

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Monday, 6th September, 1954.

*The Lok Sabha met at a Quarter
Past Eight of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

***506. Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research this year;

(b) if so, when and where it will be held; and

(c) what will be the main functions on that occasion?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) In New Delhi in December, 1954.

(c) Chief items in the function would be: (i) An exhibition showing the progress of Agricultural Research during the last 25 years; (ii) A film show on the subject; (iii) Issue of a souvenir volume of the 'Indian Farming', the Council's farm journal; (iv) Publication of a Supplement on Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Research by certain Newspapers; etc.

Shri Barman: May I know whether any other country is participating in 351 L.S.D.

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this Jubilee, and if so, which are those countries?

Shri Kidwai: It is a report of our own progress for twenty-five years. There is no question of any other country participating in it.

Shri Barman: Shall we exhibit in that Jubilee, the results of research of the last twenty-five years, which India has evolved, in preference to those of any other country?

Shri Kidwai: That is the intention.

SOIL EROSION

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

(a) whether Government have given any aid to the State Governments to combat soil erosion;

(b) if so, to which States the aid was given in the year 1953-54; and

(c) the names of the States to which Government propose to give such aid during 1954-55?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes; financial aid in the form of loans and grants has been given.

(b) Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Uttar Pradesh, Travancore-Cochin, Bhopal, Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh.

(c) Aid has so far been sanctioned during the current year to the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Himachal Pradesh, Kutch and Vindhya Pradesh. Loans and grants for soil conservation schemes in Hyderabad, Orissa, Punjab,

Saurashtra and Uttar Pradesh have since been approved.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the total area of land affected by soil erosion, and the grants given to the States in 1953-54, as also the amounts to be given this year?

Shri Kidwai: I can lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the grants and loans for the last year, and for this year. But I have not got the figure relating to the area. I can supply it to the hon. Member.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In spite of the fact that Assam has one of the most gigantic problems of soil erosion, may I know why it is that during the last two years—including the latest list that has been read out by the hon. Minister—we have not heard of the name of the State of Assam in this respect?

Shri Kidwai: It is because, perhaps, they did not demand anything.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the figures for grants and loans given by the hon. Minister include the sums spent through the community projects and extension services?

Shri Kidwai: No, they relate only to the grants and loans given for this specific purpose.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Debeswar Sarmah.

Shri T. N. Singh: In that case, what are the....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Debeswar Sarmah.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: Referring to part (c) of the question, may I know whether Government have issued or propose to issue directions in respect of deforestation and joom cultivation, in connection with soil erosion?

Shri Kidwai: Will the hon. Member repeat his question?

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: Have Government issued any instructions, or

do Government propose to issue any instructions, in respect of deforestation and joom cultivation in connection with conservation of soil?

Shri Kidwai: There is no question of issuing any directions. The policy is discussed in a committee where all the State Governments are represented. If any State Government wants to make any demand, it may send a scheme, asking for loan or aid, as the case may be.

सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य

***५०६. सेंट गोबिन्ध दास :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करंगी कि ऐसी संस्थाओं की संख्या कितनी है, जिन्हें सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य सुधारन के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार सहायता देती है, और १९५३-५४ में उन्हें कितनी सहायता दी गई ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Sixty-three organisations were assisted by the Central Government during 1953-54, the total grant paid being Rs. 26,04,251.

सेंट गोबिन्ध दास : जिन संस्थाओं को सहायता दी गई उनमें ऐसी कितनी संस्थाएं हैं जो कि आयुर्वेद दवा का भी उपयोग करती हैं ?

राजकुमारी अमृतकोर : इंडियन कॉन्सिल आफ मेडिकल रिसर्च के द्वारा आयुर्वेद में रिसर्च हो रहा है। उनको २७.५ लाख ग्रांट दी गई जिस में से उन्होंने छ लाख के करीब जामनगर में आयुर्वेद की रिसर्च के लिये दिया और एक, दो जगह और भी आयुर्वेद के लिये रुपया दिया गया है।

सेंट गोबिन्ध दास : छब्बीस लाख रुपयों में से कुल कितना रुपया आयुर्वेद की दवाओं की रिसर्च पर खर्च किया गया और कितना रुपया और दूसरी प्रणाली की दवाओं पर खर्च किया गया ?

राजकुमारी अमृतकोर : मैं इसका आगे भी जवाब दे चुकी हूँ। सैंतीस लाख रुपया

आयुर्वेद बगैरह के लिये रक्खा गया है, कुछ जामनगर में खर्च हो रहा है और कुछ और जगहों पर भी खर्च हो रहा है और बाकी रुपया जैसे जैसे खर्च होता जायेगा वह उन को दिया जायेगा ।

RAILWAY ACCIDENT IN BOMBAY

***510. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what was the loss of property and how many people were killed and injured in the Railway accident which occurred on the 4th June, 1954, by the collision between a suburban train and a goods train in Bombay;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made; and

(c) if so, what is the result of the enquiry?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The Guard of the Goods trains and the Motorman of the Local train died and 11 other persons were injured. The approximate cost of damage to railway property was Rs. 35,642.

(b) and (c). The Government Inspector of Railways, Bombay, held his statutory enquiry into the accident. His finding is that the collision was caused by the Motorman of the Local train not following the correct procedure for passing an Automatic Stop Signal when displaying danger aspect.

Mr. Speaker: There is some difficulty with the sound arrangement. I understand it is being attended to. Meanwhile, will the hon. Members speak a little more loudly?

Shri Gidwani: What is the number of accidents that have taken place from January to June, 1954?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: That is entirely a different question. If the hon. Member gives notice of it, I shall answer it.

Shri Gidwani: May I know whether Shri S. S. Vasist, Member, Railway

Board, and two other members of the delegation that visited the Soviet Union and other places in July this year, studied this problem of stopping of railway accidents, and if so, have they suggested any remedies in this regard?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): They have studied that problem also, and we are expecting to get a formal report from them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the station was not having interlocked apparatus?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Yes, it did. But there is a general procedure laid down that if the signal is in the 'on' position, i.e. in the danger position, the guard of the train is supposed to stop the train. Whistle, and during day-time after one minute's interval, and at night after two minutes' interval, if he can see that the line is clear up to the next dock, he can proceed but very cautiously keeping the train under control. That is the normal procedure laid down, which was not followed in this particular case.

NATIONAL HARBOUR BOARD

***511. Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Harbour Board which met in Poona recently has made some recommendations for the development of certain ports;

(b) if so, what those recommendations are; and

(c) what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Board recommended that when preparing the Second Five Year Plan the case for developing an intermediate or major port at Paradip

and also the desirability and necessity for developing Tuticorin on the East Coast and Malpe or Mangalore on the West Coast as major ports should be examined.

(c) Arrangements for preliminary investigations in this connection are being made in respect of Tuticorin and Malpe. In respect of the other ports, certain investigations are already in progress.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know what amount the Government of India have sanctioned for the development of ports in the second Five Year Plan?

Shri Alagesan: It is too early to say.

SUGARCANE YIELD

*512. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the area under sugar-cane cultivation estimated to be treated with fertilizers during the current season; and

(b) the estimated additional yield of sugar-cane by the use of such fertilizers?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 2.2 lac acres.

(b) 15 to 20 per cent.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the trend of sugarcane production shows a decrease in per-acre yield in certain areas?

Shri Kidwai: It has shown different trends in different areas.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know what is the per-acre production in the majority of these sugarcane areas?

Shri Kidwai: In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, it is about 13 tons per acre; in Punjab it is still less, and as we proceed south, it is greater and greater till in some areas the average is 60 tons or even more.

TREPONEMAL DISEASES IN CHILDREN

*513. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India or the World Health Organization has made any study about the incidence of non-venereally transmitted Treponemal diseases in children in India as seen in the endemic syphilis in Madras and other states;

(b) how these diseases are spread especially amongst children; and

(c) what if any, are the preventive measures taken by Government?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No.

(b) It is spread through common domestic and household utensils and other direct or indirect contacts between individuals in the strata of society where poor educational and economic conditions exist.

(c) The preventive measures are:—

(i) mass campaigns in areas of high incidence to cure persons suffering from the disease and thereby reduce their number, and

(ii) educating the masses through lectures, posters and individual contacts by trained workers.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government of India have any information about the number of children having this endemic syphilis in Madras?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot give any number, but recently reports have come of instances of endemic syphilis in Madras.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether the Government are aware that this form of endemic syphilis cannot persist if the environmental conditions are changed?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have already said what the cure for this disease is.

JAPANESE METHODS OF RICE CULTIVATION

*514. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 671 asked on the 5th March, 1954 and lay a statement on the Table of the House giving, the comparative figures regarding the quantity of rice produced as well as the cost of production by the indigenous method and Japanese Method of rice cultivation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 1.]

Shri Dabhi: From the statement it appears that in all cases the average yield per acre by the Japanese method is greater than the average yield per acre by the indigenous method, but at the same time, in all cases the average estimated cost of production by the Japanese method is far higher than that by the indigenous method. This seems to nullify the advantage of the Japanese method. Have Government anything to say in this matter?

Shri Kidwai: If the hon. Member will read the table and work out the proportion of the production to the cost, he will find that the cost or production by the Japanese method is lower than that by the indigenous method.

Shri Dabhi: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state the main features of the Japanese method of paddy cultivation as distinguished from the indigenous method?

Mr. Speaker: I think it will be too long a process. If he wants, he should read the reports.

Shri Sadhan Gupta: What is the reason for the great difference in the average yield between the Japanese method and the indigenous method in different States?

Shri Kidwai: Mainly the use of fertilizers.

Shri Jethalal Joshi: May I know how much land is under the Japanese method of rice cultivation and how many tons of fertilizers are required for the production of rice?

Shri Kidwai: I have not got the figure before me of the land that is being brought under the Japanese method this year. Therefore, if notice is given, I will reply to that question.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: From the statement, it appears that in many States there is a fantastic increase in yield, e.g. in Bihar, it has increased from 12 to 40 maunds per acre, whereas the increase in cost is only over a 100 per cent. or so. Have the Ministry checked up these figures? Is it not a fact that in most of the States, these figures are showed up?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Kidwai: I do not know what is the experience of the hon. Member with regard to his own State, but I accept it as correct.

Mr. Speaker: I presume he said that he accepts the statement as correct.

Shri Kidwai: I accept as correct the figures that we have received from the Government of Bihar.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In other places also.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT

*515. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made with regard to the three pilot projects of inland water transport on the Ganga Brahmaputra waters; and

(b) whether the designs of the craft have been finalised and other preliminary arrangements made?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Preliminary work on the designs for the Ganga Project has been completed. The designs are expected to be finalised by November 1954 in consultation with an expert whose services the United Nations have agreed to provide. An officer has been appointed to take whole-time charge of the project. Arrangements are being made to carry out surveys in connection with the Assam projects.

Shri Achuthan: May I know what will be the total mileage that will be covered after this Ganga-Brahmaputra project is completed as per the new plan, as also the cost incurred, and the allotment for the same purpose?

Shri Alagesan: On the Ganga, the stretch that will be taken for this experiment is between Patna and Allahabad....

Mr. Speaker: What is the mileage that will be covered?

Shri Alagesan: Two hundred miles, between Patna and Allahabad, on the Ganga alone.

Shri Achuthan: Am I correct in assuming that the salient principle of 'one at a time' has been accepted by the Government and only after the work in the north is completed, will work in the south be taken up?

Shri Alagesan: It is not so. We are anxious to constitute an Inland Water Transport Board even for South India, and we have been in correspondence with the South Indian States. I am sorry to say we have not had encouraging replies so far, but we are trying to pursue the matter.

Shri Debeswar Sarmah: Is there any scheme for inland water transport on the Brahmaputra in view of the fact that the railway lines to North Bengal and Assam appear to be broken very often during floods?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, there is a pilot project to be tried on the Dihing and Subansiri rivers in Assam. There is a

project to be carried out in Assam with one diesel-propelled car ferry. There are two pilot projects in Assam.

SUGAR SHORTAGE

***516. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to avert shortage of sugar in Bihar and West Bengal;

(b) whether the imported sugar has been distributed to these areas in the months of June and July 1954; and

(c) the price at which sugar was available during that period in Bihar and Bengal?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwal): (a) The Government of India are supplying sugar to these two States, as to the rest of the country, at a uniform price including railway freight at any rail-head destination. In the case of the Government of West Bengal a monthly quota of 8,000 tons has been fixed at a special concessional rate of Rs. 29 per maund because the State Governments are themselves distributing sugar to consumers at a fixed price.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Upto the 15th of June, 1954 the uniform price including railway freight was Rs. 30 per maund and thereafter Rs. 29/8/- per maund. These prices do not refer to the price at which sugar is supplied to the Government of West Bengal which has been Rs. 29 per maund throughout. The market prices of sugar including local taxes are reported to have been as follows. It is a long list. Shall I read it out?

Mr. Speaker: I think he may lay it on the Table instead of reading all the details.

STATEMENT

For the week ending	Price per maund at :	
	Calcutta	Patna
	Rs.	Rs.
5-6-54	33-3-10	33-0-0
12-6-54	32-6-10	33-0-0
19-6-54	32-4-2	32-10-0
26-6-54	31-10-5	32-8-0
3-7-54	31-7-4	32-8-0
10-7-54	-0	32-8-0
17-7-54	31-3-7	32-8-0
24-7-54	31-7-6	31-8-0
31-7-54	31-13-1	31-4-8

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the total quantity of sugar imported till June, 1954, and how it was distributed?

Shri Kidwai: I have just described the distribution. The total quantity that has been imported up to date is about 6,70,000 or 6,80,000 tons, but I am not able to say just now what was the total up to the end of June.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know if we are getting imports of sugar as programmed, and if so, how is it that prices are going up?

Shri Kidwai: Prices are not going up. In some places where there may be some transport difficulties or otherwise there is a temporary shortage, for a day or two the prices go up.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it true that with a view to averting sugar shortage and increasing cane production, Government are contemplating to increase the price of sugarcane and to fix it for a longer period?

Shri Kidwai: The price for sugarcane for the coming season was already announced last year. But so far as the next year is concerned, as generally prices of food and cereals have gone down, so proportionately cane prices also will go down.

MOTOR TRANSPORT WORKERS

***519. Shri Eswara Reddi:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state why Government have been delaying the ratification of the decision of the I.L.O. relating to working hours of Motor Transport workers?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the Hours of Work and Rest Periods (Road Transport) Convention (No. 67) adopted in 1939. The scope of the Convention is so extensive that it has not been possible for the Government of India to ratify it. Only two countries viz., Cuba and Uruguay have ratified it so far and it has not yet come into force. The I.L.O. is considering the revision of the Convention to enable other Member States to ratify it. The Government of India will re-examine the possibility of ratification after the Convention has been revised.

Shri Eswara Reddi: May I know whether the Government was not a party to the decision of the I.L.O. in this connection?

Shri Abid Ali: The Government of India is a member of the I.L.O.

Mr. Speaker: Was it a party to this Convention?

Shri Abid Ali: Whether it voted or not? I shall require notice for that.

RAILWAY COMPLAINTS

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

(a) whether any category of complaints entered into the Complaint Books kept at the railway stations are sent to the Railway Board for information;

(b) if not, how the matters within the competence of the Railway Board are dealt with; and

(c) if so, the number of cases from the North Eastern Railway brought to the notice of the Railway Board in 1953?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) No (not as a rule).

(b) Generally all complaints entered in the Complaint Books kept at Railway stations relate to matters on which Railway Administrations are fully competent to take action.

(c) Does not arise.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether any communication is sent to the complainants as to what action has been taken on the complaints made?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Action is taken, but, generally, information is not sent to the complainant.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: How then is it to be known to the public or the complainant that any action has been taken at all?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Since the complaint ceases.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: In some cases the action on which the complaints were made persists and no action has been taken for a long time and there is a long correspondence and no reply is given. What steps do Government wish to take on such things?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I wish to assure the hon. Member that any complaint from any member of the public is thoroughly scrutinised and proper action is taken.

Mr. Speaker: It is going into an argument.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is the hon. Minister aware that two or three complaints sent by me personally to the Minister have not been replied to and no action has been taken as yet?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I do not remember not to have replied to any letter received from the hon. Member. In fact, sometimes, I feel

that I devote more time in replying to the letters sent by the hon. Members of this House.

HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL DISEASES, RANCHI

***521. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) when the management of the Hospital for Mental Diseases, Ranchi was taken over by the Central Government; and

(b) the money spent over this Hospital since the change over in management and the improvements effected so far?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) From 1st June, 1954.

(b) Figures of actual expenditure incurred since the hospital was taken over are awaited from the Superintendent of the Hospital. Proposals for effecting improvement are under consideration.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know the total number of persons that can be accommodated in this Mental Hospital?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I am afraid I have not got the figures with me here.

श्री भक्त वार्धन : क्या माननीय मंत्राली जी को ज्ञात है कि इसी सदन के एक माननीय सदस्य, श्री दंबी दत्त पन्त, अच्छे होने से निराश हो चुके थे, परन्तु रांची के अस्पताल में इलाज कराने के बाद वे पूर्ण स्वस्थ हो कर वापस आ गए हैं ? क्या उनके अनुभवों से लाभ उठाकर दूसरे संसद् सदस्यों को भी यह सुविधा देने पर विचार किया जा रहा है ?

Mr. Speaker: It is in the interest of parliamentary work.

राजकुमारी अमृत कौर : इन्तिजाम सब के लिये किया जायेगा ।

SUGAR-CANE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

*526. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an *ad hoc* committee has been set up by the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee for scrutinising the present set up of Sugarcane Research and Development in India;

(b) if so, what progress the Committee has made so far

(c) whether any special steps have been taken to increase the yield of sugarcane cultivation in the factory areas of North India and

(d) whether this Committee also will make a comparative study of the facilities available for sugar mills in North and South India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) The Committee has issued a questionnaire for eliciting relevant information from State Governments and Sugar Factories. On receipt of the required data, the Committee will start visiting Sugarcane Research Stations and Development Centres in the country.

(c) Yes. The Government of India have launched a campaign for intensive application of fertilisers to the standing sugarcane crop covering an area of 2.2 lakh acres in U.P., Bihar and Punjab.

(d) No.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether any of the members of the Committee have any experience in sugarcane cultivation or are connected with the sugarcane industry anywhere?

Shri Kidwai: They have all been connected with the sugarcane research or sugarcane industry or the cane growers.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether any standard variety of

sugarcane has been evolved as a result of this research and investigation?

Shri Kidwai: They have just started investigation.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is not a fact that research on sugarcane is conducted on outmoded theories of Mendalism and Morganism and no modern research is employed?

Shri Kidwai: I am afraid the hon. Member knows more about the technique of sugarcane development than I do.

FROZEN FOOD

*528. **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that frozen food worth about Rs. 30,000 was destroyed at Santa Cruz Airport as it was found unfit for human consumption; and

(b) if so, what were the causes of this decay?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) The consignment of frozen food was brought on board the S.S. Himalaya which arrived in Bombay at about 1-30 p.m. on the 15th June, 1954. As the steamer had to leave the port before the ebb-tide which was expected to set in at about 4 p.m. the same evening, there was hardly any time left for this cargo to be cleared after unloading the passengers' baggage and mail which had higher priority. The cargo was, therefore, over-carried to Colombo from where it was reshipped to Bombay by S.S. "Strathnaver" and delivered to the consignee on the 30th June, 1954. The cargo must have deteriorated while in storage at Colombo.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know from which country this frozen food was imported?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I may state, subject to correction, that was imported from the U.K.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether when it started from Ceylon, the authorities checked up if that ship was suited to carry frozen food?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That question can better be put to the Minister for Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Speaker: I think the clearing of these ships is not done under the management of the Government of India.

INDIAN AIR CORPORATION PILOTS

*529. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a check up of the standard of flying of the Indian Air Corporation pilots has been undertaken recently;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to introduce any special training course besides the existing ones in the light of the results obtained?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The standard of flying, indicated by the checks carried out, is generally satisfactory. The Director General of Civil Aviation makes recommendations to the Corporations for the provision of special training to pilots, wherever deficiencies are noticed or when the check reports are not entirely satisfactory.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if there is any prescribed time-limit within which such check-ups and tests are to be held by the Ministry?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, there are periods prescribed for it.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know how Government can have supervision over the non-scheduled airlines, whether such tests are held over those lines, because in our

recent experience we find that such accidents are very great in the non-scheduled airlines?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The pilots' licences are issued and renewed by the Director-General of Civil Aviation under specific rules. Every pilot, whether he is running on the scheduled line or non-scheduled line, has to have this licence and renewals of the licences.

Shri G. S. Singh: May I know if the standards laid down conform to the standards laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir.

हिन्दी टेलीप्रिन्टर सेवा

*५२२. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि एक हिन्दी टेलीप्रिन्टर सेवा आरम्भ की गई है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सेवा से किन किन नगरों को लाभ प्राप्त हुआ है ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Hindi Teleprinter Service has not yet been started, excepting one by a News Agency for press purposes on an experimental basis between New Delhi and Patna.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जो नई दिल्ली और पटना के बीच में लाइन स्थापित की गई है, उसकी दर अंग्रेजी की जो टेलीप्रिन्टर सर्विस है उस से मंहगी है या सस्ती है ?

श्री राजबहादुर : मैंने जैसा निवेदन किया इम्तहान उनको दो टेलीप्रिन्टर दिये गए हैं ताकि जबलपुर में जो टेलीप्रिन्टर हिन्दी के बनाए गए हैं उनका इम्तहान हो सके और यह मालूम हो सके कि वह कामकाज के लिये ठीक है या नहीं ?

श्री टी० एन० सिंह : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट ने इस पर विचार किया है

कि हिन्दी के टेलीप्रिन्टर की रद्द के कैंस-कुलेशन का तरीका ऐसा है जिस से उस की दरें अंग्रेजी से कुछ सस्ती पड़ेंगी या नहीं पड़ेंगी तो उस को सस्ता करने का विचार है या नहीं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जी हां, इस ओर ध्यान दिया जायगा और दरें हिन्दी की जो लिपि हैं उस को ध्यान में रखते हुए मुद्ररर की जायेंगी। इस समय तो केवल दस रुपये एक नामिनल चार्ज की बैसिज पर दिया गया है।

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह टेलीप्रिन्टर सर्विस काफी पापुलर हुई है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जी हां, हम को अब तक जो रिपोर्ट्स मिली हैं उन से यह मालूम हुआ है जिन को हम ने यह टेलीप्रिन्टर दिये हैं, यानी हिन्दुस्तान समाचार एजेंसी, वह इन से बहुत संतुष्ट हैं और उन के लिये यह बहुत लाभप्रद सिद्ध हुई है।

MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES, ANDHRA

*535. **Shri Buchhikotaiab:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Government have requested the Central Government to extend the time-limit for spending the money allotted for minor irrigation schemes for the year 1953-54; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) The request has been acceded to on condition that the loan provided for these schemes in the current year is reduced correspondingly.

Shri Buchhikotaiab: May I know what percentage of allotted amounts was utilised in time and what was not?

Shri Kidwai: I have no information about it.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the different kinds of minor irrigation schemes undertaken by the Andhra Government?

Shri Kidwai: I would require notice about it.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know the reasons for the delay in execution of minor irrigation projects in Andhra State?

Shri Kidwai: It has not been possible to spend all the money in the year for which it was sanctioned. Therefore, they have been allowed to spend it in the current year on condition that that amount will be deducted from whatever has been provided for the current year.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wanted to know the reasons for the delay.

Shri Kidwai: They could not execute the works in time.

Shri Nanadas: May I know the amount sanctioned by the Centre for this purpose in the year under question?

Shri Kidwai: A sum of Rs. 35,25,756 was allotted to Andhra Government for their minor irrigation programme during 1953-54. This amount was to be spent by the State Government by the 30th June, 1954. On the 1st of May, 1954 when their 'Grow More Food' programme for 1955 was discussed the representatives of the State Government explained that only Rs. 21,84,000 has been utilised and the balance remained unutilised.

DANGER TO KHADDA AND CHHITAUNI RAILWAY LINE

*539. **Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the fact that the Gandak is changing its bed after the recent floods and that there is a danger of the Railway line between Khadda and Chhitauni on North Eastern Railway being swept away?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): Yes, Sir. A portion of the river Gandak started flowing parallel to railway track undermining the bank. Emergent protective measures have prevented extensive damage so far and the position is being watched.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether the Government have any measure under consideration for permanent safety of the railway line which was in danger many times in the past?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: Whether the Government have any permanent measure under consideration for protection of this railway line?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: In order to safeguard the railway line, generally we put up spurs and do pitching of boulders to strengthen the railway line, but putting up of any dams with a view to stop floods is the responsibility of State Governments.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether it is a fact that the precaution was not taken by the railway authorities before the date on which water touched the embankment of the railway line?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We take due precautions wherever it is possible to anticipate, but it is not possible for railways to anticipate all the floods that take place.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that when voluntary labour was offered for the safety of the railway line it was refused by the railway authorities on the spot?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): I am not aware of that, but the information I have got goes to show that the railways have done wonderfully well there and they have spent over Rs. 2 lakhs on preventing a breach of that embankment. The result has been that a large area has been protected from being flooded.

EXPLORATORY TUBE-WELLS IN ANDHRA

*541. **Shri C. B. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 228 asked on the 22nd February, 1954, and state the names of the areas in the Andhra

State where the construction of exploratory tube-wells has been taken up?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The construction of exploratory tube-wells in Andhra is expected to be taken up sometime during the next administrative year (1955-56).

Districts of East and West Godavari, Krishna, Guntur and Nellore have been provisionally selected for the construction of the tube-wells. The sites will, however, be finally selected by a Committee of experts of the Government of India, T.C.M. and the State Government on the basis of geological investigations.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether any geological survey has been conducted in any of the areas in Andhra State?

Shri Kidwai: Geological survey has been conducted and the representatives of the Government of Andhra and the Government of India and T.C.M. will finally select the sites.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know the reasons for this long delay in construction of these exploratory tube-wells?

Shri Kidwai: We had no organisation in this country for the execution of this task. Therefore, we are now setting up an organisation—a Central organisation—and getting instruments to successfully perform this work.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know what are the points that govern in the selection of sites in different areas of Andhra State for construction of exploratory tube-wells?

Shri Kidwai: The possibility of a successful tube-well.

प्लेटफार्म टिकटों की पुनः बिक्री

*५४३. श्री एच० एस० प्रसाद : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या इस वर्ष भारत के विभिन्न रेलवे स्टेशनों पर प्लेटफार्म टिकटों को संगीठित

रूप से दुबारा बेचने की कोई घटनायें घटी हैं ; •

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसी घटनायें किन किन जगहों में हुई हैं ;

(ग) क्या इस प्रकार के नीचतापूर्ण कार्यों में लगे हुए व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध कोई कार्यवाही की गई है, और

(घ) ऐसी घटनाओं के कारण आय में कितनी हानि हुई ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Only three cases of re-sale of platform tickets have been reported.

(b) Two cases at Victoria Terminus, Bombay, on the Central Railway, and one case at Delhi on the Northern Railway.

(c) In the two cases reported at Victoria Terminus, Bombay, two persons were prosecuted and convicted. The third case relating to Delhi is under investigation by the Special Police Establishment.

(d) In the former two cases, the amount involved is Rs. 4/10/- only. As the third case is still under investigation, it is not possible to give the amount involved.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government have come to know that spurious tickets are being sold at railway stations by passengers?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: Whether Government are aware that counterfeit tickets are being sold?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We are not aware of that.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know whether any investigations are being conducted to know where these spurious tickets are being printed?

Mr. Speaker: They are not aware that such tickets are being sold.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Is it not a fact that Government conducted an enquiry through the Special Police Establishment to find out the place where such bogus tickets were printed and used in the Bombay-Poona line for thousands and thousands of rupees?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): An enquiry was conducted and the offenders have been arrested. I think a case is also under investigation.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Arising out of the answer of the hon. Minister, may I know whether the enquiry revealed complicity of some of the highly placed railway officers also?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is not our information.

तिब्बती सीमा पर डाक भेजने की व्यवस्था

*२४६. श्री भक्त वरान : क्या संसार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश की तिब्बती सीमा पर, विशेष कर गढ़वाल जिले की नीती घाटी में, हर तीसरे दिन ही डाक भेजी जाती है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस क्षेत्र में डाक की सुविधाओं में सुधार करने के लिये क्या प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Mails to all post offices on Tibetan border in Uttar Pradesh are sent daily except to Bampa in Niti Valley to which they are conveyed on alternate days.

(b) The question of providing daily service to Bampa and opening of additional post offices on the border are under examination.

श्री भक्त वरान : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में कब तक अन्तिम निर्णय कर दिया जायेगा ?

श्री राज बहादुर : शीघ्रतयावधि ।

MURDER OF A FOREIGN TOURIST IN TRAIN

*550. **Dr. Rama Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a foreign tourist was found killed in the Calcutta-Madras Mail on the 21st August, 1954;

(b) if so, what further details Government have received in this connection;

(c) the circumstances under which the murder took place;

(d) whether it is a fact that she was attacked during the day-time; and

(e) the steps that Government propose to take for the special protection of foreign tourists?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The person found murdered in the Calcutta-Madras Mail on the 21st August, 1954 is reported to be a European nurse of the Mission Hospital at Kedarganj in East Bengal.

(b) and (c). The nurse concerned was reported to be travelling from Calcutta to Coopoor in a Ladies 2nd Class coupe compartment and was last seen at Waltair by the Guard of the train, the Reservation Inspector and a courier of the Tuni Refreshment Room. At Tuni, the non-vegetarian refreshment room bearer, who came to serve her with lunch, found the compartment locked from inside and reported the matter to the Guard. The Guard and other railway officials thereafter entered the compartment from the off side and found the lady passenger lying murdered. The matter was taken up by the Police for investigation.

(d) Yes.

(e) All possible steps are taken by the Police in the different States to prevent such crimes and the Railways, on their part, have instituted such special measures as they can for ensuring the safety of all passengers.

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether any instructions have been given to the guards to see that no passenger travels alone in a compartment?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): How can those instructions be given?

Shrimati Sushama Sen: May I know if ladies travelling alone are not allowed, even now, to take a companion or somebody to accompany them? If so, will the Railway Authorities kindly arrange for this?

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is not so. Lady passengers are allowed to take a servant or any companion with them.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know whether Government have any information as to whether the lady in question was carrying some valuable property or money with her?

Mr. Speaker: He is entering into the domain of a detailed investigation of the matter.

SUGAR CESS

*552. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the total amount collected from excise duty and cess on sugar and sugar-cane during the period from 1950 to 1954 has been utilised for development of sugar-cane cultivation; and

(b) the main items of expenditure on this account?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The proceeds of the excise duty and the cess on sugar are not specifically set apart for the development of cane cultivation but are merged in the general

revenues from which expenditure for development work is incurred. Two statements are placed on the Table of the House one of which shows the subsidies granted in the years 1949-50 to 1953-54 by the Central Government to the different States for their sugarcane development schemes on a 50:50 basis. (See Appendix IV, annexure No. 2). The Central Government's contribution has been made from the proceeds of the Temporary Sugar Excise Duty Fund. In addition, the Central Government also pay an annual grant of Rs. 8 lakhs to the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee and finance the Sugarcane Institutes at Coimbatore and Bhadrak (Lucknow). These institutions are all concerned with the development of sugarcane research. The other statement placed on the table of the House shows the percentage of expenditure incurred on the development of sugarcane and sugar industry in the years 1950-51 to 1953-54 by the different State Governments who levy cess on sugarcane purchased by sugar mills. The expenditure has been met out of the general revenues of the State Governments into which the proceeds of the cess on sugarcane are merged. The expenditure which the State Governments incur on roads and irrigation works, also help in the development of both sugarcane and the sugar industry.

There is no cess on sugar.

(b) The main items of expenditure include irrigation works, roads, supply of free seeds of suitable varieties, fertilisers and improved implements including their demonstration, soil extension service, intensive compost drive, protection of crops against pests and diseases, setting up of demonstration farms and, generally, measures for encouraging cultivators to adopt improved methods of cultivation.

Shri Nanadas: From the statement it is seen that during 1953-54, no amount has been sanctioned or transferred to the Bombay, Madras, Orissa and Punjab Governments. May I

know the reasons for not transferring the amounts?

Shri Kidwai: Because there had not been any new schemes to be financed by the Centre.

Shri Nanadas: From statement No. 2, it appears that the Bombay Government spent during 1953-54, 81.41 per cent. May I know from what fund this amount has been spent?

Shri Kidwai: From the cess that the Bombay Government collects from the sale of sugarcane to sugar mills.

Shri T. N. Singh: In view of the fact that the cess is being appropriated to the general revenues, may I know whether the Government have considered the desirability of converting the name of "cess" into some kind of tax?

Shri Kidwai: That is for the State Government concerned, because I understand that under the new constitution, there is a special tax that they can levy on goods sold at a particular market. Therefore, it is not really a cess, but the old name is still going on in the budget.

RHEUMATIC DISEASES

*553. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the medical colleges in India offer courses of study for specialising in rheumatic diseases, and if so, what are they;

(b) whether any of the teaching hospitals in India have special clinics and departments for the treatment of rheumatic diseases; and

(c) if so, what is their number?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No.

(b) No. Patients suffering from rheumatic diseases are treated in the general wards of hospitals.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know if the Government are aware that the W.H.O. has made a special study and reported that the disease, in its incidence, is very much detrimental to the normal work of the community?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I have not myself seen this report from the W.H.O., but I shall certainly enquire into it.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether Government have made any survey of the extent of disability caused on account of various forms of rheumatic diseases in India at present?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No such survey has been carried out.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In view of the fact that the Ayurvedic form of treatment has been found to be most effective in the case of rheumatic diseases, may I know whether Government have taken any steps to provide clinics anywhere in the country?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The Government of Madras have stated that they are spending a certain amount of money on research in indigenous medicines used for the treatment of rheumatism, and this is being done in the College of Indigenous Medicine, Madras. We are awaiting the results.

"GROW MORE FOOD" SCHEMES

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

(a) whether Government have given any grants or loans to State Governments for "Grow More Food" schemes during the year 1954-55;

(b) if so, to which States; and

(c) how much?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 3.]

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It appears from the statement that over Rs. 22 crores have been given as loans and grants to the different State Governments. May I know whether these loans and grants are given on an *ad hoc* basis or whether the Government of India take into consideration the plans of the different State Governments before advancing the loan?

Shri Kidwai: The Government of India receive schemes for minor irrigation and other works from the different States and grant the loan or aid accordingly.

Shri G. P. Sinha: May I know if there is any proposal to supply bulldozers to the hilly tracts of Chhota Nagpur under the Grow More Food Scheme?

Shri Kidwai: I would like to know if we have got any recommendations from the State Government about that.

श्री एन० एल० जोशी : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जो ग्रांट सन् १९५४-५५ में दी गई हैं वह सन् १९५२-५४ की ग्रांट से ज्यादा हैं या कम हैं ?

श्री किडवाई : मेरे सामने जो फिगरस हैं उन से यह कहना मुश्किल है कि पिछले साल से ज्यादा है या कम है। लेकिन एक रकम मुकर्रर होती है, उसी के अन्दर से दिया जाता है।

Shri Nanadas: May I know whether the loans and grants given to different States during the year 1953-54 were spent during that year?

Shri Kidwai: We have just heard about the case of Andhra where they could not spend it. Then it was deducted from the next year's grants.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT

***555. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons killed and the number of those injured in

the Railway accident between Chanpatia and Bettiah on the 2nd May, 1954; and

(b) whether any enquiry has been made into the accident and if so, with what result?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) At about 20-05 hours on 2nd May, 1954, while No. 344 Dn. Passenger train was running from Chanpatia to Bettiah station on the Muzaffarpur-Narkatiaganj Section of the North Eastern Railway, it was struck by a cyclonic storm of severe intensity causing six coaches behind the engine to topple over. Two persons were killed, 8 received grievous and 93, minor injuries.

(b) The Government Inspector of Railways, Calcutta, held his statutory enquiry into this accident. His finding is that the derailment was due to the train having been caught in a sudden and a very severe storm.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know whether any compensation or aid was given to those people who were killed and to those who were injured?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: Normally this is given, and a Compensation Commissioner is appointed when it is necessary.

Mr. Speaker: He refers to this particular case. That is what he wants.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I am sorry the information in this particular case is not available. The rule is that some State officer, either the Collector or other officer, is appointed, and he decides about paying compensation to the persons concerned.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know whether an Inspector or a Commissioner was appointed in this case or not?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I shall require notice.

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Mr. Speaker: The investigation has been made. Next question.

CENTRAL LABOUR INSTITUTE

*561. Shri Radha Raman: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the date by which the Labour Institute is expected to be set up in Bombay;

(b) the estimated expenditure thereon; and

(c) whether assistance of foreign experts will be available to the institute?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) By about the middle of 1956.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 4.]

(c) Yes.

Shri Radha Raman: In the statement which has been laid on the Table, it is mentioned that the recurring expenditure to man the various sections of the Institute is estimated at Rs. 1,25,000. May I know how many sections will this Institute have, how will this money be divided into and to what sections of the Institute?

Shri Abid Ali: There will be various sections in this Institute. There will be a museum of industrial safety and health and welfare; another section will be about industrial hygiene laboratory. Training centres, library combined with information centre, national productivity centre, training within industry, and some others. With regard to the break-up, we have not fixed up the amount.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether foreign experts will be employed in this Institute, and, if so, on what terms will they be employed?

Shri Abid Ali: We propose to have five foreign experts for a year so that we may have the benefit of their advice in regard to the advance made on these items in foreign countries.

Shri Radha Raman: How many students will this Institute take, and what will be the share of each State?

Shri Abid Ali: It has not yet been fixed up.

Shri C. R. Chowdary: May I know the nationality of these foreign experts?

Shri Abid Ali: The personnel has not been selected as yet.

BREACHES IN RAIL-LINKS IN BIHAR

***564. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any breaches in any rail-link due to recent floods in Bihar;

(b) whether train services were suspended in a number of cases;

(c) if so, for how long; and

(d) what alternative arrangements were made by the Railways during the suspension period of such services?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (d). A statement furnishing the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 5.]

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In the statement, I noted too many breaches. What is the total loss, approximately, to the Railways, due to these wide-scale damages?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There have been so many breaches that the Railways have concentrated mainly on restoring the links, and we have not yet had sufficient time to work out those details of the loss.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know whether there are still any routes where through-traffic has not yet been restored?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There are a few, and efforts are being made to restore traffic on them as early as possible.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What are the alternative routes that have been provided for carrying passengers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It varies in each case. In some places, we provide ferries between the breaches. At some places, diversions are created. Sometimes, the traffic is diverted by different routes altogether.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Are the Government aware that friends coming from Bihar say that there are places where alternative routes have not been provided to the passengers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We are doing our very best in co-operation with the State Government.

DAMAGE TO RAILWAY LINES BY FLOODS

***565. Shri Barman:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage done by the North Bengal Floods during June and July 1954 to the Railways;

(b) the nature of the damages done; and

(c) the measures that Government propose to take to protect the link to Assam from yearly dislocation and damage?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Substantial damages were caused at several places but the costs have not yet been assessed.

(b) The damages have been mainly in the nature of washing away of banks and scouring of approaches to bridges and damages to Bridges themselves.

(c) A joint investigation by the North Eastern Railway and the West Bengal Irrigation Department with the assistance of the Hydraulic Research Station is to be made to decide the action required.

Shri Barman: May I know on what date in the year 1954 was this line first breached and what will be the

time taken in restoring the communications to good order, so that people may proceed beyond Siliguri to Assam?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is very difficult to lay down any specific date.

Shri Barman: Is it a fact that perhaps the link was hurriedly constructed without any scientific data and that it was constructed just below the gorges of the Himalayan rivers, so that the line is being breached every year and especially at the time of the rainy season, and if so, whether Government contemplate any alternate lines so that this connection with Assam may be maintained with the rest of India?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: These breaches are taking place not because of the defective alignments but because of the intensity and ferocity of torrents and floods.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In the amount of damages which has been reported by the hon. Minister, he did not mention the case of a train which was lost because the driver was forced to go along a strip. What is the total estimate of the loss and who is responsible for it?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): The hon. Member is perhaps misinformed. The driver was on duty. I have great admiration for the driver for, during heavy rains and floods, he did go on that journey, but, of course, they were not aware that a link had broken, and so, as there was no previous information, the driver went on the bridge when the bridge had already collapsed. Therefore, the engine went down into the water.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: My question was about the loss. He spoke about the damages to bridges, but the whole train, along with the engine, was lost.

Shri L. B. Shastri: That is over now. This information must have been

received before that accident took place.

Shri Barman: What is the latest information about the fate of those persons who were in the train that toppled down into the stream?

Shri L. B. Shastri: It was not a train. It was only an engine.

Shri Barman: What was the fate of the persons?

Shri L. B. Shastri: The man died, we could not do anything afterwards, but anyhow we sent an aeroplane, and our officers went and enquired.

Shri Kasliwal: May I draw your attention to a question of which I had given short notice? Though the Secretariat had informed me that that question has been admitted for today, it is not in the list. I do not know what has happened to the question.

Mr. Speaker: He may enquire from the office; I cannot say off-hand.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

ADAMPUR AERODROME

*505. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether the proposal to open the Adampur (Jullundur) aerodrome for regular air service is under the consideration of Government?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): No, Sir.

FIRST SUPER-CONSTELLATION

*508. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first Super-constellation of Air India International 'Rani of Jhansi' is regularly serving on a particular route since its arrival in Bombay on the 6th June, 1954;

(b) if so, which is that route; and

(c) whether the aircraft has been getting its full load normally?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bombay-London route.

(c) The loads are considered very satisfactory.

COLLEGE OF CATERING AND INSTITUTIONAL MANAGEMENT

***517. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any College of Catering and Institutional Management has been opened in Bombay;

(b) the number of students who will be trained there each year;

(c) the minimum qualifications prescribed for admission to this course; and

(d) what are the courses of study?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) 100 but there are only 65 students in the first term.

(c) Matriculation or equivalent standard; this is relaxable in case of female students and others who already have some Catering experience.

(d) The syllabus includes the following courses of study:—

- (1) Food Dietetics and Nutrition.
- (2) Health, Hygiene and First-Aid.
- (3) Cookery—theory and practice, purchases, storage.
- (4) Economics of Food Administration.
- (5) Accounts.
- (6) Correspondence.
- (7) Public Relations.
- (8) Administration (Institutional Management).
- (9) Elementary Sewing and Laundry.

(10) Maintenance of records on visits to Catering Institutions.

TOURISTS TO KASHMIR

***518. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tourists who visited Kashmir so far during the current year; and

(b) the special facilities provided for them?.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 19,148 upto the 30th June, 1954.

(b) Special facilities *inter alia* include concessional rail-cum-road and rail-cum-air tickets, expeditious issue of Kashmir permits, provision of information, guide services and improved accommodation and transport facilities etc. in the valley.

LOADING AND UNLOADING ON RAILWAYS

***522. Ch. Raghuhir Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at certain stations loading and unloading is arranged by Station Masters on an *ad hoc* basis without the agency of licenced contractors resulting thereby in loss to Government; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, but it not only causes no loss to Government but secures a saving.

(b) Does not arise.

EX-TRAMWAY WORKERS OF MADRAS

***523. Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India had offered to employ 1600 unemployed *ex-tramwaymen* of Madras in the Integral Coach-Building Factory at Perambur;

(b) if so, when was the assurance given;

(c) how many unemployed ex-tramwaymen have been employed at the above Factory until now;

(d) the basis on which these men have been employed; and

(e) whether Government have set up any time-limit for the employment of the rest?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). No. The Integral Coach Factory Administration was, however, directed in April, 1953, to consider as many of the tramway workers for absorption as feasible subject to their being found suitable.

(c) Four.

(d) Applications for the posts received either directly or through the Employment Exchanges are considered and suitable candidates are selected after interview or trade tests.

(e) No.

पर्यटक साहित्य

*५२४. श्री एम० एम० द्विवेदी : क्या परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) पर्यटकों के आगमन को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिये अभी हाल में जो निर्णय किया गया था, उस के अनुसार क्या हिन्दी और कुछ विदेशी भाषाओं में पर्यटक साहित्य प्रकाशित किया गया है ;

(ख) क्या भिन्न भिन्न प्रकार के इस साहित्य की एक एक प्रति पटल पर रखी जायेगी ; और

(ग) क्या कारण हैं कि यह साहित्य केवल फ्रांसीसी भाषा में ही प्रकाशित किया जायेगा, अन्य विदेशी भाषाओं में नहीं ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a)

Yes. Some of the publications are still in the press.

(b) Yes.

(c) Publications will be issued not only in French but also in other European languages, viz. German, Italian and Spanish.

PADDY SEEDS FROM CHINA

*525. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the types of paddy seeds brought into India from China;

(b) the names of the States where these have been sown;

(c) what is their effect on the yield of paddy; and

(d) the increase in yield as compared to the Indian paddy?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) At present there is a collection of about 157 Chinese varieties at the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack.

(b) Some of these varieties have been tried in Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir and all Part 'A' States, except Andhra.

(c) and (d). The trials are still at the experimental stage.

FLOODS IN TRIPURA

*527. Shri Biren Dutt: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damages caused to crops by the floods in Agartala; and

(b) whether there is any danger of food scarcity in the State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The extent of damage was negligible and no food scarcity is apprehended.

AGARTALA MUNICIPALITY

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

(a) the annual income of Agartala Municipality since 1950;

(b) whether Government have been financing the Agartala Municipality in the past and whether they intend to continue to finance it in future;

(c) if so, the grants made since 1950;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government propose to appoint an Administrator for the Agartala Municipality; and

(e) if so, from what source his salary will be paid?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The annual income of Agartala Municipality for the years 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54 was Rs. 93,760, 1,30,577, 1,27,843 and 2,10,781/2/9, respectively.

(b) Yes, financial assistance was given to Agartala Municipality in the past in the shape of grants. The question of financing the Municipality in future will depend on the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner, Tripura justifying such expenditure.

(c) The grants made to Agartala Municipality for the years 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54 were Rs. 20,000, 20,000, 30,000 and 60,000, respectively.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

(e) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF BUSES

*531. **Shri Ajit Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passenger buses that have been imported by Government during the years 1953 and 1954 and from which countries; and

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the buses so imported are not economical and suitable for the Indian roads?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Apart from 100 chassis of four different makes of vehicles imported by the Delhi Road Transport Authority, the Central Government did not import any chassis for passenger buses directly during the years 1953 and 1954.

(b) Not to Government's knowledge.

श्रीनगर-लेह विमान सम्पर्क

*532. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या श्रीनगर के साथ लेह का विमान सम्पर्क स्थापित करने की योजना को अन्तिम रूप दे दिया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन दोनों स्थानों के बीच हवाई यातायात कब आरंभ होगा ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A fortnightly air service is expected to commence operating between Srinagar and Leh by the third week of this month.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION'S POLIO TEAM

*534. **Dr. Satyawadi:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the recommendations made by the World Health Organisation's Polio Team and state the steps taken by Government thereon?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): A copy of the recommendations made by the World Health Organisation's Polio team concerning the Government of India and the World Health Organisation is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 6.]

In view of these recommendations an Orthopaedic team consisting of an

Orthopaedic Surgeon and two Physiotherapists was obtained by the Government of India under the Colombo Plan and was assigned to the Irwin Hospital, New Delhi. A Physiotherapy Training Centre and School at the K.E.M. Hospital, Bombay, has also been established.

ABOLITION OF FIRST CLASS

*536. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 396 asked on the 30th November, 1953 and state:

(a) whether first class has since been completely withdrawn in all the trains;

(b) if not, the number of lines on which it is still in operation and how long it will take to abolish this class completely;

(c) whether there has been a fall in revenue as a result of its abolition; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the income from Air Conditioned Coach Service now is much less than the income from the first class compartments formerly?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) A list of trains on which First Class accommodation is still available is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 7.] It will be abolished completely by the end of March, 1955.

(c) There has been no loss in the total earnings from upper class.

(d) No.

AUXILIARY MEDICAL PERSONNEL

*537. **Shri Gadilingana Gowd:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme for the training of auxiliary medical personnel has been finalised by Government;

(b) if so, whether the scheme will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(c) the time likely to be taken by Government to arrive at a decision in case no decision has been taken as yet?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Not yet.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is under consideration and a decision is expected to be taken before the end of this month.

C.P.W.D. WORKERS' DEMANDS

*538. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 417 asked on the 20th April, 1954 in the Council of States and state the result of the efforts of the conciliation machinery to bring about a settlement on the demands of the Central Public Works Department Workers' Union, New Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Conciliation proceedings were held by the Conciliation Officer (Central), Delhi, on various dates during February to May 1954. A few of the demands have been accepted by the C.P.W.D. Some are under their consideration and some have been rejected. Further conciliation will be undertaken, if necessary, in respect of the demands which were reported to be under consideration of the C.P.W.D.

कुरुक्षेत्र के मेल से रेलवे की आय

२५४०. श्री आर० एस० तिलवारी : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सूर्यगढ़ण के अवसर पर हाल ही में लगे कुरुक्षेत्र के मेल के सम्बन्ध में यात्रियों के आवागमन से होने वाली आय पहले की अपेक्षा कम हुई है, और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उस के कारण क्या हैं ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the previous occasion, i.e. in February 1952, the Solar Eclipse coincided with *Somawati Amavas*, which is considered very sacred.

ROADS IN N.E.F.A.

***542. Shri Bishang Kelshing:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number and mileage of Bridle paths, jeepable and motorable roads completed so far in the North East Frontier Agency since the beginning of the First Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the road construction work is going on according to the schedule;

(c) the various contributions made by the people towards the road construction works in the North East Frontier Agency; and

(d) how does the contribution of the people in 1953-54 compare with that of the year 1952-53?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Bridle paths 7, total length 125 miles; Jeepable roads 5, total length 99 miles; Motorable roads 2, total length 8½ miles.

(b) During the first three years of Five Year Plan, expenditure incurred on roads amounted to nearly ninety per cent. of the target for that period.

(c) and (d). Through voluntary labour in community project areas approximately 50 miles of fair weather roads, 1 mile of jeepable road and 14 bridges have been constructed and about 100 miles of roads repaired or improved. Out of these approximately 16 miles of roads were constructed during 1952-53 and the rest during 1953-54.

NEW POST OFFICE IN MALNAD

***543. Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received by Government to open more Post Offices in the Malnad area; and

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

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) 22 Post Offices were opened in Malnad area during the last 2 years. Nine new Post Offices are proposed to be opened there during 1954-55 and 6 Post Offices during 1955-56.

द्वय राशियाँ के भुगतान में विलम्ब

***544. श्री सिंहासन सिंह :** क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पहली जुलाई १९५४ को आठ टी० रेलवे के ऐसे सेवानिवृत्त और मृत कर्मचारियों के कितने मामले थे, जिन की द्वय राशियाँ का भुगतान नियमों के अधीन विहित अवधि के बाद भी बकाया है ;

(ख) भुगतान में इस विलम्ब के कारण क्या हैं , और

(ग) नियमों के अधीन किस अवधि के भीतर सामान्य रूप से ऐसी द्वय राशियाँ का भुगतान कर दिया जाना चाहिये था ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 539.

(b) In 216 cases various documents are still to be produced by the claimants. In 93 cases Departments have not yet finalised outstanding debts against or dues in favour of employees. In 34 cases, Provident Fund accounts and service records are held up with Pakistan Railways. 196 cases are at present with the Accounts Department for verification and payment.

(c) Normally Provident Fund dues should be paid within two months.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

***545. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion on which sanction is given for construction of passengers' sheds and waiting rooms in Railway Stations; and

(b) what improvements are proposed to be effected at Sitamarhi Railway Station and what will be their cost?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The general criterion is the density of passenger traffic and train services at the station, priority being given to stations where no waiting shelter of any kind exists for passengers at present.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 8.]

P. & T. DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS IN RAJASTHAN

***546. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the location of District Headquarters for Post and Telegraph in Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is a fact that a representation was made to the Deputy Minister by the public of Udaipur for locating the Headquarters at Udaipur; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken in this direction?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A statement showing the location of the headquarters of Postal and Engineering Divisions in Rajasthan Circle is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 9.]

(b) No representation as such was made. Only a verbal reference was

made by certain individuals who came to see me.

(c) Does not arise.

RAILWAY HOSPITAL AT BANARAS

***548. Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost incurred on the construction of the Railway Hospital at Banaras;

(b) the number of beds available there; and

(c) the facilities, if any, available there to out-door patients who are not Railway employees?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Rs. 2 lakhs approximately.

(b) Twenty-two.

(c) Ordinarily only facilities for X-ray examination are being made available to out-door patients who are not railway employees on payment of the normal charges.

NEW RAILWAY LINES ON THE NORTHERN RAILWAY

***551. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to take up the construction of any new railway lines on the Northern Railway during the remaining two years of the Five Year Plan and, if so, at what places?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Yes, Sir; a line between Pathankot and Madhopur.

KHANDWA-HINGOLI RAILWAY LINE

***556. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress made so far in the construction of the railway line between Khandwa and Hingoli?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Land demarcation for the first 26 miles from Khandwa and its acquisition are in hand. Earth-work in the first 12 miles has commenced.

Tenders for the construction of quarters at Khandwa have been invited. Tenders for earth-work on another 9 miles will be invited shortly.

केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य-शिक्षा ब्यूरो

*४५३. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के निर्णय के अनुसार दिल्ली में एक केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा ब्यूरो की स्थापना के सम्बन्ध में अभी तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): Details of the Scheme relating to the establishment of a Health Education Bureau in Delhi have been settled in consultation with the Planning Commission.

TEA GARDEN LABOURERS

*558. **Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revision of minimum wages of the tea-plantation workers is contemplated in Tripura;

(b) if so, how long it will take to revise the wages; and

(c) when the contemplated Tripartite Conference of the representatives of the Tripura Government, Labour and the garden-owners is proposed to be held?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of Tripura expects the revision to be completed in about six months.

(c) No such conference is contemplated. An Advisory Committee which includes both employers and employees has already been set up which will advise the State Government about revision of wages.

RESETTLEMENT OF TRIBAL PEOPLE IN TRIPURA

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

(a) whether any memorandum has been submitted to Government by the Tribal people of Khawai regarding land for their settlement; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken so far in the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A representation was received by the State Government on the 7th of August, 1954, and an enquiry is being conducted.

RETRENCHMENT IN FOOD MINISTRY

*560. **Shri Ajit Singh:**
Shri Jangde:

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

(a) whether there will be any retrenchment in the Ministry due to de-control of food grains; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken for providing alternative employment to those affected?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Though it is inevitable that those sections of the Food and Agriculture Ministry whose work related to the maintenance of food controls will be liquidated, there would be left a certain amount of work concerning the maintenance of a Central reserve of foodgrains, and in this work and in functions connected with the transition, a large number of staff will be employed, and by this process it is expected that the necessity for any immediate retrenchment of staff will be avoided.

NATIONALIZATION OF AERONAUTICAL SERVICES LTD.

*562. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the nationalisation of Aeronautical Services Ltd.; and

(b) if so, what is the present position in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

SINKING OF FREIGHTER "SAN MARDENO"

***563. Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the freighter S.S. "San Mardeno" ran aground on the 11th July, 1954;

(b) whether any enquiry has been held into the accident; and

(c) if so, the findings of the said enquiry?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A preliminary inquiry under section 247 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, was held by the Mercantile Marine Department, Bombay, and the report is under examination.

FRUIT FARMS IN MANIPUR

***566. Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fruit farms that have been started by Government in the hill areas of Manipur;

(b) the amount spent by Government during 1953-54 on each of the fruit farms including the recurring expenditure;

(c) the main items of expenditure;

(d) whether it is a fact that no amount was included in the Budget of 1954-55 for the upkeep of the fruit farms; and

(e) if so, the reason therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House when available.

MYSTERY MALADY

***567. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item published in the *Times of India* dated the 14th August, 1954, to the effect a "Mystery Malady" affecting animals has broken out in an epidemic form in some places of Rajasthan resulting in loss of about five thousand animals;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan have asked the Union Government for the services of an expert to go into the causes of the disease and recommend measures to fight it; and

(c) whether the Central Government have taken any steps in that direction?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Central Government immediately deputed two experts from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

RESEARCH IN AYURV

***568. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state how much amount out of Rs. 37.5 lakhs has been allotted for research work in Ayurveda in the Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): A sum of Rs. 6.15 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Central Institute of Research in Indigenous Systems of Medicine, Jamnagar, which at present is engaged exclusively on research in Ayurveda.

TOURIST GUIDES

***569. { Sardar A. S. Saigal:
Dr. Satyawadi:**

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by Government on the scheme for the training of Tourist Guides in Bombay; and

(b) what minimum qualifications have been prescribed for the candidates who join this course?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The expenditure is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1,800.

(b) Candidates having some background knowledge of Indian History, Geography, Elements of Public Administration, Art and Architecture have been admitted to the course.

BAG-CLEANING MACHINE

***570. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the delivery of the Bag-cleaning Machine from United Kingdom; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to try the experiment?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) The machine has been received at Calcutta and arrangements are being made with the representatives of the firm which supplied the machine for the actual erection of the machine. It is hoped that the machine will start functioning shortly.

केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संगठन

***571. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संगठन के भविष्य के सम्बन्ध में, प्राक्कलन समिति द्वारा बताई गई हानि और कृषियों को दूर करने के लिये, सरकार ने क्या नीति बनाई है ;

(ख) प्राक्कलन समिति ने अपने सातवें प्रतिवेदन में जो सिफारिशें की हैं, क्या सरकार उन्हें क्रियान्वित करने का विचार करती हैं, और यदि हां, तो अभी तक इस मामले में क्या किया गया है ; और

(ग) प्राक्कलन समिति ने इस संस्था के अशासन के सुधार के लिये जिस मंत्रणा समिति

की सिफारिश की थी, क्या वह बना दी गई है, या निकट भविष्य में बनाने का विचार है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c) The seventh Report of the Estimates Committee on the working of the Central Tractor Organisation has been examined in detail by the Central Tractor Organisation and a senior officer in the Secretariat. They have made certain proposals, which are at present under the consideration of Government. It is expected that final decisions will be taken in the course of the next few weeks. It is proposed to place on the Table of the House a detailed statement of the action taken or proposed to be taken

ROADS IN TRIPURA

***572. Shri Biren Dutt:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of metalling the katcha roads in Agartala Town has been taken in hand;

(b) if so, the number of kutchra roads that are proposed to be metalled in 1954-55; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for this work?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) 12 roads.

(c) Rs. 2.68 lakhs. This includes provision for black topping of 2.5 miles of existing water-bound macadam road.

स्लीपरों के लिए इमारती लकड़ी का अभाव

***573. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि छोटी रेलवे लाइनों के लिये भारत में स्लीपरों के लिये लकड़ी का अभाव है ;

(ख) क्या ब्रॉडे की फिश-स्लेटों को काम में ला कर इस अभाव की पूर्ति करना संभव है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि रेल स्लीपरों के लिये विदेशों से लकड़ी आयात करने की एक योजना बन रही है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कितनी लकड़ी आयात करने का विचार किया जा रहा है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Railways' requirements of M.G. wooden sleepers are not being met in full.

(b) It is presumed that by iron fish-plates the hon. Member means metal sleepers. Every attempt is made to meet shortage in wooden sleepers by supplies of metal sleepers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION IN MANIPUR

*574. **Shri Kishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred question No. 1781 regarding Road construction in Manipur, asked on the 14th April, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the local tribal people have made representations to the Government of Manipur to take over the thirty mile long jeepable road connecting the Litan Road at Mahadeb; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

SALE OF SOVIET PUBLICATIONS

*575. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that books and periodicals printed and published

in the U.S.S.R. are not allowed to be sold on the Railway platforms even now; and

(b) whether Government will lay on the Table of the House a copy of the orders of Government in force with regard to this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. Government have issued instructions to railway administrations to discourage the sale at their bookstalls of literature which is of a tendentious nature.

(b) It is regretted that it would not be in the public interest to do so.

ELEPHANTS

242. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of elephants exported from India in 1953; and

(b) the approximate price fetched per elephant?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 28 elephants were exported from April, 1953 to September, 1953. As export of elephants was decontrolled from October, 1953 no separate statistics thereof are available after September, 1953.

(b) Information is not available.

AIRCRAFTS IN THE INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

243. **Shri Raghavaiah:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number and types of aircrafts which are in use in the Indian Airlines Corporation at present?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 72 Dakotas, 12 Vikings and 3 Sky-masters are in use in the services run by the Indian Airlines Corporation at present.

RAILWAY TRAINING SCHOOL

244. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the location of Railway Training School at Udaipur has been decided upon;

(b) if so, when its construction will be taken up; and

(c) the estimated cost of construction of the said School?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The estimate is still to be finalized and the construction work will be taken in hand before the end of this year, after it has been examined and sanctioned.

HONEY

245. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 538 asked on the 1st March, 1954 and state:

(a) whether the figures regarding the production of honey in the different States of India have been collected; and

(b) if so, what the figures are?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, from some of the States.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 10.]

MEDICAL COLLEGES

246. Shri Raghavaiah: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the medical colleges in various States where seats are reserved for students of Delhi University;

(b) whether these colleges charge extra fees from such students;

(c) whether in the last three years all students who applied for admission from Delhi into these Colleges were admitted; and

(d) what steps are being taken to provide a medical college for male students of Delhi?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No reservation exists for students of the Delhi University as such, but five seats have been reserved for male students of the Delhi State, out of those reserved for students belonging to Parts C and D States, in the following Medical Colleges:

Dibrugarh Medical College.

Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam.

Medical College, Guntur.

Medical Colleges in Madras.

Darbhanga Medical College.

Sarojini Naidu Medical College, Agra.

Medical College, Amritsar.

Sawai Man Singh Medical College, Jaipur.

Gajra Raja Medical College, Gwalior.

Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, Indore.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) The Medical College which will form part of the proposed All-India Medical Institute to be established in Delhi will cater for the needs, *inter alia*, of students of Delhi.

GHEE PRODUCTION

247. Shri Barman: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of ghee produced in India annually;

(b) what researches have so far been made on ghee at the Indian Research Institute, Bangalore;

(c) what researches have been made for removing acidity or rancidity of ghee; and

(d) what quantity of ghee goes waste annually due to acidity, rancidity or for other reasons?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) It is estimated that the total quantity of ghee produced annually in India is about 117 lakh maunds.

(b) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 11.]

**विदेशों से प्राप्त दूध की दवाओं और
का वितरण**

*२४८. **सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि अमेरिका और अन्य देशों से प्राप्त दूध की दवायें, विटामिन की गोलीयाँ और दूध के चूर्ण आदि का वितरण किन किन मुख्य संस्थाओं द्वारा किया जा रहा है ?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 12.]

LOCOMOTIVES FROM JAPAN

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

(a) whether some locomotives and other rolling stock have been purchased from Japan;

(b) if so, their values; and

(c) when they will arrive in India?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 13.]

RAILWAY SERVICES

250. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any preferential treatment in the matter of appointment to Railway services is accorded to dependants of Railway servants past or present?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): In view of the provisions of Article 16(2) of the Constitution no preferential treatment in the matter of appointment to Railway Services is accorded to dependants of the existing or retired railway servants.

STRIKE NOTICE BY BOMBAY PORT TRUST EMPLOYEES

251. Sardar A. S. Saigal: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers employed in various departments of the Bombay Port Trust had given notice on the 28th May, 1954, to go on strike for an indefinite period;

(b) if so, the demands put forward by the workers; and

(c) whether any meeting of workers with Bombay Port Trust authorities took place and if so, with what result?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The Bombay Port Trust General Workers' Union passed a resolution on the 28th May, 1954, authorising its Managing Committee to give a 14 days' notice of an indefinite strike if certain outstanding demands were not settled within eight days. No such notice was actually served.

(b) The demands relate to a variety of matters such as supply of uniforms, overtime pay, classification of staff, pay scales, house rent allowance, increase in the strength of certain categories, accommodation, etc.

(c) Yes; the matter has been the subject of negotiations between the union and the Bombay Port Trust.

DEVELOPMENT OF ROADS IN WEST BENGAL

252. Shri Tushar Chatterjee: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what is the programme of development undertaken under the Five Year Road Development Plan for development of State roads and National Highways in West Bengal and how is it divided among the various districts?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): A statement showing the programme for the development of National Highways in West Bengal under the Five-Year Plan is annexed. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 14.]

The district-wise break-up of the programme is not readily available.

As regards State roads, the matter is the concern of the State Government and not of the Government of India.

CURE FOR SNAKE POISON

253. Shri A. K. Gopalan: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a patent injectible medicine has recently been perfected for curing snake poison;

(b) if so, the name of this medicine and the reason why this is not being produced on a commercial scale and stocked in hospitals and dispensaries;

(c) the number of fatal snake poisoning cases reported to Government for the last three years, i.e. 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54;

(d) whether Government are also aware that there are some anti-snake venom centres working in the Malabar District of Madras State and that they are working under severe economic handicaps; and

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, in what manner Government intend to help them?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) The Government of India are not aware of any patent

injectible medicine having recently been perfected for cure of snake-bite.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Statistics for the period in question are not available.

(d) The Government of India have no such information.

(e) The question does not arise.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES CHARGED WITH THEFT

254. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some railway employees have been arrested at Sonapore Station under charges of theft;

(b) whether it is also a fact that out of the arrested persons one is a senior railway officer;

(c) if so, his designation; and

(d) what action is being taken against them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) One of the arrested persons is a senior Assistant Station Master (Class III staff), who was functioning as Station Master on that day.

(c) Acting Station Master, Sonapore.

(d) The Government Railway Police, Sonapore, took up the investigation of the case and have sent up these persons for trial under sections 409/120 I.P.C., under charge of criminal breach of trust in respect of Railway Cash entrusted to them. The case is *sub judice* in Chupra Court.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

255. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the names of exporting and importing countries which are still out of the International Wheat Agreement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The names of the main exporting and importing countries which are still out of the International Wheat Agreement are:—

Exporting countries:

Argentine, U.S.S.R. and Turkey.

Importing countries:

U.K., Italy and Sweden.

RAYAGADA RAILWAY STATION

256. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the plant set up for the supply of water to the Rayagada Railway Station (Eastern Railway Zone) from the Kiajholla Project has started functioning;

(b) if so, the daily supply capacity of water; and

(c) the surplus available after the requirements of the Railway colony are met?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Not yet, Sir; it is expected to be brought into commission within about a month's time.

(b) The installed capacity is expected to be 2.4 lakh gallons per day with 16 hours pumping.

(c) There is not expected to be any surplus water after meeting the Railway's requirements.

CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

257. Shri Bahadur Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation during 1953-54;

(b) how much of it was Kans-infested and how much was jungle clearance; and

(c) the total number of tractors used in this connection?

351 L.S.D.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 2,86,244 acres.

(b) 2,76,735 acres were Kans-infested lands. Jungle clearance operations were carried out on the remaining area of 9,509 acres.

(c) 279 heavy tractors and 29 medium and light tractors.

SHEEP BREEDING CENTRES

258. Shri Ajit Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number of breeding centres for sheep which have been started so far with a view to producing long staple wool in sufficient quantity?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): None; but so far 10 breeding centres have been started for the production of pedigree sheep yielding finer quality of wool.

AERONAUTICAL SERVICES LTD.

259. Shri Nambiar: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the amount of work got done through the Aeronautical Services Ltd., Calcutta, during 1952, 1953 and 1954 (upto the 31st July, 1954)?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I lay on the Table a statement showing the work done by Aeronautical Services Ltd., Calcutta for different organisations and individuals during the years 1952, 1953 and 1954, upto the 31st July, 1954. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 15.]

MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES

260. Shri Ramji Varma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount allotted so far to different States for Minor Irrigation Schemes during 1954-55?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 16.]

COACHES FROM ABROAD

261. **Shri Balakrishnan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of metre gauge coaches ordered from abroad which have been received during the period from 1st April, 1953 to 31st July, 1954;

(b) the number of these coaches allotted to the Southern Zone; and

(c) the number of coaches that have been put on the Southern Zone lines?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 136.

(b) 16.

(c) None yet. Coaches allotted to Southern Railway are under delivery and will be put on line after furnishing.

दिल्ली पॉलीटेक्निक

२६२. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर :** क्या भ्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) टेक्नीकल प्रशिक्षण के लिये दिल्ली पॉलीटेक्निक में प्रवेश के लिये कितने प्रार्थनापत्र प्राप्त हुए ;

(ख) उपर्युक्त प्रार्थनापत्र किन किन व्यवसायों में प्रशिक्षण के लिये थे , और

(ग) उम्मीदवारों में कितने मीट्रिक और कितने गैर-मीट्रिक थे ?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) 3,981.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 17.]

(c) 3,136 were matriculates and 845 non-matriculates.

STAFF QUARTERS ON BANIHAL PASS

263. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the amount that has been sanctioned for building staff quarters on both sides of the Banihal pass;

(b) by what time the construction of staff quarters will be completed; and

(c) the strength of the permanent and temporary staff that will be employed for the construction of the tunnel?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 3,91,600.

(b) By the end of December, 1954 on the North Portal side of the tunnel and by the end of February, 1955 on the South Portal side.

(c) No permanent posts have been created; all posts are temporary. A statement showing the strength of the staff proposed to be employed for the construction of the tunnel when the work is in full swing is attached. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 18.]

CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

264. **Shri Ramananda Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage that has been reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation in India, State-wise, upto June, 1954; and

(b) the manner of its disposal and distribution?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The information is as follows:

Uttar Pradesh ..	2,70,339
Madhya Pradesh ..	4,19,203
Madhya Bharat ..	2,65,811
Bhopal	3,00,686
Punjab	13,521
	<hr/>
	12,69,560 acres.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 19.]

रेलवे कर्मचारियों के लिए सुविधाएँ

२६४. श्री जांगड़ : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पूर्वी रेलवे पर स्थित बिलासपुर में भंगी बस्ती में स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं और अन्य सुविधाओं के लिये क्या व्यवस्था की गई है ; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे बस्तियों के प्राथमिक स्कूलों में भंगियों के बच्चों को निःशुल्क शिक्षा नहीं दी जाती है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Free medical aid in Railway Hospital in line with other employees is provided and there are three sweepers employed solely to look after sanitation in the Colony. The colony is also provided with adequate domestic water supply, street lighting, pucca drains and lavatories.

(b) Free education is not provided to anyone. Children of Railway employees are charged annas five per month from the first to the fourth classes.

रेल के बेकार माल-डिब्बे

२६५. श्री सिंहासन सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे वर्कशॉपों में बेकार पड़े हुए माल-डिब्बों के निलाम के लिये कोई निश्चित नियम है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इन नियमों की एक प्रत पटल पर रखी जायेगी ; और

(ग) कुड़ाघाट जंक्शन पर कितने माल-डिब्बे बेकार पड़े हुए हैं ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The procedure to be followed in the conduct of sales by public auction of scrap including wagons is laid down in Chapter XXIV of the state Railway Code for the Stores Department (Provisional issue), a copy

of which is in the Library of the Sabha. The standard conditions of auction sales are, however, framed by each railway and a copy of the rules as applicable on the North Eastern Railway is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 20.]

(c) At the beginning of August, 1954, 424 condemned wagons were lying at Kunraghat. These were auctioned on 18th August, 1954 and are now being dismantled by the purchasers.

DAMAGE TO RAILWAY PROPERTY AT BARIPADA

267. Shri Sanganna: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a heavy damage has been caused to the railway property at the Baripada Railway Station on the Eastern Railway Zone (Orissa) by the cyclone on the 21st July, 1954; and

(b) if so, the value of property involved?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Fortunately the damage caused to railway property was not heavy and is estimated at Rs. 1,400 only.

क्यूबा से चीनी का आयात

२६८. श्री बी० डी० शास्त्री : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुछ मास पूर्व भारत सरकार ने क्यूबा से चीनी के आयात के लिये कोई व्यवस्था की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो किसके द्वारा ; और

(ग) यदि इस सम्बन्ध में भारत सरकार ने कोई शक्ति लगाई है, तो वह कितनी है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Messrs. Milkhiram (India) Ltd., Bombay, and

(ii) Messrs. Jose Arechabala S.A. Cardenas, Cuba.

(c) None. The price paid for has been (i) £38:17 sh. per long ton and for (ii) £38:15 sh. per long ton, including in both cases freight upto India.

जापान से रेल के इंजन

२६६. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या आतावात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कलकत्ता पत्तन न्यास के लिये ११ इंजन जापान से खरीदे जा रहे हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस सम्बन्ध में टण्डर मांगे गये थे ; और

(ग) इन इंजनों का कुल मूल्य क्या है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) £1,67,190.

AERODROME AT BHADRAVATHI

270. Shri Wodeyar: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Mysore have recommended to the Union Government to construct an aerodrome in Bhadravathi in the Mysore State; and

(b) the number of aerodromes which are actually under construction in the former Indian States?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No, Sir

(b) Two; one in Udaipur and one in Kandla.

R. M. S. DIVISION AT MUZAFFARPUR

271. Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open an R.M.S. Division at Muzaffarpur to ensure efficient postal service in North Bihar; and

(b) if so, how long it will take before it begins to function?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) The question of opening an additional RMS Division for North Bihar is linked up with a few other proposals of reorganisation of RMS. A decision in regard to all these proposals will be taken shortly.

मांझी रेलवे स्टेशन का प्रतीक्षालय

२७२. श्री एम० एन० सिंह : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर पूर्व रेलवे (ओ० टी० भाग) के मांझी स्टेशन का प्रतीक्षालय रेलवे कर्मचारियों के निवास स्थान के रूप में काम आ रहा है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो यात्रियों के लिये प्रतीक्षालय बनाने के सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रबन्ध किया गया है ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, Sir; it was only for a short period, during the recent incessant rains, that two railway employees posted at Manjhi station had temporarily to reside in a small portion of the waiting hall pending repairs to certain leaks in their residences.

(b) Does not arise.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

273. Shri K. C. Sodhia: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of claims made by the coal workers under the Workmen's Compensation Act during 1953-54;

(b) the total amount claimed and the amount actually awarded; and

(c) the machinery that has been set up to settle these claims?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). The information is not available. No separate statistics are received by the Director, Labour Bureau in respect of coal workers. A statement showing the available information in respect of workers in mines as a whole for the year 1952 which is the latest available is however laid on the Table. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 21.]

(c) Under section 22 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, all disputed cases of compensation are settled by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioners appointed by the State Governments, who are responsible for the administration of the Act.

मुहम्मदी तहसील में तारघर

१९४. श्री जी० एल० चौधरी : क्या संचार

मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या लखीमपुर-खेरी जिले की मुहम्मदी तहसील में तारघर खोलने की स्वीकृति दी गई है ,

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह स्वीकृति किस तिथि को दी गई थी , और

(ग) यह तारघर किस तिथि से चालू होने की आशा है ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Administrative approval was accorded by the Postmaster-General on 24th December, 1952.

(c) By 31st December, 1954.

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)



VOLUME VI, 1954

(23rd August to 11th September, 1954)

Seventh Session
1954

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI



LOK SABHA

Monday, 6th September, 1954

The Lok Sabha met at a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-15 A.M.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ARRIVAL OF VOLUNTEERS INTO GOA FROM BRAZIL AND SPAIN

Mr. Speaker: Now, I have received notices of two adjournment motions. I shall take them one by one. Both of them are from the hon. Member Dr. N. B. Khare.

The first one relates to "the arrival of hundreds of volunteers into Goa from Brazil and Spain to help Goa against India, as reported in the press from Belgaum." I have not been able to understand the responsibility of the Centre, if some foreign country sends volunteers to territories, which are not part of the Indian Union. This motion appears to be vague enough. It is a situation which is developing from day to day. I think he may as well get the information from the Minister, or he may raise the point at the time the foreign affairs debate takes place.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): Provided I get time to speak!

357 LSD.

Mr. Speaker: Provided, of course, he gets a chance to speak! I am not, therefore, inclined to give my consent to this motion.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahabad South): There is one point which I wish to urge. I do not want to say anything about the admissibility of this adjournment motion. The policy of Government is that no foreigners should be allowed.....

Mr. Speaker: I am at present concerned with the question of admissibility. If the hon. Member is not able to say anything on the question of admissibility, he may reserve his remarks for another occasion when it will be relevant.

HARASSMENT OF CEYLONESE INDIANS

Mr. Speaker: The other motion of which notice has been given by Dr. Khare relates to "harassment of Ceylonese Indians to be repatriated to this country in the matter of transfer of their assets." This motion is also rather vague—it does not refer to the kind of harassment, the form of it, etc. If I remember aright, there was a question answered in the House a few days ago about repatriation of Indians when the situation was clarified. So, I do not think I should give my consent; but I am prepared to hear the hon. Member, if he wants to say anything in support of his motion, before I decide finally.

Dr. N. B. Khare: I do not wish to say anything, because I know it will have no effect. My only motive in bringing this motion before the House is to draw the attention of Govern-

[Dr. N. B. Khare.]

ment pointedly to this important question. In so far as I have done it, I have served the purpose.

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest to the hon. member that if his object in tabling adjournment motions is to invite the attention of Government, he may inform me accordingly and I shall undertake to invite their attention.

Dr. N. B. Khare: I prefer this forum, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then I shall see how I deal with them next time.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENTS TO CINEMATOGRAPH (CENSORSHIP) RULES

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of section 8 of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, a copy of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Notification No. S.R.O. 2424, dated the 19th July, 1954, making certain further amendments to the Cinematograph (Censorship) Rules, 1951. [Placed in Library. See No. S-287/54.]

AGREEMENTS EXECUTED UNDER RESERVE BANK OF INDIA ACT

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following Agreements, under sub-section (4) of section 21 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934:—

(i) Principal and Supplemental Agreements executed between the Governor of Madras and the Reserve Bank of India on the 4th August, 1954; and [Placed in Library. See No. S-288/54.]

(ii) Principal and Supplemental Agreements executed between

the Governor of Andhra and the Reserve Bank of India on the 4th August, 1954. [Placed in Library. See No. S-289/54.]

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION ON STARRED QUESTION NO. 1874

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): With your permission, Sir, I would like to correct an error in the reply given on my behalf by my colleague the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, to a supplementary question in respect of starred question No. 1874, asked by Shri S. C. Samanta on 19th April, 1954 in the House of the People (now Lok Sabha).

It was stated that 'even before the present arrangement came into effect, Government were trying to find out accommodation not only for these employees, but also for their families. Now the whole thing has been regularised and the families of class IV employees are entitled as a matter of right to avail themselves of the reservations'.

The correct position in this regard, however, is that previously families of class IV employees were not entitled to free medical attendance and treatment, which were allowed to the families of other categories of staff. Those concessions have now been extended to the families of class IV employees also with effect from 1st April, 1954. With regard to class IV employees suffering from T.B., the position is that the beds reserved are allotted to Central Government servants only and these are not open to their families.

The error in the reply is much regretted.

CONSTITUTION (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I introduce the Bill.

RESOLUTION RE ENHANCEMENT OF EXPORT DUTY ON RICE, RICE FLOUR Etc.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): I beg to move:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Lok Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry No. S.R.O. 2454, dated the 24th July, 1954, by which the export duty was enhanced from two annas and three pies per maund of 82.2/7 lbs. to 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on rice, husked and unhusked, including rice flour but excluding rice bran and rice dust, which are free, with effect from the date of the said notification."

The position in regard to this Resolution is comparatively simple. As the Resolution itself says there has been a duty on rice exports of 2 annas and 3 pies per maund. In the pre-control period India was both an exporter and importer of rice and it was during that time that this duty of 2 annas 3 pies per maund was imposed on exports. Export of rice

was completely stopped during the period of food shortage and the export duty that was imposed was more or less only of academic interest. With the increased production of rice in the country and the need for re-establishing contracts which were disrupted by the shortage of supplies, and also in order to ensure a market for our future surplus production, if that eventuates, Government have decided to allow some quantities of rice for export.

Sir, I would like to tell the House that in 1953-54 India had an all-time record production of 27.1 million tons of rice as against 22.5 million tons in 1952-53, and 21.6 million tons which was the average of five years' production ending 1951-52. The production this year was, therefore, higher than last year by about 46 lakhs tons. The exportable surplus can be determined by the fact that last year when the production was only 22.5 million tons we imported only 1.9 lakhs tons of rice. As a result of the increased production Government have been able to build up a sizable reserve—on or about the 21st August, 1954 the rice held by Government was about 12.3 lakhs tons; another 7 lakhs tons are expected from Burma against a contract recently made with them for the purchase of 9 lakhs tons of rice.

In view of the comfortable supply position of rice, it has been decided to re-establish the old pattern of trade and, as I said before, to permit some quantities for export. The import of rice from Burma which is a common variety has been arranged in order to enable the Government to build up a Central Reserve and it has not to be taken as an indication of any existence of shortage of supplies. In any case, a large proportion of the export, if that materialise, would be only of the superior variety of rice. Though the notification does not mention any ceiling, I would like to take the House into my confidence and tell them that the intention of the Government, generally, is that there should

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

be a ceiling of about two lakh tons in regard to the export of rice.

In permitting any export of rice this fact also has to be taken into account that so far as the south is concerned, the overall position is not one of surplus and therefore, no exports are allowed from the port of Madras; exports have been permitted only from the ports of Bombay and Calcutta. The price of exportable fine rice excluding superfine, Dehra Dun rice, etc. ranges between Rs. 20-30 a maund which in terms of pound sterling means £40 to £60 per ton. According to the indications received and from the information that we got from our embassies abroad, the fine variety rice is expected to fetch £60-65 per ton f.o.b. Indian ports whereas the better varieties such as West Bengal, Patna which are superior would fetch a somewhat higher price,—about £70 per ton. All these facts were taken into consideration in deciding that a duty of 20 per cent. *ad valorem* would be justified leaving a reasonable margin of profit to the intermediary who undertakes to export.

Some facts might also be given in regard to the internal price of coarse rice which ranges somewhere between Rs. 14 to Rs. 16 per maund; at some places it goes up to Rs. 17 also which is equal to about £28-34. Burma has been selling at £50 per ton and Pakistan at one time offered some quantity of rice at £40 per ton. All these indicate that the world prices are on the down grade and that is also a fact which determined the quantum of duty fixed, i.e. 20 per cent. *ad valorem*.

I would like to tell the House something in regard to the progress of licensing of exports. The dealers have been asked to register their sales with the export controlling authorities. Up to 31st August, sales for 37,330 tons were registered at Calcutta and for 5,500 tons at Bombay but shipping bills have been passed

only for 50 tons in Calcutta and 20 tons at Bombay. That indicates that the problem is still, in size, a very small one and all that the Government have done is to seek to establish or re-establish the old pattern under which some quantity of our superior quality rice was going out of this country to supply the needs overseas; in some cases, rice went to Indians settled overseas who were expecting superior quality rice from India. Sir, I move that this may be passed.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Lok Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, No. S.R.O. 2454, dated the 24th July 1954, by which the export duty was enhanced from two annas and three pies per maund of 82/2/7 lbs. to 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on rice, husked and unhusked, including rice flour but excluding rice bran and rice dust, which are free, with effect from the date of the said notification."

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I seek further clarification on this resolution. It is stated that only two ports—Bombay and Calcutta would be able to export the surplus from India. Might I ask whether Visakhapatnam port also may not be included in this because there seems to be a large surplus of rice—and finer varieties also—in Andhra? If that is not possible. I would like to enquire why it is not so.

It is stated that rice bran and rice dust or husk will be exported. We feel that there is not only a large deficit in our requirements but rice bran and rice dust are some of the essential foods that are given to the cattle. I would like to enquire whether it is not possible for the Government of India entirely to ban the export of rice bran and rice husk.

[SHRI PATASKAR in the Chair]

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar (Tiruppur): In this matter, I want to raise just two points. One is this. I hope Government will keep a watch over the price of rice so that any enhancement of the price of rice which will be to the disadvantage of the consumer due to these exports may not occur and so that the export may be stopped if it affects us thus.

Previously, in South India, large import of broken rice from Burma was allowed and it was considerably cheaper than the ordinary rice. I would like to know whether Government have considered the import of broken rice if the world price of rice is coming down. The price of broken rice has been considerably lower than the ordinary rice. I understand that the rice that we are now importing is ordinary rice. I would like the Government to consider whether broken rice, which will be considerably cheaper and which is used by a large number of labour classes in South India, specially Malabar, cannot be imported to our benefit.

I would now refer to the matter which has been raised by my hon. friend. We know that both from the point of view of fertilizers as well as fodder, rice bran is useful and generally our policy is that we do not export things of which we are in need. I would like to know why these are also being tried to be exported while we ourselves are in shortage of these things.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): The hon. Minister stated that it is only a very negligible quantity of rice that we had exported and that too of the superior variety. That may be quite true. I want to know from the hon. Food Minister about our food position in regard to rice, especially in view of these unprecedented floods we are having. I would also like to

know whether we will have to face a deficit in our rice position. I am saying this especially because we, from South India, particularly Malabar, depend upon rice and if, as a result of floods and drought, which we are having in many places of India, the crop position becomes very bad and the stock of rice is not enough to meet the situation, then the people who will suffer most might probably be the people from the South India. Therefore, I want a clarification from the hon. Minister whether it will not be wise and prudent now to stop the export altogether. The enhancement of the export duty may diminish the quantity of export but I want to know whether, in view of the very bad position due to floods and other circumstances in the country, we may not think of stopping altogether these exports.

Pandit S. C. Mishra (Monghyr North-East): While I admire the astuteness of the hon. Commerce Minister in placing the proposition not in the form of an export duty before the House, but in the form of a sop of enhanced duty, I must join with my previous friend and request the hon. Minister not to allow one single bushel of rice to go out in view of the fact that the whole country is devastated on the one side by floods and on the other by drought. Instead of enhancing the duty, the Commerce and Food Ministers may be very pleased to let our people have whatever little rice they can.

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivandrum): I oppose this resolution tooth and nail and condemn the policy of Government in formulating a premature resolution which will increase the price of rice and thereby affect the standard of living of millions of people in the south. The time has not arrived to stabilise the price of rice on the basis of the cost of production and the capacity of the consumer to purchase. Coming from a deficit area I wish to inform Government that in spite of their removing control, the price of rice has not fallen sufficiently

[Kumari Annie Mascarene]

low for the common man to purchase. The lowest price that I have come across before I came here was between Rs. 37 and Rs. 38 a sack, and the highest was Rs. 75. The purchasing capacity of the common man in my State is too low even to buy at that price.

At this juncture when Government are not sure as to how much they have produced in excess of the demand of the people, they are formulating a policy. Perhaps the hon. Minister wants to help a few people to export rice and make a good gain on the transaction.

Therefore, on behalf of the people of the south I wish to inform the hon. Minister that, coming from the south, he is doing a great injustice to the people of the south.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): We are not allowing exports from the south.

An Hon. Member: He is not the man concerned.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: The blame can be transferred next door. Perhaps the hon. Minister is not aware that the projects in the south have not yet developed and that all the money is invested in developing projects and benefiting the north. And now that they have a surplus they want to export it at the expense of the south. I condemn the policy.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I want clarification from the hon. Minister on two points, firstly, whether there is now a surplus of rice in the country and, secondly, whether the time is opportune for export.

The Minister seems to be labouring under the illusion that the country is having a considerable surplus of rice which can be exported. I beg to differ from him. Some of the previous speakers have pointed out—they have not clarified the position—but they have pointed out that the availability

of rice in the country today is not due to a real surplus production. On the contrary it has been induced by the poverty of the people. It is a poverty induced surplus. It is not a surplus induced by excess of production, though there is an element of increased production. We have not been surplus in rice production. I do not know what are the figures in the hands of Government on which they depend and say that there is a real surplus.

There is another important factor that we have to take into consideration in this matter. The hon. Minister has been saying—he said even today—that the export that we are going to allow is only 2 lakh tons or so, and it is a meagre quantity. And he says that we have lost the foreign market during the war and post-war period, that we have to revive these foreign markets, that we have to look up to and expand these foreign markets for the surplus rice that we produce. Though the objective seems to be a little reasonable, I want to tell the House and the hon. Minister that the present time is not an opportune moment for rice export, and our first and main duty should be to find home market. The Minister must be able to know whether we are satisfying the demands of the home market fully. If people cannot purchase the rice at the prevailing rate, what are the ways which are to be found to overcome them.

As an observer I find that the difficulty of the home market seems to be the lack of purchasing capacity of the consumers. And this so called surplus with which the Government seems to be confronted is not a real surplus; it is a surplus resulting out of the incapacity of the people to purchase the rice.

Shri Kidwai: That is not the fact.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: That is the fact. It is very unfortunate that the Food Minister is not fully informed of the present situation. Notwithstanding the fact that he has been touring the country always, he

has failed to appreciate the real situation in the country. I wish to pose a question to him. If there is surplus rice in the country today, why did he import rice from Burma?

Shri Kidwai: To make the surplus more convincing.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I know that Mr. Kidwai is a very honourable man.

Shri Kidwai: Thank you.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I do not in any way cast any aspersions on his *bona fides*. He is a very honourable man. But unfortunately the people who are working under him are not honourable. He has been completely misled in the case of the Burma rice deal I know. But anyway, being a member of the Treasury Bench, he has to justify the actions of his subordinates. I know that he also knows that it is a very bad deal.

Shri Kidwai: Why is it a bad deal?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: You are aware of it.

Shri Kidwai: I am not aware of it.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may proceed with his speech.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: If there was surplus, why did we import rice from Burma?

Shri Kidwai: To convince you that we are surplus in rice. I added to my stock simply to reassure the people here, the doubting Thomases, that we have got sufficient rice in our stock and that we can de-control.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I cannot understand the cogency of this argument. If we have surplus in the land, then we could have built up a reserve with our own surplus. Why did you buy foreign rice for this purpose? If we really had a surplus, the reserve could have been built. The view of the Food Minister is rather fantastic. We cannot understand the logic of it. The Minister says "we

wanted reserve, so we purchased rice from abroad". At the same time he says there is surplus; so we export rice to foreign countries. I want to ask him, Is it the opportune moment to export rice. It is not in my view the opportune moment. It is dangerous and inopportune to permit export of rice at this particular time. Unless and until we are sure of our position, unless and until every man and woman in the country, is assured of adequate rice supply, we should not think of export. And the best and the only thing that we should consider now is how we should explore internal markets. The foreign market is still foreign to us. In the home market there is a lot of possibility. There is a vast area in the country where we can sell our rice surplus, or the existing rice to consumers.

So, I appeal to him that it is very dangerous and inopportune to allow exports in this manner. We may as well wait for one or two years more till our needs are fully satisfied. Unless and until we are fully convinced that our people have got adequate supply of rice, we should not permit exports.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): Now that the price of rice has already gone up and.....

Shri Kidwai: Where?

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: In Delhi itself.

Shri Kidwai: In Delhi, yes.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: And in West Bengal and in some other places also.

Shri Kidwai: In West Bengal it has not gone up. I was there recently and stockists were complaining that although there is so much talk of floods and scarcity of rains, every day the price of rice goes down a little because people have got so much stock that they cannot sell.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: I think the hon. Minister is misinformed at least so far as certain areas are concerned.

[Shri N. B. Chowdhury]

Anyway, even the price index would prove that.....

Shri Kidwai: No.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury:...the price is rising at some places.

Shri Kidwai: The price of wheat is rising.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Because of this heavy flood and drought prevailing in different parts of the country, we are afraid that next year the production would be much less than what it was last year.

Shri Kidwai: I question that, about rice.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: So, we feel at this time we should not allow this export.

Regarding this export of rice bran. I have strong objection to this because we know that the zamindars have leased out their grazing lands. So, it is very difficult for the peasants now to have sufficient cattle feed, and so this export of rice bran would create a serious situation. So far as Bengal is concerned, I know there the people are in great difficulty to feed their cattle and so we should not allow the export of this rice bran.

And as regards this fine rice, we do not want to allow export at this time. And then, if there is any need for exporting a very small quantity, we must know what that small quantity would be.....

Shri Kidwai: Two lakh tons.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: ...and whether Government cannot themselves undertake to carry on this trade through Government agency.

Shri Kidwai: We have tried that for six months.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: As already mentioned by the hon. Commerce and Industry Minister, the prices prevailing in other countries are much higher than those prevailing here in

India, and even taking into account the duty that is now being proposed to be imposed on export, there would be sufficient margin. So, why should not Government themselves undertake this task of conducting the trade?

These are the things I had to say. We do not want that there should be any export of rice now.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): I did not desire to speak on the merits of the resolution, but hearing the speeches I find that we are proceeding to the discussion of this important resolution with no data at our disposal. Why should not Government supply us with the relevant data? Now, we have been here for the last two years, more than two years. Government very well can understand the trend of arguments which are usually advanced. They can have that much power of anticipation, and if they use that power of anticipation intelligently, they will be ready to supply us with the necessary data. I will inform you how under very serious handicaps we proceed to discuss this matter, and possibly give our ignorant support to this resolution.

Now, according to this resolution, the original duty of two annas three pies per maund will be increased to twenty per cent *ad valorem* on rice. Now, what are the present prices per maund of rice. Looking to my own experience, which is not very much informed, let us say that the price prevailing per maund is Rs. 20. Then, from two annas and three pies the duty will jump to about Rs. 4 or Rs. 5.

Shri Kidwai: No harm.

Shri S. S. More: The Minister for Food and Agriculture is nodding his head to indicate agreement with my very crude estimate. But is it not necessary that we should have more reliable data. When they issued this order, what was the state of the prices ruling in the bazaar? What will be

the percentage of increase over the previous duty prevailing. If my figures are accepted that the increase will be about Rs. 5 per maund, then what are the economic implications of this very steep rise? How will the consumer be affected? How will be the price of rice in this country affected from the producer to the wholesaler or exporter or to other persons who cater for the consuming market?

Now, it is very elementary economics that if the export duties are increased, and so steeply, the result will be that the quantity of exports will undergo a necessary and very substantial shrinkage.

Shri Kidwai: Yes.

Shri S. S. More: If it undergoes shrinkage, then it means that there will be lesser demand for the purpose of export, and if there is a lesser demand and the demand of the consumers in this country is not sufficiently pressing due to the want of purchasing power, then prices for the producer will be very seriously affected. And looking to our small peasants who are producing rice—because from whatever little knowledge I possess of Indian agriculture I know that rice is not produced by large producers, it is only the small peasants having one acre, two acres, four acres, who are the main producers, and if an outlet for.....

Shri Kidwai: May I know what is the advice of the hon. Member? Does he want to reduce the duty, or is he under the impression that we have got a large exportable market just now and it will shrink on account of this export duty?

Shri S. S. More: I am not competent to give any advice and particularly to the Ministers concerned. But I am only emphasizing the argument which I am advancing, that it is the duty of Government to supply us with all the relevant data. Otherwise, what happens?

Shri Kidwai: Nothing happens.

Shri S. S. More: The Ministers get up, hastily reply to the queries from the hon. Members, and we find that even written replies to questions are found to be incorrect and corrections are given on the floor of the House.

Shri Kidwai: Very good.

Shri S. S. More: What would happen to the figures given *extempore* and on the spur of the moment? I am not going to accuse our Ministers of a very great insight into the problems with which they are dealing. I say that we must be supplied with all the data. It is the duty of the Government to educate the House and after educating and placing all material facts in the possession of the House, give time to the Members to digest them. We might not be able to digest the food which is being supplied to us, but we might be able to digest to some extent if the data is given to us in digestible form. So, my submission is that this is treating the House very unfairly. What will be the position of us who are responsible to our constituencies? This resolution will have different repercussions on different sections and elements in the country. We are all of us accountable, at least theoretically and constitutionally, to our constituents. If the interests which are adversely affected come to us and ask our explanation—"Well, Mr. More, you have given support to this resolution, did you take our interest into account?"—I will have to look very shameful in their eyes, very bad in their eyes, and that will not do any credit to our infant democracy that is developing in our country. Our democracy must be a well-educated democracy, our democracy must be a well-informed democracy, our democracy must have all the necessary data in its possession, but the Ministers in charge of this Department are out to develop a democracy which can be as ignorant as possible, because unless we are kept sufficiently

[Shri S. S. More]

ignorant, there is no chance of their measures going through. Therefore, I again sound a note of protest. Now, it is the habit of the Ministers to talk about.....

Mr. Chairman: Let us talk more of the resolution than of the Ministers or democracy.

Shri S. S. More: I am coming to it. But you will appreciate the point that I am making.

Mr. Chairman: I have appreciated it. Let us come to the resolution now.

Shri S. S. More: Leave me some discretion. I am supposed to know my job here. I am prepared to be guided, but I will be presenting the case in my own way.

The Ministers are in the habit of talking about surpluses. Now, the word 'surplus' is used in different senses. In what sense is the word 'surplus' used here? Our state is a welfare state, and as a welfare state, it is its foremost responsibility to see that every man, woman and child in this country is well-fed, whether they have any job or not, and whether they have any purchasing capacity or not. If that is our responsibility, then when we are out to compute surpluses, we must see what is the total number of population here, what would be the requirement for a healthy diet *per capita*, and on that basis, we must see whether the total stocks that we have of different kinds of foodgrains is sufficient to meet that demand. It is only after all this that we can say there is surplus, and that it can be exported. But now the surplus that the Ministers are talking about is the surplus over and above that purchased by the people.

Shri Kidwai: That is called surplus.

Shri S. S. More: In the absence of adequate purchasing power and in the face of the growing unemployment,

the surplus is bound to inflate. There may be growing starvation in the country, as well as object, poverty. Many people will not be getting even a morsel of food to touch for days together, and yet the hon. Minister in his rosy optimistic way will say, well, I have succeeded in my food policy, I can show you our godowns which are full of foodstuffs, and that shows that the country is in the best possible way, on a sort of tide of prosperity. That sort of picture will be a misleading picture; it will also be an illusory picture.

Therefore, I would revert back to my original point and say that all such figures ought to be supplied to us, so that we can have a complete picture, in our own way, of the situation as it prevails, and then we shall be in a position competently and with full knowledge of the facts to accord either our support to this resolution, or if we are so convinced, to voice our protest against this particular resolution.

Mr. Chairman: Now, I would call upon Shri Velayudhan. I believe, most of the arguments have already been advanced. I, therefore, hope that hon. Members would not repeat the same arguments. This is not only for Shri Velayudhan, but for other hon. Members as well.

Shri Kidwai: If they do not repeat the arguments, they have nothing to say.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilonum Ikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I am sorry to say that even though this resolution looks like a harmless sheep, it has behind it a dangerous dragon, which is not satisfied even after eating away the vitals of our millions of people in the country for the last six years.

In recent months we hear that there were surpluses of paddy in the country, and there was clamour from the producers as well as those engaged

in the business, that the price of paddy and rice was falling down.

Shri Kidwai: Yes.

10 A.M.

Shri Velayudhan: I agree with the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture, when he says, yes. It is true that the price was falling. At the same time, he must know that the price charged by the producers of paddy in the country for the last six years was very high and I think it was the highest that we could expect at any time. I would like to ask the hon. Minister a simple question as to whether he has gone into the statistics relating to agricultural expenses, in arriving at the paddy price in 1940, a bag of paddy in our State was costing about Rs. 5½ to Rs. 6½, per maund of about 82 lbs. Now, it is costing about Rs. 36 to Rs. 38 in that State. I can tell the House through you in, that the actual cultivation expenses and other things, including the capital investment etc. will not come to more than Rs. 20 per bag of rice. So, when the hon. Minister took into consideration the surplus in the country, he should have taken up this matter also as *prima facie* factor, in order that the price of paddy which is reflecting on and inflating the price of the other commodities in the country could be liberalised. If that had been done, the inflation which exists in the country even now, could have been diminished or eliminated to a large extent. I do not think that the hon. Food and Agriculture Minister will have any argument against this particular suggestion. When the last General Budget was presented before the House, the hon. Finance Minister had stated that the total price structure in the country is controlled by the price structure that prevails in regard to foodstuffs. I do not know what the Finance Minister has to say now about this particular matter. Does not the hon. Minister of Food know that even today there are millions of people in the country who cannot purchase even a seer of rice, and are therefore living

on the starvation point? We find that when there is a clamour from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Bengal or some other State, and that from some of the producers who have earned and who are earning huge amounts, the hon. Minister is prepared to come to their protection, and help them immediately. Of course, I know; the cry of the starving millions will be a cry in the wilderness. But at the same time, it is the responsibility of a Democratic Government, and especially of the Food and Agriculture Minister to see that the poorer people in the country, the starving millions in the country, are well-fed. Of course; the hon. Minister will say that there is enough rice in the country. Of course, there is. Who has protested that there is not enough rice in the country? In fact, I was of the opinion that there was enough of food grains in the country even in 1949 or 1950.

Shri Kidwai: Very good.

Shri Velayudhan: The hon. Minister was not there at that time.

Shri Kidwai: I was in India.

Shri Velayudhan: He is only enjoying the reputation which could have gone to others because I know even at that time, the food production would have been surplus, whether there were statistics or no statistics. There was a surplus of rice even from the beginning. It was the way in which Government administered the control measures, and the producers' anxiety to have the controls continued, that were responsible for the artificial shortage of rice in the country.

Now, coming to the point directly, I will have to say that not only in South India, but even in the other parts of the country, there is an increase in the price of rice. The fall in price is only in the wholesale market, and not in the retail market.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may come to the resolution on hand.

Shri Velayudhan: I am coming to the point. This is a very important resolution, and if we had time enough to deal with this matter, it should have been dealt with not within a limited period of one or two hours, but in one whole day's debate.

I must see why Government are going to export these two lakh tons of rice. I can understand it if there is an overwhelming surplus. Of course, even conceding that there is a surplus, will it not affect the retail price of rice in the villages.

Shri Kidwai: No.

Shri Velayudhan: I do not know if the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture is a retailer, but I must tell him that there are millions of poor people in the country who are purchasing from the retail shops, from the markets in the villages, from private hands.

Shri Kidwai: They will gain.

Shri Velayudhan: This system of trade has been there for years; the big merchants supply commodities to the retailers who take it to the villages. The price of paddy itself has increased. The hon. Minister is ignorant of it. I do not say that if there is a surplus and if there is a loss for the actual agriculturist, he should be put to a loss, but that is not the case. Millions of people in the country will suffer if this resolution is passed because there will be an artificial increase in the price of paddy with the retailers and the consumers, will actually suffer by the House passing this resolution and bringing it into effect.

Dr. Jaisooriya (Medak): May I put a question to the hon. Minister?

Mr. Chairman: Before we proceed, I would like to say one thing. The resolution makes mention of one thing that they want to increase the duty on export of rice. Naturally, as Mr. More pointed out, there will be less export if there is enhanced duty; that means there will be a reduction in

price. That is one kind of argument; I do not say what the result of that will be. I do not speak for any view. But hon. Members should, when they try to put forth their views, naturally connect them with the resolution and its effect.

Shri Kidwai: They are opposing the resolution without understanding it.

Dr. Jaisooriya: May I put a question? There is an assumption that there is a surplus of rice. May I ask the hon. Minister whether he has read the latest report of the United Nations that said that, though there is an improvement in the food situation in the country, the caloric deficiency is still very great? That is the point. The second question I want to ask is about the fall in the prices. Is the market price of rice lower than the cost of production? Let him please tell me.

Shri S. S. More: He has no figures!

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: May I crave your indulgence to point out one thing I heard from the hon. Food Minister that prices are falling. (*Interruption*). Here is a bulletin which says that the price is rising everywhere as compared with July except in U.P.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has already had his say.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: It is called the "Bulletin of food prices".

Shri Kidwai: That is all right.

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): Our capacity to be surprised has been considerably enhanced by the resolution which the hon. Minister, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, has moved today. All our ideas about India's problem will be revolutionised by this resolution.

Shri Kidwai: Why?

Shri V. G. Deshpande: Before this we had thought that there was great deficiency in respect of every food-grain, but particularly of rice. We were advised to eat less rice. In Bombay a very small amount of rice used to be given to us. Then a big

rice deal was entered into with Burma about which there was much criticism in this House. Now, suddenly, our hon. Minister comes here and tells us that there is a surplus of two million tons of rice. I must really admit that if in 1954.....

Shri Kidwai: May I interrupt the hon. Member for a minute? It is not as if for the first time this has been mentioned, in this House, that we are in a position to export and we have said that we will export. All that this resolution is concerned with is to raise the export duty from a petty amount to a large amount so that even if it is exported, it should be at a price which will not raise the price here. This is the only question that is before the House. Now the hon. Member seems to have been surprised by this decision because he thought that we had never said so. For the last eight months, Government have been trying to export, but they could not do so on account of trade technicalities. They sometimes felt that private trade could export. And what has been the export? Some petty figures that have been mentioned by the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry who introduced this resolution. We have also, side by side, allowed imports so that cheaper rice can come to this country and be made available to poorer people, and the finer quality of rice may go outside. Only recently, about a week ago the Travancore-Cochin Government agreed to import 6,000 tons at a price which is cheaper than—though the quality of the rice is better—the issue price of rice in the Government shops. They were up to now paying a subsidy, but on account of this new policy, they will be able to distribute rice at the same price at which they have been distributing for the last two or three years, without paying any subsidy. This policy is to have imports and exports; it does not mean that exports will lead to a contraction in supply. Government will in every case see what will be the effect. If the rice which is imported is at a price which will be advantageous to the people, it will be im-

ported, and if the rice that is exported is exported in a quantity which will not affect the supply, then it will be allowed to export.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: This is exactly what I am protesting against. My objection to it is because Government themselves are not convinced about the surplus. I do not know and still I am puzzled about it. I want to know specifically whether the Government think that we are surplus in foodstuffs, and particularly in rice.

Shri Kidwai: Only in rice.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: If that is the idea of the Government, then my capacity to be surprised is really strengthened because our First Five Year Plan is still not over and according to the calculations in that Plan, with our capacity to increase the population, we would not be able to manage with the food that will be grown in the country, and therefore a propaganda is going on that there should be family planning in this country. Our Census Commissioner is shouting at the top of his voice; advisers from outside the country, our Health Minister—all are very anxious that there should be family planning. And if our Food Minister comes and says that India is already surplus in foodgrains, and when the country is faced with so many floods, he thinks that in spite of the floods even in 1954 India is surplus in foodstuffs, then we have to change all our ideas.

Shri Kidwai: Of course.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I must protest, and I demand that this House should be taken into confidence. The country should be taken into confidence. If the picture of India's food position is not so gloomy as it was being painted, even our population policy has to be changed and people have to be instructed accordingly. This difference has to be met. My protest is this. Even presuming that we are surplus, sending the finer quality of rice to outside countries and bringing in coarse or cheaper rice—or perhaps, as he said, the same quality

[Shri V. G. Deshpande]

of rice at cheaper rate—from outside the country is a thing which really needs more detailed examination.

It seems that Government first enhanced the export duty and now they have come to the House for approval. I again appeal to the Chair that this, as our Minister seems to think, is not a very simple matter, whether exports should be discouraged or encouraged. By enhancing the duty on export, export is discouraged. I understand that. If the export had been decreased instead of being increased, there would perhaps have been greater export. But still we find that the policy of the Government here is to send the finer quality of rice. Our fear, as I have told you is that the element of surprise is there, your study and assessment of the situation may not be accurate and a situation may arise when the country may be confronted with a very grave deficit in foodgrains and rice...

Dr. Jaisooriya: It is coming.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I do not know whether it is coming. Our Food Minister is all-knowing. He has performed miracles and now all our ideas, calculations and planning have to be revolutionised. I believe that there may not be—I hope at least that there may not be—a deficit, but I do not know how much the Government of India will get by this export.

Shri Kidwai: We do not want any income.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: If it is not a question of income, we request that a reserve should be kept up, a very big reserve because ours is a very large country with vast population and Nature has not been uniformly kind to the country. There are droughts in different parts of the country. Our old kings maintained an equilibrium in foodstuffs by maintaining very big stocks of reserve and they used to control food prices also by building up reserves. Therefore, instead of being in a hurry to earn small amounts—

as our Minister has assured us that he is not very keen on earning money or having revenue—we should set apart large stocks. Enhancement of export duty means prospects of export. Instead of the few sentences that we are surplus in rice, we should have expected a fuller statement from the hon. Minister which we can readily accept and we should have more figures that we are really surplus in rice. For the present rice should not be exported.

Mr. Chairman: I will ask the hon. Minister to speak so that hon. Members will be in a position to know the facts.

Shri Raghavaiah (Ongole): Only one or two questions, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Shri Raghavaiah: In view of the fact that a Government Publication has been cited by one of the hon. Members here to show that the prices have shot up and not gone down, may I know whether the hon. Minister has got another Government Publication which shows that the prices have gone down? If so, is the Government capable of producing two kinds of bulletins, one contradicting the other? That is my first question.

The second question is this. May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that, perhaps from the side of the profiteer the prices may be coming down, though he says the prices have been falling down by 50 per cent. the purchasing power or the capacity of the consumer is also going down and that it is not in comparison with the falling down in prices?

Shri Kidwai: An hon. Member has expressed surprise at our coming forward with the proposal that is before the House I think, in the course of the last 8 or 10 months, it was stated more than once in this House that we are allowing export of rice to foreign countries. We found that there was a big margin between the internal prices and the foreign prices and if we allowed export on the existing duty then

a large quantity will be exported. Therefore, we revised the export duty and that is why we have come to this House.

The hon. Member who was surprised at this proposal, also mentioned that we should take into consideration the rising population of this country. I may tell him that just before we decontrolled the movement and the prices of rice, we were asked this question, that if we found our production this year...

Shri V. G. Deshpande: Population or production?

Shri Kidwai: I say that if the same quantity is produced in 1960 as it is produced this year, then without any increase in production, it will be sufficient for the increased population of 1960. If that is the method of calculating the surplus, then we are very much surplus.

Now, we have got in the course of the last 12 months, since the last crop was harvested the experience that the producer was keen to supply us at the price at which we were procuring in the previous year because the outside prices were very low. As hon. Members from Bengal are aware, we had stopped procurement in Bengal but we had to resume it because the rice prices or the paddy prices went down to Rs. 6 a maund, which was very low compared with the price of previous years.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: That was at the time of harvest.

Shri Kidwai: I am talking of four or five months later. Whenever Government thought that they would stop procuring rice, there was a demand from the different areas from the producers that Government should continue to procure rice; otherwise they will not get a fair price in the market.

Then, about consumption of rice in the rationed areas. So long as control continued, there was no reduction in the consumption. It is said that people are not purchasing rice because

there is less of purchasing power. But, what is the indication in all the rationed areas of Bombay and Calcutta? The quantity that was being supplied was consumed and when we had decontrolled and allowed the people to purchase from outside, then the offtake from the government shops disappeared because the outside prices were much lower than the prices at the Government shops.

I will convince you that we have got surplus of rice and we are not taking any control measures. At the time of decontrol, the State Governments and the Central Government had a stock of 13 lakh tons. That was a stock which we never possessed, although in the previous year we had not imported our full quota of import. Instead of six or seven lakh tons, we had imported one lakh and fifty thousand tons from Burma and still our stock—without taking into consideration our purchases from Burma—was 13 lakh tons. Never, in any year in the past did we distribute from the Centre more than six lakh or seven lakh tons. So, we had got two years' stocks for distribution. Then we made that deal with Burma because many of our people here were afraid of our production and to assure them that decontrol will not harm the country and that Government will always have sufficient stock with them to fall back upon if there is any emergency, we purchased 9 lakhs tons from Burma. Now, our stocks are about 22 lakhs tons. With this stock in hand, I think, we can safely allow imports and exports by private parties. A larger number of applications were received from private trade for imports. But, because the prices in this country were lower than the prices at which the rice was available from countries like Burma and Thailand, a very small quantity was imported and that small quantity was of finer varieties from Pakistan and Persia. Similarly, we never said that people can export. As the hon. Commerce and Industry Minister has said, only a small quantity, a few hundred tons, has been exported. Therefore, there is no

[Shri Kidwai]

danger of any precipitate fall or rise in the prices of rice so long as Government has got a stock of 22 lakhs tons and it is not disposed of. Hon. Members are aware of the fact that we had large stocks of wheat and that we used that to reduce the prices of wheat in the market. Two years ago, the issue price of wheat from government stock was Rs. 20/8/- a md. Every three months we started reducing the price by one rupee and today the issue price is Rs. 14/8. After 15 days, it is going to be Rs. 13/8. Similarly, we will use the rice stocks that we have got. We will keep them to reduce the prices later. This is the time when we can safely revert to the normal trade and see that the prices remain low.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): Sir, I do not think the hon. Minister has answered our doubts regarding the fear of shortage due to the terrible floods and the drought especially the drought—flood is there in our minds.....

Shri Kidwai: I am sorry I did not say anything about floods. I will say just a few words about floods. We have got floods and drought. I think our losses in Assam will be considerable in paddy crop. Our losses in Bengal will not be very high. I think the reduction will be about 10 per cent. of production. Although, generally, people who had seen the floods did not agree with me. I am glad to say that the day I was in Bengal a report from the Agriculture Department was sent to me and in their estimate they have supported what I have said.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: West Bengal Government Agriculture Department?

Shri Kidwai: Yes.

Shri S. S. More: When was it?

Shri Kidwai: It was before today.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): I do not know why the hon. Member is so suspicious of the West Bengal Government, the Chief Minister of which is her own uncle.

Shri Kidwai: Sir, now speaking about drought, there is drought in Rajasthan but it is not a rice cultivation area. There is drought in Punjab, but it has got only a very small rice cultivation area. There is drought in West Uttar Pradesh partially and drought in Orissa which is mainly a rice cultivation area. But, as the Chief Minister stated a few days ago, the damage to crop was not much.

Shri B. N. Misra (Bilaspur-Durg-Raipur): Sir, what about C.P.? Is there no drought in C.P.?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The whole of C. P. and South Bengal?

Shri Kidwai: I am coming to that. Therefore, there was drought in Orissa. The Chief Minister who went round the different areas said that the damage to crop is not as much as was feared. Then, we are having good rains in Orissa for the last three days. I hope that rain will extend to West Bengal also. (Interruption). Then there is drought in South Bengal, districts of South Bihar and so on. We are a vast country and we will always have droughts and floods. But, we have an excellently good crop this year in South India which will make up for the deficiency.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: So, does the hon. Minister assure us that there will be no cause for scarcity or shooting up of prices inspite of the drought and inspite of what the Prime Minister said today that, that is the most serious problem?

Shri Kidwai: That is my assurance.

Shrimati Sushama Sen (Bhagalpur South): Now in Bihar there is drought. Will the hon. Minister assure us that we shall get rice there?

Shri Kidwai: I assure the hon. Member that I can supply them twice the quantity that they usually produce.

An. Hon. Member rose —

Mr. Chairman: I think I will now ask Babu Ramanarayan Singh to speak.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru): Sir, this is a very important question and there are some doubts to be cleared.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह (हजारीबाग पश्चिम) : सभापति महोदय, मैं किसान हूँ। अभी खेती करा रहा था और वहाँ से आ रहा हूँ। जिस प्रकार से सरकार का काम चलता है उस को मैं जानता हूँ। मुझे मालूम होता है कि सरकार दश की कोई बात जानती नहीं है, और यदि जानती है तो उस पर चलती नहीं है।

श्री एस० एस० मोर : चलती है तो भागती नहीं।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : अभी बात हो रही थी कि दाम बढ़ रहे हैं, लेकिन हमारे मंत्री महोदय पूछते हैं कि कहां दाम बढ़ रहे हैं? मैं समझता हूँ कि इसी जगह पर, इस दिल्ली शहर में शायद गेहूँ १२ रु० मन बिक रहा था दस या बारह रोज पहले और अब करीब १६ या १७ रु० मन हो गया है।

श्री किशोर : आप आज का अखबार पढ़ें, उस में १२ रु० मन है। मैं ने खुद कहा था कि यहां दाम बढ़ रहे हैं। (Interruptions.)

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : यहां दिल्ली में दुकानों पर गेहूँ का भाव क्या है?

श्री किशोर : हम लोग चावल की बात कर रहे हैं।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : अजी साहब, गेहूँ का दाम बढ़गा तो चावल का भी बढ़गा और चावल का बढ़गा तो गेहूँ का भी बढ़गा, इस नियम को तो आप को जानना ही चाहिये।

सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय कह दिया करते हैं कि उन के खजाने में बहुत सा चावल भरा है, कभी कभी कहते हैं कि सर्पस है। लेकिन अभी तो खेती हो ही रही है, अभी से उन को यह कहने का क्या अधिकार है कि सर्पस है? और अभी उन्होंने यह कहा कि "In spite of so many talks of floods" यानी उन के जानते हुए फ्लड है ही नहीं। सिर्फ 'टाक' हो रही है। सभापति महोदय, यह जो बिहार, उड़ीसा और बंगाल का इलाका है वह सब धान का इलाका है, यहां अधिकतर चावल ही पैदा होता है। बिहार का उत्तरी हिस्सा तो प्रायः सभी पानी में डूब गया है। दक्षिण बिहार का रहने वाला मैं हूँ, वहां पर कहीं कहीं पर थोड़ा बहुत पानी है और कहीं पर कुछ भी नहीं है। कहीं पर धान कुछ रोपना है और कहीं पर कुछ भी नहीं रोपा जा रहा है। जब से मैं आया हूँ रोज रोज मेरे पास चिट्ठी आ रही है चारों तरफ से कि पानी नहीं बरसता है। लेकिन यहां पर सुनता हूँ कि हमारे पास चावल का सर्पस है।

सभापति महोदय : वह तो ठीक है, लेकिन आप का कहना क्या है एक्स्पॉर्ट ड्यूटी बढ़ाई जाये या न बढ़ाई जाये?

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभापति महोदय, कैसे आप कहते हैं कि यही सवाल है कि एक्स्पॉर्ट ड्यूटी बढ़ाई जाये या न बढ़ाई जाये? एक्स्पॉर्ट ड्यूटी बढ़ाने के साथ साथ आप यह मान लेते हैं कि आप के पास चावल इतना है कि आप उसे दश के बाहर भेज सकते हैं। लेकिन मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि अगर आप में अक्ल है तो आप एक छटाक चावल भी यहां से बाहर नहीं भेज सकते हैं। यह कैसे बात है कि आप एक्स्पॉर्ट ड्यूटी बढ़ा रहे हैं? एक्स्पॉर्ट ड्यूटी बढ़ाने के साथ आप एक्स्पॉर्ट करने की इजाजत दे रहे हैं कि यहां से खुद एक्स्पॉर्ट करो। सरकार को तो इस से कुछ एक्स्पॉर्ट ड्यूटी मिलेगी, इस लिये उन को इससे कोई मतलब नहीं कि दश में चावल की क्या स्थिति है। सभापति महोदय, यहां पर इस तरह की बातें कही जाती हैं कि सरकार

[बाबू रामनारायण सिंह]

के गोदामों में चावल भरा है। मैं जानता हूँ कि जिस दिन चावल के बिना देश में लोग मर रहे थे, उस दिन भी गोदामों में चावल पड़ा सड़ रहा था, लेकिन देने वाला कौन है? वह चावल खर्च थोड़ा ही किया जाता है, वह तो सिर्फ उन के गोदामों में सड़ने के लिये ही रहता है। लोगों के खाने के लिये नहीं है।

मैं और अधिक नहीं कहना चाहता, सिवा इस के कि देश की हालत बहुत बुरी है और चावल का एक्सपोर्ट नहीं होना चाहिये और वह प्रस्ताव पास नहीं होना चाहिये।

Shri B. S. Murthy: Sir, I only want to put one question.

Mr. Chairman: Have we not had enough?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I have not spoken about South India.

Shri Kidwai: Does he want exports from South Indian ports?

Shri B. S. Murthy: No, no. The hon. Minister has stated...

Mr. Chairman: There is no purpose in criticising what the hon. Minister may have said or otherwise. It is better to confine to the subject. If there are statements, counter-statements and criticisms on that, there is no end of discussion.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Sir, the hon. Minister was pleased to state that by exporting our finer quality of rice and importing, not finer, not ragged, but coarse rice, the maximum or minimum benefit to India will be nothing as far as finances are concerned. I am unable to understand, Sir, why; if no monetary benefit is envisaged by such a measure as this the government come forward with a Resolution as this? Moreover, the hon. Minister of Food was pleased to state that South India today stands in a good position. He said that there were droughts in Bihar, Orissa etc.; and floods in Assam, Bengal and other places, and that South India could export rice to these places. I would like the hon.

Minister to go to certain parts of Andhra. Today the transplantation season is over and until the harvest season all the landless workers there will have to starve.

Shri Kidwai: Why?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I receive a number of complaints from even surplus parts of Andhra—Circar districts—that the agricultural labourers are not having food because all the stocks have been locked up with the ryots and they are not releasing them. I think, Sir, the Government have some other plan in trying to come to this House with this Resolution. It is not a matter of exporting finer rice and it is not a matter of importing coarse rice. But there may be something which the Government are not willing to take the House into confidence. I am sure the Commerce Minister and also the Food Minister would be pleased to take the country as well as the House into confidence because we are threatened, as the Prime Minister has stated with floods here, drought there and scarcity everywhere. Therefore, if something happens tomorrow and the country has to face a very serious situation, I think both these Ministers will be held responsible, and I do not want the Parliament to be playing with the lives of millions of people in the country, especially the agricultural labourers, who are not having enough to eat. It is the height of folly to export rice when in certain parts of India, the lower middle classes and the lower strata of people are not having sufficient food. Therefore, I oppose the resolution and want the Government to reconsider whether it is wise on their part to play with the future and with the lives of millions of people in the country.

Shri Lokenath Mishra (Puri): Is it the point made by the hon. Minister that we propose to export less and import more at the same price?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, we are importing more.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The discussion in one sense has been very

helpful, though I am afraid most of the Members that have spoken missed the main point. The resolution does not ask for permission to export; it merely asks for raising the export duty, so that exports would not go up freely. It is a resolution which is inhibitory in its nature and it is not one that throws up export freely. At the same time, I must also mention to the House that apart from Government imports of rice, we also allow private people to import rice. We have been giving licences to various people, and as my own colleague pointed out, though the licences have been given freely for the purpose of import to people who are in the trade, subject to certain ceilings, a very large quantity has not come in merely because of the price factor. The real attempt is more or less to allow the safety-valve to open if it is necessary for it to open. The valve will open if there is a surplus of high-quality rice, for which there is not any excessive demand in the country or in certain parts of the country, and which will go out to those countries which are in the habit of importing rice from India. I think the figures that I have given will convince anybody in this House, excepting my hon. friend, Mr. More, that at the present moment, the rice position is satisfactory. I did give the figures already and let me repeat them. There has been a surplus production in the current year of 46,00,000 tons of rice.

Shri S. S. More: Surplus in what sense?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Surplus over the previous year, and taking into account the imports of last year, the surplus is definitely a very large one (*Interruption*) and the overall consumption cannot straightaway increase from 22.5 million tons. Taking into account the two million tons imported last year, it cannot increase from 22.7 million tons to 27.1 million tons. Our capacity to eat rice...

Shri S. S. More: It is difficult to grasp the figures that the hon. Minister has given.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have a very high opinion of the powers of my hon. friend for purposes of grasping, but the only trouble is that he would not exercise that power and all that he wants is to oppose the resolution. If he grasps the figures, he will be convinced that there is a surplus production of rice in the current year, but what could I do with one who refuses to grasp the figures. I have a very high opinion of my hon. friend's intelligence...

Shri S. S. More: My submission is...

Shri Velayudhan: One doubt I wish to clear...

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Hon. Members may ask questions at the end of my speech.

Shri Velayudhan: On a point of information, Sir,.....

Mr. Chairman: No interruptions please.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position, therefore, is that there is a surplus. My hon. colleague has mentioned the fact that this production has been affected to some extent by the floods and drought, and his experts have advised him that this surplus is enough to cover us in any contingency. What is now sought to be done is something very infinitesimal and small. There is a certain quantity of rice which is high-priced and for which there is a market. We would allow that to go out subject to a duty. If my hon. friends had said that the duty of 20 per cent. is not enough, that it should be 25 per cent. or that it should be a specific duty of Rs. 7, or Rs. 8 or Rs. 9 so that the inhibitory effect might be enhanced, I would certainly reconsider the position and come back to the House again with my proposals, but no such constructive suggestion has come forward. We have allowed imports to come in. Imports are coming in small quantities. My hon. colleague just now told me that Travancore-Cochin is importing a certain quantity of rice from Pakistan and they have asked for the licence for imports to be expedited. Once decontrol is established, a certain amount of nor-

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malcy will operate within limits. So far as imports are concerned, we give the licences. We know exactly what will come in and what will not come in. So far as exports are concerned, we have this export duty of 20 per cent. which inhibits exports. Put this picture against what my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Reddi has said, namely, why should Madras be shut out of this advantage? As a matter of fact, a very great amount of thought has been bestowed in this matter. It was found that in this area rice is barely sufficient and the quality of rice produced is fairly high-quality rice, and so we did not want this stock to go out. Put the picture of the story as given by my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Reddy, who says that there is a lot of surplus and that Vizag should be thrown open for export, with the picture as given by my friend, Mr. Murthy, who says that there is not enough rice. As a matter of fact, I think the answer to Mr. Reddi comes from Mr. Murthy. We have taken care to see that Vizag is not thrown open for export because we do not want any contingency that Mr. Murthy envisages, to occur. All care has been taken in this matter and the figures that I have given in regard to registration shows—I am mentioning for the first time the ceilings which will be 2,00,000 tons and I have not mentioned the ceilings at all before—that they have been very much less than 36,000 tons and actual shipments have been much less. This is a very small matter. In effect, what we are doing is to take into account the variation in export, and to put up a higher duty if we feel that the duty should be enhanced. The whole idea of export duty in regard to allowing normalcy to operate is to act as a check and it is a safety valve. If in some places there is a surplus, and if they will be getting, say, Rs. 25 or Rs. 27 or Rs. 29 per maund, allow them to export and the duty is there as a check. I would, however, repeat once again that if hon. Members felt that the export should be limited to a very small quantity then the obvious suggestion for them to make is that the export duty is not

enough. We will probably have in the other resolution that I shall be moving if the House permits me, the converse of the picture, and I am very grateful, therefore, that I have found a very large body of opinion in the House against exports...

Kumari Annie Mascarene: We do not want any export of rice.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Which means that the export duty should be higher.

My hon. friend from Travancore-Cochin will feel that we have safeguarded the position. We have not allowed the South Indian ports to export. We are only allowing Bombay and Calcutta to export what she has in mind.

In the circumstances, with the controls more or less in our hands, I would like to assure the House that no serious harm will happen into and Government will take the House into confidence if there is anything going wrong. We will keep the House informed. So, at the moment, this measure is pretty innocuous and I would commend the resolution to the House.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is the hon. Minister aware that the extreme south depends upon the north for rice?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As a matter of fact, the South will not pay Rs. 25 or Rs. 27 a maund for the rice from the north.

Mr Chairman: The question is:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, (XXXII of 1934), the Lok Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, No. S.R.O: 2454, dated the 24th July, 1954, by which the export duty was enhanced from two annas and three pies per maund of 82·2/7 lbs. to rice flour but excluding rice bran and rice dust, which are free, with 20 per cent. *ad valorem* on rice, husked and unhusked, including

effect from the date of the said notification."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE EXPORT DUTY ON GROUND-NUT OIL

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):
I beg to move:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Lok Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry No. S.R.O. 2520, dated the 29th July, 1954, by which an export duty of Rs. 350/- per ton of 2,240 lbs. was levied on ground-nut oil with effect from the date of the said notification."

The present motion is in effect to get the approval of the House to a very small quantity of export that has gone out and on which this rate of duty has been levied. Parliament has already sanctioned a levy of a duty of Rs. 300 per ton on ground-nut oil and it is on the Statute Book. This amount of duty is varied from time to time, and the variation on the side of lowering it is made by the executive powers vested in Government. But on this particular occasion, we found that the duty of Rs. 300 would not be enough and therefore, the duty was raised to Rs. 350. Since then, the duty has been lowered to Rs. 225 per ton, which is well within the limits of the statutory duty that is already on the books. So, the approval of this House will in effect amount to an approval of the higher duty levied on the figures that are with me. The figures may be subject to correction. The total quantity of groundnut oil on which this higher duty has been levied is just 997 tons. The lower duty which is well below the level already approved of, came into effect last week. So, I want the House to realise that this is more or less confined to an approval of the higher duty levied on 997 tons or thereabouts.

The history of the position of exports of groundnuts is fairly well known to hon. Members who are interested in groundnuts. We have been permitting export of groundnut oil during the year 1952-53, and I think the quantity released was about 60,000 tons. Out of this, 20,000 tons were released during the period July—December, 1952. A further quantity of 36,000 tons was released in the next half-year—January—June, 1953, keeping in reserve about 4,000 tons for newcomers. But due to the unexpectedly poor crop of groundnuts, coupled with a general rise in the consumption of edible oils in the country, the prices of oils and oil-seeds, especially groundnuts, shot up. By the middle of 1953, the price of groundnut oil reached the highest level attained in recent times. It went up nearly to Rs. 2,000 a ton. In order to help the consumer and with a view to curtailing speculative activity, exports were suspended after August, 1953. That is, nearly half of the quantity on which export duty was to be realised remained unexported. Also, the position in the middle of 1953 was so serious that very many States like Bombay, Saurashtra and some of the North Indian States began clamouring, and that is why we have to take the action to stop further exports. We also took care to see that the people who used groundnut oil for non-edible purposes were given other oil. We lowered the duty on palm oil and people who are using it for non-edible purposes like soap-makers were induced to import palm oil in large quantities. Those imports have come in. All this plus a fairly good crop, brought down the prices. Prices came down to Rs. 1,600, Rs. 1,500, Rs. 1,400 and so on, until the time when we released this notification imposing a duty of Rs. 350 per ton, the price was in the region of Rs. 1,160. Rs. 1,150 in Madras and about Rs. 20 or 30 more in Bombay. The duty was worked out on the basis of the prices ruling in foreign countries at that time. At that time, the prices were in the region of £130 in the European markets. We had allowed for export costs, the containers, the middlemen's profits, etc., and then

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we found that there was a difference of about Rs. 450. Government felt that a hundred rupees was quite enough for the middlemen, and an export duty of Rs. 350 was imposed. We had also taken care at that time to see that the big exporters who had earned big quotas in the past did not take considerable advantage of this export quantity that was allowed. The export quota is 15 per cent. of previous exports. There is at least one exporter who holds 40 per cent. of the total quota, so much so that if we had envisaged a ten thousand ton export, he would have got 4,000 tons. Following a policy which the Government have been pursuing in regard to castor oil, we put a ceiling of Rs. 400 tons. It was necessary not to lower the ceiling below 400 tons, because oil in bulk quantities could not be shipped at less than 400 tons. So, a person who is entitled to 4,000 tons could only get 400 tons. Though our notional idea of export may be ten to twelve thousand tons, we were able to raise the export quota to about 15 per cent. having in view the fact that about ten or twelve big exporters who, more or less, covered 80 per cent. of the total exports, could only get 400 tons each and not more than that. Fortunately or unfortunately, the prices in world markets started dropping. Nigerian oil started dropping very rapidly, and, as I said though we envisaged an export of 10,000 to 12,000 tons on the basis of past exports actual exports amounted to only to 997 tons, because prices dropped very rapidly. It is with a view to meet the situation that the export duty was lowered by Rs. 125. We feel that with the present prices ruling round about Rs. 1,020, reduction of duty by Rs. 125/- will attract exports, if the foreign price is somewhere about £116 per ton. So, the question whether we ought to export or not, about which we were discussing sometime back, is a thing which is foremost in my mind. In fact, I think I have incurred some odium in certain quarters, having been rather rigid in this matter of allowing

exports. Our last experience has been generally very bitter. Prices rose up to Rs. 2,000 a ton—of an oil which is used by lower middle classes. It is, in effect, somewhere about eight to nine times more than it was in the pre-war days. In the pre-war days, prices of ground-nut oil fluctuated.

Shri Gopala Rao (Gudivada): Is it in 1951 that the prices of oil fluctuated?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am speaking about last year.

I am speaking about last year. In pre-war days the prices fluctuated between Rs. 200 and Rs. 280 per ton and hon. Members can make their own calculations when the prices went up to Rs. 2,000 per ton. In fact, Sir, I must envisage the position as it happened. For one thing there was a short crop; the second factor was an increase in consumption, which is still continuing. In spite of whatever hon. Members may say, in certain categories there has been an increase in consumption of food-stuffs. There is a certain limit in regard to increase in consumption of cereals. Actually a man cannot eat more rice than what he did. Particularly when you do not have any rationing, the tendency, the propensity, to eat more rice is less than during a ration period. But in regard to sugar and edible oils when there is just a little more money in the hands of people that consume, well the consumption is reflected in these items.

Hon. members here know very well about our increase in consumption of sugar. It is a portfolio that is handled by my hon. colleague the Food and Agriculture Minister. But I can tell the House that when I was in Agra in July 1953 I went to the mandi making enquiries about what was happening. I was told that the normal distribution of sugar in that mandi which was about 30 to 35 tons a week had risen to 80 tons. There is some increase in consumption somewhere and the tendency for consumption of sugar to increase also reflects itself in other

consumable articles like edible oils. So, one of the reasons why prices shot up last year was due not merely to a short crop, but also an increase in consumption.

Last year was a bad year all over the world. The entire world production was about 12½ per cent. short of the world's consumption of oils and fats, which has had its own effects, because in the world position the consumption of oils and fats in regard to industrial articles had dropped to some extent, particularly in the matter of soap where many countries have switched to synthetic detergents. This has appreciably brought down the total consumption of oils and fats in the world. But that is neither here nor there.

Government do remember the experience of last year and having this in view we were very chary of allowing exports for the purpose of earning foreign exchange. Let me tell the House that in regard to oils and oil seeds, excepting perhaps castor oil, niger seeds, and things like that, we have not attained a position of surplus. In so far as the bulk of our oil production is concerned, we have not yet come to a position when we are able to say we have a comfortable surplus.

Estimates have been made by various interested parties. I have got the estimates made by the Adoni Oil Merchants' Association, backed by the Madras Oil Merchants' Association, who show that the present year's end will see a carry-over of 9 lakhs tons of oil. On the other hand, I have the estimates made by other people who show that there will be a surplus of only 2 lakhs 10 thousands tons of oil which is just enough for carry-over and which is very necessary with all the uncertainties of the future crop. So, it does not seem that we are in a position today when we can say: "It is all right; let us release the exports of oil and let us allow the prices to rise."

My hon. friend the Food and Agriculture Minister did mention the fact

that the prices of foodstuffs are coming down and the prices of all other articles which are cultivated have to come down *pari passu*. If the prices of foodstuffs come down and the prices of other articles remain high, there will be a switch-over from foodstuffs to other articles. This he said in reply to a question regarding sugarcane. So, we have to maintain some parity. Today supposing we do concede a price of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,050 for groundnut oil which will be in the region of four to five times more than what it was during the pre-war days. Hon. Members here were speaking about rice prices. Even in South India with a price at the mandi of Rs. 15 a maund, it is not quite four times the pre-war price. It is less than that. I do not know—I am merely voicing an opinion of my own—if you could reasonably stabilise prices at some, where about three to four times the price of pre-war days, I think we ought to be quite happy. The agriculturist will have a fair deal and the consumer should also be satisfied. So, the whole idea here is that we should try to stabilise prices at round about a thousand rupees per ton and allow for a safety valve, so that the prices may be maintained.

11 A.M.

There is yet another factor which goes to indicate that the oil prices might stabilise, if the crop is good and there is a surplus in the country, at about Rs. 1,000 a ton, because our import of palm oil works out to Rs. 978 a ton. If actually the price of groundnut oil comes to that level people will not import palm oil. There are a number of safety factors here; it is not a matter which can be lightly dismissed one way or another by considering the interests of a particular region or a particular set of people, or a particular class of people. Government have to take an overall view of the picture.

I know hon. Members on the other side will now put forward the other side of the picture—I see my hon. friend Dr. Rama Rao's eyes are glistering—it is not that I am not un-

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aware of it. There has been an agitation going on. Sir, my hon. friend Shri Jagjivan Ram's (the Minister for Communications) revenue has been augmented by cards like this being sent down to us. It is printed in Telugu. The English translation of what is written here is "Allow export of groundnut oil and ensure reasonable prices." My name has been printed—I am very grateful to that person who has done it—with the suffix of 'Garu'—that is a courtesy title. I have been addressed as "T. T. Krishnamachari Garu".

Mr. Chairman: What is the meaning of 'Garu'?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. That is a title. It is a polite way of saying. Instead of saying merely 'T. T. Krishnamachari'. But that kind of politeness does not exist in Northern India. Anyway this has been done by somebody, some interested person. These cards have been printed in one press; it goes round to all places, with a three pice stamp affixed to it. I know what value should be attached to it. I have merely bought this as an exhibit to show that pressure tactics are adopted. That is one type of pressure group.

On the other hand I have been getting representations from the Saurashtra Government, who paid very dearly in regard to their popularity because of the high prices of groundnut oil during the last season. They say: "Keep an eye on the thing and do not allow things to go far".

I do suggest, Sir, that what we have done is to stabilise prices at a particular level, taking in view foreign prices. If the prices had dropped before I issued this notification, I would not have brought in this resolution at all, because as I said I am entitled by statute to levy an export duty of Rs. 300 and any thing less. This particular resolution affects only the levy that we have made on 995 tons and the duty has been reduced to Rs. 225.

We are carefully watching the situation. If prices are inclined to go down further, or foreign prices come down, naturally the export duty will be adjusted from time to time. I do not want being reminded about it. It is a matter about which even this Government—I am sorry my hon. friend Mr. More is not here—which he would not approve of, is sometimes alive to the needs of the situation. I can give this assurance to the House that we would not allow the prices to go very much below a thousand unless world prices rocket downwards, in which case we may not be able to do anything. But about that there is no fear. The latest estimate in regard to world production shows that the world production surplus is of a very small quantity. The overall surplus production in the world of oils and fats is expected to be about 350,000 tons. It is a very small quantity and, therefore, I do not see that there is any fear of prices crashing to an extent that the prices will go down below a thousand. If it does there are other means of doing things. As I said if the price goes below a thousand we will stop imports of palm oil and we can use our import machinery for other purposes as well. The price will be maintained round about that; at any rate, Government will endeavour their very best to see that the prices are stabilised at this level I beg to move that this resolution may be passed.

Mr. Chairman: Resolution moved:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Lok Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, No. S. R. O. 2520, dated the 29th July, 1954, by which an export duty of Rs. 350/- per ton of 2,240 lbs. was levied on ground-nut oil with effect from the date of said notification."

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I was a little bit surprised when the

hon. Commerce and Industry Minister spoke in a vein of derision at the agitation that has been tangibly shown to him by way of post cards sent to him.....

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would like to assure the hon. Member that there is no derision; it is only a statement of fact.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: In these days of adult franchise, I should think that an agitation of that kind should be welcomed so that the Government may be in a position to understand the feeling that prevails in the country. In fact, the resolution that is placed before the House is not so innocuous as it was sought to be explained by the hon. Minister.

It has got great repercussions on the growers of groundnut.

He has not given us the total quantity of groundnut that is already available—the produce for the year 1953-54—and what probably would be the quantity that will be available from 1954-55 crop. In these circumstances about which we are kept in the dark, it would have been better on the part of the hon. Minister to have given us an overall picture of the existing state of affairs, especially with regard to the grower.

No doubt, the export duty on groundnut has been reduced. No assurance has been given for the export of the surplus of groundnut that is available in the country. In each district, especially in Rayalaseema, lakhs of acres have been cultivated this year and lakhs of tons of groundnut of last year are still available for sale. Having known that there is slump in the price of groundnut and that it has not been easily saleable in the market. Government have evidently come to the conclusion that the export duty must be reduced. But they have taken only one side of the question into consideration and not the other one which is of great importance. They do not seem to have enhanced the quotas fixed for ground-

nut exporters. They have stuck on to old quotas and no attempt seems to have been made to revise or enhance the quotas. When the export quotas are not revised or enhanced, it is impossible that there will be a market for the existing stock of groundnut. In view of the great relationship between groundnut prices and groundnut oil prices, groundnut price should not be forgotten and the facilities for exporting groundnut should not also be given up. I would like to be assured by the hon. Minister that ample opportunities would be given for the grower to sell his produce and that ample opportunity would also be offered to the exporters of groundnut. If it is not sold in the market, I want to know whether Government are coming forward to make purchases at a reasonable price and hand it over to the exporters or see that other means of export directly or indirectly to other countries, where there is a demand, are sought after. Otherwise, reduction in the export duty of groundnut will not help the groundnut growers. Their position is already very bad; probably next year it will be worse. The relationship between groundnut and groundnut oil should not be forgotten. Unless there is a market for the groundnut and unless there is a large demand, there is no possibility of the oil producers purchasing the product from the growers and then exporting it. This sort of reduction in the export duty on groundnut and the enhancement of the export duty on oil does not seem to help growers at all and much less the exporters of oil. I know that in the dollar areas the price of oil has come down and in sterling areas it is being maintained. We are not given any idea of the countries to which this oil is going to be exported and whether the consumption of this oil will be great in those countries and whether the export will be stepped up to these countries. The export duty that is sought to be levied on oil is bound to depress the price of groundnut that the growers would get and, therefore, it is necessary that the Government

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should re-consider the entire position to see that the grower is not affected at the instance of Government. Government has shown generosity with one hand and probably not so much generosity with the other. We are now dealing with the buyers' market; sellers' market has very much dwindled and we have to depend upon the foreign buyers for the export of our oil. To what extent the oil at the higher rate of export duty will be welcomed in those countries which require our produce, has to be explained. To the extent I was able to follow the hon. Minister, he has not given us the details thereof. It is, therefore, necessary that the hon. Minister should take up into greater confidence and tell us to what extent he is going to aid the export of oil that is likely to be surplus. If groundnut export is going to be enhanced, it is welcome, but if it is going to be restricted to the quoted that has already been laid down and if there is no possibility of increasing the quota, the position would be very difficult. We have seen in the Press that some agitation is going on apart from the post cards that the hon. Minister had received. There is a lot of agitation going on in several parts of the country and I hope the matter has been brought to his notice. In view of this, there is an urgent need for the Government to reconsider the position and the enhancement of the export duty on oil does not seem to be necessary at this stage.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): I have listened carefully to the speech, with facts and figures, of the Commerce Minister, and I do not wish to go into those facts and figures at all. For I have from experience found that everybody makes a statement and gives facts and figures which will be very handy and which we can always press into arguments for or against. Just a few moments ago we had an instance, the Prime Minister saying that there is a serious situation of the food position in the country because

of floods, and the Food Minister here saying "everything is all right,—I give you the assurance—that statement is not correct". That is by the way.

I have been concerned with this matter not as an expert businessman or even as a producer on a large scale. But I come from Anantapur district where this groundnut is about the most important cash crop; thousands of acres have gone under this crop in preference to food crops, and we have suffered. That is my individual opinion.

Apart from that, my criticism is this. Of course it is not exactly germane to the point at issue in the resolution which has a limited purpose, namely that the hon. Minister has increased the export quota and under the statute he is asking for our approval. I am not concerned so much with it. But this is an occasion when the policy of the Government regarding the export of groundnut oil, is in issue, and I wish to make one or two observations which have struck me from the criticism I have listened to in the country. It is this, that it is most unfortunate that the handling of this export policy has always been most ill-timed. I have always found that the policy of export is not announced when the agriculturist has harvested and is offering his produce in the market. But it comes at a time when the whole quantity has passed from the hands of the agriculturist or the producer into the hands of the middle-man or the capitalist or the vested interests, and when they agitate Government also listens to the agitation.

The Commerce Minister was saying, "Here I have got a post card, they have spent nine ples". They are prepared to spend nine thousand rupees, nine lakhs of rupees. You know the people interested in this. And you listen to them at a time when it most ill-suits the grower and well suits the capitalist or the agitator. That is the worst feature of the whole situation.

That is what I wish to state plainly before the House.

And now, in this mid-season, this is done. I take it that the Government also concedes that except in some parts of extreme South India, where groundnut crop is now harvested and available, in most parts of mid-India, Hyderabad and Madras and Andhra States this is the season when the fields are under the groundnut crop. It is about a month or a month and a half, old and it is at this time that the export policy is manipulated with a view to accelerate exports. Whom does it benefit? Do we expect the agriculturist to be still holding all the quantity in his hands? It has all gone to the capitalist. He has already purchased it. And the middle man makes profits. He does agitate, he can spend for post cards and for other cards also.

So the real solution is that you must fix a particular quota for export from the country. It may be fairly high. I have read in the papers that the other countries which purchase from us have been making experiments to grow this commodity themselves. And fortunately for India they have failed much moneys have been sunk and they have burnt their fingers. But nevertheless there is the danger that when the export policy of this country does not permit the stuff to go out to the foreign countries, the foreign consumer naturally is compelled either to produce it or to look out for a substitute. If once he meets his needs by a substitute oil, then the whole market that has been built, the whole future of the agriculturist is in danger. And I for one feel that if this policy of export is handled like this, the groundnut grower must seriously suffer at one stage or another.

No doubt the Ministry is concerned with many other considerations and an overall picture of the whole country, not of particular areas. All this, I perfectly concede, is a matter for argument and consideration too.

But the overall picture has always been unfortunately like this. It is not the real man, whose interest we are concerned, to safeguard the ultimately benefits by your policy of manipulations, but others.

Take one of the arguments to which I listened, about the consumption of the oil. This is an oil which the poor man consumes. Naturally they have increased their consumption, and therefore we wanted to retain this oil in the country for people to consume. Is it because you prohibited exports that consumption has increased? I can understand when a thing is cheap, a man who ordinarily would purchase or use two ounces might well afford to use three ounces. Certainly there would be an increase. But is it only to afford this extra oil for consumption to the ordinary man that this policy was conceived? It is an argument. Certainly it is handy. You may say that consumption has increased. Certainly it does increase. I say scientifically your argument is without foundation. But it is likely to be exaggerated and pressed into service when it suits you.

The other point in a matter like this which I wish to state is this. Last time in the inter-session when I went to parts of my constituency, some people, both producers (fairly large scale) as well as the middle-men who have these expellers and other things, met me. They asked me "What is the policy of your Government which is going on?". I had not listened to the Minister, but I told them "I say, the poor man eats the oil; you are middle-men; you have produce in your godown and you want to make it appear as if this is a delicate situation and you want to export; Government's policy will be this." But that was simply an argument. I myself was not satisfied with it.

I only wish that in all these things in regard to the most important commodity which is grown in large parts of our country, the policy must be such that there is a level of prices on

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which the grower can depend. Just imagine, they permitted some quota of export a month and half ago. That is just the season when the agriculturist has to purchase groundnut for seeding. When he has to purchase groundnut for seeding, you raise the price.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Prices have not risen. On the other hand they have dropped.

Shri Raghavachari: Not today. When you opened the export quota, the sudden reaction was an increase in price.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: As a matter of fact, the increase was just a flutter of ten rupees which dropped immediately. On the other hand the prices have been steadily falling from that time because the world prices have been dropping.

Shri Raghavachari: I am only talking of the market and the man affected, with reference to the announcement of the quota and export policy. An agitation was going on, and I remember to have read the Minister himself saying that the matter of export quota was under consideration, with reference to the prices going up. And the season for purchasing the seed does not extend over months. It extends over a few days when the rain has come and before the moisture is out the man must purchase it and put it into the soil. At such a critical time the thing has affected him. Another day, when the groundnuts are grown, the export policy is "no quota". The prices go down. I am only expanding the same point, that the way in which the matter has always been manipulated as some say, or arranged on an overall picture of this country, has not been to the advantage or the benefit of the agriculturist. I am afraid that this kind of policy might seriously endanger the real markets for this crop which is the most important money-producing crop, and therefore I would make a request to

the hon. Minister that the Government's policy should be based upon a particular permanent export quota for the whole country. He no doubt gave some reasons: "I have not given anything to the middleman. I have only given 15 per cent. to each man on his previous year's export quotas." But all these are a group of people who come into the category of exporters only. It may be you have not allowed one big man, but hundred big men have fattened at the cost of the producer. And therefore, my request is that there must be this policy of a definite quota always open at the season when the crop actually comes, so that the agricultural producer may have the benefit of the price.

Mr. Chairman: Before I call the next Member, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members in general—to no Member in particular—that our rules have laid down and very correctly that the discussion of a resolution "shall be strictly relevant to and within the scope of the resolution". Because I find some of the Members start by saying that they will not so much say anything about this resolution as about the general policy of Government, I would point out to them that while we are discussing a resolution the rule is—which should naturally be observed—that the discussion should be strictly relevant to and within the scope of the resolution, and other points should be avoided. And then probably we may be better able to concentrate our attention on the points involved in this resolution.

With this observation, I would call upon the hon. Member there.

Shri Gopala Rao rose—

Mr. Chairman: I have already called the other hon. Member.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy (Chittoor): I am very glad that unlike the discussion on the previous resolution, the emphasis in this resolution.....

Mr. Chairman: A little more loudly please.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: I was saying that unlike in the previous resolution, in this resolution on groundnut oil the emphasis has shifted from the consumer to the grower. My impression in the previous discussion was that the House was too over-solicitous for the consumer. Here I find—I am very glad—that even Shri Raghavachari has supported the view of the grower.

Before I venture to present the view of the groundnut grower, the small grower in the village I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry for reducing the export duty on groundnut oil. The benefit of this will go to the grower.

It has been the experience of the small producer during the past four or five years that when the product was in his hands the prices were very low. The export quotas were not given. The policy was not announced. But, soon after the product left his hands, the policy was announced, the prices shot up and all the benefit went to the middleman. But this year the process was the exact reverse of this. Expecting the announcement of the policy of the Government with regard to export of groundnut oil, the producers held on to their stocks and waited for several months, but the Government, with a foolish consistency, refused to announce any policy at all. Now, when they did announce the export policy, there was a heavy duty on the export of groundnut oil. The result is the prices have not merely fallen, they have simply collapsed. There has been a very precipitous drop in the price of groundnut and the producer does not even get the price that is equivalent to his cost of production of groundnut.

I have worked out from my own personal knowledge and from the figures that I have got from some of

the statistical abstracts available in the Library, the average cost of production of groundnut per acre. I find that the average produce per acre is about 25 maunds. That is, the equivalent in money of that produce is about Rs. 75. Out of this Rs. 75, the cost of seed, the cost of cultivation, transport, storage and the loss due to storage, all this will have to be allowed, and the net profit that the producer derives per acre is about Rs. 15. And in the part of the country where I come from this is the only money crop available to the peasant, and all his expenses—education bills, medical bills and all other expenses—have to be met only from out of the produce of this crop.

Now, I do not know on what basis the hon. Minister says that Rs. 1,000 per ton of groundnut oil is a fair price. I do not know if he has at all considered the cost of production of groundnut per acre. I do not think he has noticed that of late the yield per acre of groundnut has been falling down considerably. The reason for this is not far to seek. There has not been any attempt made by the Government to increase the productivity per acre of groundnut. On the other hand, all impediments are being placed in the way of obtaining a fair price for the producer. Therefore, I submit that at the present level of prices it is absolutely uneconomical for the producer to grow groundnut. I am sure if this state of affairs should continue for some more time, there will be a very steep fall in the acreage under groundnut, and coupled with the increased consumption in the country of groundnut oil, we will be facing a very serious situation with regard to edible oils in this country after one or two years. I am very glad, however, that the hon. Minister has been very considerate to the problems of the producer and he has assured the House already that he will be watching the situation very carefully and whenever there is any necessity to boost up the price even a little, he will certainly do it. But I would submit

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to him that the producers who are still having the stocks in their hands cannot hold on to their stocks much longer, and if the hon. Minister is really interested in giving a little better price to the producers, he must at once announce higher export quota of groundnut oil along with total abolition of the duty, and if that is not possible, I would submit that the duty ought to be reduced at least to a level of Rs. 150 a ton instead of Rs. 225 that is existing now.

Another point which was made by Shri Raghavachari was that at present the Government does not have any machinery to estimate the total crop per year and the consumption in this country per year and the exportable surplus every year. They seem to be working out the figures merely on an empirical basis and just giving some sort of export quota according to some very unsound advice.

Shri Raghavachari: The Dalda factories give them all the figures of consumption.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: The Dalda factories in the South are in doldrums now. Not one of them is working very efficiently, excepting perhaps Hindustan.

Dr. Jaisooriya: Dalda is working very well.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: I was explaining how the Government ought to have a machinery to determine correctly as far as possible the crop forecast in regard to groundnuts, the consumption per year and the exportable surplus much before actually the crop is in the market, and then announce the export policy so that the benefit may go directly to the producer instead of to the middleman. As I have already stated, at the present level of price it is not at all possible for the grower to produce groundnuts in future. I would like the hon. Minister to challenge this statement and to prove to the House

that it is possible for the groundnut grower at all to pursue his normal avocation of growing groundnuts.

I have been observing since this morning a certain amount of urban bias with regard to the prices of agricultural commodities. There seems to be a great deal of talk about the consumer's interests. I submit that the real interests of the consumer and the producer are not at all contradictory.

I propose to show how the present policy of trying to rob the producer and giving the benefit to the consumer does not pay in the long run. It is impossible for the producer to accept a lower price in order to benefit the consumer, for any great length of time. He might, because the producer in this country is a dumb person, and he does not agitate as much as the others in urban areas can agitate. For instance, only a few days back we saw how only sixty thousand employees of banks, who were very well-organised, put up such a lot of show, and put up so much of agitation as to bring the Government to its knees. But this problem of the groundnut growers has been there for the past several years, and we do not see any agitation at all. These producers are silently suffering, and nothing is being done to them; just because they do not agitate, everybody feels that there is no problem at all. I, therefore submit that if Government are really interested in giving the groundnut oil to the consumer at a low price, the problem can only be solved by increasing the productivity per acre of groundnut.

For the past five years, I have noticed, particularly in the Rayalseema, that productivity of the area under groundnut has been very much reduced by means of pests and weeds. There is a particular kind of weed which is sapping out the strength in the soil, and thereby the productivity is reduced. But nothing is being done by Government or by any agency to avoid all these impediments to

the production of groundnut. Unless the productivity is increased, the consumers' interests cannot be served by this Government, by merely robbing the producer and giving the benefit to the consumers.

In conclusion, I would like to submit that Government must function not with an urban bias, but with a definite rural bias, so that they have the interests of the producers always at heart, without being over-sollicitous about the interests of the consumer, because ultimately the prosperity of the producer is also the prosperity of the consumer. Therefore, I appeal to every section of the House to support Government in whatever efforts they may make to put some more rupees into the pockets of the producers.

Shri S. S. More: But what about putting a little more rupees into the pockets of the consumers? Who will do that?

Shri Gopala Rao: At the very outset, I want to make it quite clear that the problem of ground-nut cannot be mechanically compared with the problem of rice, for the two stand on entirely different footings. Groundnut occupies an important place in our agricultural economy. It is growing in vast areas in our country. There are something like 11 million to 12 million acres under groundnut production, and about 35 lakhs of tons of groundnut are being produced, worth about hundreds of crores, and earning for the state exchequer, crores of exchange every year. So, there is a lot of significance attached to groundnut, and when you take any steps towards the solution of the groundnut problem, you must consider it seriously.

Now, what is the actual position of groundnut at present? According to the information we have, in 1953-54, fortunately or unfortunately, there is a record production in groundnut. According to the figures supplied by the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture, if they are correct, it is something like 37 lakhs of tons or so. But

this record production has been followed by accumulation of stocks and fall in prices, because unless the increase of production is accompanied by the increase of purchasing power of the people, naturally these problems arise. Since this is not the proper time for dealing with this aspect of the matter I will not dilate on it now. But even when you say there is a surplus, as some of our friends have stated, it is not a real surplus, because if you take the per capita total availability of fats and oils, it is only 10.2 lbs. per annum, as against the minimum nutritional requirement of 40 lbs. per person per annum. So, you can easily imagine the state of affairs. Anyhow, the fact is that there is a big surplus inside the country, whatever the reason may be. And the point is how to dispose of this stock.

Just now, the hon. Minister made it clear, as he has emphasized on many occasions before, that he was having in his mind mainly the interests of the consumers. I would like to know how far it is a fact. We could understand the export being banned, or the export duty being levied in an abnormal ratio, if the internal requirements were in short supply or the prices in the internal markets were abnormal. But that is certainly not the situation today. Is there a scarcity in the internal requirements? According to the figures supplied, there is a surplus this year, over and above the internal consumption. And what is the level of prices? There is a precipitous fall in the price of groundnut for the last one year, which is almost uneconomic to the growers. At the same time, the point to be considered here is that this precipitous fall in the price of groundnut is not being reflected in the price of groundnut oil in the retail market. There is no popular distributing mechanism for groundnut oil in the retail markets, as for instance, in the agricultural labour sectors, the working class areas, or the retail shops which the poor consumers approach.

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There, this price fall is not being reflected.

But, who is benefited by this policy? Generally the export duty is levied to control the internal prices or to ensure the internal requirements of the people. But the position is quite contrary to that now. There is a surplus today. Nobody can say how much surplus there is. That is a point to be considered. Nobody can say that the surplus is 10,000 or 20,000 tons of oil. That is a figure which has to be worked out by Government, and they are expected to have a comprehensive plan of the overall production and consumption in the country, so that whatever surplus stocks are there could be exported to the outside countries, and we could earn a lot of foreign exchange.

But what is the position now? An abnormal rate of export duty has been levied on groundnut oil, which practically amounts to banning the export. What is the result of this control or ban on exports? In my own State, as well as in the other States, the price of groundnut oil has fallen by forty or even fifty per cent. in the last two years. The biggest single consumer of this ground-nut oil is the *vanaspati* industry. As a matter of fact, the only persons to be benefited by this ban on exports, and the consequent reduction in internal prices are mainly the owners of the *vanaspati* industry, and I think, the *vanaspati* industry is mainly owned by the foreign capitalists and if I am correct, by the British capitalists.

Dr. Jaisoorya (Medak): Yes.

Shri Gopala Rao: On the one side, we find that this policy does not benefit the grower, for whom growing of groundnut crops has become uneconomic. On the other side, Government are not interested in the consumer, and no popular distributing mechanism is developing in the country. Moreover, the fall in prices of

groundnut is not reflected in the retail shops. So, the only industry which is benefited by this policy is the *vanaspati* industry, which is not even Indian-owned. Another aspect of this issue is that unfortunately the monopolistic grip of the industry is in the hands of foreign, and particularly British, capitalists.

All the trade agencies, as far as my information goes, are in the hands of British capitalists. That is why here we do not find any reason for this. I put this straight question to the hon. Minister: what is the necessity of levying such a heavy export duty? If you want to preserve and protect the interests of the consumer, you can fix a maximum price for oil for internal consumption. You must have a comprehensive plan as to what are the requirements of the country and what is the capacity of the people for internal consumption. Then you can fix a maximum price for the oil. The maximum price must be fixed taking into consideration the purchasing power of the common man; at the same time, unless you protect the interests of the growers—who are millions of growers—it is not possible to maintain the development of the industry. Then you have also to take into account the foreign exchange that this commodity will earn. Just now the hon. Minister said on the floor of the House that 60,000 tons of groundnut oil were exported last year. Compared to last year, the production this year is 25 per cent. more. That is why you should adopt a policy taking into consideration the interests of the growers, the interests of the consumers, the interests of the State and the foreign exchange that the exchequer will earn. There is one more point to be taken into account. Within a period of five or six weeks, the new crop is expected. If the monsoon is favourable, it will be nearly four million tons; if it is bad, it will be something like three million tons. We are expecting it in the last week

of October or the first week of November. What is the Government's plan for these things? We find that by every step that they take the consumer and the grower are hit on the head. Only a particular section of people, certain individuals, are benefited by every step taken by the Government. In whatever form and however loudly the hon. Minister may say that he is looking after the interests of the consumer, it is not what is actually being done. That is why I say that you should have a comprehensive plan. Take the total production which is expected in the next few weeks, take the present stocks and prepare a plan; fix a maximum price for the oil for internal consumption, and a minimum price for the growers' produce; the surplus stocks must be exported to outside countries. We need not confine ourselves to the British imperialist agencies; wherever we get favourable terms, we can export to those countries. We can look for new markets and see that our commodity is sold on favourable terms, and our agricultural economy is not adversely affected in any way. That is why I propose that the export duty should be reduced at least to a minimum of Rs. 150 per ton. Of course, I have not got the figures to work out a plan: it is only a competent person like the hon. Minister who has the figures who can work out a comprehensive plan.

Shri Tulsidas (Mehsana West): I had no intention to take part in this debate, but looking at the different points of view which different hon. Members have put forward, I think I should mention the position as it is with regard to groundnut oil. It is a commodity the production of which varies from year to year. It has got, to a large extent, to depend on the climate, rain and so forth. It is difficult to evaluate the crop because groundnut is grown in different parts of the country and it begins to move in one part in October and November and in some other parts in December and January. Therefore, it is difficult to evaluate the exact position of

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groundnut. Besides, we do not have correct data as regards the crop. Unfortunately, our statistics with regard to agricultural production are meagre and it is difficult to know exactly what the crops are of different commodities therefore, it is difficult to evaluate even the crops.

I would also like to inform the House that of the total crop of groundnuts, exports are to the extent of 2½ to 3 per cent. Therefore, there is not so much of surplus as it is somehow or other felt here. So whatever the export policy of the Government, it reflects on the price structure. That very small percentage of export has a bearing on the price structure of groundnut. Because there is a very small percentage of surplus, if a little more is exported, the price goes up, and if a little less is exported there is always a tendency for the price to fall.

I heard an hon. Member say that the policy should be such that the growers must know beforehand what it is. This year, if I may just illustrate, in the beginning the prices were much higher than what they are today. The prices have dropped, even though export was allowed, because the export duty was put in. Last year, the prices were much lower in the beginning of the season and then they went up. It is a difficult thing and I can appreciate the difficulty of the the hon. the Commerce and Industry Minister with regard to what the export policy should be; it is also difficult for him to follow exactly the effect the export policy will have on the internal price structure. It is very well to say after the event that if the policy had been of this nature, it would have been better for the price structure. I do agree that it would be better for every interest concerned if the policy can be of a long range—year to year—so that everybody knows what the position would be. I do not know whether it would be possible for the hon. Minister to follow that policy because of the difficulties I just pointed out. But if it is possible to formulate a policy

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on a long range basis, it would be in the interest of everybody concerned, because people would know exactly what the policy is.

The question of the export policy is also allied with a number of other questions. Formerly, we used to export groundnuts. Then we stopped exporting groundnuts except a very small quantity. Now, we export more oil. There is also the other consideration whether for the oil, we should export the vegetable ghee or the hydrogenated oil. All these things depend not only on the internal factor but also upon external factors. It has also been said that we should not allow so much quantity of this oil or that we must allow more quantity and by allowing more quantity we might perhaps have our prices go up or perhaps by allowing less quantity the prices may go down and things like that.

There is also another factor which has a bearing on this, the world price factor, the world supply and demand and that depends on our prices and the adjustment of export duties. The policy, as I see, is that the maximum benefit of the export price must go to the State and whatever little margin is left should go to the exporters. That has been the policy till now because there has been a seller's market and that is why we could dictate with regard to prices. Now the position has changed completely. In the world it has become a buyers market and therefore it has to be considered whether in the buyer's market we can dictate our prices. As the hon. Commerce Minister pointed out, according to world supply and demand position, there is a very small surplus. Certainly the small surplus or small deficit does account a great deal for the change in prices. The prices go down definitely even if there is a small surplus. The world prices are so high with regard to oils and fats that a slight surplus is bound to bring down the prices. I do feel that the policy must be a long-range one so

that people would know. The hon. Commerce Minister should try to see that such a policy is followed. I know his handicaps; I do not know how he will be able to manage. I am only putting these facts, as I see them, for the information of the House

Dr. Jaisoorya: Sir, I did not want to intervene in the debate because I had no new material. But, I just want to correct, if I may be allowed to, the hon. Commerce Minister with regard to last year's crop. If my information is correct, the estimate was wrong—both of the Government and of the Indian Oil Seed Merchants Association—by one-third. But, a certain foreign firm with its vast network had a more correct estimate and they cornered it. So, there was a dog-fight between the Oilseeds Merchants Association and the more powerful firm that cornered it and that raised the prices to figures which we have never known before. After having cornered it, they kept that stock. That was a *vanaspathi* concern and therefore raw oil could not go into the market.

The whole problem is this. He says the growers must get some adequate compensation. Here you want to export. The fact is that there is a great margin between the prices at which the forward contracts are entered into and the final prices, which you will have to find a machinery for controlling. It is no use, after the whole thing has been transacted, to bring in an Ordinance as my hon. friend or his predecessor did, that there shall be no forward contract. This is a point which is not worth arguing here.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No Ordinance is necessary.

Dr. Jaisoorya: But, there was an Ordinance; it was a dead letter because you can always go round it in forward contracts. The point is, the speculator raises the prices and you have got to control it. The producer has to sell it because he is forced to

sell it; he can never know what the price is going to be. Therefore a new machinery has got to be evolved. With regard to the export price, you will naturally have to depend upon the world market. If you want to bring the world market down you will have to do something and if the world market goes up you will have to do something else. It is going to be a vicious circle. Therefore you better think out a *via media*, a machinery whereby that speculator, the Oilseeds Merchants Association does not artificially raise the prices and create a headache for my hon. friend there.

12 Noon.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think the hon. Members who spoke have been fairly considerate. But, they missed one point, namely, that the position envisaged in the resolution no longer obtains and all that the resolution seeks to do is to get the approval of this House for the high rate of duty that we have levied on 997 tons. In regard to the rest, the matter is a question of policy. The House is always to dictate the policy to the Government and the Government have to take into account whatever the House says.

I think it was appropriate that Dr. Jaisooraya should intervene at the end and, in one sense, in his own inimitable manner he had put the facts before the House, namely, that in a society which is patently acquisitive, in a situation where there are a number of speculators, a number of interested people, the position of Government is not one that is enviable. The fact also remains that ultimately we have to depend upon world prices. But, luckily, Sir, we are not, of course, so helpless at the moment. We have a certain amount of cushion. The cushion, as I understand it today is about Rs. 225 a ton. My anticipation is that that cushion will probably protect us during the current season, the world surplus not being very much—the estimated surplus being about 350,000 tons and to a very large extent that surplus occurs in one country and not

spread all over the world. Thus, the position does not seem to be quite so pessimistic as one might be inclined to take from a judgment of the speeches made on the floor of the House.

I think Mr. Kadiala Gopala Rao mentioned about grower's prices. I think, Mr. Viswanatha Reddy said that the present prices—which we might take roughly as Rs. 1,000 per ton, allowing for variations from place to place, say about Rs. 40 or Rs. 50—is not adequate. I am afraid, I must join issue with the hon. Members that if Rs. 1000 a ton is not adequate, the prices of all the other agricultural products must be recast.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: I submit that at Rs. 1000/- per ton of oil, the grower will get only Rs. 75/- per acre of groundnuts.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The produce per acre is different and it differs from place to place and if my hon. friend is taking a particular year, naturally he will be right.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: I said the average figure.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Averages are extremely defective. I do not know where he got these averages from. The fact is that Rs. 1000 is a fair enough price and we have been holding to it for a long time. I can give this assurance to this House that with the cushion that we have of Rs. 225/- by way of export duty, I think, I should be able to maintain the price of Rs. 1000/-.

Mr. Raghavachari said that the Government does not act promptly. I think I have read somewhere about Mill saying that the people invoke Government interference most frequently and people condemn government interference most frequently. These two things always happen. When something happens they say government should have interfered earlier and if something goes wrong, government should not have interfered at all. In between these two, Government must

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be generally not far wrong when they interfere.

But my hon. friend must also not forget that, as I said already, when we take the overall view of the situation, we cannot take into view a particular position of either sowings or reapings as it exists in Anantapur district. It is a grim fact. I think he may be right and I may be right. He may be right in regard to government criticism in so far as conditions obtain in Anantapur. He may not be right in regard to conditions obtaining in Pollachi or about conditions obtaining in East Khandesh or that obtaining in the Saurashtra. Things do vary and actually we are not quite sure of the overall estimate. My hon. friend Kadiala Gopala Rao said it was somewhere about 34 lakhs of tons. I have got, as I said, two estimates, one along with a summer crop going up to 25,00,000 tons and another for a summer crop which comes down another 3,00,000 tons less. Again, the estimates of consumption vary. The net result is that when you have to deal with a set of imponderables, the only type of control that we can exercise is to operate a safety-valve, as I said, of allowing the exports to go out when there is a surplus here and clamping down the controls on exports when the surplus comes down. Often times I have said that Government action might be a little delayed there is a time-lag between realisation of the situation and action, and then you have to call for reports from various parts of the country. Sometime Government action is delayed, I agree, but even so, today with a market operating,—and that is where the market evil comes in because it allows speculators to operate—the market does determine the price. We know that the price of oil in Adoni is Rs. 1020 whereas at Bombay it will be Rs. 1040 and the variations will be due to the question of railway rates. The market conditions, bound as they are by these speculations because you allow the speculators to operate, ensure the grower the same idea of

what he would get. It is not right to picture the grower as a completely ignorant man. The grower may be illiterate. I have no urban bias because the agriculturist is an extremely shrewd man.....

Dr. Jaisooria: When?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: A long time ago. I have known something about agriculturists myself. I can tell the House that it might choose to paint the agriculturist as an ignorant man who is just being exploited by the other people, but the agriculturist is an extremely shrewd man.....

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): In spite of his shrewdness, he is being exploited.

Shri S. S. More rose—

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: My hon. friend the irrepressible Mr. More might think that the agriculturist is being exploited and my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil also says so, but it is not quite so true. I can tell you an experience of mine. When recently I had a tour round some villages, I found that the villager is much better informed of world conditions, and what is taking place in the world than the city man. (Some Hon. Members: No). It may be a matter of opinion. The city man has no time to read his paper; he gets up in the morning and goes to work and in the evening he returns so tired that he goes somewhere for recreation. But in a village, normally two or three papers come and there are two or three groups of people sitting and they know everything. It may be that unfortunately the villages that my hon. friends know of are different from those that I know of.

Shri S. S. More: Is it a picture of a village in Utopia?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have no idea of forcing down the throat of anybody that the conditions that prevail in South India may be ideal and that the conditions that prevail elsewhere may not be so good. The fact really is that the markets do

operate in such a manner that it sometimes does help the grower to know his price.

To come to a few more facts which my hon. friend Mr. Raghavachari said I have in possession, if foreign prices are about £120, then the price here, at the present rates of duty, would be about Rs. 1210 for bulk shipments, and for shipments in drums it will be Rs. 1150. That means to say that the prices ruling here are about Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,050, and the middle man, if he is going to ship in drums, will get about Rs. 100. Actually, I saw a couple of days back an offer from Rangoon to purchase oil at Rs. 1,565 a ton, which works out to £118. Then, it will mean that the margin of difference between the purchase price and the export price for a middleman would be about Rs. 100 a ton. It is not quite so gloomy and bleak as they say, because the prices are somewhere between £118 and 120 and at the present rate of export duty the middleman can get roughly about Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per ton. I am also told that people who are granted only 5 or 7 tons because of the splitting up of the quotas, will also get Rs. 80 to Rs. 100 per ton. Some hon. Members ask me: Why do you not release more quota? If the price remains like this and if the quota is taken up, then at the end of that period it is for me to announce a further quota. I cannot say at the beginning of the season that the quota shall be 60,000 tons and put myself in the predicament that occurred in 1953. I have to go carefully in this matter and I have to go warily. When I confess that it is a matter in which I have to feel my way through, help to keep stable prices in the country and also to allow surplus to go out through a safety-valve, I can do nothing better. My hon. friend's demand was for reducing the duty of Rs. 225 and Mr. Gopala Rao suggested that Rs. 150 might be a suitable figure. I think at the moment if the present quota is not being taken up, then I would probably reduce the duty. But at this moment, the very talk of a

reduction in the export duty prevents one from utilising the quota, because he thinks that the export duty will come down and he may make another Rs. 70 as profit. This is the thing that hinders the grower from getting what he wants merely because there is an agitation in the country and powerful interests will bring down the export duty. He thinks: "Why should I go on buying now? I can buy later." This speculation does go on.

I know of a very influential person in South India saying that Government is interested in *vanaspati*. Government is interested in *vanaspati* only to the extent of the excise duty that we get. If people will consume groundnut oil and not *vanaspati*, Government is indifferent about it. The Government is no more interested in *vanaspati*.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): It is Rs. 4 crores and more.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a very important matter. Otherwise we are not interested in *vanaspati*. At the same time, it happens today that the *vanaspati* factories themselves are selling at a price which, even at the present rate of groundnut oil price, is not economic. These are market trends about which we can say something. I know of many instances of speculation. I know somebody who, in anticipation of getting a quota 25,000 tons in November, sold away 10,000 tons to another; of course, the difference was paid for. Even though we are not interested in this, the speculator will always be there. All that we see is that the speculator does not get the benefit. If it does not go to the producer, some portion of it goes to the exchequer. If I have no export duty and I have only a quota of 10,000 tons, which is all that I can release today, what will happen will be that some intermediary will take away the Rs. 225 benefit. I do suppose hon. Members are interested in seeing that we get that benefit.

At the present time we are using the market mechanism for export and we will try to regulate it to the best

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of our ability. In the circumstances, I can give the assurance that I will not allow the prices to go down below Rs. 1,000, because I have a cushion and the cushion will be operated for the benefit of the grower. That is all that I can say in this matter.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the Lok Sabha hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, No. S. R. O. 2520, dated the 29th July, 1954, by which an export duty of Rs. 350/- per ton of 2,240 lbs. was levied on ground-nut oil with effect from the date of the said notification."

The motion was adopted.

SPECIAL MARRIAGE BILL—contd.

Clause 4.—(Condition relating to solemnization of special marriages)—contd.

Mr. Chairman: The House will resume discussion on clause 4 of the Special Marriage Bill. The following amendments were moved on 2nd September, 1954 and discussion on these amendments was not concluded on 3rd September, 1954—60, 61, 108, 109, 182, 227, 229, 294, 62, 112, 183, 30, 295, 2, and 113.

The position is this. With respect to this clause 4, it was discussed for an hour and five minutes on 3rd September, 1954. Before then, on the 2nd of September, it was under discussion for two hours and 22 minutes. That is, this clause has been discussed for about three and a half hours, and I think at the present moment, we are considering amendments to clause, 4, sub-clause (c) particularly. Still, there are certain amendments to sub-clause (c) which are not yet moved.

I think most of the points with respect to this age—which is the main point under discussion under sub-clause (c)—have been considered in all its aspects—biological, economic, and all that. So, unless there is something which somebody wants to add, it is better, in the interests of this legislation, that we do not try to concentrate and devote more time to this question of age; because, after all, it is very difficult to come to any particular decision. If we continue in this strain, probably we shall have to continue for hours more.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): There is the difficulty of the old and the young.

Mr. Chairman: I am not talking of old and young. When one becomes a Member of this House, old or young, he has got the capacity to grasp things in the proper manner. Otherwise, he has no business here. Let us take it a little more seriously and let us make an attempt to get over these amendments at least as early as we can.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): I do not wish to take up much time. From the arguments that have been advanced for straying away from a thing that has been recommended by the other House, I am not satisfied that there has been a fair or a clear approach to the matter but only there is an attempt to confuse the issues. One thing that I find is that this Act was meant to afford an opportunity for advanced people, people with reformed ideas and people who are economically independent and have their own judgement—mature judgement—about their course of action for the future. It is only for such people that this Special Marriage Act was intended. In the course of their arguments, Members have been urging that the marriage age in the country should not be high, that this is too old an age, and that therefore more people cannot come under this Act, etc. It was also stated that this was only a permissive legislation, for

people who want to take advantage of it if they are in a position to understand what they are about. You will see that the whole thing is made topsy turvy. The idea was that the people who have attained a certain age when they can make up their minds, nobody should interfere with their judgment. Now, you want to reduce the age and put in a guardian. Why this spoke in the wheel? You know that this is a permissive legislation; that marriage can be permitted between a person of one sex with any other person who is of the other sex, irrespective of caste, community, religion—anything. Then, you want to introduce the element of the guardian's consent. Do you expect that the guardians are more advanced than the present generation which wants to marry without the guardian's consent? I am afraid this guardian's consent for marriage between people, which you are introducing, is going to be the cause of all the ineffectiveness of this legislation.

Shri Venkataraman (Tanjore): The consent of the guardian is required under the existing Act of 1872. We are not introducing anything new.

Shri Raghavachari: I am only concerned with the possible effect of the consent of the guardian in a measure of this type—an advanced measure of this type. I feel that you are taking away the benefit you intend to give. I also conceive that the benefits you have in view will be defeated by the introduction of this guardian consent. I also say that this legislation is based on the argument that marriage age must be increased, that it must be raised, that there is too much of population, and that the highest productivity is between the ages of 18 and 21, and that, therefore, the age of marriage must be on the other side of 21. The Planning Commission would think of it. Our Health Minister would have it that way. That is one argument seriously advanced everyday, but when you come here, what happens? In other

words, I was only stating that there has been an attempt at confusing the issues, and the purposes; and then importing some ideas of the things that prevail in ordinary society into the purposes of this Act. It does not pretend to be applicable to all people. Therefore, I honestly feel that this age-limit must be 21—21 for both. Do not introduce this guardian. Do not complicate the matter. Let the young men take their chance in life. You talk of the biological aspect and say that there must be a difference in age, and all that. Just imagine your putting 18 years as another limit! Even at 21, a young man from the advanced section of society cannot be expected, in this age when unemployment prevails in the country, to be economically independent.

Dr. Jaisoorya (Hyderabad): Not even at 25.

Shri Raghavachari: You are introducing this extraordinary, advanced legislation on marriage, between communities, inter-communities. Only men and women are required! A man who is economically dependent lives within the family. If a man has some property, he is separated. Otherwise, he is separated without property. What is the economic advantage? What is the independence? What is the kind of life that he is expected to lead in life? Therefore, I only wish to submit that this is an attempt at confusing the issues which must not be there. Certainly you give an opportunity for mature people who can certainly make up their minds about their future. Let, therefore, the boy's and the girl's age be not below 21. They will, then, only go on merrily. Therefore, I oppose the amendment.

Shri Gadgil (Poona Central): I am really surprised to see that the age is raised to 21 in the Bill as passed by the Council of States. In the report of the Select Committee one finds that if the parties are less than 21, the consent of their guardians is necessary. In other words, a girl of

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15 or a boy of 18 could marry with the consent of his or her guardian in case neither of them were more than 21. Now, raising this to 21 is not helping the liberalisation of this law, but putting some obstacle in its way. I therefore feel that if it is reduced to 18, it will be all right and the consent of the guardian is absolutely unnecessary. Under the Indian Majority Act, if a boy or a girl, after he or she has attained the age of 18, is entitled to alienate his or her property, if the boy is good enough to join the Army after he completes the age of 18, good enough to die for the country, is it seriously suggested that he has no judgment so far as the question of marriage is concerned? By introducing a provision that if he is more than 18 and less than 21, the consent of the guardian should be necessary, then, who are likely to be the guardians? If the parents are there, they will understand at least sympathetically the difficulties of the boy or the girl, but in the absence of the parents, if you will bring in the long train of guardians under the Hindu or Muhammadan law, I am certain that those guardians will not come unless they receive something. So, it will be absolutely difficult to appreciate what will be the implications of any provisions that we may make. I am, therefore, of the view that, in the first place, the age should be 18 for both boy and girl, and secondly, no consent should be obligatory.

Mr. Chairman: What happens in the case of those whose guardians are appointed?

Shri Gadgil: This will over-ride that provision. Does it make a difference because the boy's property or the girl's property has been taken over for management by the court? Does it mean that the boy loses all his judgement with respect to his own affairs? I am, therefore, of the view that there should be no consent necessary, of any guardian, whether under the personal law, or if the

guardian is appointed by the court. But if some people think—as one of my friends here seems to think—that boys at 18 are very likely to be taken in by girls who are usually cleverer, the age should be 21. In that case the limit should be 18 for girls and 21 for the boys, but under no circumstances the consent of guardian should be made necessary.

Shri Bogawat (Ahmednagar South): I had given notice of an amendment (No. 110) on this subject, but as I was not present in the House when this clause was taken up, it could not be moved. In my amendment I had suggested an age limit of eighteen years, with a proviso that if the person had not completed the age of twenty-one years, he or she shall obtain the consent of his or her guardian.

Sir, ours is a tropical country and boys and girls get mature at the ages ranging from 16 to 18. So, if we want to give full scope of the benefits or advantages provided in this Bill to the young couples, the age-limit should be fixed at eighteen. I do not know why the elders of the Council of State should have fixed the age limit at twenty-one. If that provision is allowed to stand, it would mean the denial of the advantages of this measure to a number of couples wanting to marry under this law. Even if both the boy and girl are mature and want to marry, they will have to wait up to the age of 21 years.

Generally when people are of the age of eighteen they desire to marry, and it is not advisable to postpone the marriage. We know how anxious parents of grown up boys and girls are. They want to see that the boy or girl gets married as early as possible. Fixation of this higher age limit would make the parents to marry their children in the same religion or caste and would defeat the purpose of this Bill which has in view, namely inter-caste or inter-communal marriages.

In fact nobody would marry a girl of 18 to a boy of 18. But why not allow in exceptional cases marriages between parties of the same age? Supposing the boy is robust and healthy and is only of 19 years. There cannot be any objection to his marrying a girl of 18 years. There cannot be any harm in such a marriage. For instance, there was an application with signatures of 40,000 females before the Petitions Committee, of which I have the privilege to be a member. The age mentioned there was 18 years of the girl. Therefore, this age limit of 18 years is suitable and should be accepted by the House.

In regard to the definition of guardianship the amendment No. 291 is accepted. Again according to provision in the Act of 1872 clause 2 condition No. 3 reads:

"Each party must if he or she has not completed the age of 21 years, had obtained the consent of his or her father or guardian to the marriage."

The provision about the consent of the parents or guardian is necessary as a safeguard. The parents or the guardian know the interest of their children or wards better. The parties to the marriage below 21 years of age are not very much experienced in the world and the consent should be made obligatory up to the age of 21 at least.

So, I request hon. Members of the House to accept the age limit of 18 years, provided that if they are not 21 years of age, then the consent of the parent or guardian is necessary. In the interest of the younger generation, and taking a long range view of society, it is quite essential that the age limit should be 18 years.

Shri Kanavade Patil (Ahmednagar North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question of the age of marriage of the boy and girl is an important one and this House has to consider this matter from various points of view. We must not forget that in this

country we have still got a very large number of people who think in terms of what our *shastras*, *smritis* and *shrutis* have taught us in the matter of marriage. Though conditions are changing, one cannot adapt oneself to them overnight. We should therefore see whether the age of 21 in the case of a boy is the suitable one for him to marry, and also whether the age of 18 in the case of a girl is really the proper and suitable age for her to marry.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to what the most ancient and authoritative book--the *Brahmanas* (ब्राह्मणस्) say in this connection.

Mr. Chairman: May I call the attention of the hon. Member that this Bill is meant for special cases?

Shri Kanavade Patil: I am coming to that. They have said that the most proper marriageable age in the case of a man is 24 and in the case of a girl about 16. I am really surprised at the view held by some hon. members who have got vast experience of life, that the age of the parties may be equal. I say that there ought to be a minimum difference of at least seven to ten years between the bride and the bridegroom. This is a matter to which we should devote more serious attention.

The proper age when a girl feels the sex urge is 16. You cannot stop her from marrying even under the Special Marriage Act. Supposing the spouses belong to different communities or castes, the girl is only 16 and the parties want to marry under the Special Marriage Act. We should not come in their way. We should allow this marriage with the persuasion of parents. According to my humble view the most proper age for a girl to marry is from 16 to 19. After 19 a girl may in all probability lose her physical charm. We have got examples of it in Europe and in America also.

Shri Velayudhan: Question.

Shri Kanavade Patil: Girls who choose to marry after the age of 21 i.e. in advanced age, lose their power of maternity.

An Hon. Member: No, no.

Shri Kanavade Patil: Yes, I know it. I have got authorities in support of my argument. Arguments, very interesting indeed, were advanced by some hon. Members that our population is increasing, as if this House is feeding them. How are we going to stop the course of Nature, taking shape. The laws of Nature are inviolable. As it is this House is too much scared by the population problem. God is there who is commanding all elements and protects all of them. We should not be too anxious about that. The question in Europe and America is different; there they have more hotels than families. And girls advanced in age do not wish to bear children. Supposing girls choose to marry after 21, 22, they may not get suitable husbands even. I am sure of this. (Interruption.) They will have to stand on their own legs and it may be that they may lose their many charms. If you think of girls marrying after 21, 22 and even after 24 years or at advanced ages, the difficulties will be many; they will lose much of their feminine looks, attractions and feminine charms. They may not find suitable husbands. I request you to think in these terms and, to see the several difficulties arising out of that.

I would like to submit that the most proper marriagable age for the Law Minister to consider is from 16 to 19 in the case of girls whether under the Special Marriage Act or the Hindu law. (Interruption).

The Minister of Law and Minority Affairs (Shri Biswas): No personal appeal to him...

Shri Kanavade Patil: It is for the Law Ministry. I am surprised to see that some hon. Members have

suggested that equal ages would be quite proper. I do not believe in that. I think the views I have expressed have the support of the biologists and also of the medical authorities. Therefore, I suggest that there should be a reasonable difference between the ages of the male and the female, say, about seven to ten years. If a girl is 16 the boy should be aged about 25. Under no circumstances, men should be allowed to marry under 25 years of age.

Lastly, I want to further submit on this point. If the girl and the boy want to marry at advanced age, they must observe life of celibacy and chastity. They should both observe a very pure life. Unless they do so, it is very dangerous for the healthy growth and safety of the society to allow persons grown up in age to enter into marriage. The likely results will probably be disastrous to the present sexual and social morality. It is likely to be so. That is what, I believe, might unfortunately happen. Therefore, I submit that in the interest of our society and solidarity we should fix up the ages within reasonable limits.

बंकिम के० सी० शर्मा (जिला मंत्र, दीवण) : सभापति जी, जब मैं ने इस मसले पर गौर किया और जब यह बिल आया तो मैं अपने शहर में गया और अपने उन दोस्तों की फेहरिस्त निकाली जिन्होंने इस कानून में शादी की थी। तो मैं ने देखा कि दस में से केवल एक सौभाग्यवती ऐसी निकली जिसकी सास ने उसको कबूल किया। दस में से नौ औरतों को जो निहायत खूबसूरत, पढ़ी-लिखी, और अच्छे घरों की थीं उनकी सासों ने लेने से मना कर दिया। तो आजकल की दुनिया में लोग खूबसूरत की उतनी कद्र नहीं करते जितना कि मेरे दोस्त कहते हैं।

आप देखिये कि जो आदमी बाजार जाते हैं उनमें से कितने गुलाब का फूल खरीदने जाते हैं और कितने आदमी कपड़ा, अनाज और

जिन्दगी की जरूरत की चीजें खरीदने जाते हैं। जिन्दगी का काम गुलाब के फूलों से नहीं चलता। जिन्दगी की जो आम जरूरतें हैं उनको पूरा करने से ही जिन्दगी का काम चलता है। जो स्पेशल मैरिज एक्ट में शादियां होती हैं उनमें देखी जाती हैं औरतों की स्वसुरती, उनके बात करने का तरीका, उनका क्लब में जाना, उनका खेलकूद, उनका नाचना और गाना। लेकिन नाचने और गाने से जिन्दगी का उतना ही सम्बन्ध है जितना गुलाब के फूल से। देखने में वह बहुत अच्छा लगता है लेकिन उससे घर का काम तो नहीं चल सकता।

दूसरी बात यह है कि आजकल की जो सोसाइटी है उसमें हर एक आदमी यह देखता है कि तुम्हारे पास जिन्दगी की जरूरियात की क्या क्या चीजें हैं। जो शादियां मां-बाप के जरिये से होती हैं उनमें बहुत सा ज़वर आता है, कपड़े आते हैं, जिसमें से बहिनों को और सास को मिलता है। यह चीज इस मुहब्बतबाजी में खत्म हो जाती है। उनको इससे कोई ज्यादा लाभ नहीं होता। तो जो बात में कह रहा हूँ वह यह है कि अगर मां-बाप एक नव-वधू के आने पर खुश नहीं होते हैं और उसको स्वीकार नहीं करते हैं तो उसके लिए दूसरा क्या चारा है। इसका इलाज यही है कि जो साहब इस मुहब्बत के बाजार में शादी के लिए कदम बढ़ाये वह इस लायक हों कि उस लड़की को एक अच्छे मकान में रख सकें और उसके लिए एक अच्छी जिन्दगी मुहय्या कर सकें। यह कब मुमकिन है? यह तभी सम्भव है जब कि उस लड़के की उम्र इतनी ज्यादा हो कि वह खुद अपनी रोटी पेंदा कर सकें तो ऐसा करने के लिए दो बातें होनी चाहिए। या तो उसके घर में रुपया पैसा हो, जायदाद हो और या वह कमा सके। लेकिन जो जायदाद वाला है वह इस स्पेशल मैरिज में नहीं जाने वाला है, क्योंकि वह इन्हेरिटेंस (विरासत) में विश्वास करता है, मां-बाप के रुपये में विश्वास करता है। यह वही आदमी है जो शास्त्र में भी विश्वास करता है। यह आदमी पीछे देखने वाला होता है, वह रिवाज को देखता है, ट्रेंडिशन को देखता

है। उसकी निगाह फ्यूचर (भविष्य) की तरफ नहीं होती। वह आयन्दा की जिन्दगी से घबराने वाला होता है। इसीलिए जिस आदमी के पास रुपया है और जो बाप की जायदाद पर अपनी जिन्दगी बसर करना चाहता है वह इस कानून में शादी करने के लिए तैयार नहीं होगा।

तो कौन इस कानून का फायदा उठावेगा? यह वही नवयुवक होगा जो कि भविष्य की तरफ देखने वाला है। और जो भविष्य की तरफ देखने वाला है उसको अपने पैरों पर खड़ा होना होगा इसीलिए मैं वटर्जी साहब के संशोधन से इतिफाक करता हूँ कि उसकी उम्र 25 साल से बिल्कुल कम न होनी चाहिए। ताकि वह लड़की का पालन पोषण कर सके।

मेरे दोस्त ने कहा कि साहब लड़की का चार्ज जाता रहता है। मैं उनसे पूछता हूँ कि वह कितनी बार बाजार में गुलाब के फूल खरीदने जाते हैं और कितनी बार कपड़ा, अनाज वगैरह खरीदने जाते हैं। आजकल की दुनिया फूलों की दुनिया नहीं है। मेरा ख्याल है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा एक करोड़ में से दो चार ऐसे आदमी होते होंगे जो कि फूलों की दुनिया में जिन्दगी बसर करते करते दूसरी दुनिया में चले जाते हैं। आम आदमी को तो मेहनत, मशक्कत करनी पड़ती है। शायद नवाबों के जमाने में उनके लिए लखनऊ में फूलों की दुनिया रही हो लेकिन आज तो सख्त जिन्दगी है और मुसीबत की जिन्दगी है।

मेरे दोस्त डाक्टर साहब ने कहा कि 25 बरस की उम्र में लड़का इस काबिल हो जाता है कि वह शादी कर सकता है। बिल्कुल ठीक है। लेकिन उसके दिमाग को पकन में भी तो कुछ देर लगती है। पब्लिक सर्विस कमिशन के सवालों के जो जवाब आते हैं उनको देखकर आप जंदाजा लगाइये कि 25 बरस की उम्र में लड़का मामूली बातों को कितना समझ सकता है। जो आदमी मामूली बात नहीं समझ सकता, जो बाजार में जाकर कपड़ा नहीं पहचान सकता। जो सड़क पर बिना पछे रास्ता नहीं मालूम कर सकता, क्या वह शादी के लायक

[पीठत के० सी० शर्मा]

समझा जा सकता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि ५० फीसदी लड़के ऐसे होंगे जो साइनबोर्ड दस्तावर नहीं समझ सकते कि यह सड़क मधुरा को जाती है बल्कि दूसरों से पूछते हैं कि भाई यह रास्ता कहाँ जाता है। जिस आदमी को यह विश्वास नहीं है कि वह निशान के खम्भे को दस्तावर जहाँ जाना चाहता है वहाँ पहुँच सकता है या नहीं, क्या ऐसे शस्त्र के लिए यह सम्भव हो सकता है कि वह अपने मां-बाप के खिलाफ एक लड़की को अपने घर में ला सकेगा और उसका पालन-पोषण कर सकेगा। यह एक असम्भव बात है। इसीलिये मैं समझता हूँ कि चटर्जी साहब का जो संशोधन है वह बिल्कुल ठीक है कि २५ वर्ष से कम उम्र के लड़के की शादी नहीं होनी चाहिये और २९ वर्ष से कम उम्र लड़की की शादी नहीं होनी चाहिये। फिजिकली तो हो सकता है कि वे फिट हों, उनका बदन गठीला और मजबूत हो, लेकिन शादी के लिये दिमाग भी जो होना चाहिये, उस लायक समझ भी तो होनी चाहिये....

डा० राम सुभग सिंह (शाहाबाद विभाग) :
दिमाग इंजन की तरह तेज चलता हो।

पीठत के० सी० शर्मा : हां, रेलवे इंजन की तरह दिमाग चलता हो, लेकिन इंसानी दिमाग तो उससे भी तेज चलने वाला होता है। मैं मानता हूँ कि इंजन बहुत काम करता है लेकिन इंसानी दिमाग उससे भी ज्यादा है, सुन्दरता और कला आदि चीजें वह रेल के इंजन या लोहे में नहीं होती। आज जो समस्या हमारे सामने पेश है वह यह है कि हम अच्छे से अच्छे नागरिक पैदा कर सकें। मैं समझता हूँ कि २५ वर्ष की लड़की की शादी होने के बाद २९ वर्ष की उम्र में जो बच्चा होगा, स्पेशल मैरिज एक्ट में जिस किस्म की शादियां होती हैं वह बच्चा उन दोनों के लिये एक बोझ साबित होगा और आप समझ सकते हैं कि उस बच्चे की क्या दुर्गीत होगी कि जिससे पैदा करने के बाद न मां चाहती है और न बाप चाहता है और मैं यकीन दिलाता हूँ कि जितनी शादियां

इस स्पेशल मैरिज एक्ट में या जितनी मोहब्बत की शादियां होती हैं और उनके पहली आँलाप १९ वर्ष या २० वर्ष में हो गयी, उनकी दुर्गीत आप उनके मां-बाप से जान सकते हैं। जो लड़कियां मोहब्बत की वजह से शादियां करती हैं और जिनको सास मानने के लिये तैयार नहीं हैं वह कभी भी १९ वर्ष की उम्र में बच्चा पैदा करने के बाद उसको मां की मुहब्बत नहीं दे सकतीं और वह बच्चा उसके लिये एक मुसीबत हो जाती है।

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member may please address the Chair.

पीठत के० सी० शर्मा : मैं यह बात अपने तर्जुमों की बिना पर कहता हूँ। दो लड़कियां मेरी नॉलेज में ऐसी आई कि जिन्होंने लव मैरिज की और एक साल के बाद ही उनके बच्चा पैदा हो गया और मैं आपको बतलाऊँ कि वे दोनों लड़कियां बहुत परेशान हैं, उन्हें लाचार होकर बच्चे की परवरिश मां की हींसयत से तो करनी ही पड़ती है, न करें तो सोसाइटी उनको बुरा कहे। लेकिन इकीकत यह है कि मां न उस आँलाप को चाहती है और न बाप चाहता है। दोनों जने इसको अपने ऊपर एक मुसीबत और बोझ ही समझते हैं, हालाँकि यह उन्हीं के कामों का नतीजा है। जिस तरह की आजकल जिन्दगी चल रही है और मुश्किल जमाने से हम गुजर रहे हैं उसके अन्दर और खास तौर पर उस किस्म के आदिमियों में जहाँ पर कि सास और बाप लड़की को कबूल करने को तैयार नहीं हों, छोटी उम्र में बच्चे का पैदा होना और उसका पालन-पोषण लड़की के लिये एक मुसीबत हो जाती है, उसका लालन-पालन भी ठीक नहीं होता और उस बच्चे को मां-बाप की मुहब्बत भी नसीब नहीं होती। इसीलिये मैं कहता हूँ कि लड़के की उम्र २५ वर्ष की होनी चाहिये और लड़की की उम्र २९ वर्ष होनी चाहिये ताकि उनके बदन भी मजबूत हों और उनकी दिमागों में इतनी समझ और अच्छे भी हो जिससे वह अपने बाल-बच्चे की

ठीक से परिवार कर सकें। वस मुझे इतना ही कहना है।

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Dindigul): I rise to support the amendment (No. 227) moved by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava which provides that "the man has completed the age of twenty-one years and the women the age of eighteen years". I very much hope the hon. the Law Minister will agree to accept this amendment.

I feel that as far as our boys are concerned it is necessary for them to complete their education before they should think of marriage; and I do not think these days our boys can complete their education before they are twenty-one years of age. If, so far as boys are concerned, the age is raised to twenty-one from eighteen, I feel they will not really marry till they are twenty-four or twenty-five, because it is only when they become independent and start to earn for themselves that they will go in for this special marriage.

Today I have noticed that many of the hon. Members are speaking as though this is going to be an everybody affair and that all marriages are going to be performed under the Special Marriage Act. That I do not think is at all true. And though I do not understand Hindi I was told by some of my friends that the last speaker said that if girls marry at eighteen under the Special Marriage Act they will not love their children.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: If they produce a child at nineteen.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: I think that is a very strange thing for anybody to have said that mothers will not love their children if they marry at an early age. I think many of our girls in this country used to be married from the age of nine till they were fifteen before this Child Marriage Restraint Act came. Does the hon. Member think that those mothers did not love their children? I think

any mother, unless she is absolutely unhuman or is absolutely a mental case, will love her child, at whatever age she is at the time the child is born.

I think eighteen is a right age for every girl in this country to get married. For one thing I am quite sure that at eighteen years of age she is able to make up her own mind, and she will not be coerced into marrying anyone unless she herself makes up her mind. And for the special marriage the girl has to make up her mind. She is not going to depend on somebody else or allow somebody else to force her into marriage. I therefore think that eighteen is a right age.

I also feel that for another reason the girl's age should not be raised to twenty-one, and that is that it is good for mothers to be young with their children. I have noticed in foreign countries very often by the time children are born the mothers are grey-haired ladies, and somehow the children think of them as some ones much older than their own mothers ought to be and with whom they can play as equals. I have noticed this in several cases in foreign countries. It has not so far happened in our country because we have always married when we were young.

I see another strange thing, that so many of our Members who have been living in Hindu society and who have been insisting upon their daughters, sisters or other relatives getting married by the time they are fifteen, are today insisting that for special marriage alone they should be twenty-one years of age. This is a very very strange thing for me to hear that people of orthodox way of thinking bringing this point forward that the girl also should be twenty-one years of age.

Pandit K. C. Sharma: Light has dawned on man!

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: I think the reason why they bring this forward is because they are not in

[Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan]

favour of this Bill. Of course I do know that there are several hon. Members here who are not in favour of this Bill. But I do hope that the hon. Minister will consider this particular amendment and also the wish of many of the Members of this House that the age of the girl should be eighteen and that of the boy twenty-one.

Then there is another matter, with regard to the guardian. I agree with Mr. Gadgil and I feel that it is not very good to have a guardian with regard to giving consent to marriage. Because very often, if it is not a father or mother but a guardian appointed, he may bring all kinds of obstructions to a marriage like this. At the age of eighteen, when in India we do attain the age of majority, I do not understand why the guardian should come in at all. If a boy and girl want to marry and if the father and mother are living or if one of them is living, it is quite enough for them to get their agreement for such marriage. I feel that it may be slightly dangerous to appoint a guardian for the purpose of giving consent with regard to special marriage. But I have heard about the difficulties that may arise if a guardian is not appointed; so I am not insisting upon it.

But I do hope the hon. Minister will accept this amendment of the ages eighteen and twenty-one for the girl and the boy respectively.

Shri S. S. More: I will not express at present my views about the age at which girls or boys should be permitted to marry. At least as a lawyer I feel that on our statute-book there are a number of laws which give out different ages for the marriage of those persons who come under these Acts. This country is vast. We are trying to develop a sort of uniformity in our legislation. Can we not seek this opportunity for introducing a sort of uniformity in the matter of marriageable age? I will, for the purpose

of comparison, give the provisions of different enactments that are already on our statute-book.

Now, take, for instance, this present measure. It had different age limits at different times. When it was introduced in this House, the age limit for both a boy and a girl was eighteen. Then, the Select Committee, when it reported, stuck to the original provision. But the Council of States was pleased to say—they being elders must be true to their description of elders—that the age should be twenty-one.

The Special Marriage Act of 1872 was more liberal in 1872 than what we propose today in 1954. The bridegroom was allowed to be eighteen and for the girl the marriageable age was fourteen. Then, we have got another Bill in this House. I am shocked by the bewildering variety of the different provisions under our marriage laws. The Hindu Marriage and Divorce Bill which has been introduced and referred to the Select Committee has fixed the age at eighteen for boys and fifteen for girls.

Now, let us go to old legislation. Section 7 of the Hindu Widows Remarriage Act of 1856—one century back—said that if the girl was a minor, the consent of the guardian had to be taken, and according to the definition of the word “minor”, if she was eighteen, then there was no consent, because the Majority Act comes into operation. Thus there was no minimum age limit. Then, another provision I shall refer to is the Indian Christian Marriage Act, section 18. It also says that if a minor girl is to be married, the consent of the guardian is necessary, and eighteen will be the permissible age when one can marry without consent of a guardian. Then, there is the Parsi Marriage Act. I would make a very earnest appeal to the Law Minister. Let us do away with the distinctions in marriage.

Shri Biswas: Appeals are being made to the Law Minister by various speakers. The Law Minister wants to make it perfectly clear that he will leave the decision to the House.

Shri S. S. More: My request and very earnest appeal to the Law Minister is this. Let us do away with the different provisions, different statutes, one for Muslims, one for Christians, one for Hindus, one for Parsis. Why this variety? And now again, the Special Marriage Act. Parsis, Hindus, Christians and those who come under the provisions of the Special Marriage Act are all Indians. They are under the same climate. The period of maturity will be the same, unless it is maintained by someone that the period of maturity varies with the different faiths, the period of being struck by the pointed shafts of God *Madan* also differs, then, I have nothing to say. But let us try to introduce a sort of uniformity.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): This is a contract marriage.

Shri S. S. More: But even my friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava knows that a man who has attained the age of eighteen is competent to enter into any valid contract. He can, as Mr. Gadgil says, alienate his property. Why cannot he alienate his heart if it is struck by the shafts of *Madan*? So, my submission is: let us have some uniformity, and I would again make a request to introduce some uniformity in the ages of all the persons who are supposed to be affected by the different legislations.

Then, I should make myself perfectly clear. I believe that a girl should be allowed to marry at the earliest age that she is fit for marriage. The boy also should be allowed to have his plunge into the worldly life as early as possible. We are trying to decide the matter in the light of our own ripe experience because we have reached the age where we are supposed to be most experienced.

But the quantum of experience varies. Those who have solemnised only one or two marriages up till now have not the experience of a man who has gone in for ten marriages. So, this kind of experience is a relative term, and is not infallible. Let the young people go by the method of trial and error.

1 P.M.

When I go into a bazar and purchase something, I am told by others that I have been cheated. The same thing may happen in the bazar of love. Some persons might be cheated. (*An Hon. Member:* Are they?) We should not be guided by the words, but in this world we have different experiences, we have different reactions to so many social problems, and particularly problems which go to affect the heart.

Then, my friend Mr. Chatterjee was pleased to say: let the age be twenty-five. As far as the old *shastras* are concerned—and he stands by the old *shastras*, they say:

‘अष्टवर्षं भवेत् कन्या’

For him that will be the guiding principle. But for special marriage he feels that twenty-five should be the minimum limit. Now, if you look to our Constitution, twenty-five years of age is the age for entering the legislature. (*Interruption*) Then he feels he is keeping marriage on the same plane with the legislature and entering into marital relationship is as onerous or as responsible as entering the legislature. (*An Hon. Member:* More). But then, many of us, even at the age of twenty-five when we enter here, are supposed to be a misfit in this House. When I heard some of the speeches I thought in any case the age ought to be raised to sixty and then only they should be permitted to become Members. (*An Hon. Member:* Fifty-five). I hope in the Council of States someone did not suggest that the qualifying age for marriage should be 30 on par with the age required to enter the Council of States.

[Shri S. S. More]

Now, it is a peculiar feature that we people who have reached a certain age—I will not say the period of dotage—become extremely cautious because we had sown our wild oats, committed all the mistakes and blunders in our life, and we do not want our children to go the same way. Now, is there any one who can lay his hand on his heart and say that he has not acted with a certain impetuosity—when young—which is the characteristic feature of youth? But our youth, if they are to enter the military, if they are to fight for the protection of the country's cause, must be given full scope for the warm blood which runs through their veins. We old people who have lost all the biological urge...

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): It should not be "we", but "I".

Shri S. S. More: I, many of us, and particularly those in old age, do not like to admit our own weaknesses of which we are very conscious. So, I would say let us... (*Interruptions*) There is too much disturbance by old people.

Mr. Chairman: It is too distracting!

Shri S. S. More: They are not only interrupting the happiness of young people, but even my speech. So, I would rather say let us devise some uniform laws. I would say even for the Christian, even for the Parsi, even for the Muslim, or even for the Hindu, let the marriage law be the same because the conditions under which they live are of the same type, and as affection is the same in all persons, whatever faith they may belong to, I would, in the interests of uniformity, say: let us have as early a point of marriage as possible. And I am not trying to be very modern in this case. Take, for instance, the Marriage Act of England, 1949. There they have prescribed sixteen years of age,—that no boy or girl below the age of sixteen can marry. We have been emulating so many things from England.

Let us have that English provision for our guidance, and we shall be wiser in at least emulating the Britisher in this respect.

Then, I wanted to say a word or two about the guardian. I agree with Mr. Gadgil that when a boy or a girl has attained the age of eighteen, he or she should be treated as a perfect major, and no person should be allowed to interfere with his or her decision, even if it is wrong, because there is no guarantee that the guardian is quite competent to give that correct decision which will be valid for all times. But even here, the different enactments have different provisions and different phraseology. Take, for instance, the Hindu Widow Remarriage Act of 1856. There, they also say that in certain cases, the consent of a guardian should be there. It is very elaborately worded. In the Parsi Marriage Act, it is not so elaborately worded, giving the order of priority of guardians who should give consent. It only says, 'consent of his or her father or guardian', and there it stops. Section 19 of the Indian Christian Marriage Act also gives us some indication about the guardian or the person who is competent to give consent. I would rather feel that in this case we shall be wise if we knock out this provision of the consent of a guardian.

It is quite possible that the guardian and the ward who is out to marry will be separated by a large gulf of age. The young man will be up to date and very modern, while the old man will be more wedded to the tradition and to the past, and there will be a sort of conflict between the past and the present. So, the consent of the guardian will not be willingly given. The man who gives his consent will not be animated with the desire of doing what is best in the interests of his ward, but he will be giving his consent more prejudiced by his own views, and if he does not like the match, he will try to put a spoke into it.

I would, therefore, say, do away with the guardian's consent, let the father and mother, if they are wise enough, give their blessings. But supposing the Law Minister and the Government are insisting on obtaining the consent of the guardian, what would happen, if the consent is not given? Will that arbitrary decision stand unrevoked and unchallenged by anyone? It is quite possible that a brother or somebody else may happen to be the guardian of a girl, and if the man whom the girl is going to marry happens to be very rich, the brother may well say, well, you are going to marry that person, he has a long purse, why does he not part with some fraction of his money in my favour, and so on. That is bound to happen, because the case of parents is on a particular footing, while the case of relations or other court guardians stands on a different footing.

I would, therefore, say that we should have a provision akin to section 3 of the English Marriage Act of 1949. I shall read out section 3(b) of that Act, which is as follows:

"If any person whose consent is required refuses his consent, the court may, on application being made, consent to the marriage; and the consent of the court so given shall have the same effect as if it had been given by the person whose consent is refused."

This is a necessary provision. It will work like a sobering check on the person who is to give his consent. He will not be allowed to be arbitrary, dictatorial or authoritarian in his giving consent, and the court will be sitting like a guiding or protecting angel to judge whether his decision is right or not.

So, I would once again request the hon. Law Minister that he should copy this particular provision which I have read out, for the benefit of our young people. If you do away with the con-

sent, well and good; if, on the other hand, you want to keep that consent there, let it be properly regulated and controlled, looking to nothing else but the happiness of the two persons who are trying to come together in honest wedlock.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): I move for closure. We have had enough discussion. (*Interruptions*)

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the use of moving closure now? We must discuss the matter fully. (*Interruptions*)

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): May I make a submission?...

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The Business Advisory Committee has given only twenty-eight hours for the discussion on this Bill, and therefore, that has to be kept up. I do not mind if you go on discussing the Bill for the whole of the session, but that does not mean that you are going to shut out discussion on the later clauses of the Bill. That is the point.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: I want to inform Shrimati Renu Chakravartty and the House that the matter was discussed by us in the Business Advisory Committee, and we came practically to a unanimous conclusion that on this question of age, which is very vital, at least three more hours should be given. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy also was there, and he will bear me out on this point. The hon. Law Minister was also there....

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: But what is the decision of the Business Advisory Committee.....(*Interruptions*)

Shri Biswas: But the question is whether any new points of view are being presented.... (*Interruptions*).

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I have to submit.....

Mr. Chairman: As I said in the beginning, till we started discussion or

[Mr. Chairman]

this clause today, we have taken nearly 3½ hours, and probably up to now we have taken about one hour today. I know the importance of this clause, but as a matter of fact, even if we pass or reject or dispose of all the amendments, we are not going to proceed further than clause 4 because there are still other sub-clauses. These are only amendments to sub-clause(c) which relates to the age which no doubt—I appreciate the feelings of hon. Members—is a matter of great importance. At the same time, some decision has to be arrived at; though I am not inclined to accept the motion for closure today, I would suggest to hon. Members that I also find that many of the arguments for or against such as the biological arguments, the economic arguments and the references to *Shastras* and what not are almost the same ones put in different words.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Our difficulty is that those who were on the Select Committee come here and speak and after speaking, move for closure. They do not care for others' opinions.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I have every right to say what I wanted to say. I have given a note of dissent from the Report of the Select Committee. (*Interruptions*)

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh rose—

Mr. Chairman: There is no good raising passion on a simple matter of closure; so long as the rules do not prevent anybody from moving a motion of closure. I think we would progress much better if we do not ascribe any particular intention or personal bias to anybody. I think today I will call upon **Shri Jaunjaunwala** to just begin and tomorrow in the beginning we will have to make up our mind as to when we should conclude this.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I just ask for a clarification from the

members of the Business Advisory Committee? Does it mean that the Business Advisory Committee by allotting 3 hours out of the 28 hours has also said that we have to finish our entire work within the 28 hours?

Mr. Chairman: Instead of allowing that matter to be discussed.....

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Let it be decided here.

Mr. Chairman: I must know what the Business Advisory Committee have done. I must wait till they send us some report. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty** will find that the much better course would be to wait till they send some report about what they have decided.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: (My-sore): May I make a submission?

Pandit D. N. Tiwary (Saran South) May I also make a submission?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: The Business Advisory Committee.....

Mr. Chairman: Until I get some official communication from the Secretary, let us not spend time in discussing as to what happened there. I would prefer to go by whatever they communicate to the Speaker and thereby to the Chairman. I think that would save time.

Shrimati Sushama Sen (Bhagalpur South): Regarding the age of the girl, women Members are more concerned than men. The mother knows better what is good for the daughter. May I request that women Members should be given a chance to speak?

Mr. Chairman: Whenever a lady Member has stood up, she has always been successful in catching my eye. There has been no question of any complaint.

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : सभापति जी मुझे केवल दो मिनट कुछ कहना है....

Shri Jhunjhunwala (Bhagalpur Central) rose—

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): Who is to speak?

Mr. Chairman: I have already called Shri Jhunjhunwala. I think I should now adjourn two minutes earlier.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till a Quarter Past Eight of the Clock on Tuesday, the 7th September, 1954.

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