was the recipient of a strong odium from me because he had stood up to raise a point of order day before yesterday on this very subject. So, these are the reasons why this extra-ordinary procedure I had to adopt. As Mr. Kamath has said, I have not been so fair at this moment to the House. But I had to take this extra-ordinary step on account of the circumstances that existed in this particular case.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Was it not possible or feasible for you to inform the House after the Question Hour....

Mr. Speaker: I had not known even after the Question Hour. I came to know of it later when I had started the other business.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: The Government is not co-operating with you as fully as it should.

Mr. Speaker: I expect the hon. Member would co-operate at least.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That means the Treasury Benches also.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: In view of the grave situation existing in respect of large-scale migration, may I know whether the Government have given thought to the desirability of going to an international forum on this question, to giving it a sustained and widespread publicity abroad, of rousing conscience of the world on this matter which constitutes a genocide, an oppression of minorities and the violation of human rights, and to the seeking of assistance also from international agencies in the matter of relief and rehabilitation to these unfortunate victims of highhandedness of the Government and the people of East Pakistan?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have stated already in the report that foreign correspondents as well as Indian correspondents have gone there....

Mr. Speaker: Now, there are four or five suggestions made by the hon. Member. The Member wants to know whether the Government is prepared to adopt them or would adopt them.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Perhaps, consider also.

Mr. Speaker: These questions were exactly put when that general question of migration was taken up.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Unfortunately, the Minister of Rehabilitation was replying to that and, therefore, we could not elicit full information.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: When the notice was received, one portion of it dealt with the influx of refugees and the other portion dealt with the

question of rehabilitation. That is why this question was handed over to the Ministry of Rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker: That is right.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: In the other House, there was a demand only for the first part, namely, the influx of Christian refugees from Pakistan. That is why this statement is confined to that part only.

Now, Sir, two or three questions were raised, whether we have given enough publicity and whether we are going to rouse the world conscience with regard to this and, thirdly as to what things have been done for the rehabilitation of these refugees. As regards the first one, that is, publicity, it is already quoted that foreign correspondents have been there and the discussion here itself is a means of publicising it to the whole world. Regarding the second one about rousing the world conscience or appealing to the world organisations to come to our aid, so far we have never appealed to world organisations for solving problems like these. Even after the Partition, you would recall that 9 million people had to be rehabilitated and we had tightened up our belts and used resources at our disposal for that purpose. But I find that the Members of Parliament have already issued an appeal rousing the world conscience on this problem. As regards the third one, the Minister of Rehabilitation has already gone there and since the Government has already admitted that it is a national problem and a human problem, all efforts will be made to rehabilitate those who have come to India.

Mr. Speaker: One thing I might just put to the hon. Minister.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Burdwan): May we know one thing from the hon. Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Just one thing I might put to the hon. Minister. They wanted to know whe-

ther the Government had done something to give publicity to it. The hon. Minister's answer was that the foreign correspondents were there and they have given or they must have given publicity to it. But the Members' demand is whether the Government does something of its own accord or leaves it only to the foreign correspondents that they might do whatever pleases them or in whatever manner they like. The other thing the hon. Minister said that so many Members have issued an appeal to foreign agencies that they should come to their aid. The question is whether the Government proposes to make an appeal, though the Minister has said that it is not usual for the Government to make an appeal.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: That shows lack of will.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Nominated—Jammu and Kashmir): Have they made any sustained effort?

13 hrs.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: With regard to the question of publicity, we publicise it through our broadcasts, the local press and by hand-outs; also, all our Missions abroad have been given the correct details about the magnitude of the problem and they will certainly contradict the propaganda of Pakistan, because the Pakistan Government themselves are contradicting it. (Interruptions) Besides what we are doing by way of giving correct details about the magnitude of the problem, I was pointing out that the Pakistan Government themselves were contradicting the statement by one of their Ministers saying that this was not a big problem, that this was only an exodus of a small magnitude etc. These are some of the things.

The usual techniques of publicity are used to give the truth about what is happening in Assam.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: This calls for an unusual technique. May I point out, Sir, that your question is not being answered?

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Are we to be content with the contradiction that is issued by the Pakistan authorities by their quoting one Minister against another, because they would do it only to a certain extent and not go the whole hog as we would require? Therefore, the Members desire that Government should take some positive and concrete steps.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On its own initiative.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have already stated the concrete steps that are taken by Government, such as issuing press releases, broadcasts, and informing our Missions all over the world about the situation and asking them to publicise it in the local press and thus familiarise the people with what is happening.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Two late and too little.

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza (Warrangal): About the question of publicity, I would like the House to know that Mr. Bhutto made a statement saying that 10,000 Christian refugees went to India and most of them had come back. The very next day, the BBC broadcasts and the British press had the same story to tell. In contrast with this, here is an article from *Le Monde*, an official paper in Paris, where it is said:

"The bulk of unconflicting evidence leaves no doubt that all these refugees...."

—that is, Christian refugees—

....saw their homes attacked by furious Muslim crowds and their property and cattle confis-

cated; young women were raped and many disappeared."

Recently, General Ayub....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member should frame his question.

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: I am coming to my question. It is in this context.

Mr. Speaker: That question is much too long to be answered.

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: General Ayub had recently stated that the Muslims who were going from India, that is to say, the Indian Muslims were the people who caused this riot and attacked these Christians in order to send them away, so as to make propaganda. When a man like General Ayub, the Head of a State, makes a statement, and when the whole of the British press also publishes it, there should be some indication of what Government's views are. So far, there has been no indication, and this is the first time that Government have come forward with such a statement after such a long time. They should have come out with this statement much earlier. After all, this is a question which the whole world is discussing.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has not asked any concrete question which can be answered.

Shri Bakar Ali Mirza: This is my question. What have Government done to counter this? They have done nothing at all.

Mr. Speaker: What have Government done to contradict this?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Government have issued contradictions almost every time, and only this morning I answered a question about the *Times* correspondent and what has been done by the Government of India. Every time that such exaggerated accounts

are given by the Pakistanis, we do issue contradictions. The Pakistan Government always accuse us of persuading these people to come away by giving them migration certificates easily etc. etc. This has been contradicted, and I can read out if necessary from the hand-outs that we have issued.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): The hon. Minister has stated that our Government have sent protest notes, to the Government of Pakistan, but she also clearly indicated that it was a calculated move by the Government of Pakistan. May I know the immediate political motivation for the Government of Pakistan to perpetuate such atrocities and inhumanities on the people, and whether Government have exposed that political motivation, what action our Government have taken in that direction?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It is very difficult to know what the motives of the Pakistan Government are in this matter.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is the hon. Minister's understanding of it?

Shri Swell (Assam—Autonomous Districts): I can mention the motive.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I do not want to express my opinions about these things.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is the answer to my question? What is the hon. Minister's understanding of the situation?

Mr. Speaker: She has said that she cannot say what the motive of Pakistan is.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: What is her understanding of the situation, why is there this exodus? Have the Government made any assessment? Without making any assessment, how are they going to proceed in this

matter? How are they going to take up the issues at the various levels? Surely, they must have made some assessment. Or is it that they have made no assessment at all?

Mr. Speaker: This is a matter which hon. Members can raise in the general discussion on the General Budget. But if a brief answer can be given, that might be given.

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: In my statement, I have pointed out why these people have left their homes; it is not as a result of the riot but because the majority community is harassing them, and I have mentioned very clearly in the statement the causes which led these people to leave their homes. More than that I cannot say.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It has been said that it was with the connivance of the Pakistan Government.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्मावाद)

प्रध्यक्ष महोदय

प्रध्यक्ष महोदय : जनाव

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : एक छोटा सा सवाल मुझे पूछने दें ।

प्रध्यक्ष महोदय : जब मैंने बाकी आठ आदमियों को इजाजत नहीं दी, तो डा० साहब कैसे समझते हैं ...

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : मैं आपका हुक्म मानूंगा । लेकिन इस बक्त गुस्सा बढ़ता जा रहा है और सरकार का कोई नीति हां नहीं है ...

प्रध्यक्ष महोदय : वह बहस आगे आ रही है । उसमें आप यह सवाल उठा सकते हैं ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): It is a vegetarian Government fighting a non-vegetarian Government.

13.07 hrs.

MOTION RE: FOOD SITUATION—
Contd.

Shri Krishnapal Singh: (Jalesar): Considerable areas of our territory being in the hands of two aggressors, the law and order situation in the country being what it is, corruption being rampant and now scarcity of food also being there, one may well wonder why our present Government is there, and what our present Government is doing.

I have got cuttings here from three papers which throw some light on the alarming food situation in the country. One Congress paper edited by no less a man than Shri Paliwal says as follows. I shall read out only the headlines. They read thus:

दिसावर में अनाज की भूखी जनता पर पुलिस ने गोली चलायी।

This has happened recently. Another paper says:

सस्ता अनाज और आटा चोर बाजारी में।

A third one says with regard to the Fatehpur district of UP, as follows:

गेहूं ६५ रुपए प्रति मन बिक रहा है।

This is the situation. In addition to this, as must be known to hon. Members of this House, there have been food riots in Moradabad, in Bijnour, in Kanpur and in several other districts of UP.

I am told by one of the Members here that wheat is selling in the Punjab at Rs. 30 a maund or Rs. 32 a maund, in the mandis and in the villages, it is being sold at over Rs. 40 per maund. The most curious thing about prices is that when the cultivator brings his produce to the market he has to sell at half the price, that is, at a price which is half of that at

which this grain is being sold when he is purchasing it.

In the neighbourhood of Mathura, when the prices of wheat started rising, most of the villages started consuming jowar which was the cheapest grain at the time, selling at Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 per maund. When they started doing this, the price of jowar shot up to over Rs. 20 a maund. Now, I understand that in some of the villages, people depend on the supply of carrots alone; they cannot get one square meal of any kind of grain. Even carrots are being sold in the villages at Rs. 4 to 5 per maund.

This is the situation with which we are confronted. I have read in the statement of the hon. Minister that Government have decided to open cheap grain shops. I have seen some of these cheap grain shops and I have heard about them. I wish Government had not opened these cheap grain shops. I think in most cases they are a great nuisance. First of all, they cannot be opened everywhere. You need a small capitalist to start a cheap grain shop. It needs an investment of Rs. 4000—5000. Then they open during certain hours. Hundreds of people have to wait there for hours before they can get anything and, sometimes they have to return disappointed. Most of the people who go there are poor, labourers or rickshaw pullers or their families, and they can ill afford to spend a whole day in the hope of getting a little grain.

Then the number of these cheap grain shops is too few to cope with the situation facing the country today. In cities and urban areas, they have been able to start some new shops, but in rural areas, they have not yet touched the fringe of the problem. I was told by one of the officers who is associated with this department that they were proposing to have one shop for every adalati panchayat which has about 15—20 villages in its jurisdiction.

Shri K. N. Tiwary (Bagaha): What is the population of a panchayat?

Shri Krishnapal Singh: I have heard—I have not seen them functioning—that first of all the dealer is not regular in bringing the grain. When he brings it, there is so much of demand and pressure that minor riots take place.

Personally, I feel it would have been better if Government had dumped all their grain in the mandis and tried to bring the prices down there than to start these shops. As I have read out from one of the cuttings, even now quite a fair proportion of the grain and atta supplied to these grain shops is going into the mandis and are being sold at Rs. 30 or Rs. 32 per maund. Therefore, I feel that the Government should close these grain shops and allow the ordinary trade to manage things. If the Government supplies sufficient grain to the market, prices will come down.

Shri Sawaran Singh: Is it his suggestion that we should leave them to charge any price?

Shri Krishnapal Singh: I think it would be easy to control the prices in the mandis, in the markets. You fix the price and punish any man who tries to sell the grain at a higher price. It is not possible for the present administrative machinery, corrupt and inefficient as it is, to run any of these controls or rationing. The controls are without any control whatever and the rationing is without rations. Government here may sit content thinking that they have started so many cheap grain shops and supplied so much grain to them. But the fact is that that grain is not going to the proper people who need it.

I was sitting on my farm the other day. Two of the labourers came to the shop and they asked for some atta. My farm is situated only three miles from the city. One of them got

jowar atta at 1½ seers for a rupee. Wheat atta was not available, but the shopkeeper said that he would sell it to him the following day at 1½ seers for a rupee. People do not consider it worth their while to go three miles and get it from the cheap grain shop. And these cheap grain shops are too few, especially in the rural areas.

Now, I should like to say a few words about our production and agriculture. I have listened during the last two years or more to various speeches which have been made in this House on the subject and I think the general impression is that our agriculturist is too ignorant and too inefficient to produce the required quantity of grain per acre. I wish to disagree with this view and I quote several authorities in support. Dr. Voelcker, who conducted an inquiry during the earlier British regime, thought that our cultivator was as good as the British agriculturist. Then, Sir Albert Howard, who wrote a book called *The Agricultural Testament* and who is regarded as an authority on Indian agriculture, who was Director of the Indore Research Station wrote, it not for the Indian public, but for the British agriculturist; and he proved that Indian agriculture and Chinese agriculture were about the best in the world. The reason he gave was that they have preserved the fertility of the soil for thousands of years whereas most of the modern countries who try to grow a large quantity of foodgrain in a limited area of land are exhausting their soil. I think that is a point which has got to be remembered when we talk of increasing production.

What I wish to say is that given the facilities, our agriculturists in India can grow as good a crop, if not better than any other farmer in the world. But where are the facilities

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ties? I was talking with an American farmer the other day. He happened to visit Mathura on some business. I asked him how much land he had. He said, 800 acres. He asked me how much cotton I was growing. I said 4 acres. He said he was growing 200 acres. I asked him how he managed it. I find it difficult to run my farm with the present facilities. He said, 'Oh, I have a standing credit of dollars 100,000 in the bank. I can draw money to that extent and put it back when I get money on selling my produce'. That comes to an investment of over Rs. 600 per acre.

What are we doing? How much are we giving to our agriculturists? Our co-operative credit and other facilities do not total to more than Rs. 20 per acre and you expect with this paltry Rs. 20, with all the disadvantages—practically no irrigation facilities in half the area—that he will be able to grow a good crop, as good as the ones raised by the American farmer, the British farmer or the Japanese farmer. It is not possible. I have heard some very well-paid officers saying that the loans given to the farmers are misused, at least that they do not put it to proper use. If the family and children are starving, it may be used for feeding them than for procuring manure or fertiliser or for improving his land. You do not give sufficient money, you give the man one-tenth of the money required and yet you expect him to produce a good crop, and you blame him for not increasing production. This is the most unfortunate part.

13-21 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

What happened in America during President Roosevelt's time? Up to that time, ordinary commercial banks did not finance agriculture. It was the time of slump after the First

World War, and most of the agriculturists in America, like the agriculturists in other countries, were heavily indebted. We also had the Banking Enquiry Committee which suggested certain measures, but President Roosevelt declared a moratorium on agricultural debts, and compelled all banks to advance money to farmers. It was the time when the farmers there were dumping their produce like coffee and other things into the sea, and according to one of the students who was conducting research at that time in America, they not only did that, they shot down some of the Bailiffs who came to attach their farms. Since then, every type of bank has to advance credit to the agriculturists there.

Here, what do our co-operative banks advance, and what is the position of these co-operative banks? I heard some of the hon. Members here explaining the position, but this one year's credit is the thing which causes the greatest corruption in co-operative banks. I suppose that hon. Members are aware that most of the farmers, more than half the farmers, who borrow money in one year's credit are not able to repay the loan out of their produce as they are expected to do. They have not the money. So, what they do is, they go to the bank and a fictitious entry is made. The people in charge of the bank tell him that they will advance them the money for paying back the loan, and that money is advanced on an interest of five per cent or more than five per cent per month. After a few days, the account is squared up and the paper is renewed. And then the farmer has to pay other charges also. This is not a help to the farmer. This method of credit is a real hardship.

If the Government mean business and desire to help the farmers, they must have a better system of credit. They must take into account the

market value of the land and other assets of the farmer—not the multiple value, which is wrong—who is in need of credit, and then impose a limit, 50 or 60 per cent of that value, as the margin up to which they will give credit. They should have ample funds for financing agriculture.

Mathura District Co-operative Bank boasts that it advances as much as Rs. 1 crores every year to its agriculturists. The number of agriculturists in the district is two lakhs, may be more, I do not know the exact figure. On the other hand, though the district has not got huge industries to boast of as in other places, I know that one industry alone in that district has got a standing credit of over Rs. 30 lakhs. So, in the case of industries you have credit facilities which run into lakhs of rupees, but in the case of agriculture, you expect the farmer to produce as much grain as the American or the Japanese farmer does on about Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 per year. This is not possible.

The most important thing is that he should have ample irrigation facilities. No agriculture is possible without water. Where there are no irrigation facilities there can be no agriculture.

Shrimati Vimla Devi: In this Government it is possible.

Shri Krishnapal Singh I quite agree with you.

Government should arrange for good seed, because it is not possible for all farmers to store good seed. And the last and the most important part is that there should be adequate credit facilities. There are no private moneylenders as there used to be in the good old days, good, bad and indifferent; they have all practically perished. So, unless Government and the commercial banks come to the rescue of agriculture, I very much doubt whether we will be able

to produce sufficient food for our needs. I hope my words will receive some consideration at the hands of Government.

Shri A. P. Jain (Tumkur): The hon. lady Member, who opened the debate, very correctly anticipated—and ladies are generally possessed of the instinct to predict—that I would say that she had said nothing new. I do say that in all the lengthy speech which she made there was hardly a new point made out.

The hon. Member who preceded me made, I say with all respect, an extremely astounding statement. He said that the fair price grain shops were a nuisance, and they must be abolished. And what was his alternative?—that all the grain which the Government supplies from its stores should be handed over to the mandis. What is a mandi? It consists of wholesalers. The whole idea behind opening the fair price shops is to reduce the margin between the price at which Government sells the food-grain and at which the consumers get it. My friend wants to introduce another link, namely the mandis, where the wholesalers would be dealing and making a profit.

Then he said that the number of fair price shops was too small. To-day, I understand, the number of fair price shops operating throughout the country is no less than 60,000. They deal mostly in wheat. The total production of wheat in this country is 11 or 12 lakh tons.

Shri Swaran Singh: Eleven million tons.

Shri A. P. Jain: The marketable surplus is about 4-5 million tons and Government is releasing from its stores about 4-5 million tons. So, Government is selling through these fair price shops as much of wheat as is generally marketable from the indigenous produce. He then said that there was too much demand; yet he condemned

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these shops. I do not say that all the fair price shops are operating in an ideal manner. There are difficulties. But I do say that the system of fair price shops is a good system and which should be further extended, instead of being abolished. The same Member said that the system of supplying credit through co-operative societies was another nuisance. The period of credit is only 12 months. He forgets that there are different types of credits: short, medium and long term credits; short-term credit for financing crop-growing, medium-term credit for things such as the purchase of bullocks, etc. for four years and long term credit for 20 years for improvement of land. Maybe, we are unable to supply all the credit the farmer needs, but the three-tier system adopted in the country is, I think, the only system which is possible. It has been worked out after long experience and it is rather surprising that at this late hour of the day, we should try to condemn it.

In the year 1963, there was a shortfall of 2.8 million tons in production of rice and about 0.9 million tons in the production of wheat, compared to the previous year. A part of this shortfall was made up by coarse grains and the total deficit in 1963 as compared to 1962 was 2.3 million tons. It is generally known that the Government imports food to the tune of 4.5 million tons every year in order to make up the deficit. Our population increase at the rate of 2.5 per cent per year; in 1961 it was 2.2 per cent but now it is 2.5. This year's rabi crop has been very adversely affected by the intense cold. I am a small farmer and I was on my field at the time when there was this intense cold. Morning after morning we found that the water left in the field was covered with 1/3 to 1/2 inch of snow.

Shrimati Vimla Devi: Should we anticipate such things?

Shri A. P. Jain: This is not the first time in the world that such a thing has happened. In 1962, excessive frost affected crops in the best agricultural state in the United States, California and with all the efforts of the farmers—they lit bonfires in order to protect the trees—the trees could not be protected. There is no final remedy against the inclemencies of weather.

The price position in the country is somewhat fluctuating. During the last few months, the price of rice has gone down in the eastern region: Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. In the northern region U.P., M.P. and Maharashtra the price is rising while in the southern region the rise is even more. Wheat price has been going up, very high. We have experience of shortages. The world has also experience of shortages. There was a global famine after the Second War and no less than 22 countries were affected. Mr. Attlee wrote to Mr. Truman that there was danger of more people dying of starvation in the post-war world than during the whole world war itself. India was one of the worst countries affected and Mr. Attlee wrote to Mr. Truman that as a result of drought and other disasters in Madras, Mysore, Bombay and Punjab, India feared the recurrence of a famine worse than the Bengal famine of 1943. India could be saved by imports of wheat and rice. Other countries which were short of food had also to import it from abroad.

The short-term remedies, therefore, are: import of food from abroad; rationalisation of distribution machinery and economy of all types. These are the only short-term remedies the world has known. Last year, if I am not wrong, 4.5 million tons of wheat and rice had been imported from abroad. The hon. Minister has indicated in the paper circulated to us that he is going to import this year more wheat and rice. There are limitations on rice imports; rice is

not available in the world market but wheat is available.

I believe it is the duty of the Opposition, of all Members of the House, to join hands with the Minister in charge and appeal to the country that extreme austerity must be observed. What did the British do in 1947 when there was global famine? During the War there had been scarcity and the British hoped that after the war their food-ration would increase. But actually the flour extraction was increased from 80 to 85 per cent and they chose to eat bread inferior in quality. They also agreed to reduce their ration of fat from 8 to 7 ounces. Similarly, in America the number of poultry and cattle was reduced because they would need food. This is an aspect we have so far ignored. We must appeal to the people to stop the wastage which is taking place even today.

Then I come to the question of controls and the method of distribution. The hon. lady Member laid considerable emphasis on it. I quite agree with her. One of the steps undertaken by the Government is the opening of fair price shops. Even so, there are places where there are hoarding of food grains. The Government possesses ample powers and with these powers hoarding must be strictly put down. I do not mean that every petty dealer should be touched or every consumer should be harassed. But if in the country there is considerable hoarding, with any person, he must be given exemplary punishment. The middlemen cannot be allowed to take advantage of the situation to raise the prices and to starve the people. I think that there is necessity to take more action under the Defence of India Rules, the Essential Commodities Act, and under the various other powers possessed by the Government, to control the trade.

But there is always one difficulty. The responsibility for the supply of

food is of the Central Government. The State Governments have not so punctiliously controlled the middlemen and the trade as they should have done.

Shrimati Vimla Devi: They are hand in hand with them.

Shri A. P. Jain: I would expect the hon. Minister to use all the powers that the Government have with them to see that the trade is properly controlled and any State which refuses to fall in line with them should not be supplied with imported foodgrains unless it controls the trade.

I want to ask the hon. Minister one question. In this very House, a few years ago, the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission had waxed eloquent and talked hard things, when his scheme about the Price Stabilisation Board was not accepted by the Government. I was the Minister of Food and Agriculture at that time. I found certain difficulties in accepting the scheme. In the last debate on food, I raised the question as to what the Government were doing about that scheme. Now, the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission happens to be a person who had fathered that scheme; I want to know whether he has found it practical or not to introduce the scheme. I want the hon. Minister to make enquiries and let the House know what is happening about the Price Stabilisation Scheme; especially when the author of the scheme occupies an important place in the Planning Commission. If it is a practical scheme, it must come in. Maybe that I may not have possessed sufficient intelligence or cleverness to introduce it but it is up to us to ask Mr. Mehta the question: what has he done and why has he not enforced the scheme. These are some of the short-term remedies.

I now come to the long-term remedies. The final solution of food lies

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in increasing production. First comes the question of the Centre *versus* the States. This question has been long debated. The Centre—I was also the Minister of Food and Agriculture—would very often lay the responsibility on the States, and the States will lay the responsibility upon the Centre. How to define the responsibilities clearly is a very important question, and I shall have to say a few words about it later on. But the more important question is, what is happening in the State level, because agriculture is primarily a State subject. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a dispatch which has appeared in the *Statesman* of today. It relates to my own State of Uttar Pradesh. I present him with a quotation from that dispatch. It says:

"The Agriculture Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Charan Singh, had written recently to Mrs. Kripalani requesting her to take away the agriculture portfolio from him for he does not want to be blamed for something which is not under his direct charge. The Agriculture Department under him deals only with research, education and supplies. Irrigation, co-operation and community development are held by different Ministers belonging to rival groups who pull against one another for their group interests. If there is a failure, the blame is laid at the door of the Agriculture Minister."

In the States—I am not talking of all the States but of a large number of States—the position today is that the different departments dealing with agriculture are bifurcated and are held by different Ministers and there is not much of co-operation. Agriculture Department has been reduced to a skeleton.

* **Shri Kashi Ram Gupta (Alwar):** Would you not, as President of the UPCC, bring them together?

Shri A. P. Jain: I will try my best, and I want your help also if you can. I am stating the facts, because we can find a solution only when we face the facts. The departments of agriculture in the States have been reduced to a skeleton. They deal only with research and education, and as the Minister for Agriculture Uttar Pradesh says, some supplies—not many supplies—are made through it. The principal supplies are made through co-operative department; seeds are supplied through the co-operative societies; implements are supplied through the co-operative societies; fertilisers are supplied through the co-operative societies. Therefore, not much of the supplies are being made through the agricultural department. I wonder what for the agriculture departments in the States exist, if they are reduced to such a miserable state. Irrigation is with a different Minister; co-operation is with a different Minister; Panchayat Raj is with a different Minister; Community Development is with a different Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri A. P. Jain: I want only five minutes more. Co-operation, community development and Panchayat Raj are the action arms of the Ministry of Agriculture. If they are not properly co-ordinated, if they do not act in cohesion, how can the agriculture department function and how can agricultural production increase? I do not say that all this huge paraphernalia should come under one Minister, but there must be a full and perfect co-ordination, and unless that co-ordination is forthcoming, agricultural production will not improve.

When we come to the district level, there are three important agencies; one is co-operatives; the second is community development and the third is Panchayat Raj. It was a woeful day when the Government of India decided that co-operatives must be based on one village, one

co-operative society. The average population of an Indian village is about 500, out of which about 70 per cent are agriculturists. Even if you put in all the agriculturists in the co-operative society, the total volume of business and the total subscribed capital are far too small to constitute an economic unit. There was a committee known as the Rural Credit Survey Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank, and it made a recommendation that ordinarily a primary co-operative society should be established for a population of about 4,000. That is what is happening in Japan. Japan is much more advanced in agriculture than ourselves. They have also a much higher *per capita* income than us. Yet they found that a viable unit should consist only of a population of 4,000. Here, we go more by the theoretical considerations and forget the practical aspect of things. We decided on one village and one society, which is not economical and which is not a viable society.

The laws of economics are inexorable. Whoever may be the person—he may be a leader or a king or a dictator—he cannot overcome the forces of economics nor can he control the laws of economics, in the manner that he likes. I appeal to the Treasury Benches once again to look into it and see whether this "one-village, one co-operative society" has not been the cause of ruin of the supply of finances to the farmers.

The community development—I am sorry to say it as I have been associated with community development and I have great respect for the hon. Minister holding charge of it—is sinking. It has failed to produce impact upon the people.

Shri P. R. Patel: Wait for five years more and everything will be all right.

Shri A. P. Jain: I want to recite one of my personal experiences. A couple of years ago, about the end of 1962, I went to the United States. I took good care to study the agriculture there. I went to a farmer there by name Mr. Cambell and asked him about high yield of corn: 80 to 120 bushels, i.e., 60 to 90 maunds per acre. I asked, "How have you obtained such tremendous yields?" "He said, "There is the extension service of the Illinois University. If I have any trouble about some pest or some disease I just ring up the research man there. Either he comes to the field or I go there and he at once suggests the remedy." Have we got anything like that?

I want to remind the House of what the former American Ambassador Mr. Galbraith said. He said that if the research man or extension man is really worth anything there must be an unknown farmer who should go and lay a wreath on his grave. Is there any research man or extension worker in India who can claim that merit? The time has come when things must be looked into and the community development department thoroughly overhauled. Unless that is done, I am afraid we shall continue to suffer from shortages.

Coming to panchayats, they have been recently started and we have not enough experience of them. I do hope that they will take up their responsibility in the real spirit, but it remains yet to be seen how far politics is introduced into them and how far they take to farming in the real spirit. The real solution to our food problem lies in increased production. I will conclude by saying that the question of the responsibility of the Centre and of the States must also be fairly and squarely decided once for all. The Centre can-

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not take the responsibility for agricultural production. That is the primary responsibility of the State Government. I suggest that the Union Food and Agriculture Minister must sit with the Food and Agriculture Ministers of the States, take a period of one or two agricultural cycles, i.e., one of the two periods or 3 or 4 years, in which there are fluctuations of higher as well as lower production, work out a basic figure which the Centre will supply to the States and also work out schemes of production on the basis of which over a period of 5 or 10 years all the deficit would be made up. Till then, the Centre should take the responsibility of supplying to the State what is considered as the basic quota, being reduced from year to year, until the States become self-sufficient. If they do not become self-sufficient, they must bear the responsibility for the shortage themselves. Today the position is that the States are becoming complacent. They do not care to produce. They have become stagnant and depend on the supply from the Centre. This cannot be going on for all time to come. Food is a thing which concerns everybody. So, a rational scheme should be worked out between the Centre and the States, whereby the States must shoulder the responsibility. They must suffer for their failures. The public must put pressure upon them and not at the wrong quarter. Unless that is done, the agricultural problem will not be solved.

These are the few suggestions that I have to make and I do hope that the hon. Minister will pay due attention to them.

Shri Mahatab (Angul): Sir, when this debate was agreed to, one hon. Member suggested that the discussion on food prices should be linked up with the general rise in prices, so that the discussion would be on a

proper level. To that, the Speaker agreed that some time would be given for the discussion of that problem also. I thank the hon. Food Minister for having given us an opportunity to express our views dispassionately on this very vital problem.

I have very carefully gone through the statement which he has placed before the House. That statement makes admissions of everything, but the conclusions drawn from the premises seem to be wrong. First of all, he has given the reason why this difficulty has arisen. According to this statement, the difficulty is on account of less production. But that has been sufficiently counter-balanced by more imports. Therefore, the availability of foodstuffs remains almost the same. That being so, we have to find out why this difficulty has arisen. The natural presumption will be that there is some defect in distribution. Otherwise, I do not see how less production could bring about this result while the import has been on a higher scale.

With regard to the prices of the current year, para 3 of the statement says that only in West Bengal, the prices have tangibly gone down, but in other States, in Orissa, Bihar and Assam, prices have shown some fall, but the prices have not fallen to the extent expected. But in other States, prices have gone up. Which are the rice-producing States? Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal and Andhra. But in Andhra and Madhya Pradesh, the prices have gone up; even the price of rice has gone up. So far as Orissa is concerned, the prices have not gone down, as it was expected, during this season. What is the reason why prices have gone down in West Bengal? I know what is talked about in academic circles; they say that it is due to the Dum Dum dawai which has cured it and the social

forces which work to bring down the prices are responsible for the reduction in price and not anything else. That is the talk in Calcutta; I may be wrong.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): That is a fact.

Shri Mahatab: The Minister has promised that more imports will be made this year in order to meet the deficit. If we study the premises which have been provided in this statement, it is clear that there is some very serious defect in the distribution. It is loosely said that the trade should be taken over by the State. The trade in food stuffs must be distinguished from trade in other industrial goods. The economy of agriculture is something distinct and different from the economy of the industries for this reason that here millions of farmers in the villages are involved. Anybody who takes up the trade will have to deal with these individuals on a very large scale. It is not like industry where the things will be procured in one place and sold in the market. There is no central place where the things could be procured in agriculture. That is the trouble. There is a wrong opinion prevalent amongst us, the elite of the society, that the farmers are in the same old destitute condition as they were before. Now they have got the capacity to retain the grain; they are not in a hurry to sell their grain. They also expect higher prices as time goes on.

I was told the other day by some responsible farmers here in Delhi that the rise in prices of wheat will be reflected in the prices in the villages in a few months; they are expecting higher prices. The rise in prices in the town tends to increase the prices in the villages. It is a complicated thing which has to be gone into carefully. What is the cause of the farmers' resistance to sell the grains

at a reasonable price? I must start from that. Of course, the traders are there and the trade has to be controlled. There is no doubt about that. But merely controlling the trade will not be sufficient. That is my submission. We have to go to the root, the farmer, where the original sale takes place. The farmer has got his own necessities. He will have to pay for the education of his children, for medical services and for everything else. The price of every other thing has gone up tremendously. So, to expect the farmer to sell his grains at a lower rate is not correct. The food prices are intimately connected with the prices of other commodities also. This is not a thing which was not anticipated. In the beginning of the third Plan it was expected and I refer hon. Members to the Plan report which was published three years ago. They anticipated this rise in prices. I think, the House is entitled to know why no step at all was taken while anticipating the rise in prices. They anticipated a rise in prices because they knew that more public expenditure would take place and more money would be circulated in the market. They knew that there would be large-scale expansion of industry and economic expansion.

14 hrs.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: They say it is a developing economy.

Shri Mahatab: That being so, it was anticipated that there will be a rise in prices. The Planning Commission not only warned themselves but they warned the State Governments and the ministries concerned that steps should be taken in time to see that the prices do not go beyond limits. While this was anticipated three years ago, I think we are entitled to know what steps have been taken in the mean time to control the situation. We are on a very difficult stage now. The prices have gone up to this extent that unless

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they are curtailed, unless they are brought down, it will result in various complications about which I need not dilate upon here.

What is to be done then? If we do not take into account the prices of all commodities, to expect that the prices of foodstuffs only will go down, I think, is wrong.

Shrimati Vimla Devi: If the prices of foodgrains go down, the prices of all other commodities will also go down.

Shri Mahatab: The hon. lady Member will kindly excuse me if I say that that is the usual argument which is always advanced by traders and industrialists. They think that if rice will be available at a lower rate the wages will go down. I have not come here with the relevant figures, but I can give figures to show that whenever the prices of foodgrains have come down the wages have not come down. Their profit goes on as usual at the cost of the farmers. At the cost of the farmers they want to profit. That should be taken care of. Facts do not support what the hon. lady Member has said.

Shrimati Vimla Devi: I said that the prices of other commodities will go down.

Shri Mahatab: That will take some time. Supposing the prices of foodstuffs go down, there will be a time lag when the prices of other commodities will come down. During this period the farmers will lose and the other people will gain. It is a very complicated thing. It cannot be disposed of in that light manner.

I thought this problem should be discussed with the Planning Commission. Some time ago the entire blame was thrown at the door of the Ministry of Agriculture, that because of the fault of that ministry the prices were not going down, the

prices were rising. That theory is gone now. Now the question is of middle-men being there. Who are the middle-men who are doing all these things? If they are doing all this, if it is definitely known that the middle-men are responsible for this unusual rise in prices, then there is sufficient power with the Government of India to control that. Why is it that no step is taken? The Central Government is only advising the State Government. It is stated in the statement that recently a conference was held with the State Ministers and they agreed to something which, in my opinion, will again tend to increase the prices.

Some time ago it was decided at the party level that the rice mills should be taken over. It is a clear case, taking over does not mean anything else and it can easily be understood. But it was decided by Government that no new rice mill should be opened, and if at all any rice mill is to be given a licence it will be given to a co-operative society. I request hon. Members to consider the condition of States like Orissa. Orissa exports mostly paddy out of the State and the export generally takes place to Calcutta. Supposing no new rice mill is opened, the result is that paddy will be exported as a result of which there will be shortage of fodder. As a result of that various other things will arise. Therefore, why not start rice mills yourself as was decided upon? If you say that no new licence will be given, it will mean that the existing rice mills will make enormous profits and there will be no competition.

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not know how it has been mentioned there, but the intention is that no new rice mill is to be started except in the co-operative sector.

Shri Mahatab: That is what I am saying. Supposing there is no co-operative society formed and nobody

wants to do that, the result will be that the existing rice mills will take the entire work, they will dictate terms, there will be no competition and they will make huge profits.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): Plenty of bogus rice mills claiming to be co-operatives will come into existence.

Shri Mahatab: Why allow it? My point is, it is an economic problem, and any policy to be acted upon has to be precisely stated and worked upon, otherwise there will be difficulty. I know when the late Rafi Ahmed Kidwai was the Food Minister he issued a circular almost to the effect that no new rice mill should be opened anywhere. That was done under the advice of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. As a result of that the prices went up everywhere because the existing mills dictated terms, there was no competition and they made huge profits. Later on that was relaxed. I simply draw the attention of the hon. Minister to that situation. It may arise again as a result of this decision.

Again, Sir, I suggest that the prices of foodstuffs should be taken together with the rise in prices of other commodities. All factors should be taken into consideration. Merely confining it to the rise in the prices of foodstuffs will not solve the problem, nor can we come to any practical solution. The practical solution lies elsewhere.

Why is there a rise in the general level of prices? Some time back we studied amongst ourselves the causes of rise in prices, and we had the privilege of meeting the members of the Planning Commission, when Shri Gulzari Lalji was the Vice-Chairman, on more than one occasion. I think we convinced them at that time, a few months ago, that some concrete steps should be taken. Those steps were also suggested by us. It seems to me that they agreed to those steps and Shri Chandulal Trivedi, who

was then a member of the Planning Commission, undertook to formulate in regular shape those proposals. According to my information, that was also done. Unfortunately, no action was taken on that.

We had suggested that non-productive expenditure should be curtailed. We also took up the question of community development. We are talking of community development. They have got various stages like stage 1, stage 2 and so on. Most of the community development blocks are in the last stage, which means no money is provided there and they are supposed to carry on somehow with their work. Only the officers are provided. That is the present position. With only these officers moving about, I do not think any improvement can take place either in production or in any other matter. The first stage in various places, I am very sorry, went wrong. They did not produce the desired result. Now the baby is passed on to the panchayats. What can the panchayats do? They are busy settling their own affairs. There is also the political question. "To be or not to be" is the problem in every panchayat, wherever I go. That being so, to saddle them with the task of improving agriculture will again be unrealistic. If we really mean business, let us not pass on the thing to somebody else thinking that for the while we are saved. I do not think the general public will save us because, after all, where there is a panchayati raj, when things go wrong we cannot imagine we will be free from the blame. We have introduced these things. Let us take the responsibility for it and try to find out a solution. This is my suggestion.

श्री विद्याम प्रसाद (लालगंज) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके सामने पहले एक श्लोक गीता का और उसके पश्चात एक श्लोक उपनिषद् का सुनाना चाहता हूँ :-

१. "ग्रन्थाद्भवन्ति भूतानि पर्जन्यादप्न-
संभवः ।"

[श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद]

२. “अन्न ब्रह्म”

“God comes to the poor in the shape of bread (food)”

यह महात्मा गांधी ने कहा था ।

सन् १९४६ में हमारे प्रधान मन्त्री ने अपने रेडियो भाषण में कहा था कि हम अपने देश की दो तीन साल के अन्दर खाद्य समस्या हल कर लेंगे। उन्होंने यह भी कहा था कि यह कितनी बड़ी शर्म की बात है कि भारत देश जहां कि ७० फ़ीसदी किसान रहते हों, उस देश की खाद्य समस्या हल न हो लेकिन बड़े अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के १७ वर्ष बीत जाने के बाद भी हमारी यह सरकार इस देश की खाद्य समस्या को हल नहीं कर सकी है। अब तक जो देश अपनी खाद्य समस्या को हल नहीं कर सकी है उससे क्या उम्मीद की जाय कि वह कुछ और भी तरकी कर सकता है? अब वत्ता जो तरकी हुई है वह लीन चीजों में हुई है। एक अप्टाचार में, दूसरी बेकारी में और तीसरे भुखमरी में।

इजरायल हमारे बाद अर्थात् सन् १९४८ में स्वतन्त्र हुआ था लेकिन वहां की खाद्य समस्या हल हो गई है। आज यहां हाउस के अन्दर मन्त्रियों बड़े बड़े भाषण किये जाते कि देश की खाद्य समस्या हल हो चुकी है और अनाज को कमी नहीं है लेकिन अगर आप गांवों में जायें तो आप देखेंगे कि जनता की दरअसल हालत क्या है? आज गांवों में, खास कर उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के ज़िलों में, जनता खाने के बिना भर रही है।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : राजस्थान में भी ।

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : राजस्थान में तो अकाल ही पड़ा हुआ है। आज लोगों को पेट-भर अन्न नहीं मिलता है और महंगाई दिन दूनी रात चौगुनी बढ़ रही है। इसी सदन में मैंने पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश की गरीबी और भुख मरी का वर्णन किया था। आज भी वहां के लोग महुआ, वर का गोदा, आम की गुठली, गोवर से निकाला हुआ अन्न तथा मिलों का बोटा या सीरा पीकर अपना जीवन बिता रहे हैं। उस चोट को भी जो मिलों से तीन चार आने भन पर बेचा हुआ दिखाया जाता है, लेकिन वास्तव में वह आज पन्द्रह बीस रुपये भन के हिसाब से बेचा जा रहा है। गुरीबों के पास इतना पैसा नहीं है कि वे उस चोटे को भी खरीद कर अपना पेट भर सकें। जिस बक्त पटेल कमीशन पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश में गया था, तो एक सदस्य ने चोटे का एक पैंकट देकर कहा था कि इसकी जांच कराई जाये कि उसमें क्या खाद्य पदार्थ है और क्या पौधिक पदार्थ है और देखा जाये कि कैसे वहां लोग इनें खाकर जिंदा रहते हैं।

पहले हमारे जिलों में एक बक्त खाना मिलता था, लेकिन महंगाई ने आज ऐसी हालत पैदा कर दी कि किसान एक बक्त भी अपना पेट पूरा नहीं भर सकते हैं। इसे में क्या कहूँ? क्या मैं इसे राजस्थान कहूँ, महात्मा गांधी का स्वप्न कहूँ, समाजवादी समाज की की रचना कहूँ या लोकतान्त्रिक समाजवाद कहूँ?

श्री सरकू पांडेय (रसड़ा) : सब का मिक्सचर है।

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : जो सरकार देश के स्वतन्त्र नागरिकों का पेट नहीं भर सकी, उससे और कामों की क्या उम्मीद की जाये? जो सरकार देश की खाद्य समस्या को हल नहीं कर सकी है, बाहर के दुश्मनों के हिलाफ लड़ना उसके बूते के बाहर है।

डॉ लोहिया ने जब इस सदन में यह कहा कि इस देश के २७ करोड़ आदमियों की

रोजाना आमदनी साडे तीन आने है, तो बड़ी उथल-नुथल दुई । प्रधान मन्त्री ने कहा कि नहीं, उनकी आमदनी पन्द्रह आने रोज़ है । और उसके बाद नन्दा जी ने कहा कि साडे सात आने रोज़ है । अगर साडे सात आने रोज़ की आमदनी भी मान ली जाये, तो मन्त्री महोदय अपने हृदय पर हाथ रख कर सोचें कि क्या इस महंगाई में कोई आमदनी साडे सात आने रोज़ से अपना पेट भर सकता है ।

मैं अभी पूर्वी जिलों का दौरा कर के आया हूँ । आजमगढ़ जिले में ४० रुपये मन गेहूँ है, लेकिन वह बाजार में मिलता नहीं है । वहां पर जो का भाव ३०, ३२ रुपये मन है और अरहर की दाल ४० रुपये मन है—एक रुपये सेर से सवा रुपये सेर हो गई है । जहां तक पहाड़गंज की गल्ला मार्केट का प्रश्न है, वहां पर गेहूँ का भाव २८, २६ रुपये मन, चना २६ रुपये मन और दाल ४० रुपये मन बिक रही है । लेकिन यहां पर बड़े अच्छे अच्छे स्टेटमेंट मिनिस्टर लोग दे देते हैं । कि महंगाई बहुत थोड़ी बड़ी है । वे फ़िर ज़रूर भी मैं आपके सामने रखता हूँ ।

सरकार की ओर से जो गल्ले की दुकानें थोड़ी गई हैं, उन पर या तो गल्ला नहीं मिलता है और अगर मिलता भी है, तो लाइन में खड़े होने के बाद जब तक आपका नम्बर आयेगा, तब गल्ला ख़त्म हो जायेगा । राशन की दुकानें कभी कभी तीन चार दिन तक बन्द रहती हैं, क्योंकि उनको स्टाक लेने के लिये जिलों में जाना पड़ता है । इसके अतिरिक्त सप्लाई आफिसों से दुकान का परमिट लेने के लिए दो सौ से चार सौ रुपये की धूस वहां के बल्कि और बाबू लोगों को देनी पड़ती है । वे लोग वह रुपया बाद में कन्जूमर्स से ही बसूल करते हैं, वे अपनी जेब से तो दे नहीं सकते हैं । आज इस तरह का भ्रष्टाचार हो रहा है ।

कहा जाता है कि चीनी की कमी है । अगर चीनी की कमी है, तो मैं पूछता चाहता हूँ कि ब्लैक मार्केट में चीनी कहां से मिलती है ।

कुछ ऐसे लोग हैं, जिनका यह धंधा हो गया है कि वे कर्मचारियों से मिल कर रंज़ा-पर-मिट बनवाते हैं और चीनी लेकर ब्लैक मार्केट में बेचते हैं । चीनी का कप्ट्रोल करने से लोगों को होर्डिंग की आदत पड़ गई है । लोग बिना ज़रूर इसे या उसके नाम से चीनी ले लेते हैं और अपने पास जमा करते हैं । शायद आपको पता नहीं होगा कि बहुत से लोगों के यहां शादियां और त्यौहार बिना चीनी के हुए हैं अभी होली का त्यौहार था । राशन की दुकानों पर गेहूँ नहीं था, उधर किसानों की फसल तैयार नहीं थी । लोगों को गेहूँ भी नहीं मिलता और चीनी भी नहीं मिली और इस कारण होली का बहुत बड़ा त्यौहार बिना गेहूँ और चीनी के मनाया गया ।

जहां तक सस्ते गल्ले की दुकानों का सम्बन्ध है, पहले उनकी संख्या ५५३१२ थी फिर ६०४६६ हो गई और अब ६२२६२ । गई है । लेकिन केवल सस्ते गल्ले की दुकानें खोलने से काम नहीं बनता है जब तक भ्रष्टाचार दूर न हो । सस्ती दुकानों का गल्ला बहुत से लोग खाते भी नहीं हैं ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : उससे पेचिस होती है ।

श्री विष्वाम प्रसाद : एक आदमी को थोड़ा सा गल्ला मिलता है । मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर मिनिस्टर साहब या उनके घर का कोई आदमी किसी दिन लाइन में खड़ा होकर गल्ला खरीदता, तो उन को पता लगता कि गल्ला लेने में कितनी मेहनत होती है । राशन की दुकानों का बहुत सा गल्ला ब्लैक में चला जाता है और वह और गल्ले में मिला कर बेचा जाता है । मुझ से पहले वक्ताओं ने बताया है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में कई जगह पर दुकानें लूटी गईं, कई जगह पर गोली चली । प्राज देश में यह हालत है ।

आपको मालूम होगा कि दिल्ली में एक सेंट्रल को-आपरेटिव स्टोर था, जिसने ६६ रुपये

[श्री विश्वाम श्रावाद]

पर किंविटल के बजाये ८५ रुपये पर-किंविटल के हिसाब से गुड़ बेचा है।

श्री त्यागी (देहरादून) : आज गुड़ का जिक्र थोड़े ही है।

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : वह भी तो फूड है। वह भी खाया जाता है—फेंका नहीं जाता है।

उस स्टोर के चेयरमैन कौन हैं, यह भी शायद मुझे बताने की ज़रूरत नहीं है।

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : माननीय सदस्य "शायद" क्यों कहते हैं?

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : वह इसी सदन के एक माननीय सदस्य हैं, जिन पर आज तक चांज-शीट नहीं लगाई गई है। अगर इस तरह का भ्रष्टाचार होगा, तो फिर खाद्य समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती है। सरकार चाहे कितनी ही सरते गल्ले की दुकानें खोल दे, चाहे कितना ही कष्टोल कर दे, लेकिन इस तरह के भ्रष्टाचार के रहते हुए खाद्य समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती है।

श्री त्यागी : इसके बारे में जवाब दे दिया गया है कि चांज-शीट का सवाल नहीं है और वे चांजिंग ला मिनिस्ट्री में एग्जामिन हो रहे हैं।

श्री किशन पट्टनायक : मिनिस्टर साहब ने उस दिन शालत बयान दिया था।

श्री स० श्रो० बनर्जी : ला मिनिस्ट्री ने उन्हें एक्सामिनेट कर दिया है।

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : २६ फ़रवरी को इस सदन में भारत सरकार का २,०८५ करोड़ रुपये का बजट पेश हुआ। अंग्रेजों के जमाने में १२० करोड़ रुपये का बजट पेश हुआ करती थी। लेकिन वित्त मन्त्री ने अपने बजट भाषण में किसी के फ़ृदे व भलाई के बारे में एक शब्द भी नहीं कहा।

पिछले साल ३३४ करोड़ रुपये के टैक्स लगाए गए और इस साल १८१ करोड़ के टैक्स लगाए गए हैं। यह टैक्स कहां से वसूल होगा? सरकार टैक्स बढ़ाती जाये, उसके खर्च में कमी न हो, चाहे देश की जनता नंगी व खूबी रहे, इससे उसको कोई मतलब नहीं है।

मार्च, १९६३ तक प्लानिंग के नाम पर ७६२१ करोड़ रुपये कर्ज़ लिया गया है, जिसका अर्थ यह है कि भारत का हर एक इन्सान १७५ रुपये के कर्ज़ से लदा हुआ है। अगर उसमें ३२४ करोड़ रुपये मदद के भी जोड़ लिये जायें, तो २०० रुपये फ़ी आदमी कर्ज़ हमारे देश पर है। इतने कर्ज़ के बावजूद, प्लानिंग के नाम पर इतना खर्च करने के बाद सरकार इस देश की खाद्य समस्या हल नहीं कर सकी है। बड़े अफ़सोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि आगे क्या होने वाला है, इस का पता नहीं।

इस सदन में जब पाटिल साहब भूतपूर्व फूड और एंप्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर बोला करते थे, तो मालूम होता था कि हमारे हर तरफ गल्ला ही गल्ला भरा है। उन्होंने यहां तक भी कहा था कि कहां तक आप गल्ला खायेंगे, कहीं कास्टीपेशन न हो जायें। मैं पूछता चाहता हूँ कि आखिर वह गल्ला कहां गया। जब वह चीनी की बात कहते थे, तो मालूम होता था कि हम लोग चीनी के ढेर पर बैठे हैं। आखिर वह चीनी आज कहां है?

एक माननीय सदस्य : सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह के पास है।

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : सरकार पी० ऐल० ४८० और केनेडा के बड़ी लोन को जिन्दा-बाद करें, जिसने इस देश को जिन्दा रखा हुआ है। आज वह न आती तो इस देश की हालत क्या हो गई होती, पता नहीं।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, १९६१-६२ में ३.४ मिलियन टन गल्ला इस देश में मंगाया गया, १९६२-६३ में ३.६ मिलियन टन मंगाया गया और १९६३-६४ में सितम्बर तक ४.६ मिलियन टन मंगाया गया। रुपया जो इस पर खर्च हुआ वह ११७ करोड़, १६६.४ करोड़ और १७७.६ करोड़ हुआ। जो पंच वर्षीय योजनाओं में कृषि पर खर्च किया गया, उसको भी आप सुन लें। पहले प्लान में २८६.६ करोड़ रुपया खर्च हुआ, दूसरे प्लान में ८८५ करोड़ हुआ और तीसरे प्लान में अब तक ५६१ करोड़ खर्च हुआ। है। सिचाई पर पहले प्लान में ५८२ करोड़, दूसरे में ४२० करोड़ और तीसरे में ३४१ करोड़ खर्च हुआ। गलते की जो पैदावार बढ़ी उसको भी आप सुन लें। पैदावार बढ़ने की बात तो दरकिनार, वह और भी कम हो गई। १९६१-६२ में वह १.२ प्रतिशत कम हुई। और १९६२-६३ में ३.३ प्रतिशत कम हुई २८ लाख टन चावल की पैदावार में कमी हुई और ६ लाख टन गहू की पैदावार में कमी हुई यह १९६१-६२ और १९६२-६३ की हालत रही अब आप देखें कि एक तरफ तो रुपया खर्च किया जाता है और दूसरी तरफ पैदावार भी हमारी बढ़ने के बजाय कम होती है।

अब आप पर कैपिटा कंजम्प्शन जो है, उसको देखें। १६५१ में जहां सीरियल्ज का कंजम्प्शन ११.५ आउंसिस पर कैपिटा था और दाल का २.० आउंसिस था वहां वह १६६१ में बढ़ कर १३.६ और २.४ हुआ लेकिन १६६३ में वह घट कर १३.२ और २.१ ही रह गया। जो तरक्की हो रही है, उसका यह नतीजा निकल रहा है। अब जो आवाजी बढ़ी है, उसको भी आप देखें। आपके आंकड़ यह कहते हैं कि कृषि की पैदावार ३.५ फीसदी पिछले बारह सालों में बढ़ी है। लेकिन आवाजी ३६ करोड़ से बढ़ कर ४४ करोड़ हो गई है, यानी २२ प्रतिशत वह बढ़ी है। इस प्रगति से मैं नहीं समझता हूं कि

किस तरह से सरकार खाद्य समस्या को हल कर सकती है और अगर वह हल करना भी चाहे तो उसको कितने साल इस में लग सकते हैं।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप खत्म करें।

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : दो तीन मिनट और मुझे आप दे दें।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप पन्द्रह मिनट बोल चुके हैं। और भी बढ़त से माननीय सदस्य बोलना चाहते हैं।

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : दो तीन मिनट में खत्म कर देता हूं।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अच्छी बात है, दो मिनट और ले लीजिये।

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : आप समझ सकते हैं कि कमी कहां पड़ती है। मैं कहा करता हूं कि आपका जो प्लान बनता है वह नक्शों, मीटिंगों और सलामों से ही भरा होता है। जो प्लान है, वह किसान तक नहीं पहुंच पाता है। आपके प्लान से किसान को कोई लाभ नहीं होता है। कागजी प्लान बनाने से किसान का भला नहीं हो सकता है, कृषि की पैदावार नहीं बढ़ सकती है, कृषि में उन्नति नहीं हो सकती है। अगर आप खुदा के बास्ते दरअसल कृषि की उन्नति करना चाहते हैं तो किसान के फायदे की बात आप करें, किसान के लिए सिचाई की सुविधा उपलब्ध करें, उसको अच्छे से अच्छे लोन की सुविधायें दें, उसको यथा सम्भव इंसेटिव दें। मैं आपसे पूछता चाहता हूं कि यह जो गेहूं के इतने दाम बढ़े हैं, ३२, ३५ या चालीस रुपये तक पहुंच गये हैं, इसमें जिन लोगों ने ब्लैक मार्केटिंग की है, प्राक्रिटीयरिंग किया है, उन में से कितनों को पकड़ कर आपने बन्द किया है। बढ़ी हुई यह कीमत अगर किसान को मिलती तो मुझे दुःख नहीं होता और नहीं किसी दूसरे माननीय सदस्य को होता। लेकिन बीच में जो फायदा

[श्रेणी: विश्राम प्रशासन]

ठाने वाले हैं, जो बिजिनेस क्लास है, उसके ट में जब पैसा चला जाता है, वह ठीक नहीं है और इस चीज़ को कराने वाली और भ्रष्टाचार फैलाने वाली यह सरकार है, वही इसके लिए जिम्मेदार है। अगर सरकार इस चीज़ को मिटाना चाहे तो वह मिटा सकती है, उनको पकड़ कर बन्द कर सकती है। यह उसको पहले ही कर देना चाहिये था। साथ साथ किसान को उसकी पैदावार का उचित मूल्य मिले, इसकी भी वह व्यवस्था कर सकती है। किसान की जो जरूरत की चीज़ें हैं, वे उसकी सस्ती दरों पर मिलनी चाहिये। उसके गलत तथा दूसरी चीज़ों की पूरी कीमत उसको दिलान की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये।

आप देखें कि चीनी के ऊपर सरकार ३३ परसेंट सैस लेती है। मैं पूछता चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार ने किसी और इण्डस्ट्री पर पर भी इतना बड़ा सैस लगाया है और अगर नहीं लगाया है, तो इस इण्डस्ट्री पर ही क्यों लगाया है। इसको भी माननीय मन्त्री जी को साफ करना चाहिये।

इन शब्दों के साथ, चूंकि इतना ही समय आपने दिया है, मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूं।

श्री सिंहासन सिंह (गोरखपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी अभी दो वक्ता महोदय बोले हैं और उनका सम्बन्ध किसी न किसी रूप में सरकारी तंत्र से रहा है हमारे अंतिम प्रसाद जैन साहब कृषि मन्त्री रहे हैं और अभी जो वक्ता बोले हैं, वह भी कृषि विभाग में कार्य करते रहे हैं। मुझे वड़ी खुशी हुई कि जब मैंने देखा कि दोनों ही आपने अपने क्षेत्रों से अलग होकर जब दूसरे क्षेत्र में आए तो इनको ज्ञान प्राप्त हुआ। जब वह कृषि मन्त्री की हैसियत से इस समस्या को सम्भाल न पाये और दूसरे वक्ता कृषि अधिकारी की हैसियत से भी इसको सम्भाल न पाये तो इसका साफ और सीधा सा मतलब यह होता है कि गड़बड़ी

कहीं है और जो अधिकारीगण हमारे हैं वे अपना अलग ही दृष्टिकोण रखते हैं। मन्त्री भी दृष्टिकोण दूसरा ही रखते हैं लेकिन जब वे दोनों उस पद से हट जाते हैं तो उनका जो दृष्टिकोण है वह तीसरा ही हो जाता है। भूतपूर्व हमारे एक गवर्नर भी बोल गए हैं इसी विषय पर और उन्होंने भी अपना निजी अनुभव बताया है। कहीं न कहीं पर बुनियादी गड़बड़ी है। कहीं न कहीं पर हमारे तन्त्र को जंग लग गया मालूम देता है जिससे वह सही तरीके से धूम नहीं रहा है, चल नहीं रहा है। जो कमी है खाद्यान्न की वह ऐसी नहीं है कि गेहूं के दाम इतने अधिक बढ़ जाते जितने वे बढ़ गए हैं। कहां तो गेहूं का दाम १८ रुपये मन था और कहां वह ३०. ३२ हो गया और आज २८ है। अगर यह बुनियादी गड़बड़ी न होती तो ऐसा स्थिति न आती।

कृषि मन्त्री जी का जो नोट है, उसको मैंने देखा है। उन्होंने कहा है कि १९६२-६३ में १९६१-६२ के मुकाबले में १० लाख टन खाद्यान्न अमरीका से अधिक मंगाया, जबकि वह १९६१-६२ में २.८ लाख टन मंगाया गया था। इस तरह से कुल कमी १३ लाख टन की हुई। जहां पर करोड़ों टन का सवाल हो, वहां पर तेरह लाख टन की कमी कोई कमी ही मालूम नहीं देती है। यह कमी केवल १.५ की ही आती है। इस १.५ की कमी से आज देश में हाहाकार मच गया है। मैं समझता हूं कि अगर इतनी सी ही कमी है अब की, तो वह कोई वास्तविक कमी नहीं है। इसका कारण यह है कि हमारे देश में पांच प्रतिशत लोग ऐसे हैं जो कुछ खाते ही नहीं हैं अब इत्यादि और बिना अब के बत रखते हैं। इस तरह से अगर आंकड़ों पर चला जाए तो अब की कोई कमी नहीं होनी चाहिये। लेकिन वास्तविकता को देखा जाए तो कमी अनुभव होती है।

हमारे पाठिल साहब, भूतपूर्व मन्त्री जी थे, उन्होंने अपना सारा आयोजन अमरीका के

बल पर बनाया था । उन्होंने पी० एल० ४८० के नाम पर वफर स्टाक बनाया था । वह इसी लिए बनाया था कि जब कभी भाव बढ़े तो गल्ला रिलीज कर दिया जाए और भावों को बढ़ने से रोका जाए । उनका यह भी कहना था कि जब कभी भाव गिरें तो वह देहातों से गल्ला उचित मूल्य पर खरीद लेंगे और इस तरह से गल्ले के भाव को नियन्ते नहीं देंगे । आज जब भाव बढ़ने शुरू हुए तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह पी० एल० ४८० का गल्ला कहाँ पड़ा रहा, क्यों नहीं इसको बहुत पहले रिलीज किया गया । इतना भाव बढ़ा, क्यों नहीं इसको तुरन्त बाजार में पहुँचाया गया, क्यों नहीं वितरित किया गया । अगर ऐसा पहले किया जाता तो भाव न बढ़ते । जनवरी में फेर प्राइस शाप्स की संख्या ५५,००० थी जो कि फरवरी में बढ़ कर ६२,००० हो गई । यानी इनकी संख्या सात हजार बढ़ी । इतने बढ़े मुल्क में जिसमें साढ़े पांच लाख गांव हैं, वहाँ पर ६२,००० दूकानें क्या मानी रखती हैं । नौ गांवों पर एक दूकान का ही इस तरह से अधिक है । देहातों में एक पंचायत क्षेत्र में एक ही दूकान है । अब कहीं कहीं पर दो हो गई हैं ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप भी नहीं हैं ।

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : यह जो दूकानों की संख्या बढ़ी है, इसके कारण शायद हो गई हो । सात हजार इनकी संख्या बढ़ी है । शहरों में जो इनकी संख्या बढ़ी है तो शायद देहातों में मैं भी बढ़ी होगी । लोग मांग करते हैं, इन दूकानों को खोलने के लिए दरखास्तें देते हैं और गवर्नरेंट की तरफ से भी आदेश गए हुए हैं क्लैक्टरों को कि दूकानों की संख्या बढ़ाई जाए लेकिन वे आदेश कागजों पर ही पड़े हुए हैं, उनको अमल में नहीं लाया जाता है । जैसा बाकी आदेशों के मामले में होता है,

वैसा ही इस आदेश के मामले में भी हुआ होगा । आज होता है कि बिना दो चार सौ रुपया दिए सस्ती दूकानें ही नहीं खुलती हैं । आप यह भी देखें कि कोआपरेटिव्ज को एनकरेज करने के बारे में गवर्नरेंट के आदेश जाते हैं लेकिन उस चीज को ताक में रख दिया जाता है और व्यक्तिगत आधार पर दूकानें खोलने की इजाजत दे दी जाती है । मैं एक घटना जो घटी उसकी तरफ आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ । गोरखपुर में शूगर की एक व्यक्तिगत दूकान थी । संयोग से एक बोरा चीनी हलवाई की दूकान पर जाता हुआ पकड़ लिया गया । कम्प्लेट बुक में नोट हुआ कि एक बोरा चीनी जा रहा था और हलवाई की दूकान से लौटाया गया । मैंने कहा कि चीनी और गल्ला इसका मुअतिल करना चाहिये, कोटा कैसल होना चाहिये और कोओप्रेटिव सोसाइटी को मिलना चाहिए । कोओप्रेटिव सोसाइटी को देने की बात तो दरकिनार एक महीने के लिए चीनी का कोटा ही मुअतिल किया गया और उसके बाद फिर चीनी उसको दे दी गई । कोआपरेटिव को नहीं दी गई ।

श्री त्यागी : आप पर डिसिल्सनरी ऐक्शन नहीं लिया गया ।

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : हाँ, यह तो नहीं किया गया । मुझ पर भी नहीं लिया गया और आप पर भी कभी नहीं लिया गया । वह लेते तो अच्छा हो या । हम ने इस के बारे में सप्लाई आफिसर से कहा, कलैक्टर भी ये, कि उस दूकानदार को चीनी नहीं मिलनी चाहिये थी, आप ने क्यों दे दिया । सलाई आफिसर ने कहा कि उस पर कोई मुकदमा नहीं बनता या । मैं ने कहा कि ब्लैक मार्केटिंग से बढ़ कर और कौन्सा मुकदमा बनता । मैं गवाही देता । कौन सी अदालत होती जिस में हम पूरी गवाही देते और वह सजा न करती ? इस तरह से दो सौ, चार सौ रुपये की बातें चलती रहती हैं । चूँकि इस तरह की चीजें वहाँ चलती हैं इसी लिये सारी गडबड़ी है ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : आप को यह सब क्षेत्र मालूम है ।

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : अफसरों की बात आप जानते हैं । यह निजी बात है लेकिन मैं ने इस लिये यह सब कहा कि आपस की बातें सभी जानते हैं ।

श्री रामसेवक यादव (बाराबंकी) : क्या चीनी वाले को सस्ते अनाज की दूकान भी दी गई ?

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : वह तो है ही । चीनी को भी दे दी गई । इसी लिये तो आप की व्यवस्था ठीक से चलती नहीं है । हम जो कहते हैं उस को करना चाहिये ।

अभी हमारे भूत्यूर्व मंत्री ने कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट की बात कही । इस के बारे में मैं आप से, और आप के जरिये सदन से, कहना चाहता हूं कि कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट पहले के मुकाबले इस बक्त ज्यादा अच्छा काम कर रहा है, लेकिन उस का काम और अधिक अच्छा हो सकता है, अगर उन से अमरीकन जीप कार ले ली जाये । कारण यह है कि उस कार का दुरुपयोग बहुत होता है । सिवा सिरेमा देखने के बहुत जीप कार किसी और काम नहीं आती । अगर वह आप ले लें तो डेली भ्रतों की बात तो छोड़िये वह इतना ज्यादा पैट्रोल भी खर्च नहीं करेंगे । आज वह पैट्रोल घर के लोगों को सिरेमा दिखाने के काम में खर्च होता है, साथ ही शहर के पास और चीजें भी हासिल हैं । इस लिये अगर गवर्नर-मेंट चाहती है कि कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट अच्छा काम करे तो जो सहृदयित उन को जीप कार की दी गई है उसे वापस ले लिया जाये । गांवों में, तो मोटरे पहुंच नहीं पातीं, लेकिन शहरों में मोटरे चली जाती हैं सिरेमा देखने के लिये । इसलिये आप इस ओर ध्यान दें ।

आप ने कम्युनिटी डेवेलपमेंट को अलग मिनिस्ट्री में रखा है, इरिंगेशन अलग मिनिस्ट्री

में रखा और फर्टीलाइजर भी आप को मिनिस्ट्री में नहीं है । फर्टीलाइजर का उपयोग किसी और मिनिस्ट्री द्वारा होने वाला नहीं है, यह सिर्फ़ फूड एंड एश्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री में इस्तेमाल होने वाली है, लेकिन इस के बनाने और वितरण में आप का हाथ नहीं है । मैंने पहले श्री पाटिल से भी इस की शिकायत की थी और आज भी शिकायत करता हूं कि फर्टीलाइजर के जरिये आप को मुनाफाखोरी नहीं करनी चाहिये । उस समय बतलाया गया था कि सरकार २०० रु० टन के हिसाब से फर्टीलाइजर अमरीका से मंगाती है । आप अपनी फर्टीलाइजर को मिला कर ४०० रु० टन के हिसाब से फर्टीलाइजर काश्तकारों को देते हैं । २०० रु० टन फर्टीलाइजर मिलने के बाद भी आपनी फर्टीलाइजर मिला कर वह काश्तकार को मंगायी पड़ती है । बाहर की फर्टीलाइजर सस्ती पड़ती है । इस लिये पी० एल० ४८० में आप गल्ला मंगाने के बजाय फर्टीलाइजर मंगाइये । हम खुद गल्ला पैदा करेंगे । लेकिन आज यह नहीं होता ।

दूसरी बात में आप से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जहां कहीं केन डेवेलपमेंट सोसायटी है वहां पर वह भले या बुरे तरीके से अच्छा काम कर रही है । ३ पैसे कमिशन ले कर वह सहक बनाती है और साथ में काश्तकारों को कर्जा भी देती है, बीज देती है, खाद देती है । उन के उसे बसूल करने का तरीका भी आसान है । जब मिलों पर गन्ना डालने के लिये लोग जाते हैं तो वहां कोआपरेटिव भी कर्जा देने जाती है और ब्लाक भी कर्जा देने जाते हैं । ब्लाक के पास कर्जा बसूल करने का कोई जरिया नहीं है, कोआपरेटिव के पास बसूल करने का कोई तरीका नहीं है । नतीजा यह होता है कि बहुत से काश्तकारों के जिम्मे कर्जे बाकी पड़ रह जाते हैं । इस लिये जहां पर केन डेवेलपमेंट सोसायटीयां हैं वहां कुल कृषि का काम उन के सुपुर्द आप कर दें । उसी से हम बीज लेंगे, कर्जा लेंगे और दूसरों चीजें लेंगे । उन को कर्जा देने में भी सहृदयित

होगी। यह एक कंस्ट्रक्टिव सुझाव है। जिस को आप को अवश्य मानना चाहिये। केन डेवलपमेंट सोसायटियां कोआपरेटिव बैंक से सम्बन्ध नहीं रखती हैं। वह तो स्टेट बैंक से या किसी और बैंक से सम्बन्ध रखती है। वे कोआपरेटिव बैंक से सम्बन्धित हों। कोआपरेटिव बैंक उन का रूपया जमा करें।

जहां पर केन डेवलपमेंट सोसायटियां हैं वहां पर उन का नियन्त्रण कृषि के काम पर कर दें और जितनी आप की ओर सोसायटियां बनी हैं कोआपरेटिव की वह अन्यत्र काम करें जहां पर केन डेवलपमेंट सोसायटी नहीं है। इस तरह से कोआपरेटिव का क्षेत्र भी बढ़ेगा और उन के कार्य की क्षमता भी बढ़ेगी। मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूं कि आज हालत यह है कि काश्तकार के पास कोआपरेटिव वाले जाते हैं बतलाने के लिये, विलेज वर्कर जाते हैं बतलाने के लिये, केन डिवैनेपमेंट वाले जाते हैं बतलाने के लिये सब जाते हैं बतलाने के लिये, करने के लिये कोई नहीं जाता। अभी श्री डेडा ने एक आटिकल लिखा है, बड़ा अच्छा। वह कहते हैं कि हमारे देश में कृषि करने वाले जो विद्यार्थी निकलते हैं पढ़ कर वह नौकरी की तरफ जाते हैं कृषि की तरफ नहीं जाते हैं। हमारे कृषि जानने वाले पढ़ लिख कर नौकरी में जा कर के ही कृषि का उत्पादन बढ़ा सकते हैं। कृषि कर के नहीं बढ़ा सकते हैं। जितने आप के कृषि के फार्म हैं वहां पर लोगों से आप को कहना चाहिये कि वे कुछ कर के दिखायें। वह लोग कुछ कर के नहीं दिखाते। वे सूट और पैंट पहन कर चले जाते हैं और देख कर लौट आते हैं या कभी मिनिस्टर गये तो उन की फोटो खिचवा लेते हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि दृष्टिकोण बदले। दृष्टिकोण बदलने के बाद मैं समझता हूं कि हमारी फूड समस्या ऐसी नहीं है जो कि हल न हो पाये।

अभी आप ने राशन की दूकानें खोलीं। उस के बारे में मेरा आप से एक बड़ा विरोध है कि आप बाहर से करोड़ों रुपये का गेहूं

मंगा कर मिलों को दिलाते हैं। आप की फिरोट में है कि आप ने इतना मिल वालों को दिया है और चक्कियों को भी आप गेहूं देना चाहते हैं। लोग तो भूखों मर रहे हैं। गेहूं का भाव बढ़ रहा है और गेहूं डायरेक्ट आप मिल वालों को देते हैं। आखिर आप इस को जिम्मेदारी क्यों लेते हैं कि वे मिलें चलें। जब उनका आटा सड़ जाता है तब वह पन्द्रह बोस दिनों बाद बाजार में आता है और लोग उस को लेते नहीं हैं। इस के साथ ही मिल वाले उस में से २५ फी सदी गेहूं मेदा और सूजी के लिये निकाल लेते हैं। इस तरह से ७५ फीसदी आटा जो विल्कुल खराब होना है लोगों को खाने के लिये दिया जाता है। गवर्नरमेंट जिम्मेदार नहीं है कि वह फ्लोर मिलों को गेहूं दे। उस को जिम्मेदारी है कि भूखे लोगों को गेहूं दे। वे चाहेंगे तो अपने हाथ से पीस कर खायेंगे या पिसवा लेंगे, और अगर वे गांधीजीद्वारा हुए तो भिगो कर खा लेंगे। लेकिन सड़ा हुआ आटा आप उन्हें न दिलायें। कोई जिम्मेदारी गवर्नरमेंट ने नहीं ली है कि फ्लोर मिलें चलें या न चलें।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Kashi Ram Gupta.

There are a large number of speakers both from the Congress and the Opposition side. So I would request hon. Members not to take more than ten minutes each.

श्री सरजु पाण्डेय : इस का समय और बढ़ा दिया जाना चाहिये।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: The time may be extended. If those who initiate take half an hour . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister did not take any time at all.

श्री बागड़ी (हिरार) : पीछे बोलने वालों को दस मिनट मिलते हैं लेकिन जो पहले बोल लेते हैं उन को चाहे जितना टाइम दे दिया जाता है।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Kashi Ram Gupta.

श्री काशी राम गृष्ट : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारी सरकार की दशा वही है जैसे कि किसी हाथी से कुछ अन्धे लिपट गये और फिर आपस में बैठ कर कहने लगे कि हाथी कैसा था । जिस प्रकार कोई कहता था कि व सृंड जैसा है और कोई कहता था कि खम्भे जैसा था उसी प्रकार से हमारी सरकार के चलाने वाले एक दूसरे पर आरोप और प्रत्यारोप लगाते रहते हैं । योजना आयोग कृषि मंत्रालय पर लगाता है और कृषि मंत्रालय किसी दूसरे मंत्रालय पर लगाता है, और जब उन से बस नहीं चलता है तो जिस प्रकार पाकिस्तान काश्मीर का हौवा बना कर अपनी जनता का ध्यान समस्याओं से इधर उधर करने की कोशिश करता है उसी प्रकार सब टूट पड़ते हैं मुनाफा-खोरों के ऊपर । यह मुनाफाखोरी आखिर किस की पैदा की हुई है । यह इस सरकार की पैदा की हुई है । जब सरकार अपनी कोई ट्रेडिंग शुरू न करे और सारा काम दूसरे लोगों पर छोड़ दे तो वे जहर भगत जी बन कर नहीं बैठ जायेंगे । लगभग तीन महीने हुए पंजाब के एक व्यापारी ने बतलाया कि आप क्या कहते हैं । पंजाब में गेहूं ३० और ३५ रुपये मन बिकेगा । मैं ने जब कारण पूछा तो कहा कि जब पंजाब की सरकार इतनी अधिक है, वहां के मुख्य मंत्री पर रोज आरोप लगते हैं तो क्यों यह बनिये चुप चाप बैठे रहेंगे । ये सब बातें एक दूसरे से सम्बन्धित हैं । यह कहना कि यह मुनाफा खोरी विना कारण चल रही है, यह गलत बात है । सरकार जानती है कि पैदावार नहीं हो रही है । सरदां: गरमी होता है, उससे फसल खाराब हों जाती है । इसलिए भाव बढ़ते हैं । जो भाव फसल पर होते हैं उन भावों पर लोग चीज खरोद लेते हैं । बाद में मंहंगा बेचते हैं । अगर उस के लिए सरकार कोई इलाज करना चाहती है तो वह फसल के समय ही हो सकता है, बाद में नहीं ।

आज जब यह चर्चा हो रही है, तो अगली फसल आने वाली है । इस चर्चा के सिये

मैं अपने भाई बागड़ी जी को बघाई देता हूं । वह दो बार बाहर निकाले गए तब यह चर्चा हुई । अगर ऐसा वह न करते तो इस चर्चा का सवाल भी न उठता । सरकार के कान पर भी जूँ न रोंगती । चाहे गेहूं का भाव तीस रुपए मन होता या ३५ रुपये मन होता ।

तो नई फसल आने वाली है । उस के लिए सरकार को क्या करना है यह एक समस्या है । अगर आप थोड़ी नियंत्रण कर के इस समस्या को थोक व्यापारियों पर छोड़ दोगे तो कुछ नहीं हो सकेगा । आज मारकेट की यह दशा है कि थोक व्यापारी को जो रुपया वह लगाता है उस का व्याज बैंक को देना पड़ता है । अगर उस का ही हिसाब लगाया जाए तो साल के आखिर में सवाया तो वैसे ही हो जाएगा । इसलिए सरकार को यह देखना पड़ेगा कि वह अपनी तरफ से कितना स्टाक जमा करती है । व्यापारी तो व्याज का रुपाल करेगा गोदाम के किराए का रुपाल करेगा, नौकरों के वेतन का रुपाल करेगा और अपने मुनाफे का भी रुपाल करेगा । अगर आप इस समस्या को थोक व्यापारियों और खेरीज के व्यापारियों पर छोड़ देंगे तो यह हल नहीं होगी । यह सब तभी हो सकेगा जब सरकार इस में अपनी शक्ति लगाएगी । अगर सरकार अपना रुपया लगाए और थोक व्यापारियों से कमीशन ऐजेंटों के तौर पर काम करावे तो ठीक हो सकता है । लेकिन अगर सरकार कहेगी व्यापारियों से कि तुम अपना रुपया लगाओ और हम नियंत्रण करेंगे तो वे जहर इधर उधर करेंगे क्योंकि उन का गुजारा नहीं होगा, वह जरूर कोई गलत रास्ता पकड़ेंगे । इसलिये यह समस्यायें एक दूसरे से जुड़ी हुई हैं । सरकार इतना रुपया अपनी तरफ से लगावे जितनी कि फसल बाजार में आने वाली है तभी यह समस्या हल होगी ।

यह ठीक है कि खेरीज के व्यापारी को थोक व्यापारी से माल मिलता है । थोक व्यापारी पर आप का ठीक नियंत्रण तभी हो सकता है

जब कि आप उस की जोखिम भी उठाओ। अगर उस पर ही आप जोखिम रखेंगे तो नियंत्रण सफल नहीं होगा, क्योंकि अगर कल को बाजार में भाव गिर जाएं तो उस को ही भुगतना होगा। अगर वह नुकसान उठाएगा तो जब भाव में तेजी आएगी तो मुनाफा भी उठाएगा। यह मामला एक तरफा नहीं चल सकता। इसलिए यह जहरी है कि आज के युग में जो नियंत्रण हो वह वैज्ञानिक ढंग से हो और वह ऐसा हो जिस से कि हमारा आर्थिक ढांचा सही तरीके से चल सके।

यह सरकार और योजना आयोग कागज पर तो बहुत अच्छी बातें करती हैं। कहा जाता है कि रुखल इलेक्ट्रिफिकेशन होना चाहिए। गांवों में जहां कुंवें हों वहां बिजली पहुंचनी चाहिये। लेकिन इस के लिये जब राज्य सरकार योजना बनाती हैं तो वहां राजनीति और भाई बन्दी चलती है। और ऐसा होता है कि जहां बहुत कुंवें हैं वहां बिजली नहीं पहुंचती, लेकिन जहां चार कुंवें हैं वहां पहुंच जाती है। शहर से दो मील के फासले पर बिजली नहीं पहुंचती, लेकिन तीस मील के फासले पर पहुंच जाती है। जब तक यह चलता रहेगा तब तक वही स्थिति रहने वाली है।

राजस्थान नहर के लिये हम बार बार पुकारते हैं कि इस के लिये रुपया मिलना चाहिये क्योंकि राजस्थान के पास रुपया नहीं है लेकिन कहा जाता है कि चौथों योजना में सोचेंगे कि आप को लान से बाहर रुपया दिया जाए। तो ऐसे काम जिन से यह समस्या हल हो सकती है, उन को तो दस दस और पन्द्रह पन्द्रह बरस तक टाल दिया जाता है, और आबादी बढ़ती चली जा रही है। एक अमरीकन ने कहा था कि मारन की अन्ध की समस्या हल नहीं होगी क्योंकि इस की आबादी तो तेज रस्तार से बढ़ती जा रही है, और अन्ध की पैदावार कीड़ी की चाल से चल रही है। जब तक आबादी की बढ़ोतरी और

अन्ध की पैदावार में सन्तुलन नहीं होगा यह समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती।

सरकार ने सस्ते गल्ले की दुकानें खोली हैं जब तक गेहूं के भाव में चार पांच रुपया फर्क रहा उस वक्त तक कोई इस पी० एल० ४८० के गेहूं को खरीदता नहीं था। लेकिन जब भाव दूना हो गया तो भूखा क्या नहीं करता लंग खरीदने लगे। लेकिन इन दुकानों पर भी प्रबंध अच्छा नहीं है। हमारे यहां कलक्टर ने एक साते गल्ले की दुकान खाली उस पर यह नियम रखा कि एक समय में एक आदमी को केवल दो रुपए का गेहूं मिल सकेगा। इस का नाम जा यह इस्त्रा कि मजदूरों को धंटों क्यूं में खड़ा हो कर दो रुपए का गेहूं प्राप्त हो पाता और उन को दो रुपए का मजदूरी से हाथ धोना पड़ता था। तब हम लोग कलक्टर को बताने गए कि दो रुपए के अनाज से कैसे काम चल सकता है। इस उकार की जो ढिलमिल नीति और गलत नीति है उसके प्रभावार पर यह सब कुछ हो रहा है। आज बाजार में अनाज आ गया नो ग्रीक हो जाएगा, और योक व्यापारी और खेरीज के व्यापारी सब ठीक काम करने लगेंगे लेकिन जब जरा कमी हो जाएगी तो सब गड़बड़ हो जाएगा। मैं निर्वेदन करता हूं कि आप इस ममत्या का पन्द्रह सौनहरा पल से अनभव करते आ रहे हैं। बार बार जनता को उनी उत्तरवे के लिए ब्यौरी सेते हैं। आप को इस के निर सही नानि निर्वारित करनी चाहिए। जब अन्ध का कष्ट होता है तो यारातियों के बदनाम किया जाता है। जनता भी उन के पास बन्द देती है तो उन पर काँध करनी है। उसका गुम्मा व्यापारिदा पर दस्तरता है।

एक नेता ने एक बार एक बहुत अच्छी मिसाल दी थी। हिंस्तान में औरत को मर्द भारता है, तो औरत बच्चे को भारती है। अगर जनता को उस के कट का सही कारना बतलाया जाए तो उस का गुम्मा सरकार की तरफ जाए और उस पर उनरे। लेकिन सरकार तो चालाक है और अपनी जिम्मेदारी व्यापारियों

[श्री काशी राम गुप्त]

पर डाल देते हैं, कभी किसी पर और कभी किसी पर डाल देते हैं। सरकार का अपना ढांचा छूट है, उस के द्वारा वह नीक काम नहीं कर सकते।

जब आप कटोल करेंगे तो क्या होगा? जब तक व्यापारी कलंक को दो रुपया नहीं देगा तब तक वह उस का रिटर्न नहीं लेगा। तो ये सब चीजें इस तरह एक दूधरे से उड़ी हुई हैं। मेरा विचार है कि जब तक अनाज का भाव किसान की जरूरत की अन्य चीजों के साथ नहीं जोड़ा जाएगा, तब तक यह समस्या हल नहीं होगी।

भाव के लिए डा० लोहिया कहते हैं कि फसल के बाद अनाज में एक आना सेर से ज्यादा का फर्क नहीं होता चाहिए। बात तो अच्छी है और ऐसा होना चाहिए, लेकिन इस का अमल तभी हो सकता है जब सरकार अपना रुपया लगाने का बन्दोबस्त करे। जब तक रुपया लगाने का अमल प्राइवेट हाथों में रहेगा तब तक ऐसा नहीं हो सकता।

मैं एक मुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार ऐसा कर दे कि जो व्यापारी अन्न का व्यापार करते हैं वे केंश क्राप्स का व्यापार न कर पावें। ऐसा किया जाएगा तो सरकार को पता चलेगा कि गड़बड़ी कैसे होती है? आज क्या होता है? व्यापारी बैंक से सरसों पर रुपया लगाते हैं और उस को अनाज पर लगा कर दुगना फायदा कमाना चाहते हैं। आप को इस पर पावन्दी रखनी चाहिये कि इस प्रकार सदृश्यों न होने पावे और व्यापारियों को बैंकों से केंश प्राप्त क्राप्स पर रुपया न लेने दें। इस तरह भावों पर नियंत्रण रखा जा सकता है।

मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो विक्री टैक्स और इनकम टैक्स की बीमारियां हैं उन की खोज बीन कर के यदि 'आप सही तरीका नहीं अपनायेंगे तो भ्रष्टाचार होगा और अन्न का भाव बढ़ेगा, घटेगा नहीं।

आज राज्य सरकारों की क्या दशा है? वे अन्न पर बिक्री कर लगाती हैं। जब राज्य सरकार अन्न पर बिक्री कर लगाएगी तो उस राज्य में खपत होने वाले अनाज का दाम अवश्य बढ़ेगा। इस प्रकार का टैक्स लगाना अनेकित है लेकिन आज ऐसा हो रहा है और इसी कारण भाव बढ़ रहे हैं।

अन्त में मैं आप के जरिए मंत्री महोदय से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो भी अनाज बाजार में आ रहा है उस को स्टाक करते समय आप को यह भी देखना होगा कि शहरों के लोग क्या खाते हैं और गांवों के लोग क्या खाते हैं और उसी के अनतार गिलों के आधार पर स्टाक करना चाहिए। शारीरिक व्यवहार का समय है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करूँगा कि वे सदन के सामने अपनी योजना रखें ताकि देश में लोगों को मालूम हो जिसे जो आज कठिनाई हो रही है यह ठीक हो जाएगी, उन को मालूम हो जाएगा कि आज जो दशा चल रही है वह क्षणिक है और महीना बीस रोज में वह ठीक हो जाएगी।

मुझे यही सुझाव देने थे। आप ने जो समय दिया उस के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri B. K. Das—absent. Shri Bibhuti Mishra.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (मोतिहारी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो बयान हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी ने दिया है वह अक्षरशः सही है। हमारे विरोधी भाई जैसे श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद और अन्य लोग कहते हैं कि सरकार ने यह नहीं किया, वह नहीं किया, लेकिन मैं आप को खेती के बारे में एक बात बतलाना चाहता हूँ..

श्री बागड़ी : ये बातें कोई भी कर सकता है, कोई भी गड़बड़ नहीं है....

श्री विभूति मिश्र : घबराओ नहीं ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : सिर तक पहुंच जाए तो भी न घबरायें ।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि खेती ऐसी चीज है कि रुस में भी जहां कि हर प्रकार के साधन और सहूलियतें मौजूद हैं, वहां भी खेती की पैदावार मारी गयी । वहां भी खुराक कम हो गयी और उन्हें अमरीका से लेना पड़ा । हम को खाद्यान्न के मामले में स्वावलम्बी बनने के लिये ऐसी नहरें बनवानी चाहियें जो कि जल्द से जल्द तैयार हो जायें ताकि हमें अनाज जल्द से जल्द पैदा करने में मदद करे । किसानों को हर संभव प्रोत्साहन दिया जाए वे सबसिडी दी जाय । लेकिन अगर मौसम अच्छा न हो तो मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूं कि खेती मारी जायेगी । अब मौसम का अच्छा रहना या न रहना और समय पर वर्षा का होना या न होना यह न तो हमारे सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह के हाथ में है और न ही इन विरोधी भाइयों के हाथ में है । आप किसी भी आदमी को मिनिस्टर बना दीजिये अगर उस साल वर्षा न होगी तो खेती मारी जायेगी । यह भनुष्य के वश की बात नहीं है । इस विवरण में जो लिखा गया है कि मौसम की खराबी की वजह से हमारी खेती मारी गयी है यह बात सही है । एक कृषक की हैसियत से मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूं कि इस साल हम लोगों ने धान लगाया । धान की फसल अच्छी थी लेकिन माधा पूर्वी क्षेत्र में पाना नहीं हुआ और फलस्वरूप धान की फसल में कमज़ोरी आ गयी । जब हविया नक्शब में पानी हुआ तो धान की फसल कुछ अच्छी हुई । जो हिन्दी महीने हैं और जो नक्शब के अनुसार हैं उन के अनुसार खेती करने से किसान की पैदावार बढ़ती है । अब यह लोग इस को समझते नहीं हैं और यह अंग्रेजी महीने से ही इस चीज को करते हैं । इसलिये यह जरूरी होता है कि खेती करने के लिए हिन्दी महीने जो कि नक्शब के अनुसार हैं उन के अनुसार खेती का काम किया जाय और वैसा करने से खेती की पैदावार बढ़ती है ।

खेती के लिए मौसम का अच्छा होना जरूरी है । हमारे यहां २८ लाख टन चावल की कमी पिछले साल हुई है । . . .

श्री विश्वाम प्रसाद : अब अगर भगवान के भरोसे पर ही रहना है तो यह करोड़ों रुपये कृषि की उन्नति पर क्यों खर्च किये जा रहे हैं ?

श्री विभूति मिश्र : जरा धीरज धर कर सुन लीजिये । अभी मैं आप को जवाब दूँगा

श्री बागड़ी : अगर भगवान के भरोसे पर ही रहना है तो फिर यहां पर क्यों बैठे हो ? मंदिर में जा कर ताली बजाओ ।

श्री राम सेवक यादव कीर्तन करो, खाद्य समस्या अपने आप हल हो जाएगी ।

श्री भागवत मा आजाद : (भागलपुर) : ऐसा लगता है जैसे खाद्य समस्या के बारे में यह विरोधी पक्ष के लोग ही जानते हैं ।

श्री बागड़ी : विरोधी लोगों की बात को नहीं मानते हो तभी तो खाद्य समस्या में असफल रहे हो

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. I do not understand this, Members- getting up like this and talking.

श्री बागड़ी : उन से कहिये

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Please sit down. You will have your chance.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : पिछले साल सन् १९६१-६२ में ८१ मिलियन टन गल्ला पैदा हुआ था । सन् १९६२-६३ में ८८.०७ मिलियन टन गल्ला पैदा हुआ । सन् १९६३-६४ के पूरे आंकड़े व लेखा हमारे पास नहीं हैं लेकिन मेरा अनुदाजा है कि इस में भी कुछ गल्ले की कमी रहेगी और इस में कोई २.८.० मिलियन टन गल्ला कम होगा ।

[श्री विभूति मिश्र]

जहां तक गल्ते की कीमत बढ़ने का सवाल है वह क्यों बढ़ गयी यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता

श्री बागड़ी : कांग्रेसी मंबरों को कीमत की गया है....

श्री विभूति मिश्र : बंगाल में धान की खेती इस साल बहुत अच्छी थी लेकिन फिर भी बंगाल में चावल की कीमत क्यों बढ़ गयी ? अभी हमारी रक्ती की फसल अप्रैल महीने में जाकर तैयार होगी लेकिन अभी गेहूं के दाम क्यों चढ़ रहे हैं ? अभी गेहूं की कमी पड़ गयी है और उस के दाम चढ़ रहे हैं । इस के मानी यह है कि जो गेहूं हमारा है वह द्रेडर्स के पास चला गया है । इस समय हमारे गेहूं के दाम क्यों चढ़ गये हैं यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता क्योंकि अभी तो पिछलों फसल हमारे पास मःगुद है । अब अगली फसल हमारी खराब होगी तो उस का असर तो दो, तीन महीने के बाद अप्रैल और मई में पड़ना चाहिये था । अभी तक तो कोई ऐसी बात नहीं थी कि जिस से कीमत बढ़े । मैं समझता हूँ कि यह कीमत बढ़ने का कारण हमारे द्रेडर्स लोग हैं, व्यापारी लोग हैं जिन्होंने कि गल्ला अपने यहां दबा कर रखा हुआ है । इस के लिये सरकार को कुछ न कुछ इंतजाम करना चाहिये और उस के लिए मेरा सरकार को कहना है कि योड़ी सब्जी हम को बर्तनी चाहिये । अब मजा यह है कि अगर सरकार कंत्रोल से सब्जी बरती जायगी तो यह हमारे विरोधी पक्ष के भाई आकर शोर मचायेंगे कि सरकार ने अमुक अमुक स्थान पर यह सब्जी बरती । अगर हम लोग खेती की पैदावार को कंट्रोल करना चाहते हैं, द्रेडर्स को कंट्रोल करना चाहते हैं और होर्डर्स और मुनाफाखोरों को नजरबन्दी कानून के मातहत नजरबन्द करते हैं तो यही विरोधी पक्ष के भाई उस में आकर बाधा डालते हैं और सरकार के खिलाफ एजिटेट करते हैं । अगर मेरी चले तो मैं जितने भी यह जमाखोर और मुनाफाखोर हैं उन को पकड़ कर जेल में नजरबन्द कर दूँ....

श्री उ० म० त्रिवेदी (मंदसौर) : ऐसा करिए कि हम सब को पकड़ कर जेल में बन्द करवा दो और फिर आप अकेले अपनी मनमानी करिये ।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अगर मेरी चलती होती तो मैं सब को पकड़ कर जेलखाने में रखता उस से पीछे नहीं हटता । मैं तो चाहूँगा कि जो भी गल्ला जमा करते हैं, समाजविरोधी काम करते हैं उन को हम नजरबन्दी कानून के मातहत पकड़ कर जेलखाने में रखें ।

अब मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे फूड एंड एप्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर को अनाज के होलसेल डीलर्स पर कंट्रोल रखना चाहिये । जितना भी गल्ला उन को आज दिया जाता है उस का कोई लेखा उन के पास नहीं रहता है । उस का सब हिसाब ठीक तरह से रखदा जाय और उन पर नियंत्रण किया जाय । इसी तरह मेरे जो रिटेलर्स हैं, फेयर प्राइस शाप्स वाले हैं उन को जो गल्ला दिया जाय उस का भी आज हिसाब नहीं रहता है । उस का भी कायदे से हिसाब रखदा जाय और उन पर कंट्रोल रखदा जाय कि उन्होंने किस, किस के हाथ कितना, कितना गल्ला बेचा ।

कुछ दिन पहले हम दस लोग बंगाल में खाद्य परिस्थिति की खाराबी की बजह से गये थे । हमारे हिम्मतसिंह जी भाई सदन में मौजूद हैं । वहां पर हम लोगों ने जांच पड़ताल कर के बतलाया कि द्रेडर्स के पास गल्ला है । हमारे यहां के एक आदमी ने दो, तीन जगह गुदामों को पकड़वाया । उस समय विधान बाबू हमारे चीफ मिनिस्टर थे । बंगाल में खास बात यह है कि वहां फाइन राइस खाते हैं, कोसं रा ईस को वह छूते नहीं हैं । उस समय हम लोगों ने वहां जा कर स्थिति का अध्ययन किया और पड़ताल की तो पता चला कि वह गल्ला द्रेडर्स के पास चला जाता है और वह उस को होर्ड कर के रखते हैं इस लिए सरकार को उस में सब्जी बरतनी चाहिए

इससे जाहिर हो जाता है कि गल्ले की कीमत इसलिए बढ़ती है कि ट्रेडर्स उसे छिना कर जमा कर लेते हैं और यह जरूरी है कि सरकार ऐसे जोगों के साथ सज्जी के साथ पेश आये। हमारे विरोधी भाइयों का सिवाय सरकार के खिलाफ प्रचार करने और एजिटेट करने के दूसरा काम नहीं है और इनके एजिटेट से भी गल्ले के दाम बढ़ जाया करते हैं। यह जितने अखबार वाले हैं यह सब भी हमारे विरोधी भाइयों के हाथ में हैं। यह हकीकत है कि हमारी पार्टी बगर अखबार के हिन्दुस्तान का राज्य चला रही है। यह अखबार कांग्रेस की विनकूल मदद नहीं करते हैं। कांग्रेस का कोई भी अखबार नहीं है। जो अखबार हैं वे या तो पूँजीपतियों के हैं सोशलिस्टों के हैं अथवा कम्युनिस्टों के हैं और अखबार में लिख लिख कर दाम बढ़ाते हैं। हमारा मूलधन तो इस देश की जनता है और वह हमारे साथ है।

अब मैं बतलाना चाहता हूं कि सरकार को क्या करना चाहिए? सरकार को यह करना चाहिए कि जहां जहां गल्ले की कमी के प्रीकेट्स हैं वहां पर फेयर प्राइस शॉप्स खुलवाये। गल्ले के बंटवारे में सरकार पूरी सख्ती बत्ते। जिस के पास गल्ला कम हो उसे सरकार गल्ला दे। बहुत से व्यक्ति ऐसे हैं जिनके पास काफी गल्ला रहता है, वे दुकानदारी भी करते हैं और खेती भी करते हैं और गल्ले को दुकानदार की हेसियत से जमा कर रखते हैं तो उनके होडेंड स्टाक को सरकार को लेना चाहिए और उसे मार्केट में समृच्छ रूप से बंटवाना चाहिए। लेकिन मैं यहां यह जरूर कहना चाहूँगा कि उनसे जो यह गल्ला लिया जाय सरकार उसके लिए उन्हें उचित कीमत अवश्य दे। गल्ले का भाव किसानों को अन्य चीजों के भावों को दृष्टि में रखते हुए इंटीग्रेटेड प्राइस उसके लिए फिक्स करनी चाहिए। यह आवश्यक है कि सरकार किसानों से जो अनाज खरीदे तो उसके दाम उन के दनिक जीवन में काम

आने वाली वस्तुओं जसे छाता, उसके बच्चों की स्कूल की फीस, रेलगाड़ी का भाड़ा और हवागाड़ी का भाड़ा इन सब को ध्यान में रख कर तय करे। किसान के अनाज की एक इंटीग्रेटेड प्राइस फिक्स करनी चाहिए ताकि उसे भी कोई नुकसान न हो और औरों को भी कोई नुकसान न हो। उसके हल, फट्टलाइजर्स और दूसरी खेती के काम में आने वाली चीजों के दाम तो काफी चढ़ें हैं और उसे उसके प्रोड्यूस की उचित कीमत न मिले, उस के अनुपात में उसे बढ़े हुए दाम न मिलें तो यह अनुचित बात है।

लौग टर्म प्लान में मैं यह चाहता हूं कि सरकार प्लानिंग कर्मिशन को कहें कि जो पैसा इरीगेशन के कामों में लगाते हैं वह ऐसे प्रोजेक्टों में लगाये जाकि जल्दी तैयार हो जायें और उससे ज्यादा फायदा पहुंच सके। अगर गडक योजना हो जाय, अगर चार, पांच साल में इसे कर लेते तो इससे आपको करीब ३२ करोड़ मन गल्ला अधिक मिल जाता।

15 hrs.

हमारे कुछ भाई फट्टलाइजर्ज पर जोर देते हैं, लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार और बातों को छोड़ दे और केवल पानी का इन्तजाम कर दे, तो मेरा अन्दाजा है कि खेती पञ्चीस फीसदी जरूर बढ़ जायेगी। सरकार को थोड़ा बहुत खेती की तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए।

इसके अलावा मैं पह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि यह भी देखना चाहिए कि एक आदमी को कितनी खुराक और कितनी चीनी खानी चाहिए। आप देखिए कि सेंट्रल हाल में हमारे विरोधी भाई काफी और चाय में कितनी चीनी रोज खा जाते हैं। इतनी चीनी सरदार जी कहां से लायेंगे? हमारा भी कर्तव्य है कि हम आस्टेरिटी का पालन करें। और चीनी तथा खुराक कम इस्तेमाल करें।

[श्री विभूति मिश्र]

आप विरोधी भाइयों को देखिए । क्या उन में से किसी का भी शरीर दुबला-पतला है ?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: On a point of order. Is it fair on his part to say that only Members of the Opposition take tea? If he does not take tea, that is another thing, but the Opposition are not the only people who take tea.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He makes a general appeal.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : जरा त्रिवेदी जी का चेहरा देखिए । क्या यह खुराक की कमी का चेहरा है ?

श्री उ० म० त्रिवेदी : हम ने कब चाय पी क्या माननीय सदस्य ने कभी चाय पिलाई ।

I have great personal regard for Shri Bibhuti Mishra, but today I am stunned to hear these words coming from his mouth, a very sensible and sober man that he is, that he wants to put all the 123 Members of the Opposition behind bars, so that he may be able to get cheap grain. I cannot understand the argument that he wants to put all the Opposition Members behind bars under the detention rules, this is not fair.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think he said so.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: He said so.

Shri Sheo Narain (Bansi): He said for us also, not for you alone.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं ने यह कहा है कि जो ग्राम्यांचल देश के रचनात्मक काम में मदद नहीं करता है और हिसात्मक और भड़काने वाली बातें द्यापता है, उस को बन्द कर दिया जाये ।

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I do not accept it.

Shri P. R. Patel: It is only to save you from diabetes that he says like that.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The problem that is before the country, that is facing us now, is the rising prices of cereals. It has been noticed for the last one decade that suddenly prices shoot up abnormally, and then come down by three or four rupees, and settle down at a level which is always higher than the level from which they had shot up. From Rs. 10 a maund, wheat prices went up to Rs. 18, then they came down to Rs. 14 and they remained stable for some time at Rs. 14. Very recently, from Rs. 14 a maund, the price of wheat shot up to Rs. 28, and even Rs. 30 and Rs. 32 at several places, and now I think Government will stabilise it at Rs. 20. What is this big phenomenon that is going on? Let us examine it.

A correct appreciation of the whole situation comes from the fact that the purchasing capacity of our rupee is going down inflation is there, and inflation is not being checked by Government. So, it is more of an economic problem than the problem of food shortage. If it were only food shortage, many people would be starving, but it is not so. People pay high prices and get what they want. From where do they get them? Grains and cereals are available: the only thing is that they have to pay a higher price. Why is this spiralling of prices taking place? That problem has to be studied in the proper perspective.

It is not sufficient for us to say that the trader is a hoarder. I may say that the peasant is a hoarder. It is natural in India—we have always been used to it at least in Gujarat, Malwa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh—that peasants do not sell away all that they produce every time. They have got big *kothis*, they preserve the grain, and sell as and when necessity arises in their houses, and then bring them

for barter or exchange. This is happening all over. We cannot control it.

Simply because a merchant purchases ten maunds of rice or 20 maunds of wheat from somebody, we cannot compel him to sell it immediately. Why should he do it? Is he a labourer or a mere carrier? You must allow him to trade. He must sit and sell in his shop and earn his livelihood. You cannot just ask him to bring the goods and sell them off, he has to keep the business going. Therefore, let us be very fair to all our traders and business people. Every one of us must realise where the fault lies.

Although big schemes have been pushed through, schemes in the name of irrigation, so many irrigation schemes must be re-examined. We must see how much money has been wasted, how much of irrigated land has been sunk and submerged, and how much more land has been made available for irrigation. I can give you examples one after the other if you want, I have got a list of all such schemes, but this is not the proper time to narrate all that. If you examine the schemes in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, you will find that simply because there were a few contractors who happened to pay large sums of money for Congress election purposes, they had to be reimbursed, and for reimbursing those people, contracts were given. Those contracts were given for small irrigation projects, in which lands which were irrigated by wells etc., were all submerged, and a new scheme was brought forth. If you want to see this scheme with your own eyes, go to Chittorgarh, which is a big station. You have to walk not more than three miles, and you will see for yourself what the scheme has meant for the public. All these areas have been submerged and a big lake has been made, and it is meant for irrigation purposes, irrigation of stony land where not a single

acre for purposes of tilling is available. And how much money has been spent upon it? Rs. 56 lakhs has been spent over it, and the contractor has now disappeared from the scene, and there is no water. What is this? Why are you depriving people of their means of livelihood, of their means of production? This is not going on at only one place, but at several places, and that is one of the reasons why your production is not increasing. You in the Centre, I concede perhaps are very honest people.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): I want him to explain why there is no water.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Because it was built at a higher level from where all the water went away to a lower level.

Dr. M. S. Aney: That is the fault of the engineer.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It was not necessary to build it. The lands were already irrigated; from wells the lands could have been irrigated, it was not necessary to build it.

Many a time it has been brought to the notice of the Agricultural Ministry in respect of what is called decentralisation as we call it that is taking place in the Community Projects, that these block development officers go about just wearing coat and pant, they do not mix with the masses and do not teach them anything worth teaching so far as agriculture is concerned. All of us must have noticed that large areas of land lying on either side of the railway lines, at least in my part of the country, used to grow a good deal of grass. What has happened to that grass? It has gone to such an extent that on the line from Amjer to Khandwa, all the land along the railway line is occupied by *Adhan Shishi*, which is a weed which destroys the growth of grass. That grass land has to be preserved in the area where it used to grow, but nobody wants to apply his mind to it. Letters may be written to the Minister, and the Minister may reply. State Ministers generally reply saying that they have sent a sample of this particular plant for

[Shri U. M. Trivedi]

examination to the agricultural research institute to find out the name, genus and the species of the particular plant, and then the whole thing gets bogged down, and that is the net result of the whole affair. Therefore, I say; let us all sit together and apply our mind to this problem. We can increase production provided we grow every little grain that can be grown in the country, and cultivate every little piece of land that is available in the country, and no wastage takes place in our country. If we do that I think we will succeed in solving the food problem. If the inflation goes on, naturally the result would be that prices would increase and people will cry for dearness allowance and you will have to increase dearness allowance. Then prices will go on spiralling and there will be no end to it. Stabilisation of the prices of food-grains is one of the essential features. It is the only safe base on which the future can be built up.

श्री काशी नाथ पांडे (हाता) : इस में सन्देह नहीं कि खाद्य समस्या गम्भीर है। खाद्य गम्भीर जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में जो उन्होंने सभा के सामने रखा है, स्पष्ट कहा है कि खाद्य स्थिति गम्भीर है। लेकिन केवल मात्र इतना कह देने से कि वह गम्भीर है और बहुत ज्यादा हल्ला भाजा देने से, इसका समाधान ढूँढ़ना होगा और पता लगाना होगा कि इसका क्या हल है। मैंने जो स्पीचिंज दी गई है, उनको सुना है। यह कहा गया है कि हमारा खाद्य उत्पादन बहुत कम बढ़ा है। हर किसान खाद्य उड़ान बढ़ाने की कोशिश करता है, गवर्नरेंट भी कोशिश कर रही है कि वह बढ़े लेकिन क्यों वह अपेक्षित आत्मा में नहीं बढ़ता है, इसको हमें देखना होगा। हो सकता है कि कहीं पर कोई कमी हो। उसको हमें दूर करना होगा। लेकिन जो प्राकृतिक घटनायें होती हैं, जो प्राकृतिक विपर्तियां आती हैं देश के ऊपर, क्या इन

के लिए भी किसी माननीय सदस्य के पास कोई समाधान है ताकि इनको आने से रोका जा सके...

एक माननीय सदस्य : वह भी है।

श्री क. श. नाथ पांडे : जिन लोगों के पास कोई इसका समाधान है, उनको चीन और रूस को ए डवाइस करनी चाहिए। वहां पर आज इस तरह के खाद्य सलाहकारों की ज़रूरत है। वहां पर उन्होंने ज्यों ही शासन तंत्र सम्भाला, तभाम इस तरह के उपाय किये जिस से उत्पादन बढ़ सके, खाद्य स्थिति ठीक रहे, संतुलन उसका बना रहे लेकिन वे भी इस स्थिति का मुकाबला नहीं कर सके बावजूद इसके कि तभाम गौरेया और तभाम चूहे जैकि फसलों को नष्ट करने थे, उनको मार दिया गया। लेकिन उससे भी कोई अच्छा नियंत्रण न निकला, कोई कारण उपाय न निकला। कुछ माननीय सदस्य इस सभा में इस तरह के बैठे हुए हैं जोकि किसीं भी मामले पर, विसी भी समस्या पर गम्भीरता से विचार नहीं करते (इंटरप्रेंज) वे समझते हैं कि वीच बीच में बोलते अगर वे जायेंगे तो उससे समस्या का समाधान हो जाएगा। मुझे उन पर दया आती है। ऐसे लोगों से मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपको भी मोका मिलेगा और आप भी अपने विचार रख सकेंगे। आपमें हिम्मत होनी चाहिये कि आप दूसरों की बात को सुन सकें। जब आप बोलेंगे तो आपकी बात को भी सुना जायगा और आपको भी चाहिये कि आप दुसरों की बात को सूनें।

Shri Kapur Singh (Ludhiana): He has cast aspersions on the integrity of the hon. Members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has cast no aspersions.

श्री काशी नाथ पांडे : मैंने आपके बारे में तो कुछ भी नहीं कहा है।

इस में सन्देह नहीं है जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि खाद्य समस्या गम्भीर है देश की । उनके वक्तव्य को मैंने पढ़ा है । मैं अर्जन करना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक इस समस्या का पूरी तरह से हम अंकन नहीं करते जब तक यह नहीं देखते कि समस्या किस हद तक गम्भीर है, तब तक उसका समाधान हम पूरी तरह से ढूँढ सकते हैं । अपने वक्तव्य में उन्होंने कहा कि उत्तर भारत में रवी की फसल जो पाले और जाड़े से बरबाद हुई है, वह करीब २५ प्रतिशत है । यह जो आंकड़ा है, यह शुब्द पैदा करता है, सन्देह पैदा करता है । मैं यह नहीं कहता कि जो आंकड़ा मैं देने जा रहा हूँ वह इसके मुकाबले में ज्यादा सही है । लेकिन मैं अपने अनुभव के आधार पर कह सकता हूँ, देहातों में जो हालत है फसलों को उन के आधार पर कह सकता हूँ कि लगभग पचास प्रतिशत के ऊपर इन फसलों की बरबादी हुई है । यह सारे उत्तर भारत की बात मैं कह रहा हूँ । इस बरबादी में गैंड अधिक है । अगर खाद्य विभाग उसी २५ प्रतिशत के आंकड़े को ले कर समस्या का समाधान ढूँढने की कोशिश करेगा तो मेरा ख्याल है कि थोड़े दिनों के बाद उसके समाने अभाव की स्थिति उत्पन्न होगी और उसको पता चल जाएगा कि तब वह समस्या और स्थिति का पूरी तरह से मुकाबला नहीं कर पा रहा है । इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि समस्या का अंकन ठीक तरह से किया जाए । इसके बाद ही उपाय ढूँढने की आपकी ओर से कोशिश होनी चाहिये और देखा जाना चाहिए कि किस तरह से स्थिति का मुकाबला हो सकता है ।

पिछली बार मैंने बताया था कि खेती के ट्रेंड में सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है । मैं देखता हूँ कि किसान उस तरफ ज्यादा बढ़ता चला जा रहा है, उस तरह की फसलें अधिक पैदा करता जा रहा है, जिन से उसको तुरन्त पैसा मिल जाता है । गन्ना उन में से एक है । मैं गन्ने का सामर्थक हूँ क्योंकि शूगर

फट्टीज में जो मजदूर काम करते हैं, उनसे मेरा करीब का रिश्ता है, बहुत करीब का सम्बन्ध है क्योंकि मैं उन मजदूरों में काम करता हूँ । लेकिन फिर भी देश के हालात को सामने रखते हुए मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर गन्ने की तरफ हम अधिक बढ़ते गए तो खाद्य स्थिति गम्भीर अवश्य होती जाएगी । इस बास्ते मैं चाहता हूँ कि इसका कोई उपाय ढूँढा जाए । दूसरी जो कैश क्राप्स हैं, दूसरी तरह के जो अन्न हैं उनकी ओर भी हम केन की तरह से ही देखें और कोई ऐसा उपाय करें जिससे किसानों को तुरन्त पैसा उनकी फसल का मिल जाया करे ।

माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि सस्ती गल्ले की दूकानें खोली जा रही हैं और समस्या का मुकाबला किया जा रहा है । मैं समझता हूँ कि जो इस दिशा में प्रगति हो रही है, उस में तेजी लाने की जरूरत है । सितम्बर में इन दूकानों की संख्या ५५,३१२ थी जोकि दिसम्बर में बढ़ कर केवल ६०,००० ही हो पाई । मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि इतनी संख्या में दूकानें खोल देने से लोगों की जो जरूरियात है, वे पूरी हो सकती हैं । यह भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अभी हम तीसरे प्लान में हैं और हमारे सामने चौथा प्लान आने वाला है । हमें इंडस्ट्रियल उत्पादन बढ़ाना है, खेती का उत्पादन बढ़ाना है । यह काम मजदूरों को करना होगा और उनको इंडस्ट्रियल उत्पादन बढ़ाना होगा । आपको इन दूकानों के सिलसिले में मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ । आपने कहा है कि गल्ले की दूकानों पर वे दाम लिख कर लटका दें और यह भी लिख कर लटका दें कि कितना उनके पास स्टाक है । अगर सस्ते ग्रनाज की दूकान वाला यह कहे कि आज तो मेरे पास गल्ला खत्म हो गया है, तीन दिन के बाद आयेगा तो कोई भी मजदूर ऐसा नहीं होगा जो तीन दिन तक बैठा रहे, इंतजार करता रहे । इसका भतलब यह हुआ कि उसके अन्दर यह भावना पैदा की जाए कि अधिक दाम दे कर वह उसी दूकानदार से

[श्री काशी नाथ पाण्डे]

बल्कि मैं चीज खरीदे। इस समस्या का भी कोई समाधान आपको निकालना होगा। ऐसी कोई मशीनरी होनी चाहिये जिससे पता लग सके कि दूकानदार के पास दरअसल में स्टॉक है या नहीं है। मैं मानता हूँ कि अगर आप इंस्पैक्टर ही इंस्पैक्टर रहेंगे और उनकी संख्या बढ़ा देंगे तो भी उचित मात्रा में सुपरविजन नहीं होंगा। आपको चाहिए कि आप स्थानीय तौर पर एक एक कमेटी इस तरह की बनायें जो कम से कम जब ऐसी शिकायतें आयें तो उनकी जांच पड़ताल कर सकें और इस चीज को मुरव्वाइज कर सकें और पता लगा सकें कि वास्तविक स्थिति क्या है।

बाद में जो आपकी पालिसी होगी, उसके बारे में तो मैं अभी कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता। लेकिन इस बहन मैं इन्होंने जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिनमें होलसेल व्यापारी हैं, उनका गलता आप अभी जब तक कर लें क्योंकि आज एमरजेंसी है। आज इस तरह की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो गई है जिसमें यह जरूरी हो गया है। अगर आपने इंडस्ट्रियल लेबर को गलता सहने भाव पर नहीं दिया तो आप यह आशा नहीं कर सकते हैं कि पूरा प्रोडक्शन फैक्ट्री के अन्दर हो। यह असम्भव है। इसके बिना ट्रॉबल्ज पैदा होंगी। जो मजदूर हैं, जिनके पास पैसा खरीदने के लिए नहीं है, जिन में कोई शक्ति नहीं है, उनको आप इससे भी सस्ती दर पर अगर अनाज दें तो भी वे खरीद नहीं सकेंगे। उनके पास इन्होंने नहीं है कि वे खरीद सकें। इस वास्ते सस्ती अनाज की दूकानें खोल देना ही काफी नहीं है। आप को कोशिश यह करनी होगी कि लाकल लेबल पर कोई काम उनके लिए आप तलाश करें। अगर इस तरह की कोई व्यवस्था आप कर दें तो भजदूरों को भजदूरी मिल जाएगी और वे गलता खरीद कर खा सकेंगे।

* खेती से कम्पुनिटी डिवेलपमेंट, एप्रिकलचर और इरोगेशन का बहुत निकट का सम्बन्ध है,

जैसा जैन साहब ने कहा है। बिना सिचाई के साधनों के एप्रिकलचर में चाहे जितना भी प्रयास आप कर्यों न करें, उन्नति नहीं हो सकती है, पैदावार नहीं बढ़ सकती है। इसी तरह से कम्पुनिटी डिवेलपमेंट में जो लोग काम करते हैं, वे भी इन बातों का विचार करते हैं, वे भी इस काम में किसानों की मदद करते हैं। इन तीनों विभागों में आज सामंजस्य नहीं हो पा रहा है। इसलिए प्रोडक्शन जिस तरह से हम चाहते हैं, नहीं हो पा रहा है। इन तीनों में सामंजस्य स्थापित करना होगा। अभी तो इसका इंतजाम हुआ है। लेकिन मैं खाद्य मंत्री जी से कूछ जानकारी कि फिर से वह कान्फेस बुलायें। ऐसा न हो कि जब कठिनाई हो, तभी कान्फेस बुलाई जाए। बल्कि पीरिया-डिकली कान्फेस बुलाई जानी चाहिये और देखा जाना चाहिये कि कहां पर बाटलनैक्स हैं, कहां पर डिफिकल्टीज हैं जिन को हटाने से पैदावार बढ़ सकती है। इस के अलावा कई और बातें थीं लेकिन जैन मैं ने आप से अर्ज किया कि अभी रबी की फसल तैयार नहीं हुई है। आप शायद यह अन्दाजा लगा रहे हैं कि हम देख लें कि बाजार में कितना गेहूँ आता रहे उस के बाद संचयें कि किस हद तक सप्लाई करना ठीक है। लेकिन मेरा सुझाव यह है कि आप को सल्लाई बढ़ानी चाहिये। अगर मार्केट आगे चला गया और आप को वापस मंगाना पड़े तो कोई हज़र नहीं है। लेकिन अगर बाजार के भावों में आग लग गई और आप का गेहूँ नहीं पढ़ूँचा तो बहुत से गरीब खाने से महरूम हो जायेंगे और बरबाद हो जायेंगे। उन्हें खाने के लिए गलता नहीं मिल सकेगा। इस लिये आप जो प्रिकाशन लेना चाहते हैं वह अभी से लें ताकि आप स्थिति का ठीक से मुकाबला कर सकें।

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, after what has been said by my predecessors on various aspects of the food problem confronting this country, I need not dilate upon the magnitude of the problem

that confronts us. It is no longer possible for anyone including the administration to deny that agriculture in our country is facing a continuous, chronic, unyielding crisis and that we were right when we commiserated and sympathised with the present Food Minister when he exchanged his portfolio of railways for the portfolio of food and agriculture. We knew from our experience that this country had to offer political condolence to many of his predecessors because of the built-in failures of agricultural policy in this country, and knowing as we do that he was a man of goodwill and a man of determination, we felt sorry for it, but, at the same time, we felt hopeful because agriculture was entrusted to him with a view, we hoped, to resuscitate it from the morass into which it had fallen. I am sorry to say that we have yet to meet with sufficient convincing evidence of the determination and of the capacity of the Government to deal with the large magnitude of agricultural problems which beset this country.

In particular, I would like to say that very little has been done and this, of course, is not merely applicable to the short period of office of the present Food and Agriculture Minister, and the real revolution in the field of agriculture has not yet reached our villages. Very little has been done in all these years to bring this revolution home to the Indian peasant. It may be said that it is a stock generalisation, but, nevertheless, compelling veracity cannot be denied in the context of agricultural deterioration in our country.

At the moment, our country has a very large population, (a segment of the population which is engaged in agricultural pursuits) which is probably much higher than is permissible for a developing economy. There is no denying the fact that there is excessive capacity and a surplus of manpower at the same time in the field of India Agriculture; the excessive capacity is there because the in-

put in Indian agriculture is not being realised in the form of adequate and proportionate output, compared to various other countries. There is also no denying the fact that there is greater manpower engaged in agriculture. With all this, we find nevertheless that Indian agriculture has not improved or has not made any headway. The imports of foodgrains have increased in all these years past, and we are nowhere nearer self-sufficiency than we were when the bold proclamation of 1950 was being made.

I would like to say that agriculture would continue to be bedevilled by such disappointing results and such a despairing situation as long as agriculture is held back by the unholy trinity of uncertainty in tenancy, of uncertainty in terms of the agricultural policy of the Government and of uncertainty in terms of the agricultural price policy of the Government. I feel that we are now entitled at this critical juncture in the history of our Republic to expect from the Agriculture Minister a comprehensive and bold statement in respect of the agricultural policy of this country. Therefore, I would confine myself not to past failures but to the prospects of progress which we expect the Food Minister to give us in this debate, and again when we come to discuss the Demands for Grants of his Ministry.

This discussion has been permitted especially by you, I assume, in view of the intensely alarming situation prevailing in the country. The eastern zone of our country is suffering from a dire rice scarcity and from a rising spiral of prices. We were told that the Government of the day proposes to deal with this problem by nationalising rice mills. This is something which we have been hearing for a long time. I am not yet convinced of the rationale of nationalisation of the rice mills, but, if the Government thinks that this is the only answer, it is tantamount to admission of failure and the admission of the fact that all its past assumptions were far short of the situation.

Shri Himatsingka (Godda): The remedy would be worse than the disease.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi: I agree with the hon. Member. I am saying this to prove and to demonstrate that the Government has never known its mind and has been fumbling and groping without a proper policy in the matter of food and agriculture.

We heard a great deal about the buffer stock created with the assistance of PL 480, but the buffer seems to have disappeared all of a sudden in the worst crisis that faced us recently. It is true, as my hon. friend Shri Bibhuti Mishra said, that natural factors and calamities have been adverse to us in the field of agricultural progress. But it is a poor compliment to our planning that these factors remain unmitigated, that the sway exercised by them on Indian agriculture is even today complete, that scientific progress and planning has made no impact on our agriculture. When I say this, I do not mean to say that some progress here and there has not been made. But I think that the progress is far short of the promises which we expect the Government to redeem if it is a Government worth the name and worth its salt.

We feel that in spite of all this tall claim and eloquent promises made, very little has been done for the improvement of Indian agriculture as such, though a few relief measures may have been taken for the relief of agriculturists here and there, particularly in the electoral season. I feel that in the field of desert development, the Government is guilty of completely neglecting the needs of the backward areas of the desert regions. There are vast lands in this country where the density of population does not bedevil us and where agriculture can make a real and substantial headway. That is a happy situation in a country where there has been relative

land scarcity. We could have contrived certain factors to bring all this land under cultivation; we could have done something in the desert regions to really give a fillip to agriculture as a whole. We could have developed grasslands in the desert regions.

I am sorry to say that after all these years not even sufficient pilot projects are in evidence which may be able to give us the necessary data about soil conditions, about animal husbandry, about the sociological habits of nomadic tribes, etc. There is nothing at all available today with the Government of India by way of dependable data. I feel that the Government should have had embarked on a project of compilation and collation of comprehensive data much earlier and I am sorry to say that it has not been done even today. I hope that in the desert regions, particularly, the Government would stand by its pledge to give these areas 250 tube-wells in Rajasthan, and to see that the situation of water scarcity, of fodder scarcity, of food scarcity into which they have fallen is not solved merely by wrong and misleading propaganda.

Large areas of West Rajasthan are today famine-stricken and in these areas, instead of giving an adequate measure of relief, the Government is proceeding to levy tax collections without any consideration whatever of the tragedy into which these people have fallen. I hope the Minister, when he replies to the debate, will be able to give us a satisfactory answer, particularly in regard to the plans for desert development and also with regard to famine-relief measures, in which the Government have been called upon to help the State of Rajasthan, the State of Punjab and the State of Gujarat.

15.31 hours.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the entire House is agreed that problem number one before the entire country is the food situation and more particularly, the rising prices. It is not only every citizen who is deeply concerned about the food situation and the abnormal rise in prices, but they have a heavy impact also on our Plan and on the Government. I think the Government should recognise that their enemy number one is rising prices, which are the source of discontent in the country, which have a very adverse effect on the implementation of the Plan and which imbalance the Government's calculations and budgets. We have got to be seized of the problem in that context. We are all concerned and if you will remember, the hon. Finance Minister, while reading out his budget speech, departed from the written text and instead of saying that he feels deeply concerned about rising prices, he said that he was almost scared by the raising prices. So, I hope Government will take note of the seriousness of this problem.

All the time we have been talking of freezing the price-line. But I do not know at what level we want to arrest the price-line, which has evaded all efforts all the time. During the last budget session, the Finance Minister gave us some hope. But all those hopes were falsified within two or three months of his eloquent speech indicating that the governmental efforts had borne some fruits. I think there is no greater mockery of the governmental efforts than the one which has been given by the rising prices.

Let us be clear where we want to peg down the prices. All the time, when we are saying, let us arrest the rise in prices, it conveys no meaning to any body in the country. We were talking about arresting the price when

wheat was selling at Rs. 15 a maund, Rs. 22 a maund, Rs. 25 a maund and today when it is selling at Rs. 32 a maund. I think it is absolutely meaningless. Let us understand it. I wish the Minister places a target before him and tries to bring down the price by at least 50 per cent of what it is today. This would be an absolutely realistic approach to the problem if he placed that target before him.

Shri P. R. Patel: What should be the price of wheat according to you?

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The minimum price fixed by the Government was Rs. 14 a maund. It was raised by Re. 1. Now it is Rs. 30 or Rs. 28 a maund. If the farmer is to get a minimum of Rs. 14 a maund and even if we allow Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 between the wholesaler and the retailer, it should not go beyond Rs. 18 a maund, which will mean that we must bring down the price by more than 50 per cent. This price is not going to the farmer. At least 75 per cent of the cultivators do not cultivate more than what they themselves consume; there is no question of selling for them. It is the remaining 25 per cent who sell, who have large holdings, and between them and the trade all this speculation is going on.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: It is a wrong statement that only 25 per cent sell the produce.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: It is not 25 per cent of the entire produce; I mean the number of producers. The entire produce which goes into the market may be much more. But the number of small producers, men with small holdings, is much larger. This is where we should take cognizance of the problem.

I quite agree that it is not only the Food Minister who is responsible for this matter. It is a very complex problem and the entire Government is responsible. The Finance Minister is walking into the House just at the

[Shri Harish Chandra Mathur]

correct time when I wish to make a reference to him. I also referred to him earlier. Definitely there are three or four factors which are responsible for high prices. Firstly, fiscal policy. The Finance Minister wanted to take some note of it in his budget speech and he showed a keen awareness of the entire situation. But still there is a considerable amount of inflation and there is absolutely no reason why we should not go some steps further forward to bring down this inflation. If the hon. Finance Minister, with his determination, goes out and makes the administrative set-up fully seized of the evasion of tax that is taking place at all levels, I am sure the gap which he has indicated in the budget will be more than fulfilled and he would have a surplus. We must see that there is no more inflation and no artificial money is pumped into the economy of the country.

Another which the hon. Finance Minister has to take note of is to stop speculation and hoarding. Therefore, he has to reduce the capacity of the hoarder to the minimum. It was the middle-man's loot or the traders' loot which was responsible for taking the price from Rs. 18 to Rs. 30. This traders' loot will definitely be there unless there is a strong regulation. This traders' loot resulted in the loot from the other side and shops were looted. The U.P. Minister said it was a natural consequence of the misbehaviour on the part of trade and commerce. In his Address to the Nation our President said that until and unless we take a complete note of the situation, a weak, inefficient and corrupt Government will no more be tolerated by the people. Otherwise, he stated, there would be certain other outlets, namely, the people will take the law into their own hands, looting shops and bringing down prices. There cannot be a greater condemnation of the Government than this and I do hope that the Government will give no opportunity in future to such other outlets. It should be the Government's firm

and strong regulation which will regulate the prices, rather than permitting the people to regulate the prices themselves.

Now, Sir, I think State Trading is no answer to this. If we can manage State trading, it would be much better. But I have absolutely no faith that we will be able to give a good account of ourselves if we resort to State trading. It will be only strong regulations and regulatory measures which will have to be taken into consideration.

We must declare the price and say that this is the minimum price for a particular commodity at which the Government will be able to take. We must also simultaneously see that when crops are over, when the foodgrains come in the market, at no time, under no circumstances, the prices are permitted to go beyond a particular limit —say, Rs. 18 or Rs. 19 a maund. The Government would be fully justified in seizing all hoards, taking possession of all stocks, at that particular price and no businessman, no trader, no stockist will be able to say that he had purchased those foodgrains—he never knew about the Government order—at Rs. 23 or Rs. 24. Today if you go and seize the stock and say that you will pay only Rs. 20 a maund you will not be justified because the trader or stockist will say that the selling price is Rs. 30 a maund because only a week back he purchased it at Rs. 25. If you just declare that nobody should sell at more than Rs. 18 a maund and give the fullest powers to your district level officers, to your collectors—their authority has been considerably weakened—and make them responsible to see that foodgrains for which the prices have been fixed by you are not sold at a higher price, I am sure they will be able to manage things. Instead of the Minister here taking cognizance of the whole thing, if you tell the collectors that they have the DIR rules, they have the regulatory powers and so on,

I am sure they will be able to control the price line.

I have only two more suggestions to make. There are two large cities which entirely upset the balance of the country. These are Bombay and Calcutta. Please feed them from your stores of stocks and imports. I would further suggest, if you are aiming at State trading, please stop the movement of foodgrains from one State to another. All that is surplus in a particular State should be taken over by the State Government and should be available with that State Government so that wherever there is scarcity you will be able to feed the people there with that, and there is no unnecessary movement of foodgrains from here to there and those people who have better purchasing power are not permitted to raise the price of various commodities as it is being done at the present moment.

My last point is, it is not only these regulatory measures which the Government has to take. The most important thing which is required for more production, which is the fundamental thing, and where the Government comes in, is the supply of various items like credit, fertiliser, implements and other things. I would suggest that the hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture visits each and every State, sits down with the officers who are concerned with all the facts of agriculture like co-operation, community development and every State, sits down with the Chief Minister that the distribution of portfolios and distribution of work both at the ministerial level and all other levels is so balanced and rational that all efforts of persons concerned with agriculture are grouped together, ask them what are their requirements to fulfil a particular target, meet their demands fully and make them responsible for fulfilling that target. Supposing he goes to Rajasthan and says that instead of 5 million tons they should produce 5½ million tons and ask them their

requirements for fulfilling that target. He should then supply their demands, meet their demands fully and make them responsible for giving the additional half a million tons. Those four or five officers concerned with agriculture should be made responsible and if they fail in that you should sack them. It is most unfortunate that in this country so far not one minister, not one officer has been sacked or has been taken to task for such a failure on his part.

I will illustrate my point. Gur is selling in Rajasthan at a very high rate. Why? Gur is there lying with the co-operatives. But only because the collector or some other officer has not been able to settle at what price gur should be sold gur is selling in the market at fantastically high price. Therefore, it is here where the administration comes in, and these administrative failures are in no small measure responsible for the high prices.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Lohia.

Shri P. R. Patel: Sir, I have moved one substitute motion. Will I get a chance?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I have also moved one substitute motion.

Mr. Speaker: Dr. Lohia.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया (फर्स्टचावाद) : पिछली बहस में सरदार साहब ने करमाया था कि जब अप्र मंत्रियों का सम्मेलन हो जायेगा तब वह बतला सकेंगे कि अनाज के दामों में उतार चढ़ाव के बारे में क्या फैसला हुआ है किन्तु मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि उन की तरफ से कोई जवाब और कोई नीति नहीं आई।

मैं ने यह सलाह दी थी कि कोई भी अनाज दो फसलों के बीच में किसी एक जगह

[डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया]

पर एक आने से या साढ़े १६ सेकंड़े से ज्यादा उतार चढ़ाव न हो। इस पर बहस करने का क्या तरीका है? व्यापारियों को गिरफ्तार या मन्त्रियों को गिरफ्तार करने की बहुत कम उम्मीद हम रखते हैं, अलबत्ता हम यह फैसला करें कि अनाज के दामों के बारे में क्या नीति बर्ती जाती है। फिर उस नीति को हासिल करने का कौन सा तरीका होता है उस पर बहस हो।

मुझे सब से पहले आप पर यही बात जोर से कहनी है कि अनाज के दाम बांधने के बारे में अब इस लोक सभा में कोई फैसला हो जाना चाहिए। जब मैं बांधने की बात कह रहा हूँ तो कोई ६ आने या ७ आने सेर बांधने की बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ। अगर कम से कम दाम ६ आने सेर का हो तो ज्यादा मेरा ज्यादा दाम उस चीज का ७ आने सेर होना चाहिए। ६ आने अंतर ७ आने के बीच में दामों का उतार चढ़ाव हो। इससे ज्यादा फर्क न हो। बिलकुल यह फैसला हो जाय।

मैं ने सरदार साहब के बयान को बहुत ध्यान से पढ़ा है। उस में मिर्फ़ एक बात है कि मैं दोषी नहीं हूँ, दोषी या तो प्रकृति है या व्यापारी है। हम हिन्दुस्तानियों की आदत हो गयी है कि हम द्विमेशा अपने दोष को किसी अंतर पर डाल दिया करते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि अब यह बात नहीं होनी चाहिए। दोषी कौन है यह बहस फ़िजूल है। अगर कोई मुझ से पूछे तो मैं कहूँगा कि सरकार तथा व्यापारी, मंत्री तथा कर्गाइपति या यह पब्के आड़तिया, यह लोग इसके दोषी हैं। यह बहस फ़िजूल है और इस बहस को छांड देना चाहिये। दामों के बांधने के बारे में कोई फैसला लिया जाय। एक तरफ़ किसान की लूट बंद हो और दूसरी तरफ़ उपभोक्ता की लूट बंद हो। इसके साथ साथ मैं यह भी कह दूँ कि किसान की उपज के दाम के बारे में 'जहां हम नीति का बंधन करें वहां कारखाने के दाम के बारे में जरूर फैसला करें क्योंकि दोनों

एक दूसरे के जुड़े हुए हैं। अब होता यह है कि कारखाने वाले अपनी वस्तुओं का दाम चढ़ा लिया करते हैं क्योंकि उनके पास साधन हैं, शक्ति है लेकिन किसान तकि इतना शक्तिवान नहीं है और इतना बिखरा हुआ है, इसलिए वह ऐसा कर नहीं पाता है। इसलिए मैं चाहूँगा कि कारखानों में बनी जरूरी चीजों के दाम भी लागत खर्च से डेढ़ गुने से ज्यादा किसी हालत में नहीं होने चाहिए। ऐसा मैं जरूरी चीजों के लिए कह रहा हूँ। अब ऐश्वर्य, शराब या सिप्रेट वर्सीरह के लिए मैं यह नहीं कह रहा हूँ। फैशन की चीजों के दाम ज्यादा हो सकते हैं। दामों के बारे में जब यह नीति अपना लेते हैं तब जा कर कहीं उपभोक्ता और किसान यह दोनों आदमी हो पाते हैं। इस नीति के अभाव में अ.ज किसान आदमी है ही नहीं। गाय से हम दूध ज्यादा विदा करते हैं, कब जब गाय को चारा दे देते हैं। लेकिन किसान को कहीं कोई चीज मिल ही नहीं पाती और उससे हम उम्मीद करते हैं कि वह पदावार बढ़ायेगा। इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि किसान को अगर मनुष्य के जैसा नहीं तो कम से कम गाय, बैल का जैसा ही जीवन हम दें।

मैं बतलाऊं कि सफेद दुनिया में जहां ३५०० कैलोरीज का औसत पड़ता है और पीली दुनिया में ३००० या २५०० हरारा का औसत पड़ता है वहां हिन्दुस्तान में मुश्किल से १७०० हरारा का ही औसत पड़ता है। अगर हिन्दुस्तान के २७ करोड़ आदमियों की तरफ़ ध्यान दिया जाय तो वह करीब ८०० या ६०० हरारा का ही जाकर औसत पड़ेगा। मैं बहुत अफसोस के साथ यह कह रहा हूँ कि अभी मैं राजस्थान और पंजाब के कुछ इलाकों में गया था। वहां मैंने कुछ लोगों को सड़क पर बैठे देखा। वहां पर अकाल का सा दृश्य दिखाई देने लग गया है। एक आदमी का चेहरा तो अभी कुछ दिनों मुझे याद रहेगा। वह बंदर जैसा

हो गया था । खाने को उसके पास कुछ भी नहीं था और वह बेचारा बेर बीन-बीन कर खा रहा था । अकाल की स्थिति अब अपने देश में आ गयी है । मुझे इस बात का भय है कि अगले त.न च.र महीनों में कुछ इलाकों में अकाल हो जायगा । यूं कमी और भूखमरी की हालत तो हमेशा ही रहती है, लेकिन इस बक्त बड़े पैमाने पर अकाल की स्थिति है ।

पैदावार बढ़ाने की बातचीत जब हमेशा हुआ करती है, तो उसके बारे में भी हम फैसला करें कि आखिर पैदावार केसे बढ़ायेंगे । जब कभी होता है, जब कभी कोई चर्चा उठती है, तो सरकार की ओर से कहा जाता है कि हम दो सौ ट्रियूबल खांद देंगे, हम पांच सौ यह कर देंगे । यह हिन्दुस्तान की खेती का खूबील उड़ाना है । हिन्दुस्तान की नीस करोड़ एकड़ खेती के बारे में सरकार की क्या नीति है, सरकार यह स्पष्ट करे । वह साफ़-साफ़ बहे कि: हमारी यह नीति है, इस पर हमें चलना है ।

मैं समझता हूं कि आज हिन्दुस्तान में सबसे बड़ी कमी यह है कि जवाबदेही बिल्कुल रह ही नहीं गई है । खास तौर से लोकशाही में जवाबदेही के बिना कोई काम-काज नहीं हुआ करता है—और खास तौर पर बहस में । बहस की जवाबदेही इस लोक सभा में बिल्कुल नहीं रह गई है । हमेशा सरकार को मोका मिल जाता है कि वह बिना कुछ नीति बताए हुए अपना कुर्ता जाड़ कर अलग चली जाये । उसको जवाबदेही के बन्धन में फांसना चाहिए । बतलाओ कि कितने समय के अन्दर-अन्दर तुम हिन्दुस्तान का पेट भर दोगे—मैं नहीं कहता कि ३,००० कैलोरीज के हिस.ब से, १५००, १७००, २०००, जो भी बांधो—कितने समय में तुम हिन्दुस्तान का पेट भर दोगे और किस ढंग पर भर दोगे ? अगर पिछली बातें भुला भी दें, तो अगले दो साल के लिए या तीन साल के लिए बक्त दे दिया जाये, ताकि सरकार पर यह जिम्मेदारी

हो जाये कि खास ढंग पर, एक नीति को अपना कर, एक बंधे हुए समय के अन्दर अन्दर वह हिन्दुस्तान का पेट भर देगी । और अगर उस समय तक वह न हो, तो फिर उसके बाद अगर सरकार ह्यादार है—मैं सिर्फ़ बोलने के लिए बोल रहा हूं—, तो उसे हट जाना चाहिए ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : हया नहीं है ।

डा० राम भनोहर लोहिया : लेकिन वह तो होता नहीं है । असल बात है कि फिर नोःशाही में जनता की भी जिम्मेदारी हो जाती है कि वह बहस की जवाबदेही को समझा करे । जब एक ढंग और एक नीति से काम नहीं हो पाया, तो फिर दूसरे ढंग और दूसरी नीति की तरफ जनता को चलना चाहिए ।

इसलिए सब से बड़ी बात तो यह हो गई है कि हिन्दुस्तान की खेती की पैदावार को बढ़ाने के लिए सब से पहले निःसान को इन्सान बनाना है । आज निःसान खा नहो रहा है । उसके हाथ की मसलियां पिघल चुकी हैं । वह पैदावार बढ़ा नहीं सकता है, नई जमीनें तोड़ी नहीं जा रही हैं । किसान में इतना समर्थ्य नहीं है कि वह नई जमीन तोड़े, साल दो साल तक अपने घर से खाए और फिर अगाज की पैदावार बढ़ाए । नई जमीन को तो खाली सरकार तोड़ सकती है । और भेरा मतलब कोई दस बीस लाख एकड़ से नहीं है, करोड़ डेढ़ करोड़ एकड़ मे है ।

उसी तरह से जो पुरानी खेती है, उसको सिंचाई का पानी देने के लिए ज़रूरी है कि कोई एक बड़ी योजना ले लो, कोई एक चीज़ ले लो—जैसे मैंने एक दफा यहीं अपने एक भाषण में कहा था कि काम से काम दो तीन करोड़ एकड़ जमीन हिन्दुस्तान में जलमग्न रहा करती है । सरकार के जो वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान करने वाले हैं, जो वैज्ञानिक मन्त्रालय

[डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया]

हैं, उनको यह काम सौप दिया जाये कि यह जो तीन चार करोड़ एकड़ जमीन हर साल जलमग्न रह करती है, इसको किसी तरह से उस से छुटकारा दिलाया जाये। ताकि खेती की पैदावार बढ़े, या बाकी और जमीन को जितना भी पानी दिया जा सके, उसकी व्यवस्था की जाये।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: इस सिलसिले में आपको याद दिलाऊं कि यहां पर हमारी किसी बात का जवाब नहीं दिया जाता है। आपने बहुत कृपा की है और कहा है कि आप मंत्री को दबायेंगे कि वह मारी बातों का जवाब दें।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: क्या मैंने "दबायेंगे" कहा था?

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: हम यूरोप से सब चीजें सीख रहे हैं। अंग्रेजी में जो एक शब्द होता है, उसी का मैंने उच्चा कर दिया। "दबायेंगे" का मतलब यह नहीं है कि कोई शारीरिक ढंग से आप उनको दबायेंगे, बल्कि आप मानसिक ढंग से दबायेंगे। आप उनसे जवाब दिलवायें।

१९४७, १९४८ या १९४९ के आसपास, जो दुनिया में सिचाई का सब से बड़ा विद्वान था, उससे इस सरकार ने राय ली थी। उस विद्वान ने बताया था कि बड़ी सिचाई से दस, पन्द्रह संकड़ा से ज्यादा हिन्दुस्तान की जमीन को पानी नहीं मिल सकता और अस्सी, पचासी संकड़ा जमीन को छोटी सिचाई से ही पानी मिलेगा। लेकिन उस पर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है और पन्द्रह बरस से हम हमेशा इस मामले के दबाव में सड़ते चले जा रहे हैं। आखिर अब कहीं कहीं नीति तो होनी ही चाहिए।

मुझे बातें तो और भी कहनी थीं, लेकिन मैं तो अपना समय बांध कर चलता हूँ। असल में तो यह श्री मनी राम बागड़ी का

सवाल है। वह इस पर ज्यादा जोर से बोलेंगे, हालांकि स्पष्ट बात है कि मैं खुद बोलना चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: एक बात तो उलट गई। मुझे बताया गया था कि पांच मिनट आप लेंगे और दस मिनट बागड़ी साहब लेंगे। अब आपने दस मिनट ले लिए, तो उनको कितना समय मिलेगा?

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: दस मिनट तो मैं फौरन बैठ जाता हूँ। मैं थोड़ा सा अर्ज कर वूँ कि अगर मात्र ही मिनट मनज्जे नों अच्छा होगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप कहें कुछ और मेरे ममज्जे कुछ और?

Shri P. R. Patel: We are discussing the food situation perhaps once in every session. And what do we gain by it? My view is that it creates psychological scarcity in the country. Every such discussion creates a psychological scarcity in the country and whatever scarcity is there is increased. Instead of having a discussion on the shortage of food I am of the opinion that the discussion should be on what comes in the way of increased production of food, and that would be the proper way of solving the food problem. Reference has been made to the fact that the prices have gone high. Undoubtedly, the present prices are high. But it is not so high as to put us into trouble. I would refer in this connection to page 28 of *The Economic Survey, 1963-64*. There, we find that taking base 100 for 1952-53, the index of wheat price on April, 1961 was 90.0, on January 26, 1963, it was 88.6, on March 30, 1963, it was 86.0, on October 26, 1963, it was 94.6, and on January 25, 1964, it went up to 113. So, the increase is there. But I would ask one question. When the price of wheat came down to 90, was there anybody to shed a drop of tear for the agriculturist? That question was not there at all.

I would ask whether during the last ten years or so there has been no increase in the price of crude oil used by the cultivators for irrigation. The price has almost doubled. What is there in the Finance Minister's speech to give relief to him? Has he given any relief to the cultivators? I would ask the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture whether he proposes to give any relief to the agriculturist who uses crude oil for irrigation in order to have more crop. I think he is not also going to give any relief. The prices of other items like cement, iron etc. also have gone high. Despite that, the price of wheat came down from what it was in 1952-53, by more than 11 points, and later on, it came down by 16 points. And yet nothing was done in the matter. I would ask whether that is the way to encourage cultivators or enthuse the cultivators to produce more. I think that the whole policy is defective. I have referred only to wheat, and I would not refer to rice in detail because there too, the same arguments will hold good.

So my humble submission is this. Prices have gone high—this is the only cry raised by interested persons. Undoubtedly, wholesale prices have gone high. But the cultivators are getting much less than the wholesale prices. So something should be done. What should be done to have more production? My view is that the cultivators should be guaranteed a remunerative minimum price. But that is not done, even though an assurance was given in the Third Plan that that would be done. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why he did not implement that assurance.

Shri D. S. Patil: That is not the function of this Ministry.

Shri V. P. R. Patel: If it is not the function of this Ministry, then do away with the Agriculture Ministry. If the Agriculture Minister is not to fight for the agriculturists, do away with his Ministry. Here an assurance was given. But nothing has been done.

We want more production. We want to check prices. So our discussion is confined only to having more production and checking prices and not taking practical steps to that end. I would suggest that we must fix a remunerative minimum price. Take, for example, wheat. My hon. friend said that Rs. 14 will do. I do not want Rs. 14 or Rs. 12 or Rs. 16. I want a remunerative price. The Tariff Commission fixes the prices of manufactured goods. Let any such Tariff Commission fix the remunerative price for wheat and other commodities. I do not want more; I do not want less.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf (Nominated—Jammu and Kashmir): These commodities do not come under tariff.

16 hrs.

Shri P. R. Patel: I know. But he does not hear me. Let a Commission do it. What I want to say is that once we fix a remunerative price, let that price be given to the cultivator. At the same time, let us fix another price which should be for the consumer. Suppose Rs. 14 or Rs. 16 is fixed as the producer's price, the consumer price should be fixed at Rs. 16 or Rs. 18, allowing Rs. 2 as profit for the middleman. That is the way of solving the problem. Unless you give a remunerative price to the cultivators, there will not be more production. So long as there is not more production, the food problem will always be there and we shall have to depend on imports from abroad. This is a big country. If we have to depend on imports from abroad, it is a disgrace to us. My view is that if the cultivators are given a remunerative price, we can double our production. But proper attempts are not being made in that direction.

When we talk of production, we want to meet the requirements of the country. Let us consider it the other way. Let us think in terms of the requirements of the cultivators. If

[Shri P. R. Patel]

we look to the requirements of the cultivators, they will look to the requirements of the country. But we do not do so. The cultivator wants certain things. But do we supply them to him? I tell you, Sir, that for a single bag of cement, he will have to send his application, go there, come back and again go there. This is just for a single bag of cement. In this way, the cultivator is put to so many difficulties.

I will give two or three instances. Very recently, I had been to villages. I went to a village. Thol of Kadi Taluka. There is an irrigation tank at Thol. But there is no canal. So if a cultivator half a mile away wants water, he can take it if the water is allowed to flow through all the fields coming in between. Even when water has overflowed the tank, the cultivators would be required to pay the government dues. After all, the water has overflowed the tank. I saw a case in Chandrasan, of Kadi taluka. Because of heavy rain, the tank overflowed and because of that, the Government says, 'You pay our charges because the water has come from the tank'. Is this the way of helping the cultivators. The people of Chandrasan have stopped growing paddy. They say, 'If this is the way of the Government, why grow paddy?' Is this the way of helping the cultivators?

I had been to Vihar. There is a tubewell. Government has spent money on it. Then canals were dug. The engine and pump were installed. Everything was ready and people expected that water would come out of it. But the Government was pleased to remove the engine and pump and place it somewhere else. Is this the way of helping the cultivators.

These are small things which count much. I hope this Government would write to the State Governments to do something which would rather

help the cultivators and increase production.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Subodh Hansda—absent. Shri Azad.

श्री भागवत शा आजाद : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे इस बात का दुःख है कि आज तक हिंदुस्तान के आजाद होने के सोलह वर्ष पश्चात् भी यद्यपि समय समय पर यह बात बही जाती है कि इस देश के किसान की सुविधा को ध्यान में रखते हुए, इस देश की कृषि नीति बनाई जा रही है, लेकिन मैं अन्ततोगत्वा इस नीति पर पहुंचा हूं कि यह बात बिल्कुल गलत है।

इस देश में ८० प्रति शत किसान रहते हैं। लेकिन यह सरकार उनका प्रतिनिधित्व नहीं कर पाती क्यों कि यहां पर उम राय को अधिक महत्व दिया जाता है जो किसानों की राय नहीं होती है। यह सरकार इस देश के बैस्टिड इंटरेस्ट्स की राय से चलती है जिन की उन्नति में वह इस देश की उन्नति देखती है। मैं इसलिये कह रहा हूं कि अभी मैं इस मद्द के कुछ दिन पूर्व अपने प्रदेश का, अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र का तीन सप्ताह का दौरा कर के आ रहा हूं। लोगों ने मुझ से इस दौरे में दो प्रश्न पूछे। एक तो यह पूछा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी का स्वास्थ्य कैसा है जिस का मैंने यह उत्तर दिया कि उसमें सुधार हो रहा है। दूसरा प्रश्न यह पूछा कि चीजों के दामों में जो वृद्धि हो रही है, इस का क्या कारण है। इस प्रश्न का मैं कोई उत्तर नहीं दे सका हूं क्योंकि इसका कोई उत्तर मेरे पास नहीं था। इसका एक कारण यह भी था कि फूड डिवेट के नाम पर आप जो समय देते हैं, उससे हम लोगों को यह विश्वास हुआ करता था कि जब हम इस पर बहस करते हैं तो सम्भवतः मंत्रियों पर ही नहीं बल्कि अक्सर जो कि उनके पीछे यहां बैठे रहते हैं, कुछ असर पड़ेगा। लेकिन मेरी यह निश्चित धारणा है कि उन पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ता है। यह जो हमारा अधिकार

बा और यह जो तरीका था इस सरकार की नीति पर दबाव डालने का, सम्भवतः वह अधिकार भी हम से अलग होता मालूम पड़ रहा है। इसका कारण क्या है, इसको आप देखें।

इसी दिल्ली में पिछले दिसम्बर में गेहूं का भाव १८ रुपये मन था जोकि आज बढ़कर २६ और ३१ रुपये मन हो गया है। यह क्यों हुआ, इसको आपको देखना चाहिये था। मैं जानता हूँ कि जब नई फसल गेहूं की आ जायगी तो सरकार निश्चय ही आंकड़े से आएगी जिन के अनुसार वह कहेगी कि इस लाख मन गेहूं की उपज कम हो गई थी, इस लिये दाम बढ़ गए थे। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ और वह बतायें कि पिछले दिसम्बर में जब गेहूं का भाव १८ रुपये मन था तो नई फसल जब आने की सब कोई सम्भावना नहीं थी तो क्यों एक सप्ताह के अन्दर अन्दर इसी दिल्ली शहर में २८ रुपये मन गेहूं बिकने लगा? जब इसका जवाब पूछा जाता है तो कह दिया जाता है कि चौदह रुपये मन गेहूं खाओ जो अमरीकी है और जो देश में हर दूकान से मिलता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय, उनके उपमंत्री महोदय तथा संसदीय सचिव से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपके घरों में भी चौदह रुपये मन वाला गेहूं खाया जाता है क्या? आपके परिवार वाले क्या जाते हैं? मैं तो इसे गोरक्ष की बात मानता हूँ कि इस देश की जनता और इस देश के जोगों को अपने ही देश के गेहूं से अधिक प्यार है बनिस्बत पी० एल० ४८० के गेहूं के। क्यों कि हालांकि जब आये तो उसने कहा, अपने स्टेटमेंट में, कि पी० एल० ४८० के अन्दर जो गेहूं इस देश में लाया जा रहा है उस का असर इस देश के गेहूं के उत्पादन पर बड़ा बुरा पड़ा। चाहे हमारे भूतपूर्व खाद्य मंत्री थी पाटिल ने आर्टिफिशियल रेस्प्रेशन दिया हो, हमारे वर्तमान खाद्य मंत्री माने या न मानें,

लेकिन अमरीकी वैज्ञानिक इस बात को मानता है। कारण यह है कि हम ने अपनी कृषि नीति को उस रास्ते पर नहीं चलाया जिस रास्ते के अनुसार इस देश के किसानों का फायदा हो। यह टीक कहा हमारे साथी श्री पटेल ने कि आप इस देश के किसानों की बात नहीं देखते। आज जब कंज्युमर्स या उपभोक्ता, जो बहुत संगठित हैं, हल्ला करते हैं तो यहां फूड डिवेट होता है। आप अन्दाज कीजिए कि अगर एक मन धान का दाम १० रु होता है, तो उसका द्व्यांगा चावल का दाम लगा लोजिए यानी पन्द्रह रुपये मन हो सकता है। उस पर भी आप ४ या ५ रु मन मुनाफा लगा लीजिये, उस बा अधिक से अधिक दाम २० रु मन होना चाहिये। लेकिन वह बात नहीं है। हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में किसान अपना धान ८ रु मन बेचता है, विहार का किसान १५ रु ० मन बेचता है। वह धान मिडलमन के पास जमा होता है और वह उपभोक्ता को २० रु मन बेचता है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ सरकार के यिशेपज्नों से और सरकार के मंत्री जी से कि कहां है उन की दलील, कहां है उन का सिद्धांत, कहां है उन की बुद्धिमत्ता, जिस के आधार पर वे किसानों को तो कम से कम दाम देते हैं और उन से बिकवा कर के विचरणियों के हाथ में इस देश की सारी चीजें सौंप देते हैं, जो कि उपभोक्ता को ३० रु ० मन पर देते हैं। इस का कारण यह नहीं है कि देश में खाद्यान्न की उपज कम हो रही है। खाद्यान्न की कमी क्यों हो रही है, इसका भी क्या आप ने कभी देखा। एक तरफ तो जो उपज होती है उसका उचित रूप से उपयोग नहीं होता है दूसरी तरफ खाद्यान्न की कमी क्यों हो रही है, इसलिये कि उस को बढ़ाने के लिये कोई विचार नहीं किया जाता है।

अभी श्री माथुर ने बतलाया कि वे स्टेट ट्रेडिंग को इस गडबड़ी का उचित उपाय नहीं समझते। मान लिया जाय कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग इसका टीक उपाय नहीं है क्योंकि हम देखते

[श्री भगवत ज्ञा आजाद]

है कि कहीं कहीं पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग्स में गलतियाँ हैं, उस में एफिशिएट्सी नहीं है। इसे मान लीजिए तो मैं इस बात को मानता हूँ कि पटेल साहब ने और माथुर साहब ने या मेरे दोस्त लंगिहिया साहब ने बड़े सुन्दर ढंग से कहा कि आप इस देश के ८० प्रतिशत किसानों के लिये जो रेस्युनरेटिव कास्ट प्राइस हो उस को फिक्स कर दीजिए। इस के साथ ही साथ जो उपभोक्ता हैं उन को उचित मूल्य पर गलता मिलना चाहिये। जहाँ किसानों से १५ रु० मन धान लिया गया वहाँ पर १५ रु० का डियांडा समझ लीजिए तो साढ़े २२ रुपया, या इस से भी एक, दो या तीन रुपया अधिक ले लीजिये। अगर उपभोक्ता को २३ रुपये मन चावल मिले तो फिर आप जाहे उसकी ट्रेडिंग जहाँ कर दीजिए। मुझे नहीं चाहिए स्टेट ट्रेडिंग। लेकिन क्या यह करेंगे आपा आप ऐसा नहीं करेंगे। मैं जानता हूँ कि इस का कोई उपाय नहीं है, सिवा इस के कि स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कीजाय।

हमारी सरकार के बहुत से वक्तायों ने, कांग्रेस संस्था के बड़े बड़े महारायियों ने भुवनेश्वर कांग्रेस में कहा कि हमारे देश का ऐटमनिस्ट्रेशन तैयार नहीं है, पब्लिक ओपीनियन तैयार नहीं है। किस पब्लिक ओपीनियन की बात वे करते हैं, आखिर। हो सकता है कि बिड़ला की ओपीनियम न हो। बिड़ला की ओपीनियन आज सब पर बहुत हावी है। इस में शक नहीं है, क्योंकि बहुत कम लोग बोलते हैं उन के खिलाफ। उन्हीं के सारे अखबार हैं, उन का ही सारा पैसा है, सारी चीज उनकी ही लगती है। लेकिन एक बात अवश्य है कि इस देश की जनता की आवाज अमरा: तीव्र से तीव्रतर और तोव्र से तीव्रतम होनी जायेगी, जिस का रूप यह है कि जब कलकत्ते के बाजारों में चावल नहीं मिलता है या मछलियों की दर बढ़ जाती है तो आर्थिक नीति के इतिहास में वहाँ पर कंज्यूमर का रेजिस्टेंस का रूप

देखने में आता है। उस रेजिस्टेंस का जो रूप देखने में आता है वह इस गणतन्त्र के लिये बड़ा भयंकर है। मैं इसे नहीं चाहता हूँ। लेकिन मैं भी अपने क्षेत्र में, अपनी आख के सामने विचौलियों को या सरकार की अयोग्य शासन व्यवस्था को या सरकार के किसी अंग को जब किसानों से कम दाम पर खरीदने आया देखता हूँ, तो मेरा खून भी उबलता है और संभवतः मैं भी कहूँगा कि इसे लूट लो। हालांकि मैं यह नहीं कहूँगा कि लूट लो, लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि सम्भवतः मैं कह दूँ, क्योंकि मैं अपने सब से बड़े लम्बे लेकिन सज्जन खाद्य मंत्री से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप को चीजों को कीमतें . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर आर्डर। इस के कई माने समझे जा सकते हैं। सब से बड़े मत कहिये, यह मुनासिब बात नहीं है कि किसी के कद के बारे में, किसी की पंशिया या शक्ति के बारे में कुछ कहा जाय।

श्री भगवत ज्ञा आजाद : यह तो साधारण ट्रिक्स है। अगर आप कहते हैं कि नहीं सम्भव है तो मैं वापस ले लेता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं अपना तजुर्बा बतलाता हूँ। मैं ने शास्त्री जी के कद के बारे में एक बार जिक्र किया था, मुझे बहुत लम्बी ज्ञाड़ मिली थी।

श्री भगवत ज्ञा आजाद : अध्यक्ष महोदय में इस लिये कह रहा हूँ कि इस देश में खाद्याश की दरें उतनी ही उँची होती जा रही हैं . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : किसी के कद, किसी की धेशिया या किसी की शक्ति या ऐसी चीजों पर कभी कुछ नहीं कहना चाहिये।

श्री भगवत ज्ञा आजाद : अध्यक्ष महोदय मेरी ओर से इस में कहीं भी कोई व्यंग का पुठ नहीं था, लेकिन आगर आप समझते हैं

कि उस में व्यंग था तो में उसे सहर्ष वापस लेता हूँ ।

मैं समझता हूँ कि इस देश में चीजों के मूल्य इतने बढ़ते जा रहे हैं अगर कोई भी कितना ही छोटा हो जाय मैं समझता हूँ कि वह बहुत ऊचे हैं ।

अन्त में मैं इस बात पर आता हूँ कि न तो जितनी उपज इस समय हो रही है उस के बटवारे का, वितरण का उचित प्रबन्ध है और न ही इस देश में खाद्यान्न की उत्पत्ति को बढ़ाने के लिये ही कोई उपाय किये जा रहे हैं । आप किसी भी चीज को ले लीजिये । अभी श्री विभूति मिश्र ने कहा, और मैं भी कहता हूँ, इस देश के किसान बिना भाषण के, बिना जापानी मेथड के बिना किसी खाद के इस देश की उपज को २५ प्रतिशत बढ़ा देंगे, अगर उन को समय पर पानी मिल जाए । ऐसी बहुत सी योजनाएँ हैं जहां बिना किसी परिश्रम के, कम लागत पर, बिना किसी चीज के बनाये हुए उपज बढ़ा सकती है । लेकिन वह नहीं हो रहा है । खाद समय पर नहीं पहुँचती । जो डेवेलपमेंट के रास्ते में ब्लाक्स बन गये हैं, उन के द्वारा जो केंडिट दिया जा रहा है वह भी उन्हें नहीं मिल पाता । इस लिए आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि कृषि मंत्री जी इस देश में फैट केंडिट केसिलिटीज का प्रबन्ध करें । जो अब २०० करोड़ है उसे इस देश में १,००० करोड़ होना चाहिये । इसी तरह इस देश में पब्लिक सेक्टर में स्माल, मिडल और हाई साइज के ट्रैक्टर बनाये जायें । इन चीजों को किया जाए । तो सम्बतः यहां पर कृषि का उत्पादन बढ़ा सकता है । जो आज हो रहा है उस का वितरण उचित होना चाहिये ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आशा करता हूँ कि अभी भी समय नहीं बीता है और सरकार इन बातों को कर के दामों को गिराने का प्रयत्न करेगी और सफल होगी

Shri Muthu Gounder (Tirupattur): Sir, we discussed this subject more or
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less in detail about two months back. At that time also, the same reason, adverse seasonal conditions, were given for shortfall in food production. Be it five years ago or 10 years ago or 100 years ago, the adverse seasonal conditions were always the prominent feature of recurring feature. In some parts of the country at least, such conditions had always existed and they should not be the excuse for the shortfall in food production. After fifteen years of rule, if you are not able to handle these things properly and produce at least enough of food for the consumers, you should admit frankly your failure in the food front.

In Tajore district of Madras State there was a disastrous cyclone in last December; it damaged more or less fifty per cent of the standing paddy crops, ripe for harvest; at some places 75 per cent of the crops were damaged. If there was 50 per cent damage in Punjab, I think the State Government gives full remission of land revenue whereas in Tanjore district they are still contemplating. A ryot who cultivates paddy in Tanjore especially is not sympathetically viewed either by the State Government or by the Central Government. Whatever is suggested either from that side or from this side, if you are serious in bringing down the prices, or, if you are serious about producing more, then, we have to produce more at less cost. That will be the only salvation. Fair price shops or fair distribution will be only secondary. Therefore, we have to produce more.

As far as wheat is concerned, our Government is able to get imported wheat from some foreign countries. But rice is not available everywhere. The rice market is tight; in the international market, the rice is tight. Further, every Indian who is accustomed to take rice is accustomed to take only the Indian rice and that too fine though not superfine rice. It is not only hard to get imported rice but it is very hard to consume it. Therefore, the only way is to produce rice.

[Shri Muthu Gounder]

About wheat, we can import it. We have got no other way but to produce more, as far as paddy is concerned. So, we have to produce more but then produce more at lesser cost. Then only we can give it to the consumer at a reasonable price. That is the problem, and we have to study the things only after accepting this in principle.

Now, to produce paddy is always a costly affair. I have taken some statistics from three or four districts in my State—Tanjavur, Tiruchirapalli, Salem and Coimbatore. The cost of cultivation is rising or increasing by Rs. 50 per year per acre of paddy field. This is more or less a peculiar phenomenon there, and I find this increase everywhere there. We have to put down the cost of cultivation. The Tanjavur ryot is not able to change over to other crops. He cannot cultivate other crops; he cannot have rotation of crops because he is not able to get water for all the 12 months of the year. Just like other ryots, he cannot cultivate sugarcane or plantains because for cultivating these crops he may require water for all the 12 months. He is hard hit on account of having to produce paddy crop only. Other ryots just like Shri Karuthiruman in Coimbatore district or like me or other persons of other districts, are able to have commercial crops and are able to get something.

16.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

But the ryots or the landowners who are cultivating only paddy, especially in the Tanjavur district, are not able to cope up with their agriculture. Therefore, if at all we do anything materially, we should see that the cost of cultivation comes down. For that, I want to suggest something instead of criticising too much. I want to suggest one or two things. I think the Government will be glad to implement some of them. It is not diffi-

cult to remit completely or do away completely with land revenue as far as paddy field is concerned. No land revenue should be collected for paddy fields which is under paddy cultivation for ever. Then, the Government should supply fertilisers at half the cost. It is already supplying pesticides and insecticides at half the cost. There is no harm in supplying fertilisers to the paddy cultivators at least at half-cost. It is possible, and the Government also has got enough funds. Instead of spending their funds in various ways by issuing booklets and by giving lectures, it is better to see that that money goes direct to the farmer, because the farmer is getting much less remuneration on account of the cultivation of paddy. He has got no other alternative but to cultivate paddy. Therefore, we have to help him in this way. As far as the ryots who are cultivating paddy are concerned, we must help them by giving them pumping sets either run by electricity or by oil-engines. We have to give at least Rs. 50 per acre of paddy cultivation. It is no wrong. The price of diesel oil has gone up like anything, and the cost of electric motors and spare-parts has gone high. Therefore, there is every reason to give a paddy cultivator at least Rs. 50 in cash as a dole or as a grant. We should have to give him some incentive. Otherwise, he cannot pull on. He has already begun to take to other commercial crops. Therefore, to give encouragement to him to cultivate paddy crop, we have to do that.

We suffer a lot in getting cement. We dig wells in low parts and we take the water to upper fields by constructing an overhead tank and through cement pipes, for which we require hundreds of bags of cement. The State Government and district authorities are very liberal in giving cement for construction of luxurious houses, but they do not give enough cement to the farmers. They should give enough cement to the ryots. Only by

doing all these things, we can get better yield and produce more, thus lessening the price to the consumer, who is already hard-hit. The cost of cultivation is very high and it should be brought down. These are some of the ways by applying which we can bring down the cost of cultivation.

श्री शिव नारायण : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, फूड कन्ट्रोल का प्रधन बड़ा गम्भीर है। मैं साफ माफ कहना चाहता हूँ कि फूड के मामले में बहुत बड़ी गड़बड़ी है। देश के सामने बढ़त से फूड मिनिस्टर गुजरे हैं लेकिन श्री राफी अहमद किंदवर्ई एक मिसाल कायम कर गए। मैं फूड मिनिस्टर माहत्र में कहना। चाहता हूँ कि वह फूड कन्ट्रोल को खत्म कर दे, क्योंकि उनकी जो आफियियल मैडिनरी है वह ठीक काम नहीं करती है। उन्मीलिये आपकी स्कीमें बेकार हो जाती है।

मैं किसान हूँ। मैं बताना हूँ कि हमारा फायदा नव हो सकता जब आप हमारा अनाज आज कलकत्ता में पहुँचाते जाहां कि तीस रुपये का भाव है। मुझे ताज़ज़ब होता है कि एक महीने के अन्दर १८ और २० रुपये से तीस रुपये का भाव कैसे होगा। आप किसान से गल्ला १५ रुपये और १८ रुपये मन लेते हैं और आज भाव इतना ज्यादा है। इसका लाभ किसान को नहीं मिलता। आप गल्ला लीजिए और उचित भाव पर बेचिए। बताया गया कि दो मिलियन और कुछ प्वाइंट्स की कमी मौसम की वजह से पैदावार में हुई। लेकिन आप का बफर स्टाक कहां गया, आज मारकेट में हाहाकार मचा दुआ है।

मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि आज देश में जो २० पर सेंट बुद्धि जीवी समाज है वह पनप रहा है। कैपीटलिस्ट और पूँजी पति मौज कर रहे हैं और जो ८० पर सेंट किसान और मजदूर हैं, जो सड़कों पर रिक्षा चलाता है, उसकी दशा पर आज सरकार के

कान पर जूँ नहीं रोंगती। मैं उनकी मुसीबत देख कर आया हूँ। हम सही बात कहते हैं तो उम पर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता। गवर्नरमेट अनाज पर कन्ट्रोल नहीं कर सकती तो कंट्रोल को छोड़ दे। ऐसा न किया तो दो माल बाद आपको इलेक्शन में पता चलेगा। हम जिस बात को कहते हैं तो उम पर अमल नहीं किया जाता। लेकिन जो कम्युनिस्ट और डा० लोहिया कहते हैं उम पर अमल किया जाता है। हमने देखा कि हाउस में दो कंट्राडिक्टरी मटेटमेट दिये गये। प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा कि गरीब लोगों की आमदानी १५ आने है, नन्दा जी ने कहा कि माड़े मात आने हैं। डाक्टर लोहिया ने कहा कि माड़े तीन आने हैं। अगर जार आने भी आमत मान लिया जाय तो भी कहना होगा कि देश में बड़ी गरीबी है।

उम गरीबी को दूर इस तरह किया जा सकता है कि आप जर्मान में दो फसलें ले। हमको पानी दीजिए। हमको खाद दीजिए। हम आपकी पैदावार बढ़ा मिलते हैं। आपके जो विलेज नेविल बरकर और डेवेलपमेंट के आफिसर हैं ये बेकार हैं, इन को खत्म कीजिए और जो रुपया बचे उसको मिलिटरी में दीजिए। और उम में से कुछ किसान को दीजिए। मैं कहता हूँ कि अगर एक गांव में आप सिंचाई के लिये एक हजार रुपया दे दें तो ड्यॉडी पैदावार हो सकती है। मेरे निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में साड़े सात लाख की आबादी है। अगर आप एक गांव को एक एक हजार रुपया सिंचाई के लिये दें तो पैदावार ड्यॉडी हो सकती है। इतने पालियामेंट के सदस्य हैं आप उनका इस्तेमाल कीजिए। लेकिन हम जो बात कहते हैं उसके इस कान से सुन कर दूसरे कान से निकाल दिया जाता है।

हमारी चीफ मिनिस्टर आर्यों थी। उन्होंने कहा कि फूड मिनिस्टर ने जो बयान दिया उसके आंकड़े सही नहीं हैं। आपके अफसरान आपको धोखे में रखते हैं और आप को गलत आंकड़े देते हैं। ऐसे अफसरों को चेंज कीजिए। या तो वे सही काम करें नहीं तो

[श्री शिव नारायण]

उनको हटाइए। सही बात तो आज यह है कि आज अफसरों का बोलबाला है। जो वह मिनिस्टरों को लिख कर दे देते हैं वह उम्मीदों को मान लेते हैं। मैं बहुत साफ कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर सरकार जिदा रहना चाहती है तो वह ज़रूरी चीजों की बढ़ती हुई कीमतों को रोके। सरकार किसानों के खाद्यान्न के भाव दूसरी आवश्यकता चीजों के भावों को ध्यान में रख कर फिक्स करे और यह देखें कि वह भाव उचित हों और वास्तव में वह कीमत किसानों को मिले भी। आप भले ही तीस रुपये मन का भाव रखें लेकिन यह देखें कि किसान को वह दाम मिलें। वह किसान जो गरमी, बरसात और कड़कती मर्दी में खेत में हल चलाता है, कुएं आदि से पानी खीच कर सिचाई करता है और देश के लिये खाद्यान्न मुलभ करता है आज खुद उसके बच्चों को भर पेट खाना नसीब नहीं होता है। और तन ढकने को कपड़ा मिल पाता है। आज किसानों को उनकी जरूरत के लिए सीमेंट नहीं मिलता है। आज भी गांवों में मैं घम कर आ रहा हूँ और मैंने वहां देखा है कि सीमेंट ब्नैक में मिलता है। प्रधान साहब ने ले लिया और बी० डी० ओ० साहब ने बेच दिया। इस तरह की गड़बड़ वहां पर चल रही है। हम तो आप के दूत हैं, आपके एलची हैं इमलिये आपको वहां की सच्ची खबर लाकर देते हैं कि आप दृम बारे में पता लगाइये और भ्रष्टाचार को वहां पर समाप्त कीजिए। यह आप की तमाम सी० आई० डी० कहां गई? यह आप की सी० आई० डी० और इंटलिजेंस विभाग कहां जाकर मर गई है? अभी एक बक्ना बोले हैं वे हालांकि एप्रीकलचर विभाग में एक अफसर रह चुके हैं लेकिन उन्होंने भी कोई कौनकीट सबूत नहीं दिया। श्री अजीत प्रसाद जैन जो कि पहले फुट मिनिस्टर रह चुके हैं उन्होंने कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में तो गुटुवाजी हो रही है और आपस में ज्ञागड़ा चल रहा है जिसके कि कारण यह सब गड़-

बड़ी हो रही है। वहां आपस में ही सिर फुटब्ल बोल हो रही है और वहां कोन डैम केयर आप की करता है? इस लिये मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि नेहरू जी खूब कान खोल कर सुन लें कि अगर यह गवर्नमेंट मशीनरी टीक नहीं चलती है, उचित तरंगें से अपना कर्तव्य पालन नहीं करती हैं तो वे इस के साथ कोई भी रियायत न करें। इसको आप को बिल्कुल रिशफल करना चाहिये, चेंज करना चाहिये अगर यह ठीक से काम नहीं कर सकती है। ऐसी भ्रष्ट और कर्तव्यहीन मशीनरी के साथ बिल्कुल सीधी बात यह है कि कोई रियायत किसी विस्म की न दिखलाई जाये।

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy (Kurnool):
Sir, the expression "dam care" may be removed from the proceedings because it is not parliamentary.

एक माननीय सदस्य: सब पार्लियामेंटरी हैं।

श्री शिव नारायण : हम लोग अपने वहां चावल पैदा करते हैं और वह चावल भी ऐसा होता है कि अगर यहां उसे एक जगह पर पकाया जाय तो सारा पार्लियामेंट हाउस उस की खुशबू से तरह हो जाय। हम लोग तो पैदा इतना अनाज करते हैं लेकिन हमें और हमारे बच्चों को खाना नसीब नहीं होता। हम उसे खाने को नहीं पाते हैं। मेरी जेव में दो बोरी का परिमिट पड़ा है। मेरी लड़की का गीता था दस फलरवरी को लेकिन मैं उसे नहीं ले पाया। यह आलम आजकल हो रहा है। आप यह अनाज के मूवमेंट पर से पाबन्दी उठाइये और यह आजादी दीजिए कि हम जहां चाहें गेहूँ आदि भेज सकें। मूलक में एक जहग से दूसरे जगह पर अनाज ले जाने की पाबन्दी उठा ली जाये। अलवता आप यह सावधानी जरूर बतें कि बौद्धर के इलाकों से कहीं हमारा अनाज पाकिस्तान और चीन को न चला जाय।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : मैं मैम्बर साहब की वाकफियत के लिये कहना चाहता हूँ कि गेहूँ पर इस बक्त कोई कंट्रोल नहीं है।

श्री विव नारायण : गेहूं, चावल सब वर प्रट्रोल है।

छोटी सिचाई की बात जब मैं कहता हूं तो मैं यह कहे बगैर नहीं रह सकता कि सरकार की मशीनरी इतनी मुस्त, कत्तव्यहीन व अप्ट है कि किसानों को इससा लाभ मलता ही नहीं और यदि मिलता भी है तो समय पर नहीं मिलता है। मैं तो कहूंगा कि, छोटी सिचाई स्कीम के अन्तर्गत हम दस पांच मैम्बर्स को आप एक एक लाख रुपया दे दीजिए और हम प्रैक्टिकल काम करके आप को दिखा देंगे कि उसका क्या फल निकला। आज मैं बतलाना चाहता हूं कि लघु सिचाई योजना में सरकार किसानों को जो पैसा मंजूर करती है वह ब्लाक डेवलपमेंट आफिसर, उनका अमला यह जो सरकार ने फौज खड़ी कर दी है उसी पर खंच हो जाता है और उन तक पढ़ंच ही नहीं पाता है। ब्लाक डेवलपमेंट वाले करते क्या हैं? इन सब लोगों को आप सलाम कीजिए और उनसे कहिये कि काम तो आप कुछ करते नहीं उलटे जनता का पैसा खाते हैं, जाकर घर पर रहो। यहां तुम्हारा कोई काम नहीं है। आप इन सब कर्मचारियों को कल ही चार महीने का नोटिस दे दीजिए कि अगर इस अवधि में उन्होंने सब काम ठीक नहीं किया तो उनको नौकरी से हाथ धोना पड़ेगा और अपने घरों को वापिस जाना होगा। ऐसा करने से ही उनको होश आयेगा और वह अपनी ड्यूटी ठीक तरह से अंजाम देंगे। आप अपनी मशीनरी को टाइटेंड क्यों नहीं करना चाहते हैं? इस मुहदेखे व्यवहार को आइन्डा जारी रखने से काम नहीं चलेगा। यह हँसने की बात नहीं है, मेरे दोस्त। यह कांप्रेस वालों में ही हिम्मत है कि इस तरह से निध़िक होकर मैं अपनी गवर्नरमेंट को कह रहा हूं। आप मैं यह दम नहीं हैं। आप तो महज अपना उल्ल सीधा करना चाहते हैं, और अपना राजनीतिक स्वार्थ साधने के लिये जनता में गलत सलत प्रचार किया करते हैं और

उसको सरकार के विरुद्ध भड़काते हैं। आप तो महज हुलड़बाजी करना चाहते हैं। लेकिन मैं उनकी तरह कोई हुलड़बाजी नहीं जो व्यर्थ में ही शोर, माचाकं। मैं एक किसान हूं और सही मायनों में किसानों का एक प्रतिनिधि हूं। मैं चाहता हूं कि किस नों की आर्थिक व्यवस्था बेहतर हो, वे पस्ती के आलम से उठें और इसान की तरह अपनी जिदगी बसर कर सकें। अगर हम किसान लोग मुखी होंगे तो सारा देश मुखी होंगे, श्रमान भी मुखी होंगे और यह कुर्मा भी सलामत होगी क्योंकि हम लोग ही आपको बोट देते हैं। यह कोई बस्ती के बड़े बनिये, साहूकार या दिल्ली के बड़े बड़े कारखानदार व पूँजीपति और पैसे बाले यह आप को बोट नहीं देते हैं। आपको बोट तो वह बेचारे गरीब किसान ही देते हैं और इसलिये मैं चाहूंगा कि आप उन किसानों की फिक करें और अपनी मशीनरी को टाइटन करें। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं पुनः आप से अपील करूंगा कि जो नोटिस दिया गया है वह गलत दिया गया है उसको आप बिड़ा करें और अपने स्टाफ से बाजार को कंट्रोल करें।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन में हुए भाषणों को मैंने बहुत ध्यान से सुना। अपने मित्रों के इस तरह के भाषण सुन कर मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता हुई कि वे भी आज अनाज के भाव बेतहाशा चढ़ जाने से चिंतत हैं। आज चीजों के दाम काफी बढ़ चुके हैं और वे भी बढ़ते जा रहे हैं और इस बारे में कोई दो राय नहीं हैं। मैंने खाद्य मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य को ध्यान से पढ़ने की कोशिश की है। मैंने देखा कि उन्होंने कुछ के लिये तो मान लिया है कि उनके भावों में वृद्धि हुई है। उन्होंने कहा है कि चावल के दाम भी बढ़े हैं और उसकी शॉटेंज भी है। दूसरी जगह उन्होंने कहा कि गेहूं के दाम भी सितम्बर ६३ से मुत्तविर बढ़ते ही गये हैं। उन्होंने कहा है :—

[श्रो म० मो० बनर्जी]

"Wheat prices have shown a continuous and steep rise since September 1963. The Index Number of Wholesale prices of wheat which was 89.7 on 24th August, 1963, has increased to 122.0 in the third week of February, 1964."

इस तरह से चीजों के दाम बढ़ रहे थे । बंगाल में चावल के दाम बढ़े । देखा यह गया कि बंगाल के चीफ मिनिस्टर ने जिदी बार भाषण दिया, तीन बार भाषण दिया तीनों मर्तवा ५ रुपये प्रति मन के हिसाब से चावल के दाम बढ़ गये । उसके बाद उन्होंने भाषण देना बन्द कर दिया तो कुछ चीजों के दाम भी गिरे । अलबत्ता उनर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री जी ने बहुत ज्यादा भाषण नहीं दिये लेकिन हमारे खाद्य मंत्री जी ने बारबार भाषण दिये । पहला भाषण जब उन्होंने दिया तो दो सेर का गेहूं बिकता था । उसके बाद जब उन्होंने आकर असेम्बली में भाषण दिया तो गेहूं सवा सेर का बिकने लगा । सीनपुर आदि बड़े बड़े शहरों में मैंने देखा कि वहां लोगों ने सत्ता की बागडोर तो अपने हाथों में लेने की कोशिश नहीं की लेकिन चीजों के दाम बांधे जायें और उनका समुचित बंटवारा हो इसका हिसाब उन्होंने अपने हाथों में ले लिया है । कहा जाता है कि लोगों ने अनाज की दुकानों को लूट लिया । लेकिन मैं कहूँगा कि उन्होंने उन दुकानों को लूट नहीं लिया बल्कि अच्छे तरीके से उनका प्रबन्ध किया । जब उन्होंने देखा कि जखीरेवाज और मुनाफाखोर तो इस तरह से देश को गरीब जनता को भूखा मार देना चाहते हैं, उन्होंने देखा कि अगर इसको ऐमा ही चलने दिया गया तो वाकई गरीब जनता के भूख व प्यास में तड़पते हुए बच्चे बिलख बिलख कर मर सकते हैं तो उन्होंने मोका कि अच्छा यह होगा कि जखीरेवाजों के जखीरों को खत्म किया जाये और उस जमा गेहूं और दाल अदिजिन्सों के स्टाक को अपने हाथों में ले लिया जाय और मही तरीके से जनता में उनका

वितरण कर दिया जाये । उन्होंने उस जमा स्टाक को अपने अधिकार में लेकर साम्यवादी या समाजवादी ढंग से उसका वितरण जनता में कर दिया । यह खेद का विषय है कि हमारी इस सरकार द्वारा, भुवनेश्वर कांग्रेस में समाज वाद का लक्ष्य साफ़ तौर से स्वीकार कर लेने पर भी उसपर उसने अमल नहीं किया ।

आज अगर साफ़ तरीके से कहा जाये कि चीजों के दाम बढ़ते जा रहे हैं तो मगरकर द्वारा उसके सामने हालसोल प्राइसेज रख दी जाती है और यह सिद्ध करने का प्रयत्न किया जाता है कि प्राइसेज बहुत बड़ी नहीं है । लेकिन मैं जब अपनी जरूरत का सामान बाजार में खरीदने के लिए जाता हूँ तो मुझे एक, दो, या चार, पांच किलो की ही जरूरत रहती है और मैं कोई मनों या किंवित के हिसाब से तो सामान खरीदता नहीं हूँ । आज बाजार का भाव है क्या ?

भुवनेश्वर कांग्रेस में जब समाजवाद की बात तय हुई, समाजवाद की परिभाषा तय हो गयी तो हम लोगों को बड़ी खुशी हुई और जनता यह समझ कर प्रसन्न हुई कि देश में शीघ्र ही समाजवाद आने वाला है लेकिन जब गेहूं सवा सेर का बिकने लगा तो जनता आरंकित हो उठी और वह कहने लगी कि भाई यह कांग्रेस का तथाकथित समाजवाद ती चीन से भी खंतरनाक है जो सवा सेर की शक्ति में घर घर में धूस रहा है । लोगों का विश्वास उत्ता जा रहा है और वह समझने लगे हैं कि यह सरकार बढ़ते हुए दामों को रोकने में नितान्त असमर्थ है ।

उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री जी ने कहा कि हम लोगों ने सेंटर से दिसम्बर में २७,००० टन मांगा था, ६७ हजार टन मांगा जनवरी के महीने में और १ लाख २२ हजार टन मांगा फरवरी के महीने में लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आविर उनर प्रदेश को मिला कितना ? उत्तर प्रदेश की जो

हालत थी, अभी मेरे लायक दोस्त डा० लोहिया और दूसरे सदस्यों ने जो कि उत्तर प्रदेश से आने हैं, उन्होंने बतलाया कि वहाँ पर अकाल की एक द्याया है और अकाल के बादल द्याये हुए हैं। मैंने मालूम नहीं कि पूर्वी जिलों में, बुंदेलखंड में और दूसरी जगहों में क्या हो रहा है। अभी तो उन्होंने साफ तरीके से कहा कि हम क्या करें? यह तो भगवान का कम्तूर है। हमारे खाद्यमंत्री जी ने इस चीज को साबित करने की कोशिश की कि पाले में, कोल्ड वेव से सब फसल नंष्ट हुई। कितना ज्यादा पाला पड़ा और कितनी चायादा तेजी उसकी थी इसके लिये उन्होंने बतलाया कि ४ आदमी और ४७ मवेशी हो मर गये। अरहर आदि के नष्ट होने की तो बात ही क्या, मवेशी और आदमी तक मर गये लेकिन मेरा कहना है कि इसकी कोई ज़रूरत नहीं थी। हम लोगों ने यह सवाल नहीं उठाया था। हमने यह सवाल किया था कि यह लोग अकाल में मरे थे। जानवरों को खाना नहीं मिला, लोगों को खाना नहीं मिला और लोग भूख व प्यास से तड़प तड़प कर मर रहे हैं, यह साबित करने के लिए कि उसकी तेजी इन्हीं थी कि लोग उस वजह से मर गये, मैं नहीं समझता कि यह रैफ़ेस यहाँ पर ठीक है। हमारे सामने एक सवाल है कि आखिर किया क्या जाय? मैं जानता चाहूँगा कि क्या इस सरकार ने जमाखोरी, मुनाफाखोरी और अनाज में ब्लैकमार्केट को रोकने के उद्देश्य से अपराधियों को भारत रक्षा कानून के अन्तर्गत गिरफ्तार किया? सरकार ने इसके लिए डिफ़ेस आफ इंडिया रूल्स का प्रयोग नहीं किया अलबत्ता उन्हें ट्रेड यूनियन के कार्यकर्ताओं, जिन्होंने कि सरकार के खिलाफ आवाज उठाई, उनको इसके मातहत पकड़ कर जेल के सीखचों के अन्दर कर दिया। मैं खाद्य मंत्री महोदय से जानता चाहूँगा कि अनाज के मामले में मुनाफाखोरी, जमाखोरी आदि के अपराध में क्या कलकत्ते में कोई गिरफ्तारी हुई, क्या उत्तर प्रदेश में

कोई गिरफ्तारी अमल में लाई गई और क्या राजस्थान में जहाँ पर कि अकाल की सी स्थिति पैदा हो गई है जहाँ के लिये कि वहाँ के सिचाई मंत्री ने कहा है:—

“no one to be allowed to die of starvation.”

वहाँ पर इसके लिये कोई लोग गिरफ्तार किये गये? उन्होंने भी स्वीकार किया कि यह बात सच है कि वहाँ पर भुखमरी की आशंका हो चली है। अकाल की कराल छाया वह कम से कम वहाँ पर पड़ चुकी है तो राजस्थान में, उत्तर प्रदेश में या बंगाल में, या दूसरे प्रान्तों में जहाँ कि इस तरह से अकाल की परिस्थिति उत्पन्न है, मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर वहाँ मुनाफाखोरों और जमाखोरों को क्या सजा दी गई? कितने आदमी ऐसे हैं जिनको कि इसके लिए डिफ़ेस आफ इंडिया रूल्स के मातहत गिरफ्तार किया गया?

बांग्लादेश इस सदन में कहा जाता है और उसमें कड़े से कड़े शब्द इस्तेमाल किये जाते हैं—कि हम इस बारे में कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर कब तक यह कार्यवाही की जायेगी। भुवनेश्वर में शायद यह फैसला हुआ, इस बात की चर्चा हुई, कि राइस मिल्ज को सरकार ले लेगी और अब यह कहा जाता है कि आइन्डा राइस मिल या फ्लोर मिल का लाइसेंस नहीं दिया जायेगा, बल्कि वे को-आपरेटिव सेक्टर में स्थापित की जायेंगी, को-आपरेटिव सोसाइटीज उनको रन करेंगी, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर को-आपरेटिव सोसाइटीज उनको रन करेंगी तो सरकार इसी बक्त उनको ले ले। आज एक एक राइस मिल और एक एक फ्लोर मिल में किस तरह से मुनाफा कमाया जाता है, किस तरह से १० एक्ट०-४८० के गेहूँ का, जो कि सरकार राशन की दुकानों के लिये देती है, या दूसरे गेहूँ का, जो कि फ्लोर मिल को दिया जाता है, नाजायज इस्तेमाल कर के मूजी और मैदा बना कर चोर-बाजार में बेचा जाता

[श्री स० मो० बनर्जी]

है, इस का जीता-जागता सबूत मैं कानपुर में दे सकता हूं, अगर मंत्री महोदय वहां चलने की तकलीफ फरमायें।

आज जनता इस परिस्थिति से इतनी परेशान हो गई है कि वह चाहती है कि या तो दुकानों को सुचारू रूप से चलाया जाये और या दुकानों को लूट लिया जाये। अगर उन लोगों को डी० आई० आर० के मातहत गिरफ्तार किया जा सकता है, तो किर जखीरात्राजों को क्यों नहीं किया जा सकता है? मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की जनता को जानता हूं। मैं वहां का सिपाही भी हूं। मैं कहता चाहता हूं कि इसमें कोई याजनीतिक विरोध नहीं है। उत्तर प्रदेश का आदमी बेचारा दो गेहूं की रोटी और एक कैलोरी अरहर की दाल मांगता है। यही उस का खाना है। १५०० कैलोरी कहिए, २००० कैलोरी कहिए या ३००० कैलोरी कहिए, उसकी सब कैलोरीज जिन्दगी भर इसी में सीमित हैं। अगर वह भी उसको न मिले, तो मैं कहता चाहता हूं कि अभी तो दुकानें लुट रही हैं, उसके बाद लोग मार्च करें और हापुड़ की मार्केट पर कब्जा होगा, वहां के अनाज पर जनता का अधिकार होगा। मैं देखूं कि कोई किस तरह से उसको रोक सकता है। मैं इन बातों को लीड करने की बात नहीं कहता। लीड करने वाले लोग आ जायेंगे। मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय वहां चले और रूपये का सवा सेर गेहूं देने के बाद लोगों से बात करें। लोगों की हालत आज ऐसी है कि वे चाहते हैं कि अगर भगवान आए, तो रोटी या कपड़े की शक्ल में आए, चावल और गेहूं की शक्ल में आए, वर्ना वह मन्दिर, मस्जिद और गुरुद्वारे में रहा करे।

सरकार की तरफ से समाजवाद वी बात कही जाती है, लेकिन हम देखें कि आखिर समाजवाद को लाने के लिये सरकार क्या कर रही है। आखिर इस देश में समाजवाद कैसे आयेगा? अभी परसों ही बजट का

एलान हुआ और मालम हुआ कि फारेन मानोपलीज के लिए देश का दरवाजा खोल दिया गया है। हमारे नेहरू जी के जो आदर्श थे, वे खत्म हो गये। अपने पूज्य प्रधान मंत्री को देख कर आज ऐसा मालूम होता है कि वह शाहजहां हैं, लाल वहादुर शास्त्री जी दारा हैं और पता नहीं इस सदन में कौन औरंगजेब छिपा हुआ है, जो उनके सिद्धान्तों पर कब्जा करने वाला है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : मिठान्त ये ही नहीं।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : इस बजट को पढ़ने के बाद मेरे मन में इस समाजवाद के बारे में कोई भ्रम नहीं रहा। मैं समझता हूं कि सरकार फूडप्रेन्ज की स्टेट ट्रेडिंग नहीं कर सकती है, लेकिन किर भी मैं यह सुझाव माननीय मंत्री जी के सामने रखना चाहता हूं।

ड० राम भनोहर लोहिया : माननीय सदस्य यह भी बताते चलें कि दारा और शाहजहां का क्या हुआ।

श्री स० मो० बनर्जी : मैं चाहता हूं कि दारा और जहां-आरा मिल कर किसी हालत में शाहजहां को बचायें।

मेरा कहना यह है कि यह जो स्पैकुलेशन और स्टेटबाजी होती है, कम से कम उसको तो बम्द किया जाये। गेहूं और दूसरे खाद्य पदार्थों के मिनिमम दाम दिये जायें, ताकि बफर-स्टाक बिल्ट अब हो और किसानों को भी न लूटा जाये। आज किसानों को भी लूटा जा रहा है और उपभोक्ताओं को भी लूटा जा रहा है और मैं समझता हूं कि यह गलत है। उसके बाद सरकार में स्टेट ट्रेडिंग आफ फूडप्रेन्ज करने की हिम्मत होनी चाहिए और मैं समझता हूं कि अगर वह समाजवाद की दिशा में जाना चाहती है। तो उसको यह कदम उठाना चाहिये डिफेंस आफ इंडिया रूल्ज के मातहत आम

लोगों को गिरफ्तार करने के बजाये चंट-बाजारी करने वालों को गिरफ्तार किया जाये। राइस और फ्लोर मिल्ज को सरकार अपने हाथ में ले। इस वक्त कंट्रोल की मशीनरी करप्ट और अप्ट है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि उसमें सुधार करना चाहिए।

माननीय मंत्री जी मेरे मैं निवेदन करूँगा कि वह आंकड़ों के जाल में हम लोगों को न उलझा कर देश की सही परिस्थिति को हमारे सामने रखें। आखिर हम कब तक अमरीका, बर्तानिया और दूसरे देशों के मोहताज़ रहेंगे? पी० एल०-४८० का गेहूँ जो हमारे देश में आ रहा है, उससे मुझे यह ख़तरा महसूस होता है कि बाहर के लोग ईस्ट इंडिया कम्पनी की शक्ल में आकर हमारे देश की तमाम आर्थिक व्यवस्था को बदल डालेंगे। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमें अपने देश में वास्तविक अर्थों में समाजवाद स्थापित करने के लिए कदम उठाना चाहिए।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, Shri Karuthiruman.

Shri Tyagi: May I have your permission to say one word? I shall not speak for long, but I would just say one sentence, if you would permit.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have called Shri Karuthiruman now.

Shri Karuthiruman (Gobichettipalayam): On the occasion of this debate on the food situation in the country, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that his statement contains only a reference to the fair price for the consumers, but, unfortunately, there is no reference to a fair price for the farmers. If we want to solve this food problem, it is very necessary that we should ensure a fair price to the farmers. Whatever be the number of fair price shops that may be opened, if we are going to depend upon imports, then it is rather a disgrace for our country which is mainly an agricultural country, that it is not producing enough food.

From the statement itself we find that the shortage of foodgrains in 1962-63 has mainly been due to the Central Government's announcement of the so-called support price. The support price that they had announced to the farmers in 1961-62 was Rs. 16 per maund of rice. As a practical farmer of this country, I have pointed out so many times in this House already that that would not even meet the cost of cultivation per acre of paddy land. In the Tanjore district, on about three lakhs of acres, those who were doing two crops were able to raise only one crop, which meant a shortage of about 3 lakhs tons. The shortage has been there because of the fact that the so-called support price is not remunerative to the farmer and he cannot even meet the cost of cultivation with that amount. As a practical farmer, I might mention here that I myself have converted many acres of my land from food crops to non-food crops, because the price is not remunerative at all. So, I would submit that we should take some practical steps to see that a fair price is assured to the farmers.

Many hon. Members have said that the price should be such that it would be a fair price. But they have not mentioned what the practical fair price should be, because as a political slogan they can go and say that the prices are rising and rising, without mentioning what the fair price for the producer should be. The support price is possible and reasonable only when there is excess in production. But when there is shortage in production, what is required is a fair price. This should be realised by the hon. Minister. Support price means that we are having excess production, and we have got more foodgrains. It is only when the prices fall that there should be a support price. But we find that the reverse is the case. We give a support price whenever we are short of foodgrains.

Further, the cost of production has also risen by about 1000 points. It has been said that the cost of living index

[Shri Kamthimman].

has gone up from 100 to about 300 or 500. In this connection, we should examine how the cost of the requirements of a farmer has gone up, such as that of bullocks, cattle feed etc. A pair of cattle was selling at about Rs. 250 before, but now it is selling at Rs. 2000 per pair. Groundnut-cake which was selling at Rs. 2.50 (I am referring to the pre-war rate in 1939), is now selling at Rs. 30 per bag. Cotton-seed which is very vital for cattle feed, and which used to sell at Rs. 2 per bag in the pre-war days is now selling at Rs. 20 per bag. So far as the wages of farm labourers are concerned, the pre-war rate was 4 annas and 8 annas for woman and man respectively, but, now the wages are Rs. 2 and 4 for woman and man respectively per day. Now, the tendency of the labourers is also to do less work.

Shrimati Vimla Devi: Equal pay for equal work for both men and women.

Shri Karuthiruman: I am pointing out that the wages are Rs. 2 and 4 respectively for woman and man. That means that the cost of production has risen almost ten times. Unfortunately, that is not taken into consideration at all. I do not know on what basis this price of Rs. 16 per maund of rice has been fixed.

Coming to the import of grains, I may point out that I learn that for the import of one maund of rice we have to pay Rs. 20 to Rs. 24. If only we could allow the same amount to our farmers, I am sure that within one or two years, we shall be able to wipe out the deficiency which is there, and not only that, but we shall be able to increase the production by 50 per cent or even 100 per cent. When we are paying Rs. 20 to Rs. 24 per maund of imported rice, why should we not give the same thing to our poor farmers?

It is said that the shortage in production has been due to adverse seasonal conditions. I would point out

that that is not so, but it is due to the unfair way of looking at things when the farmers are concerned.

Besides, what are the incentives given to the farmers? Take, for example, our Five Year Plans. We have generated so many kilowatts of energy, but only 30 per cent of it has been given to the poor agriculturists. Only 30 per cent of the electricity generated is given to agriculturists, whereas 70 per cent goes to industries. In Madras State, in 1962-63, agriculturists were given 25,000 pump sets, but, unfortunately, in 1963-64, only 5,000 pump sets were given, and they have diverted all the electricity to the industrial sector.

In industry we take into consideration the cost of production, investment, and all these things, but, unfortunately, in the agricultural sector, we do not care to take all these things into consideration. That is because all these plans are urban-biased.

We raise the cry of rising prices. First of all, we should examine who are affected by this rise in prices. According to statistics, about 70 per cent of the people live in the rural areas, and they are not at all affected by any rise in the prices whatsoever, because the labourers are paid in kind. Even in the cities, the industrial labourers and workers are not at all affected. Only the Government servants of the lower grades, and some people who remain in the urban areas doing nothing and living only for consumption, are affected by this rise in prices. Only for their sake, are we to sacrifice the poor agriculturists? Let them take the statistics, they will find that only five to ten per cent of the population in the entire country living in the cities are affected.

Shrimati Yashoda Reddy: Whether it is five or ten per cent, they are the most important part of the population.

Shri Karuthiruman: Yes, that five per cent is most important, but at the same time we say this is a democratic country. There is no rise in prices in the true sense of the word. These hon. Members do not know the conditions in the rural sector. I challenge them. If they can produce rice at Rs. 16 per maund, I shall bow before them, and even resign my membership of Parliament and go out. Let them do it in practice and prove that it is possible to produce a maund of rice at Rs. 16. Then I will bow to them. Until then I cannot agree with them. As far as this five per cent of the people, they may be subsidised. I will come to that.

I congratulate the West Bengal Government for announcing very reasonable prices to the producer. If the same price is given to all producers, I say there is a possibility of their producing more. The West Bengal Government have announced Rs. 15 per maund of paddy and Rs. 20 per maund of rice to the producer, and at the same time, they have fixed the price of rice to the consumer at Rs. 24.50. That policy should be followed by each and every State Government. If they follow this, and if the farmers are assured Rs. 20 per maund of rice, or Rs. 15 per maund of paddy, they will be satisfied.

But, when I approach our Chief Minister, he says that it is only the Central Government which fixes the price. When we approach the Central Minister, he says it is left to the State Government. The producer is kicked like a football from the one to the other, and we are unable to understand who is responsible for fixing the prices, the State Government or the Central Government.

After the announcement by the West Bengal Government, when the Chief Minister of Madras approached the hon. Minister here, I understand he was told that it was a different question. How is it different? Why not make it applicable to Madras? All

the States should be treated on an equal footing, and I request the hon. Minister to follow this.

In the end, I may just mention a small story. A couple were travelling in a car, the car broke down and had to be sent to the workshop for repairs. It was repaired and the charges came to five dollars. The wife asked the husband: what is this, merely for striking at some place or other, they charge five dollars? And she got the reply; for striking, there is no charge, but to know where to strike and how to strike we charge the five dollars. So, there is no use merely stating that a fair price should be assured to the producer. We should know how to do it and when to do it. By giving a fair price to the producer, and allowing the trade only a margin of ten per cent between the producer and the consumer, this problem can be solved. I want a categorical assurance from the Minister in reply to the question: what is the fair price to the farmer? Until Rs. 15 per maund of paddy is guaranteed to him, it is impossible to produce more.

भी बाग़ड़ी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बार बार मुझे इस सवाल को सदन में रखने के लिये निकलना पड़ा। मुझे इस बात की तो बड़ी खुशी है कि एक सवाल को अगर सदन ने ठीक तरह से हल कर लिया, सोच समझ कर अपनी रीति नीति बना कर, उसके ऊपर मुस्तकिल इरादा बना कर चल पड़ा, तो देश बच जायेगा। लेकिन जहां इस बात की खुशी है वहां मुझे इस बात का खतरा भी है कि इस वक्त देश जल रहा है। अगर इस वक्त देश के अन्दर, मैं आपके द्वारा अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ, सदन ने वक्त की नजाकत को नहीं पहचाना तो कोई खामखाली नहीं होगी कि इस देश के अन्दर बगावत के शोले उठेंगे और भूखे नंगे, गरीब लोग इस तरीके से चुन चुन कर वक्त के हाथों लोगों को मारेंगे कि पता नहीं लगेगा वे कहां गये। क्योंकि आज देश के अन्दर

[श्री बागड़ी]

हो क्या रहा है। आप जाकर देखिये। एक तरफ से तो पंजाब के इनाके की भिवानी तहसील और उधर से महेन्द्रगढ़, गुडगांव, जिला रोहतक, राजस्थान, गुजरात वर्गरह काफी अमों से अकालग्रस्त थे। उसके बाद फसलों के ऊपर जो सर्दी का कहर हुआ, उस बक्त कुछ सरकारी और कुछ गैर-सरकारी, दोनों मुनाफाखोरों की टांगियों ने बक्त की नजाकत को पहचानते हुए हिन्दुस्तान की गरीब जनता को दिन दहाड़े लूटने का एक प्रोग्राम बनाया। मेरे ख्याल में इस तरीके से तो कोई भी डकैती नहीं हो सकती। इसको मैं भावों की लूट नहीं कहता। यह सरकारी और गैर सरकारी मुनाफाखोरों की एक किस्म की जंगली लूट है जिसने आम जनता को दिन दहाड़े लूटा और कोई सरकार और कोई कानून उसका रोक नहीं सका।

मैं आपको बतलाऊं। मेरे हूल्के के अन्दर एक धंधाना गांव है। वहां पर तहसील भिवानी के पांच भूखे लोग ऊंट लेकर आये अनाज लेने के लिये। वहां मैंने देखा कि डिप्टी सुपरिनिटेंडेंट पुलिस उनको पीट रहा था। मैंने कहा कि क्या बात है। वह कहने लगा कि यह लोग स्मर्गिलग कर रहे थे। अपने ही जिले में स्मर्गिलग कर रहे थे। मैंने पूछा कि क्या ले जा रहे थे। उन्होंने कहा कि गुड़ ले जा रहे थे। मैंने कहा कि मारने का तो कोई हुक्म नहीं है। लेकिन जबाब मिला कि सरकार की बड़ी सज्जी है कि कायदा कानून एक तरफ है लेकिन स्मगलर को पकड़ा जाये। दूसरी तरफ आते हैं तो डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया ने स्मर्गिलग का, चारबाजारी का, जो एक बहुत बड़ा नमूना रखदा और कहा कि इस सदन के मेम्बर भी उसमें शामिल हैं, एक बहुत बड़े आदमी श्री ब्रह्म प्रकाश शामिल हैं, उसके लिये कानून के पोये निकाले जा रहे हैं कि उन को निकालें किस तरह से। एक तरफ तो गरीब लोगों की मार पीट इस बिना पर होती है कि वह अपने पापी पेट की आग बुझाने के लिये,

अपने बच्चों का पालने के लिये मन, दो मन दाना ले जाते हैं। उन पर पुलिस का डंडा पड़ता है, दूसरी तरफ मुनज्जम, लुटेरे गिरोह के सिरकरदा लोगों को केन्द्रीय सरकार के कानूनी बजीर बचाने की कोशिश में हैं।

श्री त्यागी : उनके बचाव की कोई कोशिश नहीं की गई है।

श्री किशन पटनायक : ला मिनिस्ट्री ने बचाया है। उसके खिलाफ चार्ज शीट थी।

श्री प्रकाशबीर शास्त्री (विजनौर) : फाइलें बिगड़वाई जा रही हैं।

श्री बागड़ी : खैर, हमारे त्यागी जी सब कुछ जानते हैं। वह सिफ कहनाना चाहते थे, वह बोलते नहीं हैं। वह चुप हैं। भले ही इस बक्त कुछ भी कहें।

मैं आपकी खिदमत में अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि आज दो दो तीन तीन दिनों तक लोगों को रोटी नहीं मिलती है। बच्चे भूखे बिल्लाते हैं और २५ या ३० रु० मन गन्दम का भाव, बने का २२ रु० मन भाव, बाजरे का २०, २१ रु० मन भाव है। आज यह बाजरा और कनक कहां है। सरदार साहब कह देंगे कि अमरीका बाला कनक ले लां, वह कनक १६ या १७ रु० मन बाजार में बिक रहा है। फिर ३० रु० मन बाजार में वह ब्लैक से क्यों बिका साहब। अमरीका मार्का इतना सस्ता उसे कोई खरीदे नहीं और अपने देश का मार्का लोग ३० रु० मन में खरीदें, इसका मतलब क्या है। मैंने मुद मन्त्री महोदय को अमरीका के कनक के नमूना लिफाके में बन्द करके भेजा था। उस कनक के अन्दर भ्रष्टाचार होता है तो सरकार किसान और मजदूर पर दया करके उनको आटा पीस पीस कर देती है। क्या किसान और मजदूर आटा नहीं पीस सकते, मालूम होता है कि सरकार को उन पर बड़ी दया आ गयी है कि उनको चक्की से आटा पीस पीस कर देती है। इसका कारण बेचारे सीधे किसान क्या जानें। यह जो

मिल का आटा आता है इसमें २५ परसेंट मिलावट होती है। अगर सरकार की नीति साफ है तो क्या जरूरत है मजदूरों को आटा देने की। उनको खुलम खुला गन्दम क्यों नहीं दिया जाता।

17 hrs.

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और जब देश में दो किस्म की दुकानें चलती हैं तो समझ लो कि सरकार की नीति साफ नहीं है। एक तरफ सरकार की सस्ते गल्ले की दुकान चलती है और दूसरी तरफ मुनाफाखां अपनी महंगी दुकान चलाता है। यह कैसे होता है। इसका मतलब तो यह है कि वह मुनाफा खां और सरकार से ज्यादा होशियार है जो कि सरकार की सस्ती दुकान के मुकाबले अपनी महंगी दुकान चला सकता है। इसका याज क्या है? इसका याज यह है कि सस्ती दुकानों का गल्ला महंगी दुकानों में जाता है और वहां विक्री है।

मैं निवेदन करूँगा कि अप्रेज के राज में हमारे जिनें में अकाल पड़ा था। उस समय बड़े से बड़े अफसर और बड़े से बड़े मन्त्री वहां देखने गए थे। लेकिन आज दो साल से वहां अकाल पड़ रहा है, लेकिन सरकार उसको अकाल ही नहीं मानती। क्या जब आदमी मरने लगें तभी सरकार मानेगी। लोग भूखों मर रहे हैं। लेकिन हमारे मन्त्री महोदय को वहां जाने की फुरसत नहीं। हमारे पंजाब के मुख्य मन्त्री नहीं जा पाते उसका कारण तो यह है कि वह मुमीकत में हैं, उन पर दास आयोग के सामने भ्रष्टाचार का मुकदमा चल रहा है। लेकिन सरदार स्वर्ण सिंह साहब के ऊपर तो कोई ऐसी आपत्ति नहीं है। उनको तो वहां जाना चाहिए था।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी खिदमत में अर्जन करना चाहता हूं कि राजस्थान में और भिवानी और गुडगाव तहसीलों में नित अकाल पड़ते हैं। हर चीजी पांचवीं साल अकाल पड़ते हैं। क्यों सरकार ऐसा कोई

तरीका नहीं निकालती कि इन अकालों से वहां के लोगों का पिंड छुटे। इसके लिए सिचाई में तरक्की की जानी चाहिए, नहरें निकालनी चाहिए, और अगर नहरें न हो सकें तो थोटी सिचाई योजनाएं चालू की जानी चाहिए जिससे अकाल रुक सकें। एक तरफ तो जिला हिसार में अकाल पड़ता है बारिश न होने से, दूसरी तरफ सिरसा बर्गरह में तुगियानी से नुकसान होता है और हर साल अकाल पड़ता है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप खंड करें।

श्री बागड़ी : मैं दो चार बार निकाला जा चुका हूं तब यह मौका मिला है।

यहां चीन और पाकिस्तान की बात आनी है तो बड़े अकड़ कर बोलते हैं। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि

भूखे भजन न होहि गोपाला

सारा देश भूखा मर रहा है, लोगों को रोटी नहीं है, कपड़ा नहीं है। ऐसे लोग अपने देश के स्वाभिमान और गौरव को कायम नहीं रख सकते। चीन और पाकिस्तान का मुकाबला करने के लिए यह ज़रूरी है कि देश के लोगों को रोटी दो। मैं साफ लस्तू में कहना चाहता हूं कि यह निहायत ज़रूरी है। हम देखते हैं कि जहां पर लोग दुकानें लूट लेते हैं वहां अनाज का भाव सस्ता हो जाता है। हमारे बेचारे पंजाब वाले और राजस्थान वाले लिहाज करते हैं, वह सोचते हैं कि मन्त्री हमारे डलाके का है। लेकिन यह लिहाज किन्तु दिन तक चलेगा। मैं इधर से साफ कहना चाहता हूं कि सदस्यगणों अगर हिन्दू-स्तान के गरीब सिसक सिसक के मरते हैं तो इसकी जिम्मेवारी आपकी है। एक तरफ तो अनाज गोशामों में भरा है और तिजोरियों में नोट भरे हैं और दूसरी तरफ इन्सानियत तड़प तड़प कर मरे यह देश के लिए कलंक की बात है। आज गरीब को रोटी देने की आव-

[श्री बागड़ी]

श्यकता है। ऐसी हालत में गांधी का सच्चा सेवकों लोगों से ऐसे रगड़ कर मरने के बजाय इन गोदामों को लट्टे लेने को कहेगा।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप खत्म करें।

श्री बागड़ी : एक बात और कह देना चाहता हूँ। जहाँ ५० फीसदी फसल खराब हो गयी है वहाँ माफी देने के लिए वक्तव्य दिया गया है। लेकिन इसका फसला कौन करेगा? यह तो मोटी अक्षल में पता लग सकता है कि किस इलाके में पचास फीसदी फसल खराब हो गयी है। आप माफी माफी का ऐलान क्यों नहीं करते।

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी बाई (विकारावाद) : मैं सुबह से सुन रही हूँ। यह बहुत गम्भीर बात है। जिनने विरोधी मेम्बर देने हैं उनमें से दो परमेंट की बात सही है बाकी की गलत है। मैं उनसे कहना चाहती हूँ कि चिलाने से यह समस्या हल नहीं होने वाली है। अन्न की समस्या बातों से नहीं हल हो सकती। आप लोग शहरों में जाने हैं और भाषण देते हैं, अखबारों में लेख देते हैं। लेकिन इससे यह समस्या हल नहीं होगी।

इतना मैं जरूर कहना चाहती हूँ कि विभाग के कर्मचारी दिल लगा कर काम नहं करते। आज १६ साल बीत गए लेकिन कोई उन्नति नहीं हो पायी है। यह सोचते तक नहीं गम्भीरता से कि ये गलती क्यों हो रही है। वे कुरुसियों पर बैठे हैं, बड़े बड़े महलों में रहते हैं, बड़ी बड़ी तनखावों लेते हैं। काम को तो छोड़ दीजिए, मगर सोचते भी नहों कि यह गलती क्यों हो रही है।

मैं जिस इलाके से आती हूँ, आनंद प्रदेश, वह इलाका सेंफ सफीशेंट है। जनवरी में हमने दम हजार टन राइस सरकार को दिया। हर साल पांच लाख टन देते हैं। लेकिन गवर्नरेंट आनंद प्रदेश को मदद नहीं देती यह मेरी शिकायत है। जो लोग ज्यादा उत्पादन करते

हैं उनको मदद नहीं देती, जहाँ अकाल पड़ता है वहाँ के लोगों को मदद नहीं देती, बया करती है। करोड़ों रुपया यहाँ मंजूर किया जाता है, वह किधर जाता है। मेरी शिकायत है कि वह रुपया ज्यादातर एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन पर खर्च कर दिया जाता है, काम नहीं होता।

मैं भी एक किसान हूँ और पैदावार करती हूँ। अभी जो दो भेंटर मद्रास के बोले हैं अगर उनकी बात की तरफ आप ध्यान दें तो अच्छा काम हो सकता है :

हमारा देश बहुत बड़ा है, हर रोज़ २२ हजार लोग पैदा होते हैं। उनको दूध और रोटी देने की आपकी जिम्मेदारी है। आप यह नहीं सोचते।

किसान के जो मसले हैं उनकी तरफ तवज्ज्ञ होजिए। अगर आप ऐसा करेंगे तो किसान खुश होंगे। आज किसान बहुत परेशान हैं। उनको अपनी पैदावार का टीक मूल्य नहीं मिलता। और जो उनकी जरूरत की चीजें हैं, उनको देने वाला कोई नहीं है। जमीन की सीधियोंरिटी नहीं है। हर साल किसानों की जमीन ले ली जाती है। जो जमीन बहुत उपजाऊ है उसको मकान बनाने के लिये या कारबाना बनाने के लिये ले लेते हैं, कोई रोकने वाला नहीं है।

हमारे यहाँ बड़े बड़े प्रोजेक्ट बन रहे हैं। हमारे प्रान्त में नागर्जुन सागर प्रोजेक्ट का दस साल पहले सन् १९५३ में उद्घाटन हुआ था उस वक्त उसको बनाने की कीमत १३० करोड़ थी, जो कि अब बड़ कर १८० करोड़ हो गयी है। इस योजना को जल्द पूरा किया जाए तो किसानों को लाभ हो। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं होता। उस रूपए पर जो कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने क्रूर दिया है सूद लगता जाता है और काम पूरा नहीं होता।

आज किसान को बचाने के लिए जो कुछ किया जाना चाहिए वह नहीं किया

जाता । इधर उधर से मंगाया अनाज तो मंगाया जाता लेकिन जो किसान आपको ज्यादा उत्पादन ते दे सकता है उसकी मदद नहीं की जाती, उसको सलाह मशविरा नहीं दिया जाता ।

मैं २५ एकड़ जमीन पर खेती करती हूँ और १२० लोगों को खिलाती हूँ । लेकिन गांवों की तरफ सरकार का ध्यान नहीं है । शहर से बीस मील तक के जो गांव हैं उनको पावर निलंबन है इससे उनको महसिलियत होती है । लेकिन वही जमीन एकवायर कर ली जाती है । आज से चार पाँच महीने पहले गतियावाद के किसान यहाँ आकर नहड़ थे । क्या महसिलियत दी उनको आपने? सानों गुजर जाते हैं उनको उन की जमीन का पैसा नहीं मिलता । जरूरत इस बत की है कि आप अब किसानों के प्रति पहले बाला उपेक्षा भाव छोड़ दें । यह सरकार और उसको व्यरोक्तिक मशीनरी इस देश के ७० प्रतिशत किसानों की उपेक्षा करती है और शहरों में रहने वाले थोड़े से लोगों के हितों की रक्षा करती है । प्रसाशन द्वारा किसानों की जमीन एकवायर कर ली जाती है क्योंकि वहाँ इंडस्ट्रीज़ बड़े करने के लिए उस जमीन को कारखानेदारों को देना है । उनको आपनी जमीन के वाजिव दाम भी नहीं मिलते हैं, न ही उस तरह का आलटरेनेट लैंड मिलता है । कूँकि पूँजिपतियों और कारखाने वालों के पास पैसा ज्यादा होता है इसलिए सरकार किसानों की एक बात भी नहीं सुनती है और उनको उचित मुआविजा दिये बगैर उनकी जमीनों से उनको बेदखल कर दिया जाता है । यह कुछ डिफैक्ट्स हैं जो कि मैं आपको बतला रही हूँ ।

सरकार द्वारा किसानों को अधिक कृषि उत्पादन के लिए भी जो सहायता व प्रोत्साहन मिलना चाहिए वह नहीं मिल पाता है । एक तो सरकार की नीति उपेक्षा की रहती है और दूसरे जो पैसा बीज व खाद कर्ज़ा आदि उनको दिया भी जाता है वह

सरकारी मशीनरी ऐसी डिफैक्ट्व है कि बीच में ही यार लोग हड्डप जाते हैं और किसान मूँह ताकते रह जाते हैं । कृषि उत्पादा बढ़ाने के लिए सिचाई और खास तौर से सरकार छोटी सिचाई व्यवस्था की ओर अधिक ध्यान दे । विदेशों से अनाज मंगाने के बजाय रसायनिक खाद मंगाए । सरकार ने पिछले १७ वर्षों में दो हजार करोड़ रुपये से या अधिक का अनाज विदेशों से मंगाया है यदि यही रकम सिचाई की व्यवस्था करने में तथा किसानों को कर्ज़ देने में लगाई होती तो आज देश को अनाज के मामले में विदेशों का मूँह नहीं ताकना पड़ता ।

आज किसानों की बड़ी दुरी अवस्था है, लेकिन उधर किसी का ध्यान नहीं जाता है । सरकारी मशीनरी एक तो कर्गट है और दूसरे वह गांवों के प्रति उपेक्षा बत्तनी है और उनको हर मामले में नैगर्लैट करती है । आज किसानों को गांवों में पावर नहीं मिलती है और उन्होंने लाचार होकर अपने लुम्स बंद कर दिये हैं । वे अपनी प्रायंता लेकर फूँड ऐंड एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टरी के पास जाते हैं तो उनसे कहा जाता है कि भाई पावर के लिए तुम पावर से सम्बन्धित मंवालय के पास जाओ । सिचाई की व्यवस्था के लिए जब वह अपना रोना रोते हैं तो उनको कहा जाता है कि इसके लिए इरीगेशन मिनिस्टरी के पास जाओ । नतीजा यह होता है कि वे बेचारे गरीब किसान इधर से उधर बेकार मारे फिरते हैं और कोई उनकी कटिनाई को सुनने वाला और अंत उनकी मदद करने वाला नहीं है । पानी के लिए उसको कहा जाता है कि पानी तुम्हें सिचाई के बास्ते केवल रात में सुलभ हो सकेगा । अब आप ही बतलाइये कि दिन भर तो वह खेत में जी तोड़ कर परिथम करे और रात भर अगर उसे सिचाई करनी हो तो वह जागता रहे, यह उसके साथ कैसी नाइंसाफ़ी है? जरूरत इस बात की है कि उसे एकैकिट्व तौर पर कर्ज़ और सबसिडी आदि दी जाय और आज जो बीच में भ्रष्ट अधिकारी उस रूपये को

[श्रेमती लक्ष्मी बा ई]

खा जाते हैं और किसानों तक वह पैसा नहीं पहुंच पाता है सरकार को इसके लिए कड़े कदम उठाने चाहिए ।

आंध्र प्रदेश के बाबत उधर से जो एक महिला सदस्या ने कहा है मैं उसे गलत समझती हूँ और मैं उसे मानने को तैयार नहीं हूँ और नहीं आप लोंग उसको मानने को तैयार होंगे । वहां अनाज की कोई किलत नहीं है । अलवता वहां पर मुसीबत यह है कि यह अपोजिट पार्टी वाले व्यापारियों तथा जनता को भड़का और बरगला रखे हैं । और इस तरह से अनाज के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं । यह पार्टीज अपने पोलिटिकल परपत्र की पूर्ति के लिए सत्याग्रह आदि करनी और करत्वाती रहनी हैं । वे लोंगों को सरकार के विरुद्ध भड़का कर अपना उल्लं भीधा करना चाहते हैं और बेजा फायदा उठाते हैं । समय रहते सरकार को सचेत हूँ जाना चाहिए और वहां के गांवों की जनता की जो शिकायतें व उचित मार्गे हैं उनको पूरा करने के लिए सक्रिय कदम उठाने चाहिए । शहरों से लगे गांवों को बड़े बड़े कारखाने खोलने के बास्ते पूजीपतियों के इशारे पर ऐवायर किया जा रहा है और गरीब किसानों को उनकी जमीनों से बेदखल किया जा रहा है और उनको उचित मुआविजा भी नहीं मिल रहा है । ये चाज एक दम बंद होनी चाहिए । किसानों में आज जो असन्तोष है सरकार समय रहते उसको समाप्त करे अन्यथा उसके भीषण परिणाम हो सकते हैं । उसको यह नहीं भूलना चाहिए कि वह गांव के किसानों और मजदूरों के बोटों पर ही सत्ता की कुर्सी पर ब्यान है और आज जो वह सिर्फ़ शहरों के हां विकास को तरफ़ ध्यान दे रही है । यह नांति उसे त्यान देनी चाहिए । शहरों के नागरिकों की सरकार हर मुविधा का प्रबन्ध करनी है किन्तु गांव वालों की कटियों की और उसका ध्यान नहीं जाता है । आज किसानों को अपनी मोरी बनाने के लिए थोड़ा सीमेंट

भी नहीं मिलता है । शैड के लिए टीन की चट्ठर भी उसे नहीं मिलती है । यह जो उनकी डिफिकल्टीज हैं उनको सरकार को रिमूव करना चाहिए । यह खेद का विषय है कि १६ साल का समय बीत जाने के बाद भी उनकी अवस्था उसी तरह से दयनीय बनी रही है । गांव वाले भी आखिर इसान हैं और आप अपनी गफलत से अब जाग उठिये बरना बाद में पछताना होगा । वे अब अधिक समय तक चुप नहीं ढैट सकेंगे ।

एक जमाना होता था जब गांव की जिदगी मस्ती थी और शहरी जिदगी मंहगी होती थी लेकिन आज उलटी बात देखने में आती है । आज शहर सस्ते हैं जब कि गांव की जिदगी मंहगी हो रही है । वहां गांव में दूध नहीं मिलता, फल नहीं मिलता, तरकारी आदि कुछ भी नहीं मिलते हैं । किसानों को भर्यंट खाना व कपड़ा भी नसीब नहीं हो रहा है । मैंने उनकी प्रतिनिधि होने के नाते आज की महीने हालत आपके सामने रख दी है और मैं आशा करती हूँ कि मरकार आपनी मशीनरी को टाइटैन करेगी, उसमें आज जो डिफेक्ट्स हैं उनको वह हटायेंगी और किसानों को उनकी दैनिक आवश्यकता को चीजें उचित दामों पर सुलभ करने की व्यवस्था करेगी, उनको कृषि उत्पादन के लिये यथासम्भव महायता व प्रांताधान देगी और अगर ऐसा किया गया तो मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि किसान इस देश को खाद्यान्न के मामले में अत्मनिर्भर बनाने में कोई कसर नहीं उठा रखेंगे ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आपका समय समाप्त हो गया है ।

श्रीमती लक्ष्मी बा ई : जैसी आप की मर्जी वैसे मैं अभी पांच मिनट से ज्यादा नहीं बोली हूँ ।

Shri Swaran Singh: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon.

Members who have participated in this debate. At the commencement of this debate I did not make a statement as I had already laid a copy of a statement on the Table of this House, giving the factual position with regard to both availability of foodgrains and also the level of prices. As was not unexpected, the debate has covered not only the present food situation in particular relation to the prevalence of price of wheat at a higher level, which I presume was the main provocation for asking for this discussion, but the debate has also covered other points relating to other foodgrains; and the long-range question of steps that should be taken for stepping up agricultural production has also been touched upon by many hon. Members who have participated in the debate. I was somehow conscious of this development, and that is why I had suggested that the same purpose would be served when the Demands relating to the Ministry come up for discussion. But, as there was a general feeling in the House that there should be a debate, I readily agreed.

I am happy that I bowed before the wishes of the House, because the overall impression that has been left on my mind is that there is a very clear, and if I may add, growing appreciation of the complexities of this position. Hon. Members have given a great deal of thought to matters both which require short-term attention in the near future and they have also given valuable advice on other important aspects.

Sir, with your permission, I would like to place a few facts with regard to the wheat position in the country so that the House and the country might judge the facts in their correct perspective. I have already mentioned in the statement that last year, that is, in the year 1963, there was a production of 11.1 million metric tons. The normal criterion that is applied for arriving at a figure of the marketable surplus is we generally take about one-third of the total production as the quantity which comes to

the market. Hon. Members have themselves mentioned that a large number of people in the rural side are dependent upon agriculture and, therefore, they also make arrangements for their food requirements from the produce in the village and do not normally come to the market to get their requirements.

Shri Krishnapal Singh: Wrong.

Shri Swaran Singh: It is true that difficulties arise, as they have now arisen, and they have to go to the market but, generally, not more than about one-third of the total foodgrains production comes to the market. This has been the conclusion that has been arrived at by various experts and also by the enquiry committee that went into the whole question. On that basis the total availability in the market would be one-third of 11.1 million metric tons which comes to about 37 lakh metric tons. Now, Sir, it is interesting to note that—I was looking into the figures of the total imported wheat that was supplied for the requirements of the consumer—for the last year it comes to about 38 lakh metric tons through the fair price shops, also in the form of atta which was produced by the mills and also in the form of wheat that was distributed through the various fair price shops and the like. It shows that in wheat we are deficient so far as our requirements are concerned. The total production that we have been able to achieve even in the best years has never been enough to meet our requirements. Still a question may arise as to why we are trying to encourage consumption of wheat even in those areas that are generally rice-consuming areas. The answer is a simple one and has been provided by some hon. Members who pointed out that rice is a commodity which is not easy to procure even in the international market. It is well-known that rice surpluses in the world are thrown up by countries which themselves are developing countries. They themselves are exposed to pressures of population and they are also finding themselves in a

[**Shri Swaran Singh]**

position where the surpluses of rice are showing a tendency to diminish year after year. On the other hand, wheat in the world is produced in surplus quantities by those countries where the surpluses are large and they are not subject to population pressures. If in the ultimate analysis there is shortfall in our agricultural production to meet our requirements and to make up that deficiency, the country has to import foodgrains. It is a practical proposition to think in terms of wheat rather than in terms of rice. That has been the picture for the last several years.

17.23 hrs.

[**MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]**

Now, 38 lakh tons of imported wheat was supplied into the market through a system which is fairly well-organised. I do not want to enter into the arguments; many hon. Members have pointed out that there are defects and deficiencies in the functioning of fair-price shops and the like. Those things should be attended to and the supervision should be tightened. But the fact remains that almost the entire quantity of the imported wheat is distributed through channels which are subject to distributive discipline and, therefore the actual products are finding their way to the consumer. It is this basic fact of the shortfall in the availability of wheat that has to be kept in mind in assessing the position and in thinking of measures that should be adopted.

As soon as we found in the month of November and also to a certain extent even in October, that the prices showed an upward tendency we took steps and impressed upon the States, which we thought would be affected, to draw more upon the central reserve of wheat. This advantage was taken up very quickly by certain States and in this connection the name of Punjab State comes to me as the uppermost. In other States it was not fully appre-

ciated, as I now see in retrospect, that a difficult situation lies ahead with regard to the availability of wheat, and they took some time before they started organising in a big way for receiving imported wheat and to make arrangements for its distribution. Although the position in Punjab also continues to be difficult in the sense that prices of indigenous wheat rule at a high level, let us not forget that a major part of their requirements today is met by imported wheat, and they have organised themselves for opening fair price shops and depots for the distribution of wheat and wheat products such as atta and the like.

UP took action a little later. Therefore, the position that faces us and that faced us in UP, is that the actual pumping in of wheat and wheat products there did not keep pace with the requirements with the result that certain difficulties were created in certain parts of that State.

At this stage, I would like to give a few figures. It is not my intention to tire the patience of the House by giving figures, but these figures might be significant and might indicate the order of the supplies that were made available from the Central stocks.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): They are very necessary also.

Shri Swaran Singh: in January, 1963 Punjab got roughly 14,000 tons in the form of atta and also in the form of grain. As against this, in January, 1964, they got as much as about 45,000 tons. In the case of UP, in January, 1963 they got 29,000 tons, whereas this year they got as much as 99,000 tons in terms of atta as well as wheat. In the case of the other States, the quantities are not large. But even Madhya Pradesh in the month of January this year got 17,000 tons whereas last year they got only about 4,000 tons in the month of January.

The figures for Rajasthan are significant, and I would like to mention them because some hon. Members

have rightly drawn the attention of the House to the scarcity conditions that prevail there. In January, 1963, they got only 0·7 thousand tons, that is, about 700 tons because Rajasthan in normal years is generally comfortable in regard to foodgrains, both in *rabi* as well as *kharif*. This year Rajasthan had to have as much as 18,000 tons.

Then, I come to the month of February. I have got the figures up to 15th February, because it takes some time before the figures are compiled.

In February last year, Punjab got 17,000 tons, but this year they have got 29,000 tons. Last year, UP got 29,000 tons while this year they have got 57,000 tons. Even in Madhya Pradesh, the quantity that they have got is about 9200 tons this year as compared to 3700 tons last year. In regard to Rajasthan, during the fortnight ending 15th February, 1964, they have got 12,000 tons as against only 400 tons last year.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: On a point of order. This is an important matter and it merits the attention of at least a quorum in the House. There is no quorum in the House at present. We would like the hon. Minister to speak at least to a quorum if not to the full House.

Shri Swarn Singh: When the situation becomes easy, people forget that there is any great urgency.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: They are having a tea party outside. It is not proper.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: We are discussing the food crisis, and even the quorum is not there.

Shri Nambiar (Tiruchirapalli): That is only to encourage the food debate, so that Members may be strong enough to face the problem.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया: मैं भी एक अर्ज कर दूँ। मंत्री महोदय नीति के बारे में कभी कुछ नहीं बताते। खाली आंकड़ों का विवरण दे दिया करते हैं। नीति नहीं रहती है। इसलिये वहस में कोई दिलचस्पी नहीं आ पाती।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह: फिर भी आप तो मेहरबानी करके बैठे हुए हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: जो तकरीर कर चुकते हैं, उन में से बहुत से चले जाते हैं, जबाब सुनने का इंतजार नहीं करते हैं।

श्री काशी राम गप्ता: अधिकतर तो उन में से यहाँ बैठे हैं। कांग्रेस के साथी चाय-पार्टी में चले गए हैं।

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: They should have fixed the party at 6 O' clock.

Mr. Speaker: The bell is being rung—Now there is quorum. The hon. Minister may continue.

Shri Swaran Singh: So far as the figures with regard to the country as a whole are concerned, in the month of January we supplied roughly about 4½ lakh tons of wheat in the form of wheat grain and *atta*. The actual offtake during February, 1964 is likely to be at a higher rate, although we had only 29 days in the month of February. This is the position with regard to the availability and the arrangements that had been made to meet this shortage.

The effect of all these steps has been the fact that prices of wheat which at one time were touching an unprecedented high level have shown a tendency to relax. I did make this information available to the House some days ago and I would like to state the position as it obtains today.

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The rise in wheat prices occurred almost throughout the country, particularly in Punjab, UP, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Delhi. The steep rise in price is attributable to the decline of 9 lakh tonnes in wheat production during 1962-63 as compared to 1961-62 and also to the reports of damage to the 1963-64 wheat crop by the long cold spell in northern India and inadequate winter rains. It is, however, significant that during the last few days, wholesale prices of wheat in a number of reporting centres in the wheat producing States have shown a tendency to decline. Some idea of this quantum of decline can be had from the fact that in Punjab in certain markets it has come down by as much as Rs. 10 per quintal. Even in UP, it rules at a level lower than what had prevailed some weeks ago. Same is the position in Madhya Pradesh where the fall has ranged from Rs. 4 to Rs. 9 per quintal. In Rajasthan also, there is a fall of Rs. 4½ per quintal.

श्री विधायक प्रसाद : उत्तर में तो आपने होलसेल के दाम बता दिये हैं। रिटेल प्राइस बाजार की क्या है, यह भी तो आप बतायें। उन में भी क्या कमी आई है?

श्री राम सेवक यादव : ये सच्चे आंकड़े नहीं होते हैं।

Shri Swaran Singh: Hon. Members quote these figures and statistics when they suit them and build up a case; but when they are cited to bring in a certain realism into the debate, objection is taken that they are not realistic.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: The same thing applies to you.

Mr. Speaker: These are wholesale prices. Has there been any decline in the retail prices as well? That is the question.

Shri Swaran Singh: This is a well-known phenomenon with which everyone of us should be familiar, that when they talk of rise in prices, they quote the figures which are in the wholesale market (*Interruptions*). When a rise in prices takes place, it is reflected in the market quotations which appear in every newspaper every morning. When a fall takes place, it is also culled from what appears in the newspapers. We have also got market intelligence. It is based upon that that I am making this statement.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : फुटकर दाम तो आदमी जब खरीदता है, तभी वह जानता है। मंत्री महोदय खाली अखबारों पर चलते हैं। पिछली बहस में यह बात आ गई है।

Mr. Speaker: The Minister is not giving in.

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : डा० लोहिया शायद कभी बाजार में जा कर नहीं खरीदते। इन्होंने भी शायद बहुत सा इधर उधर से सुना हुआ है। शायद मुझ से भी कम वह बाजार में खरीदने के लिये जाते हैं। वह बड़े लोडर है। उनको पार्टी का काम बहुत रहता है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : आपके जितना हम बाजार में नहीं जायेंगे वयोंकि मेरा उतना बड़ा खानदान नहीं है।

Shri Swaran Singh: I think this type of interruption does not help us at all.

It is a fact that the level of prices, both in the retail and in the wholesale market, has got a close relationship. Any rise in the wholesale level of prices is reflected in the retail and vice versa. As to the quantum and whether it takes two days or three days to seep down to the actual retail shop, these are matters about which there can be difference of opinion, but there should be no differ-

ence of opinion and no scope for controversy on this economic fact. It is well known, and about it I thought there was no scope of any dispute or controversy.

It is very interesting that those hon. Members who wanted to criticise us forget entirely to take notice of this declining trend in wheat prices which, to my mind, is the most significant feature of the last few days in the wheat market. This is a period which is very bitterly a lean period, because the crop has still to arrive in the main surplus areas of Punjab, and also in Rajasthan and U.P. The crop will arrive after about a month or so. In eastern U.P. it may arrive in another two weeks, but in Punjab and Rajasthan, it will not be before the middle of April. This lowering of the price level and arresting of the upward trend is directly attributable to the off-loading of wheat and wheat products from the Central Government stores, and this only shows that the stocks which are available with us, when they are pumped into the market and made available at concessional prices, do have an impact upon the prices.

Personally, I am not fully satisfied with the result, because of consumer resistance, and partly because of the type of propaganda that generally goes on condemning the quality of imported wheat. That, I think, is also partly responsible for keeping up consumer resistance. Shri Banerjee said that a speech of the Chief Minister of West Bengal pushed up the price, and that a statement of the Agriculture and Supplies Minister of U.P. also pushed up the price, but I have no doubt that our speeches also sometimes, when we take an unrealistic view and criticise, not knowing the full implications thereof, do have an effect upon the psychology of the trader and also uplift the psychology of the consumer.

Let us squarely face the position that there was a shortfall. I am not talking now of the long-range problem, we can discuss that separately,

but let us try to manage our affairs with a sense of realism. This shortfall can be made up only by pumping in additional supplies of imported wheat; if, at the same time, a parallel argument is built up and maintained condemning that, although the offtake is that much, still the psychology continues, and people continue to quote higher prices for the indigenous wheat. They are compelled to bring down the prices only when the circumstances compel them; when they see there is no offtake then the prices have to come down as they have actually come down during the last week or ten days. I am not grudging any criticism or the like. But let us weigh the effect of our criticism, the tone of our criticism, the manner in which we present it. Are we not playing into the hands of those who want to make maximum profit by statements of that type and are we not ourselves contributing to the firming up of our consumer resistance—which to my mind is unfounded—and this resistance for keeping it at an artificially high level—the price of indigenous wheat—although the price quotations are there? But those hon. Members who have been scanning the market arrivals of indigenous wheat will bear me out even if I were to say that the actual market arrivals are very, very small because, although the price quotation of indigenous wheat is at a higher level, the actual quantity that is the subject-matter of that high price level is comparatively small, because the requirements of the major part of the urban population which is the main population that draws upon the market resources or market arrivals during this lean period are, by and large, being met by imported wheat.

have assured the States affected which are the main wheat-consuming States—Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and also Madhya Pradesh—that it will be possible to meet their full requirements of wheat, and they are gearing themselves up to arranging the distribution even in the re-

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motest parts, and that has already had a powerful impact.

Before I come to the prospects of the next year, I would like to say something about the rice position in the country. As the House is fully aware, there was a shortfall in production last year. In spite of that, we have been able to tide over the position more or less smoothly except in West Bengal and for a short duration in Orissa. Even there, certain steps were taken by the West Bengal Government in the months of October and November, 1963, and the position was brought under control and discipline in about two to three weeks' time. The House will be glad to learn that the level of prices that now prevails in West Bengal and in Orissa in this part of the year and the level that actually prevailed over the last two to three weeks are definitely lower as compared to the level of prices that prevailed on the corresponding dates of the last year, that is, 1963. That should be a source of some satisfaction and even some hon. Members have referred to with some satisfaction about the steps taken by West Bengal Government to get the price of rice under control.

Then there are two other rice zones, that is, the western and the southern zones. The position in the western zone which comprises Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra—and part of the rice also goes to Gujarat—is this: the price level that obtains immediately after the harvest is a shade higher as compared to the level of prices that prevailed on the corresponding date of the year 1963. The same is the position with regard to the southern States; although the actual level of prices which were prevailing in the western and southern zones prior to the arrival of the current crop has really been very much lowered still, to take a correct view, it will be proper for me to mention that the prices do continue to be at a level which is higher compared to the

level of prices that prevailed on the corresponding dates of the last year. Some of the reasons have been mentioned on other occasions and I have also had occasion to say something about them and so it is not my intention to go into them in great detail.

Shri Nambiar: In the Southern region the rise is not marginal or small; it is sometimes more than 50 per cent.

Shri Swaran Singh: I do not think it is anywhere of that order.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : सर्वे कीसदी उतार चढ़ाव हो जाता है।

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : मेरा स्थान है कि माननीय सदस्य को साउथ का जान नहीं है।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : जान बढ़ाने की बात हुई तो लम्बी बहस हो जायेगी।

Shri Swaran Singh: To my mind the position that obtains today is partially due to the comparatively lower price at which we were procuring rice both in Andhra Pradesh and in Madras. Let us not forget that the trader or the miller, if he parts with a certain part of his crop at a price which is at a low level, he has naturally a tendency to load it on and add to the other quantity which he sells in the free market or which he sends to an adjoining State. Partly due to the producer resistance also, it is like this. He saw the high price in the pre-harvest period and therefore, he is not coming into the market with the same speed with which he used to during the earlier years. The figures with regard to the market arrivals in those parts fully bear out the two points that I have already mentioned. But the House will be glad to know that even this trend has been reversed and the prices have become generally steady. I have no doubt that the prices will come down even more.

For this we are taking two steps in this direction. In areas where we thought that the quantum of levy was at a high percentage, the quantum of levy is being reduced as in Andhra Pradesh, about which the hon. lady Member said. We are also examining the proposal to fix the procurement price on a more realistic basis. I hope that a decision in this respect will be announced before long.

It will be wrong to imagine that the price that the Government fixes for procurement has any great influence upon the prevailing market price. The reason is quite obvious because even in a surplus State like Andhra Pradesh we could not have procured more than 90-95 thousand tons till to date. That bears a very small proportion of the market availability of rice in Andhra Pradesh and a much smaller proportion to the total production.....(Interruptions.) The procurement price, if it is unduly low, does leave scope for the dealer, miller and those who are in the trade to load that component of the rice which is free from levy, with the loss that they have incurred on this component which has been procured at a price which is markedly lower as compared to the prevailing price. I hope that these two steps that are sought to be taken, one which has already been implemented and the other about which a decision will be taken soon will be further factors which will be conducive to the realisation of the objective of bringing the price even lower

At this stage, I want to mention another aspect about which there appears to be difference of opinion between two sections of the House. Some feel that even the prevailing market prices even in the surplus States are not sufficiently remunerative for the grower and at the same time in some other centres they say some effort should be made to bring down the prices. After all, we have to strike a balance between the two points.

Shri P. R. Patel: Why don't you fix a remunerative price?

Shri Swaran Singh: We are discussing the food situation in the position in which we find ourselves, as to what are the long term measures. This is my assessment of the position with regard to the availability of rice. On the whole, the rice crop this year is definitely better as compared to last year and the position, therefore, is not likely to be difficult.

Along with that, there are other steps which have to be taken. There are two important measures which have been agreed upon in the Food Ministers' conference. One relates to more effective control of the wholesale trade. According to the new licensing order and the new conditions of the licence, there will be provision for a more effective check on them, because the new licensing order will enable the Government even to requisition stocks at a price which might be declared by the State Government as the maximum price which can be fixed for that State. There are other provisions also relating to a careful reporting of the stocks. Margins can be prescribed. It is very necessary to bring the wholesale trader under this discipline and to bind him down to these things. It is only thereafter that we can effectively introduce any control in the matter of prices.

My friend opposite said, let us first decide that this is the price and we will think later as to what should be the steps which should be taken to enforce that. Experience has shown . . .

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप इजाजत दें तो मैं साफ कर दूं कि मैंने कभी नहीं कहा

Shri Swaran Singh: I have never interrupted the hon. Member when he spoke. He always says such hard things. Sometimes he should try to

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understand the problem. My way may not be as effective as his, but I have a certain duty to perform. He should try to understand the problem rather than rise in that manner.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : मैंने दामों के उतार चढ़ाव के बारे में कहा था। मैं ने दामों की किसी एक जगह बांधने को नहीं कहा था। मैंने कहा था कि दो फसलों के बीच में दामों के उतार चढ़ाव को बांधा जाय। यह मैं कई बार पहले भी कह चुका हूँ।

Shri Swaran Singh: This was precisely the point that I was mentioning. I am very sorry that Dr. Lohia has not tried to follow it. I have said two important things in relation to the new licensing order. I have mentioned about fixation of prices which can be enforced. I have also said that a maximum price can be fixed beyond which the wholesaler cannot sell and at which price he may be compelled to part with his stock. If this is coupled with the already announced policy with regard to the floor price that answers completely what is in his mind. He has said that the variation in the prices at the post-harvest and pre-harvest period should not be beyond a certain limit. If we have a floor price and a maximum price which is intended to be declared—we will also fix the margin—that is a complete answer to the variation of the price between a certain lowest and highest levels. That was precisely the point which was trying to cover.

What I was saying was, that it will be wrong from a practical point of view to make an announcement that this is the maximum price and we do not take any steps to enforce that discipline and do not have the necessary mechanism or the necessary procedures for actually fixing the responsibility upon the various people.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that every one will appreciate that it is

necessary to have this type of arrangement before we can actually enforce the actual maximum price as compared to the floor price. Floor prices, as the House is no doubt aware, have already been announced and they are there in the field for quite some years. With regard to the main food crops, last year, in the State of Uttar Pradesh, the Government had to step in when it was reported that in a certain market wheat was selling at a price lower than the floor price, and as soon as the Government stepped in for procuring wheat at the floor price the market price assumed a level where purchase in any large quantity was not necessary. It is, therefore, necessary that we should bring the wholesale trade under this distributive discipline by enforcing these new licenses, and it is only thereafter that we can successfully implement our determination to maintain a certain margin between the minimum price, which is the floor price, and the maximum price that should be charged.

This has actually been tried to a certain extent and with some success in West Bengal. With regard to certain items steps are being taken even in other States, although the States took some time to fully implement this new licensing order. Already Andhra Pradesh has introduced this. I have been informed that Uttar Pradesh has also taken a decision and it has already announced its decision to enforce this new licensing order.

These two measures which emerged as a result of the Food Ministers' Conference which was convened here last week, to my mind, are significant. Their determination to enforce a certain maximum price and also this new licensing order that is to be enforced . . .

Shri Nambiar: By enforcing these if the prices of foodgrains go up, what will happen? It has happened in the south.

Shri Swaran Singh: Shri Nambiar knows more about Railways. He has not tried to follow what I was saying. I never said that by enforcing this order the prices have gone up. He has completely missed the point. I can answer something which I think is relevant.

Shri Nambiar: I am missing my rice now.

Shri Swaran Singh: You should take a little more of wheat also now that you are in Delhi.

18 hrs.

Sir, I am fully conscious of the fact that the next rabi crop is not as good as I wish it were. At one time I thought that with a reasonably good rice crop and with the prospects of a good rabi crop we would have almost completely got over the difficulties which harassed us last year. But, Sir, the frost conditions, unfortunately, which gripped a good part of North India, have damaged the wheat crop, the gram crop, and the harhar pulse crop in Uttar Pradesh. This is a new situation that has developed. This was also partly responsible for creating a sentiment which has pushed the price of indigenous wheat, although I maintain that there was no justification for doing that. Sometimes, in a complex situation when we are out to find a quick answer, we can commit the mistake of not understanding the position clearly. It has become quite customary to say that controls, distribution or the levy are responsible for all these difficulties, as was mentioned by certain hon. Members opposite. But the House should remember that wheat has behaved in this manner although there was no control either on its price, or on its distribution or movement, when it was absolutely free all over the country. So, you can see that this type of situation we had to face, although there was no control. Therefore, one should not be dogmatic or critical of a particular measure and

should not try to find a ready answer for all our difficulties. As was pointed out by some hon. Members, it is a complex problem which is inter linked with a number of factors. General price level, rate of development, rate of expenditure, quantum of deficit financing, all these are factors which contribute to the emergence of a price pattern and it will not be correct to take the food prices alone in isolation.

Then, again, the prevalence of a slightly more remunerative price at the post-harvest period when the greatest advantage of this will go to the grower should not be grudged with the same vehemence as the pushing up of prices during the lean period. We should take adequate measures to see that the phenomenon of the prices being pushed up at the lean period is not repeated, and for that licensing, maximum prices, pumping in supplies from the quantities that we succeed in procuring and also from our imports will be the instruments which will be effectively utilized to prevent a recurrence of that phenomenon. But we should not be too much upset if the prices, particularly at the post-harvest period when the advantage goes directly to the grower goes up a little. We should not look at it in the same light as we are prone to consider the situation when the prices get pushed up during the lean period of the season.

Before I say a few words about the long-term measures, I would like to say very briefly our approach to this problem and the way we propose to deal with this. To sum up, so far as the prospects of 1964 are concerned, while the position of rice crop has been satisfactory, that of wheat, millet and pulses has been a matter of concern to Government and it is clear that more stringent measures would be required in the current year to keep the situation under control. The recent tendency is of both wheat and rice prices to respond to the measures that have been taken. It is signifi-

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can that between October 1963 and February 1964 rice prices have fallen much more than in the corresponding period of 1962-63. While this is a matter of some satisfaction, it cannot be a matter of complacency. Wheat prices in the last one week have also shown a reaction to the measures adopted and in most of the difficult areas they have shown a declining tendency. This tendency also should not induce any sense of over-confidence but should emphasize the need for vigilance and regulation of the type that had yielded results. It must, however, be borne in mind that short fall of production and pressure of inflation cannot be met only by regulation, particularly in a commodity where the demand is inelastic and is unlikely to show any recession. Even attempts to curb consumption cannot be as successful as the economic situation might demand. Controls and regulations can, therefore, only reduce the pressure of other economic forces. This has been conceded by the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee and also by the Planning Commission. The aim of controls and regulations must, therefore, be, on one side, to protect the producer against any fall in prices which might act as a disincentive to production and, on the other, to limit the rise in prices during the lean period over the immediate post-harvest prices.

With a view to achieving this objective, the following measures are under consideration and I would like briefly to mention these. Firstly, a review of procurement prices is being done with a view to bringing them in line with actual post-harvest prices that have prevailed over a number of years. This should meet the demand that the present prices do not secure a reasonable remunerative return to the producer and also avoid the many other problems not only of procurement but also of the effect of procurement at artificial prices on the market and general level. Secondly,

it has already been decided to make the regulation of trade more effective by making the licensing conditions more rigid. I would not go into the details of this because I have said about this already sufficiently in detail. Thirdly, the question of progressive taking over of the management of rice mills is also receiving consideration. The Food Ministers have agreed to give a detailed consideration to this problem and we are meeting in another two or three months to take final decisions. Fourthly, in order to avail ourselves of better rice crop situation, we have decided to step up procurement between States and the Central Government which may exceed 1 million tonnes. That is nearly double of what was procured last year. Simultaneously, steps are being taken to increase imports of wheat under P. L. 480. The lesson of the recent crisis is that until stocks are adequately built up, both of wheat and rice, and production is stepped up, imports are inevitable. The Government has already under consideration a programme of these imports with a view to building up of the minimum buffer stock required to deal with the situation with which the country has been faced both last year and this year. Fifthly, the question of fixing maximum prices of cereals, particularly rice and wheat, is also under active consideration, the intention being that even during the lean period the prices would have to be allowed to exceed only upto a particular level over the post-harvest prices. This is necessary not only to assure the producer that trade is not going to be allowed to make undue profits as also to overcome producer resistance. Stringent action would be taken against the trade if it seeks to contravene these limits. Along with the regulation of margins, it should provide sufficient protection to the consumer also against anti-social activities on the part of profiteers and black-marketeers. Lastly,

suitable credit control will also be devised to prevent traders from acquiring facilities to support hoarding and profiteering. The House will be interested to know, as I have already mentioned in my statement, that even this year the Reserve Bank has decreased the percentage of the credit that is available for paddy and rice traders. I think it is 90 per cent on the level of advances in 1962. The normal advance, I think, is at a level of 35 per cent of the value of food-grains. These are the various steps and measures that have to be taken in order to meet the position with regard to the availability of food and to bring discipline in the distributive system.

There are two other points about which I will make a very brief mention. I am conscious of the fact that already we are late. One is about the long-range steps to be taken. With the limited time at my disposal now, it is not my intention to spell out in detail the various steps that have been taken of late, both at the Central level as also at the State level, to step up our efforts for agricultural production. The hon. Members must have kept themselves in touch with what transpired at the zonal conferences with the Chief Ministers and the Ministers in-charge of Agricultural and other Rural Development subjects. I have come back, after these meetings, with this overall impression that there is definitely a growing realisation at the State level of the importance of agriculture and the various activities also have been coordinated both at the ministerial level as also at the administrative level not only at the State Capitals level but even below the line, namely, at the district level and also at the block level. They have taken concrete steps to constitute appropriate bodies functioning at the Minister's level, at the secretariat level and also at the district level so that the various activities are co-ordinated there. I do not want to say what

we have done at the Centre because that is a matter which has been mentioned here more than once.

Secondly, there is the feeling that the availability of those input factors which are necessary for the growers for stepping up production has to be assured in a smooth manner and at reasonable prices, and various steps have been taken in that direction. Agricultural production is a matter which is a long-term one, and it takes time for these things to yield results, but I think that the direction in which we are moving is the right direction.

Apart from that, there is this conclusion that our efforts have to be intensified in certain selected areas to produce quick results, and, therefore, the intensive development idea has been extended to districts outside the original districts that had been selected for the package programmes. The same pattern is not sought to be repeated there, but the idea itself is such as is bound to yield results in the short-term. Very detailed discussions have taken place with the representatives of the State Governments in earmarking the areas, in locating the requirements to step up production of the various agricultural crops in those areas and also for the provision of other input factors which are necessary to enable them to achieve the higher rates of production. These matters will also be the subject-matter, I presume, of detailed discussion when we come to the discussion of the Demands for Grants relating to the Food and Agriculture Ministry.

There is one other matter which remains about which mention has been made by Shri Bagri who has not done me the honour of even being present to hear the reply, although he had stated that he had staged one or two walk-outs in order to be able to secure the attention of the House on a discussion of this type.

आ० राम मनोहर लोहिया : उन के बदले हम लाग बैठे हुए हैं।

Shri Swaran Singh: Certain parts of our country faced difficult conditions on account of the failure of the normal rains and the like. I think that Rajasthan is the worst-hit, and already in several districts, the Rajasthan Government have actually declared scarcity conditions. I had a discussion with the Chief Minister of Rajasthan who was here yesterday, and he has acquainted me with all the steps that are being taken by the State Government to provide relief, both short-term and also long-term, so that the unfortunate hardship that is being faced by those people is mitigated to the maximum extent.

I am also conscious of the fact that parts of Punjab, and particularly the tract adjoining Rajasthan, in which the constituency of Shri Bagri is also included, are faced with difficult conditions. The Punjab Government have already taken steps to provide foodgrains and fodder and also to arrange other supplies to mitigate as much as possible the rigours of a calamity of that type.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: What about Shri Bagri's demand that the hon. Minister himself should visit that area?

Shri Swaran Singh: I am not opposed to visiting any area and I shall certainly welcome the idea, but I may state that my colleague Dr. Ram Subhag Singh has already visited Gujarat, and I think he has taken certain steps, detailed information about which has already been supplied to the House.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know whether he has visited Kutch? Did he visit the famine-areas or other areas?

Shri Swaran Singh: In these matters, much as the hon. Ministers here would like to go to every place, let

us not forget the basic thing that we should leave it to the State Governments to tackle these rather difficult situations because they are more in touch with the problems and these are problems which fall within their jurisdiction. We should be there to help them with all that may be necessary or that is due from us. But the instrumentality of the States for providing relief is the only method which is a correct method from the practical and also the constitutional points of view.

There is this recent unfortunate phenomenon on account of the fronts conditions in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and also UP. About this also, there has been discussion in the State Assembly of UP, in Rajasthan and in Punjab and steps have already been taken by the State Governments, either in the form of remission of land revenue or of postponement of other government dues or in the matter of providing relief of other nature. I feel that the State Governments who themselves are responsible to the State legislatures are extremely conscious of the difficulties that they face and they are taking every step that is required to be taken to alleviate the suffering of the people. I have already assured them that whatever is due from us by way of supplies or the like, we will certainly try to do our best. In this, I think we have the support of the House because this is a situation where we should try to go to their rescue and do the best that is possible to be one so that the rigours and difficulties that they face may be minimised as much as possible.

Shri Nambiar: The operation of the rice mills has created a situation in the south which the Minister himself agrees has added to the price increase. May I know whether Government is contemplating taking definite steps to take over these rice mills which are directly responsible for fluctuations. He only said that this is under

consideration. May I know what is under consideration? Is it to take them over or not to take them over?

Mr. Speaker: When it is under consideration, how can he say?

Shri Nambiar: Which way they are considering?

Shri Swaran Singh: I might clarify and say that I have not said that the rice mills are directly responsible for all the fluctuations. There are other factors also.

Shri Nambiar: Is he taking them over or not? This is the question which is agitating the minds of people there.

Mr. Speaker: He has said that it is under consideration.

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं तो सिर्फ आप से यह अर्ज कर रहा हूँ कि कभी किसी समय जल्दी ही मंत्री महोदय से आप अनाज के दाम के उतार-चढ़ाव का कुछ ठोस जवाब दिलवाइये, क्योंकि आज भी खाली एक किताबी उपदेश था। न तो फर्ज की कोई कीमत बताई गई . . .

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब इस नुस्खाचीनी प्रीर कमेंट की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। माननीय मदम्य चाहते हैं कि उस में वेरियेशन एक सरटेन लिमिट में हो। उस के जवाब में मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा है कि हाँ, सरकार इसी पर गौर करके कोई फैसला करेगी।

डा० राम मनोहर लोहिया : गिल्डनी दफा भी यही था। किसी सैकड़े में जवाब आना चाहिये खेती की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिये। मान लीजिए, सोलह सैकड़ा या बीस मैकड़ा तक उतार-चढ़ाव होगा। दूसरी बात मैंने आग में यह अर्ज की थी कि कोई समय-बदल नीति होनी चाहिए, लेकिन वह नीति अभी तक नहीं आई है। आप कभी किसी समय वह नीति दिलवाइए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बाकी बहम हम डिमांडस में करेंगे। आज की बहम सिर्फ इनी ही थी।

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : मंत्री महोदय यह जानकारी देने की कृपा करें कि लाइसेंस प्राईंस में जो बिचौलिये रखे हैं, वे कितने हैं, दो तीन हैं या बहुत से हैं। होलसेल डीलर और रीटेल डीलर में कितने इन्टरमीडियरीज हैं? होलसेल डीलर से ने कर रेटेल डीलर तक लाइसेंस होल्डर्स में कितने आदमी शामिल हैं?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : जो होलसेल डीलर का लाइसेंस होगा, उस में तो वही होगा। उस में और कोई बिचौलिया या इन्टरमीडियरी कैसे हो सकता है?

श्री काशी राम गुप्त : मेरा नापर्य यह है कि होलसेल डीलर और रीटेल डीलर के बीच में कोई कमीशन एजेंट तो नहीं है और क्या होलसेलर का रीटेलर से सीधा सम्बन्ध है। क्या होलसेलर और किसान के बीच में कोई आँदतिया तो नहीं है?

श्री स्वर्ण सिंह : वह तो तक्षील की बात है। होलसेल डीलर लाइसेंस में यह भी है कि किम मार्जिन पर वह दूसरे आदमियों को बेचेगा।

Shri Himatsingka: The greatest factor which stands in the way of adequate production of foodgrains is want of rain in time. Is the Minister giving some more facilities by way of minor and medium size schemes for irrigation?

Shri Swaran Singh: It is a fact that apart from the major river valley projects and big irrigation schemes, great attention is being devoted to stepping up our activity in respect of minor irrigation schemes, and certain additional allocations have already been made to certain States.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (केरना) : क्या मिनिस्टर साहब किमान को इस तरह का कोई

[भी यशपाल सिंह]

भाषणासन दिला सकते हैं कि चूंकि जो गल्ला उस से आधे दामों पर खरीदा गया था, अब वह दुगने दामों पर बिक रहा है, इस लिये आइन्हा जो भाव रखेगा, उस का हिस्सा किसान को भी चिलेगा ?

सचिव महोदय : जो तज्ज्ञीज माननीय सदस्य कर रहे हैं, मिनिस्टर साहब बहुत तफसील में उस के बारे में बता चुके हैं।

भी विधायक प्रसाद : सचिव की बहस के दौरान में माननीय मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि 'कोशिक' कर रहे हैं इसको हल करने की। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर साहब कब तक उम्मीद करते हैं कि जहाँ से मनाज के दाम बढ़ने शुरू हुए थे, वे कितने दिनों में इसी स्तर पर पहुँच जाएंगे ?

भी विधायक प्रसाद : यह कहना तो कठिन है।

Mr. Speaker I shall now put Substitute Motion No. 1 to the House.

The Substitute motion No. 1 was put and negatived.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put Substitute Motion No. 2 to the House.

The substitute motion No. 2 was put and negatived.

Mr. Speaker: Substitute Motion No. 3.

Shri P. R. Patel: I withdraw.

Mr. Speaker: Has he the permission of the House to withdraw his motion?

Hon. Members: Yes.

The Substitute motion No. 3. was, by leave, withdrawn.

18.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 3, 1984/Phalgun 18, 1885 (Saka).