

Monday,
20th August, 1956

LOK SABHA DEBATES

VOLUME VI, 1956

(13th August to 8th September, 1956)



THIRTEENTH SESSION, 1956

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Monday, 20 August, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

बड़ा होती पठार

*१२०८. श्री भवत बांग्न : क्या प्रबाल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के गढ़वाल जिले में तिब्बती सीमा पर जो बड़ा होती का पठार है, उसके बारे में चीन की सरकार का यह स्थान है कि वह तिब्बत की सीमा के अन्दर स्थित है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो चीन की सरकार के इस भ्रम का निराकरण करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

बैंडेशिक-कार्य मंत्री के सम्बन्धित (श्री साहब अली जा) : (क) तथा (ख) . कुछ चीनी सिपाही शायद अनजाने में 'बड़ा होती' मैदान में भटक कर आ गये थे। उनसे इलाका छोड़ देने के लिये कहा गया और वे चले गये। यह मामला चीन सरकार के सामने रखा गया और उसने सुनाया कि वह इलाका तब तक के लिये तटस्थ रखा जाय जब तक कि संयुक्त जांच दल निश्चित न कर दे कि यह मैदान, सीमाई दर्दे के उत्तर में है या दक्षिण में। भारतीय और चीनी दोनों के ही नक्शों के अनुसार, समुद्र के घरातल से १६,००० फ़ीट ऊपर स्थित दो बड़ी भीत का यह छोटा सा मैदान, भारत में है।

427 L. S. D.—1

चीन सरकार के सुनाव पर भारत सरकार विचार कर रही है।

Shri B. S. Murthy: Sir, I request that the answer may be read out in English also.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Sadath Ali Khan : (a) and (b). A few Chinese soldiers probably strayed into the 'Bara Hoti' plain due to ignorance. They were asked to leave the area and did so. The matter was represented to the Chinese Government and they suggested neutralizing the area pending enquiry by a joint investigation team to determine if this plain is north or south of the border pass. According to both Indian and Chinese maps this small plain of about 2 square miles at an altitude of over 16,000 ft. above sea level is in India. Government of India are considering the suggestion made by the Chinese Government.

श्री भवत बांग्न : अभी बताया गया कि यह चीनी सैनिक शायद गलती से भारतीय सीमा में आ गये। क्या यह सत्य है कि पिछले तीन बर्षों से कुछ सशस्त्र चीनी सैनिक उस ओर कुछ भारतीय सशस्त्र सैनिक इस ओर उस स्थान पर डटे रहे हैं, जिसकी बजह से सारे इसके में पैनिक (चबराहट) सा फैल गया है?

प्रबाल मंत्री तथा बैंडेशिक-कार्य तथा वित्त मंत्री (श्री जबाहुरलाल नेहरू) : इस इसके में पैनिक कैसे फैल सकता है क्योंकि वहाँ कोई रहता ही नहीं है। साल के ज्यादातर हिस्से में आदमी वहाँ रह ही नहीं सकते। गरमियों में कुछ लोग जानवर चराने आ जाते हैं। ऐसी हालत में मैं नहीं समझता कि वहाँ पर पैनिक फैलने की बहुत गुजाइश है क्योंकि इन्सानों के अलावा औरों में तो पैनिक शायद फैलता ही नहीं। लेकिन इस छोटे से हिस्से के बारे में कभी कभी बहुत खिली है कि वह किसर का है।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या यह सत्य है कि कुछ दिनों पहले माननीय प्रधान मंत्री ने यह घोषणा की थी कि हिमालय का जो भारतीय पनडाल है वहां तक भारत की सीमा निश्चित रूप से मानी जायेगी ? तो इतना होते हुये भी चीन सरकार ने अभी तक इस बारे में इस प्रकार से अपने रुख को क्यों नहीं स्पष्ट किया ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : जी हां, यह सही है। लेकिन एक सीमा को मानते हुए भी, बिल्कुल सही कहना कि वह किस तरफ है मुश्किल है, और इस पर बहस उठ सकती है। यह जगह सो दो सो गज इधर या उधर है यह तो नक्शे में देखने से भी नज़र नहीं आता।

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know why and what was the representation made by the Chinese Government inspite of the fact that our maps shows that this area belongs to India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot answer on behalf of the Chinese Government except to repeat what has been said, that when their attention was drawn to this matter they said: let the representatives of both Governments consider this matter. They are naturally prepared to do that, but it takes a little time, I suppose.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the Government of India have accepted the Chinese Government's suggestion that this area may be neutralised?

Mr. Speaker: He said: they are considering.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what it means. There is no war. I do not know what exactly was meant. But we ourselves have suggested previously—and again—that the matter might be considered by representatives of the two Governments with maps etc., and settled. If by 'neutralised' it is meant that our little post there has been withdrawn, that is not correct. Our post is there.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: May I know when we are going to have this joint Investigation Commission? May I also know whether it will cover the entire area to refix the border of China and India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir; this was only for this particular spot. The entire area. I am not sure of the extent runs to about 1800 miles. I think it is a tremendously long area and very difficult

mountainous area. But there are one or two places where some arguments has arisen, in particular this place which is, I believe, on the U. P. Border, and we wanted to take this by itself.

Shri B. D. Pandey: Have not we got boundary pillars in those places where there are big passes in the mountains?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think so. There are no boundary pillars in this area.

श्री भवती कामलेन्द्रलति शाह : क्या गवर्नरमेंट को यह मालूम है कि गढ़वाल के गुमगुम नामक स्थान को तिब्बत वाले अपना क्लेम (दावा) कर रहे हैं?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : मुझे इस मुकाम (स्थान) की इस बहुत बाकियित नहीं है। जब तक नक्शा न देखा जाये इसके बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता।

Algeria

***1211. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister without Portfolio opposed the proposal of Asian-African group to refer the matter of Algeria to the Security Council; and

(b) what are the reasons which impelled him to differ from the opinion of the Asian-African group?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) : (a) No. The Minister explained the position of the Government of India as set out in the Prime Minister's statement who also gave the reasons why India could not add her signature to the reference to the Security Council. The proposal to do so was not opposed by us.

(b) The reasons were :

(i) the suggestions for a basis of negotiation had been made by us only a few days before;

(ii) there was no prospect of the matter being considered by the Security Council;

(iii) India's capacity for assisting in the solution of the problem would not have been enhanced by her promoting a reference of the question to the Security Council.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know what further efforts are being made

by India for a solution of the Algerian problem after the discussion of the formula and whether the Government of France are willing for peaceful negotiations?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): There are, Sir, two other questions today in regard to Algeria. But I might say, first of all, the only kind of efforts that can be made by a government are on the diplomatic plane. They have been made repeatedly on both sides with a certain measure of success. Now, of course, all these questions have been rather pushed aside by another major question that has arisen, that is, the Suez Canal issue.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether the situation in Algeria has improved as no more reports of casualties are heard, or whether the news of casualties are suppressed?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say. We have no direct means of communication with Algeria. We rely on reports that we get by normal course, through the news agencies or sometimes through our embassies elsewhere, not in Algeria. So I really do not know what is happening there now.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the reported statement by the Foreign Minister of France regarding our Prime Minister's stand on Algeria has been contradicted or clarified again by the Prime Minister of India?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know which statement the hon. Member refers to.

Shri Velayudhan: It is reported in the Press that the Foreign Minister of France visited the Prime Minister of India here and later on the Foreign Minister had a talk with the Press or something like that, regarding Algeria. May I know whether the Prime Minister of India has issued any counter-statement or anything like that, contradicting the Foreign Minister's statement?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member has referred to things vaguely. It is difficult to deal with vagueness, but what happened was, the Foreign Minister of France made some reference. Thereafter we made clear what had happened. Thereafter, again, the Foreign Minister or the Prime Minister of France clarified their point of view and not ours. It was really a question of each party clarifying its own attitude.

Algeria

*1214. **Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shri Krishna Menon discussed Algeria problem with the French

Foreign Minister when he visited France in the beginning of June, 1956; and

(b) whether the plan outlined by the Prime Minister has been accepted by Algeria and French?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes. The Minister without Portfolio has had talks with the Foreign Minister of France on three occasions in Paris and New York during which views on the Algerian issue were exchanged.

(b) Statements made by French statesmen have approximated closely to the suggestions made in the Prime Minister's statement. We have no direct contact with the Algerian leaders; but so far as we are able to ascertain these suggestions have found favour with them. The leader of one of the main Algerian groups Messali Hadj, who is in detention in Belle-Isle, issued a statement accepting these suggestions.

Sardar A. S. Saligal: May I know whether it is a fact that France claims Algeria to be a metropolitan province of France?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Yes, Sir. France has considered Algeria as a part of the metropolitan area in its Constitution, that is, Algeria is given a special place. But I might add that in recent statements they have accepted one of the points that have been suggested by us and others, namely, to consider Algeria as having a separate individuality.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Is there any proposal from the Bandung Conference powers to call a conference for the Suez Canal issue and is there any proposal to discuss the Algerian problem also at that conference, along with Suez?

Mr Speaker: Along with Suez?

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: It does not arise out of this question.

Quality Control Over Salt

*1216. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to enforce quality control over the salt produced by persons who hold less than 10 acres of land; and

(b) if so, the object of enforcing quality control on small scale industry of salt?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) Yes.

(b) It is essential to ensure production and sale of good quality salt in the country because salt has a vital bearing on human health. Salt produced in licensed factories (irrespective of the extent of holdings), is already subject to quality control. It has now been decided to extend quality control to salt produced in unlicensed factories as well.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether the Central Salt Advisory Board was consulted in the matter?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Yes, Sir. The Advisory Board was consulted and they have recommended to this effect.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know the minimum standard that has been fixed for good quality salt?

Shri R. G. Dubey: In the year 1950, the Indian Standards Institution prescribed the standard at 96 per cent. of sodium chloride. In order to give some time for the realignment of holdings, the quality control has been gradually extended.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether, in view of the fact that it has been decided to control the quality of the salt produced in the smaller units, the Government propose to give any financial or technical help so far as the producers are concerned?

Shri R. G. Dubey: Already there are certain development schemes sanctioned by the Ministry, and the Salt Commissioner's Office is busy with the implementation of these schemes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether there will be any quality control on salt produced by co-operative societies who have not to pay any cess?

Shri R. G. Dubey: So far quality is concerned, the co-operative societies also do come within the purview of this control.

मुसलमानों का आसाम को प्रकाशन

*१२१७. **बी रमेशचार्य तिहू:** क्या प्रकाशन मंडी यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५५-५६ में कितने मुसलमान पाकिस्तान से आसाम गये और वहाँ बस गये; और

(ल) क्या यह सच है कि पाकिस्तानी मुसलमान पूर्वी बंगाल से आकर आलपाड़ा और कचार ज़ेरों में धीरे-धीरे फैल रहे हैं?

बी रमेशचार्य मंडी के समान्वयित्व (बी साबत अस्सी जाँ) : (क) कोई नहीं।

(ल) पूर्वी पाकिस्तान के कुछ मुसलमानों को, जिनमें ज्यादातर मज़दूर थे और जो यात्रा पत्रों के बगीर अनश्विकृत रास्तों से आलपाड़ा और कचार के इलाकों में बुस आये थे, गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया है और उन पर मुकद्दमा चलाया गया है।

बी रमेशचार्य तिहू : क्या सीमा पर बैक-पोस्ट्स और सिक्योरिटी पोस्ट्स हैं या नहीं?

बी साबत अस्सी जाँ : वहाँ पर १३ बैक-पोस्ट्स और ७८ बार्डर सिक्योरिटी आउट-पोस्ट्स हैं, जो कि उस सरहद की हिफाजत करती हैं।

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether it is a fact that a large number of Muslims are migrating into Assam because of the food crisis in East Bengal and, if so, whether any statistics are maintained to find out the exact number?

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. Member want the present day position?

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The question relates to the position in 1955-56. If the hon. Minister has got an answer, he may answer it. If he has no information, I will go to the next question.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I do not think we can give altogether a precise answer. We have no specific information. Some people may be coming over.

Plantation Enquiry Commission

*१२१९. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1081 on the 2nd April, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the plantation Enquiry Commission has submitted its Report; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to lay a copy of the report on the Table of the Sabha?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir. On the tea industry. Reports on Coffee and Rubber Industries are awaited.

(b) The report is being printed and it is proposed to place the report on the Table of the House as soon as copies become available.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether the Government consider that the question with regard to tea is urgent and whether they consider that urgent decisions should be taken in the light of the importance of this question?

Shri M. M. Shah: As a matter of fact, the Tea Board is immediately considering this report tomorrow in Coonoor.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know whether the Government consider that the consideration of this report by the Tea Board is sufficient, or, whether some other agency would also be considering this report?

Shri M. M. Shah: Government itself is considering the report. The recommendations of the Tea Board are also awaited.

Shri T. N. Singh: In view of the fact that the entire policy in regard to plantations and also labour welfare and other things for the second Five Year Plan has already been enunciated by Government, may I know whether it is proposed to make any changes in the plan in the light of the Commission's report?

Shri M. M. Shah: The terms of reference of the Commission are comprehensive and all aspects of tea, coffee and rubber, including labour welfare, have been included in the terms of reference.

Shri T. N. Singh: My question has not been answered. My question was whether the Government are going to effect any change in the Second Plan period so far as plantation industries are concerned since the recommendations of the Commission may affect the Second Five Year Plan in respect of these industries.

Shri M. M. Shah: It will be premature to anticipate the recommendations of the Commission, or the decisions of Government thereon, but all efforts will be made to see that the promotional activities of the Second Five Year Plan are not disturbed at all.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the views of the State Governments concerned, on the report on the tea industry, have also been obtained, and if so, may I know whether they will find a place in the report itself?

Shri M. M. Shah: I have already indicated that a copy of the report will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to place copies of the report on the Table of the House at an early date.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question was whether the views of the State Government have been obtained on the report.

Shri M. M. Shah: The Assam Government, the Travancore-Cochin Government, the Mysore Government, the Madras Government and the West Bengal Government will be consulted.

झींगा मछली (प्रांत) का विवरण

*१२२४. डा० राम तुमग तिह : क्या बाटिक्य और उत्तोग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बर्मा की सरकार ने केरल (भारत) की झींगा मछली के आवात पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया है;

(ल) इस व्यवसाय में कितने व्यक्ति लगे थे और नियात पर रोक लगने के फलस्वरूप कितने व्यक्ति बेरोजगार हो गये हैं; और

(ग) क्या केरल की झींगा मछली के लिये बर्मा के प्रतिरिक्ष दूसरे देशों में बाजार ढूँढने का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है?

व्यापार मंत्री (श्री कर्मरकर) : (क) इस समय बर्मा में झींगा मछली का आवात लायसेंस के प्रत्यंगत करने दिया जाता है।

(ल) इसकी ठीक ठीक जानकारी उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ग) जी, हाँ। लेकिन मुझे आशंका है कि दूसरे देशों को इसका नियात होने की अधिक गुंजाइश नहीं है।

Shri B. S. Murthy: The English answer may also be read.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may read the English answer.

Shri Karmarkar: (a) Imports of prawn fish into Burma are at present permitted under licence.

(b) Precise information is not available.

(c) Yes, Sir. But I am afraid there is not much scope for exports.

I may add that private information shows that the number of persons employed is estimated to be from 5 to 8 lakhs. Officially, I have no precise information.

Shri Achuthan: The hon. Minister said that import is permitted by licence system. May I know how much prawn has been exported from India to Burma under the licence system during 1955-56 and whether.....

Mr. Speaker: Only one question at a time.

Shri Karmarkar: I appreciate the hon. Member's question, because this is a source of anxiety to us also. From October to April, in the year 1955-56, the imports have been only worth Rs. 16 lakhs during the seven months, October to September, whereas, for the whole year 1954-55, in terms of value it was Rs. 1,12,00,000.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government of India represented to the Burmese Government that this licensing system should be dropped and *status quo* should be restored?

Shri Karmarkar: The whole situation has arisen on account of the fact that the Burmese Government have deliberately restricted the import of prawn into Burma. Naturally, because it gives employment to a number of people in Travancore-Cochin, we have gone into the matter. We are taking up the matter repeatedly with the Burmese Government; a trade mission is expected here and we are bound to take this matter up with them also.

Shri Velayudhan: We have given a lot of loans to the Burmese Government; has the matter been pressed from that point of view?

Shri Karmarkar: There is no question of any advantage because of the loans which we have given; this is apart from the loans. This is a matter of mutual trade between the two countries. As I said, it is a matter of concern to us also. We have repeatedly brought it to the notice of the Burmese Government and we shall take it up with the trade mission also.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that prawn is a perishable commodity, and we do not have suitable storage equipment, may I know what encouragement Government propose to give to the industry?

Shri Karmarkar: Regarding the encouragement to this industry, firstly, we have taken some aid from foreign countries in this matter for more efficient fishing. For instance, we are taking assistance from the Technical Cooperation Mission in the shape of tramp-trawlers and some equipment for ice and cold storage plant. We get some aid from the Norwegian Aid Programme also in the shape of some tramp-trawlers. Thirdly, in the Second Five Year Plan, it is proposed to set up a Central Deep-Sea Fishing Station for exploring off-shore fishing grounds for shrimps and other fish.

Shri Matthen: The hon. Minister has stated that the export of prawn this year is less than that of last year. May I ask whether the hon. Minister knows

that this is due mainly to the new licences given by the Burmese Government to People's China for the import of prawn which Burma has been getting entirely from Travancore-Cochin for the last 50 years or more?

Shri Karmarkar: Our present information does not enable us to be certain as to whether or not it is a fact that they had given any licences to China. Our present information is that they gave some licences for export of prawn from China, but those licences are bound to be given to the same degree to other countries. But, we are awaiting further report.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it not true that on account of the peculiar financial stresses on Burma, the Burmese Government has had to tighten its belt for its people?

Shri Karmarkar: It may be that they are in difficulty, but we also have our difficulty and we are bound to press our difficulties a little more than theirs.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury: Arising out of the reply to part (c) of the question, may I know whether Government has made any attempt to explore the prawn market in U.S.A.

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir; our figures for the last three years show that there is a slight increase in the export of prawn to U.S.A. For instance, in terms of rupees, during 1953, our export was Rs. 52,508; during 1954, Rs. 1,56,801 and during 1955, Rs. 2,68,349. These are the figures and we shall be happy to do all that we possibly can to promote such export; if any facilities are required, we shall consider them.

Textile Industry

*1225. **Dr. Ram Subbag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is any likelihood of talks being held between the representatives of the textile Industry of India and Britain?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): Yes, Sir.

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: May I know the basis of the talks which are going to be held between the representatives?

Shri M. M. Shah: The talks will be generally regarding the import and export of cloth between the two countries?

Dr. Ram Subbag Singh: May I know whether the question of further reducing the tariff duty on imported cloth from Britain will also be considered?

Shri M. M. Shah: That is a reciprocal arrangement and we should not fo

that there are no import restrictions on duty, as far as export of textiles from India to U.K. is concerned.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the report in the papers that our Prime Minister had a talk with the British Prime Minister during the last Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference, on the import and export of the textiles between two countries, could we have any idea about the broad outlines on which this textile policy will be discussed and also could we know whether a delegation is coming for that purpose in future or not?

Shri M. M. Shah: A delegation is coming, as I have indicated. It will not be correct at this stage to anticipate what the results of the discussion would be.

Foreign Firms in India

*1228. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Foreign Employment Contract regulating the employment of Indian citizens in foreign establishment remains till now the same one which existed during the British regime in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that certain clauses of the said contract are not in line with the contract conditions obtaining in respect of the foreign employment of other independent nationalities; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to modify the said contract in keeping with the prestige of a free State?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) to (c). Government have no information in regard to the existence of a special type of contract uniformly regulating the employment of Indians in all foreign firms in India nor has any such fact been brought to their notice so far. Government, therefore, see no grounds for taking action on the lines suggested.

Shri Rishang Keishing: Are Government aware that the Indian employees of the Aden Petroleum Refinery Limited do not get earned leave, remuneration for over-time work, family allowance, Service Provident Benefit etc. and if so, what action has the Government taken to see that Indians are not deprived of these benefits?

Shri M. M. Shah: If any such case is brought to our notice, we shall certainly look into it.

Mr. Speaker: Soon after a question of this kind is tabled, ten days are allowed; is it not possible for the Minister to ascertain what the situation is, instead of merely saying that it has not been brought to his notice?

Shri M. M. Shah: The question is about a specific contract. There is no contract in existence in India uniformly regulating the employment of Indians in all foreign firms. The question is whether any case has been brought to the notice of the Government. So far no case has come to the notice of the Government.

Shri T. N. Singh: The point here is to find out whether there was any discrimination between Indians and non-Indians in some contracts. I think that aspect should have been ascertained. As you have rightly pointed out, Sir, we should have got the information.

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter of discrimination between Indian and non-Indian employees.

Shri M. M. Shah: The question relates to some specific contract, which is below the dignity or prestige of the Indian nationals. As I said, no such contract has ever come to the notice of the Government. There does not remain anything to be examined in that respect.

Shri K. K. Basu: In view of the fact that we passed an Act a year or so back for the collection of statistics about Indian and non-Indian employees in foreign and other establishments, has the Government any material in their possession to show that Indians and non-Indians of the same ranks are discriminated against so far as emoluments and other conditions of service are concerned?

Shri M. M. Shah: That is not a fact. As a matter of fact, I may bring to the notice of the House a press note issued on 11th November 1955 in which all these facts have been clearly stated. The proportion of the Indians in foreign establishments has been steadily rising. The terms of their employment are all being brought on par with the foreign nationals and from 45 per cent. of the Indian nationals in 1947, in 1955 the percentage of Indians in foreign establishments has risen to 75 per cent.

Shri T. N. Singh: The hon. Minister has just now stated that the terms of service of Indians are being brought on par with the foreigners. But that means a continuing process. What is the exact position today? Is there improvement in all cases or are there exceptions?

Shri M. M. Shah: It is very difficult to say that. It is not possible for every contract employee to come to Government for rectification. The general policy has been laid down and Mr. Rishang Keishing was only referring to the disability for leave. If any employee on foreign employment contract feels aggrieved about any condition, he can approach the Government and the Government will certainly look into it.

Shri Joachim Alva: They are being victimised.

Soap Industry

***1229. Shri Deogam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for reducing the production cost and selling prices of soap; and

(b) the reasons why the proposal for the appointment of a Development Council for the soap industry has been rejected?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) As India is already self-sufficient in soap and most of the indigenous soaps are sold at a reasonably cheap price and are in fact cheaper and even the quality as good as imported soaps, the question of taking steps to reduce the cost or selling prices of soap does not arise.

(b) Because bulk of the soap industry has no common type of production methods, minimum standards of economic strength and efficiency in management and sales.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the Government is in a position to give us an idea about the production of soap, i.e., whether it has decreased after the imposition of the tax recently in the latest budget?

Shri M. M. Shah: It would be too early to judge the result of taxation. However from 1,40,000 tons per year in 1952 the production has gone up in three years to 2,20,000 tons per year.

Shri K. K. Basu: Is it not true that the production of soap by the firm Lever Brothers has gone up and consequently the indigenous production has been proportionately reduced?

Shri M. M. Shah: There is over 80 per cent. of total increase in production in firms other than Lever Brothers. In Lever Brothers the increase is from 10 to 15 per cent. and in the other organised sector overall increase has been 30 per cent.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether the Minister has got any statistical data regarding the profit going abroad out of the soap industry?

Shri M. M. Shah: We have no information on the point.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know the proportion of production of Lever Brothers among large-scale soap manufacturers?

Shri M. M. Shah: No such statistics are maintained. But it is not very difficult to work out the same. Actually, as I have already mentioned, the increase in production is much more in organised sector, more than what Lever Brothers have expanded.

Shri Bansal: May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that Lever Brothers are undercutting in the Indian market and charging higher prices in the foreign market in order to see that Indian manufacturers gradually go out of the market?

Shri M. M. Shah: If facts were any proof, actually the indigenous production has gone up and so I don't think the fear which the hon. Member entertains can materialise.

Shri Bansal: I am not expressing any fear. I saw a statement to the effect that they want to encourage indigenous production. May I know whether it has been brought to the notice of Government?

Shri Keshavaiengar: May I know whether Government has received a representation from the small-scale soap manufacturers of Mysore State and, if so, what is the result of the consideration by Government of that representation?

Shri M. M. Shah: I require notice for that.

Khadi

***1230. Shri Dhusiya:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ginning of cotton to produce Khadi is not allowed in mills;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Khadi of Bombay Vastragar is dyed and printed in Jasmine, Swastic and other Mills at Bombay;

(c) if so, whether the Khadi Board has taken the sanction from Government for the same;

(d) the number of other mills where dyeing and printing of Khadi takes place and where they are located; and

(e) whether these mills fix any texmark symbol on the cloth after finishing the works of dyeing and printing?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) Cotton ginned in factories is also used for the production of khadi.

(b) Khadi is dyed in some mills but printing is done by hand process in the premises of certain mills. The two Bombay mills where Khadi is dye are United Mills Dye Works and Swadehi Dyeing & Printing Works. The mills in whose premises printing by hand process is done are:

1. Swarana Dyeing and Printing Works, Bombay.

2. Purnima Dyeing and Printing Works, Bombay.

3. **Jasmine Prints, Bombay.**
4. **Neo-fabric Prints, Bombay.**
5. **Swastik Prints, Bombay.**
6. **Vindhya Dyeing and Printing Works, Bombay.**

(c) Such sanction is not necessary.

(d) So far as the Khadi & Village Industries Board is concerned, the mills referred to above are the only mills whose services are utilised for this purpose.

(e) Mills texmark Khadi while dyeing but since printing is done by hand, no texmark is fixed during printing.

Shri Dhusiya: I want to know since when this printing business is done in Mills and whether it is done with the knowledge and concurrence of the Certification Committee of the Khadi Board.

Shri R. G. Dubey: The Certification Committee have sanctioned this procedure and I think this printing has been introduced since the Board took charge of the activities.

Shri Dhusiya: Once the hon. Minister has stated that sanction is needed. If so, was the Certification Committee ever consulted?

Shri R. G. Dubey: When I said that sanction was needed it was in a general sense though the Khadi and Village Industries Board are competent so far as ginning is concerned. So far as the question of certificate is concerned, that was put before the Certification Committee and they have sanctioned this procedure.

Shri B. S. Murthy: How far is it compatible that khadi should be dyed in Mills when the khadi industry has come into existence to encourage hand labour?

Shri R. G. Dubey: This matter was put before the Board. As the hon. Member knows, the members in charge of the Khadi Board are very experienced men in this field. Certain categories of khadi are purchased for Government purpose and in order to reduce the cost of production of khadi, this dyeing is done, for the time being, in mills.

Shri T. N. Singh: What is the difference in the cost of dyeing and printing—by mills and by hand printing and screen printing?

Shri R. G. Dubey: It is less in the case of mills. I can give you the figures. For example, in the case of white cloth, whereas it is Rs. 1-0-0 per yard in the case of mill cloth, it is Rs. 1/10- in the case of other cloth. These are figures for printing and not dyeing. But I am sure that the charges for dyeing in the mills are less than otherwise.

Shri Dhusiya: May I know whether Government will consider it proper to do

away with this printing and dyeing processes in mills and do it by hand alone and whether the rules of the Khadi Board allow this process being done in the mills?

Shri R. G. Dubey: According to the definition of "khadi", khadi is a cloth which is hand-spun and hand-woven. But it does not prevent the processes being undertaken elsewhere. It may, in certain cases, be done in the mills. In special cases, to answer the requirements of Government indents it is done in the mills. If all requirements are met like that it will be against the concept of khadi. That is one aspect which may be borne in mind.

So far as the printing is concerned, it is done in the premises of certain mills. It is not done by the mills. It is done in the premises of certain mills by hand. Hand printing is done in those mills. It is done in the mills because of the fact that they are able to offer certain fast colours and Government require certain shades, certain fastness and so on. Hand printing is being undertaken in those mills.

Industrial Co-operatives

*1231. **Shri Krishna Chandra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh have submitted any schemes for financial assistance to encourage the formation of industrial Co-operatives;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes; and

(c) the amount sanctioned so far in this connection?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 35].

Shri Krishna Chandra: May I know the number of industrial Co-operatives so far started under the scheme?

Shri M. M. Shah: The State Government has sent no proposal. But we have received proposal from Banaras for an industrial co-operative society.

Shri Krishna Chandra: Out of the total cost mentioned in the statement on this scheme for 1956, how much is subsidy?

Shri M. M. Shah: 50 per cent as mentioned in the statement is entirely a subsidy as far as the staff is concerned.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether any scheme for match making has been received from Banaras, how long has it been pending with the Government and what is the reason for the delay?

Shri M. M. Shah: It has come during the current year and certain clarifications are awaited. I hope it will be sanctioned very soon.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The hon. Minister stated that the State Government had not sponsored any private concern. May I know whether applications from private concerns will be entertained without reference to State Governments?

Shri M. M. Shah: I am sorry there is some misunderstanding. What I said was that the State Government had not included these industrial cooperatives in their Plan. The industrial cooperatives took the initiative and sponsored the scheme through the State Government.

Cheap Housing

*1232. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations expert, Mr. Middleton, has constructed a weather-proof cheap earth-house costing rupees five hundred which can last for one hundred years; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the possibility of its suitability under Indian conditions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naikar): (a) I have seen a newspaper report to this effect.

(b) Yes, Sir. A similar type of house was put up in the International Low Cost Housing Exhibition that was held in 1954 and it was found that the cost was not as low as now claimed. Recent reports about its durability are not also quite encouraging. Besides, the technique involved is not easy and is not, therefore, capable of being widely adopted in villages without some kind of expert supervision.

Shri Hem Raj: May I know what is the cost of the one room tenement and what is its life?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): It is about Rs. 2,200.

Shri K. K. Basu: Life?

Sardar Swaran Singh: May be anywhere at 50 years or above.

Shri Heda: What is the cheapest cost of two-room tenements under the plans of the Ministry?

Sardar Swaran Singh: For two-room tenements add another Rs. 700 to this.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether Government's attention has been

drawn to a hut which had been constructed by the Forest Research Institute about ten years' back with earth and bamboo?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Government's attention had been drawn to it because the Dehra Dun Forest Research Institution is a Government institution.

Shrimati A. Kale: What about the P.W.D.?

Sardar Swaran Singh: There is no such distinction.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know whether any such huts have been built?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Some have been built, I understand. For precise information I would require notice.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know where such huts have been built?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I have no information.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know whether Government is aware that our carpenters and masons know to build houses better than the foreign scientists?

Rural Electrification

*1233. **Shri Rama Dass:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have asked the State Governments to submit their plans for rural electrification during the current year; and

(b) if so, whether the States have submitted the plans?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri L. N. Mishra: The Planning Commission in the First Five Year Plan had recommended that the State Governments should set up co-operative organisations for rural electrification and advance long term and short term loans to these co-operatives. May I know whether any of the States did set up such co-operatives and whether any long term or short term loans were given to them?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I would require notice.

Aid To Travancore-Cochin State

*1234. **Shri Achuthan:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grants and loans sanctioned to the Travancore-Cochin Government last year from

(i) All India Khadi and Village Industries Board; and

- (ii) All India Handicrafts Board;
- (b) how much was drawn by the Travancore-Cochin Government and spent; and
- (c) whether the balance, if any, will be carried over to the succeeding year?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) (i) and (ii). No grant or loan was sanctioned to the Government of Travancore-Cochin last year. However, the All India Khadi & Village Industries Board disbursed a total amount of Rs. 5.97 lakhs as grant and Rs. 4.88 lakhs as loan on khadi and village industries schemes in this State through its registered or recognised institutions.

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

Shri Achuthan: Since there is acute unemployment prevailing in Travancore-Cochin State, may I know that steps are being taken by the Central Government to see the khadi is developed and more village industries as well as handicrafts are developed there?

Shri R. G. Dubey: As I explained, so far as the development of khadi is concerned, it is entirely the responsibility of the Khadi Board and accordingly they are sanctioning schemes in all the States, including Travancore-Cochin. In respect of village industries, it is up to the State Governments to propose schemes and then we offer assistance depending upon the nature of the scheme.

Shri Achuthan: May I know the number of persons employed in khadi, village industries and handicrafts in that State?

Shri R. G. Dubey: I do not have this information.

Import of Bicycle Tyres and Tubes

*1237. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Dunlop Rubber Co. (India) Limited has been given the sole monopoly to import bicycle tyres and tubes; and

(b) if so, the circumstances in which this has done?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). No, Sir. M/S. Dunlop Rubber Co. have been granted licences to import, reasonable quantities of tyres and tubes to supplement supplies which are expected to arrive in the country in due course against licences granted earlier to importers of cycles and local manufacturers of cycles. This step has been taken as an emergency measure to improve the supply position of bicycle

tyres and tubes to relieve the shortages in supplies now existing.

Shri Gidwani: It is a fact that Dunlop failed to supply the goods and are not able to cope pace with the growing demand in the country?

Shri M. M. Shah: No, Sir.

Shri Gidwani: It is a fact that Germany, Japan and Holland have quoted cheaper prices than Dunlops?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): We have no information.

Dr. Rama Rao: Have Government received any representation from dealers in bicycle tyres and tubes that they have not been given licences while Dunlops have been given the lion's share if not the sole monopoly of import?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The existing channels through which imports are made are permitted to import. The additional supplies that we now need being imported through Dunlops. It happens that there are shortages in the country and therefore effective distribution arrangements have to be made in order to meet these shortages and Government think that this is the best method of meeting these shortages.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the total requirement of bicycle tyres and tubes in India per year and what is the production in India?

Shri M. M. Shah: The production of tyres and tubes in 1954 was 5.2 million units; in 1955, 5.7 million units and in 1956, 6.2 million units on the basis of five months' production, and the present requirements are above 17 million units per year.

Shri Punnoose: Is it not a fact that the Government Rubber Factory in Travancore-Cochin produce cycle tyres and tubes? Has the Government any plan to enlarge that production?

Shri M. M. Shah: Yes, Sir, there is a plan to expand that factory.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The hon. Minister in reply to a question just now answered that Government have no information that the prices of tyres and tubes in Belgium and Germany are cheaper. Before giving order to Dunlops why did Government not enquire about the cheaper rate of prices in the world market?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: We have certain usual sources of supply. Government are not in a position to go and find out new sources of supply.

Shri Bansal: May I know if it is a fact that although as a result of the recommendations of the Tariff Commission the *ex-factory* prices of tyres have been reduced, on account of a number of subterfuges that have been used by these producers the retail prices have actually gone up?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It is a fact that retail prices have gone up, largely because of shortages. I am not aware of the subterfuges. That must be more within the knowledge of the hon. Member than myself.

Shri Bansal: It is in my knowledge. May I request the hon. Minister to make enquiries about it?

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the reduction of the prices has not only resulted in black-marketing in cycle tyres and tubes, but also in a large number of employees being retrenched by the rubber companies? They have reduced the number of dealers with the result that the public suffering a lot. May I know whether Government are taking any steps to liberalise their policy of import and also increase the production of tyres in India?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Every effort is being made to increase production. But production cannot be increased overnight and there are visible shortages which have to be met by imports and that is why these arrangements have been undertaken.

In regard to the first part of the question there has been some retrenchment in certain tyre companies, notably India Tyre Company, but I do not think it has been of general nature. If price fixation and reduction of prices leads to black-marketing that is a different question altogether. You have to deal with that from a different point of view.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The hon. Minister said that there were certain difficulties and that the Government is not in a position to explore the world markets. What was the special difficulty for the Government with a big department behind it in exploring the world markets for getting the cheapest things?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I would suggest that the hon. Member should wait until she knows more about how the Government has to function.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. I have allowed a number of questions.

Dr. Rama Rao: Only one more question.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: This is not the way to reply. The country expects to have information about the cheapest price available. And Government

should be in a position to reply and satisfy Members of Parliament in this regard.

Dr. Rama Rao: The hon. Minister stated that the additional quota has been exclusively given to Messrs. Dunlop India Ltd. May I know why the Government should give an exclusive order even for the additional requirements to a foreign company in preference to an Indian concern?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Yes. It has been specifically given because we have arranged for a pool to be created and the higher cost of imported tyres to be reduced by means of that pool. That is only possible with regard to local producers. That is not possible with regard to every importer. If people are allowed to import, they have to sell at a higher price. It cannot be pooled.

Television

*1238. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the equipment for television offered by Philips Electrical Company; and

(b) the total estimated cost of setting up a television centre in the country?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Philips Electrical Company have offered a television unit, which was brought here for the International Exhibition. Government have accepted the unit only on a trial basis for a period of 6-8 months with the option of buying it if so decided upon at the end of the period. Any decision to buy will depend upon which particular television transmission system we adopt for use of our net-work. The question as to which system would be most useful for us is being examined in detail.

(b) The cost of the unit offered is about 1.87 lakhs. It would not be possible at this stage to give the estimated cost of a television unit. It is at present being worked out in detail.

Shri Bansal: May I correct the hon. Minister? He said, International Exhibition. It was Indian Industries Fair. The correct name should go on record.

Dr. Keskar: I accept the correction.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how long the trial of this television set has been going on and what has been the results achieved so far?

Dr. Keskar: There is no trial of this set as such. As I said, this company had imported this television unit here. They did not want to take it back and pay all the expenses of taking it back to their country. They offered us this unit. But, as we were not sure which particular television system

of transmission we may use, we were reluctant to accept the offer. But, we have accepted the offer. On a trial basis in the sense that in the research division it will be tried for a few months. In the mean time, if we take a decision that this particular system of transmission is useful, we may buy it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what has been the result achieved by the research division to which the hon. Minister referred and.....

Mr. Speaker: One question at a time.

Dr. Keskar: I shall be able to give the results of the research to the hon. Member in due course.

श्री भक्त दहान : क्या यह अन्तिम रूप से निश्चित कर लिया गया है कि टेली-विजन यंत्र बम्बई में स्थापित किया जायेगा ? और देर से देर कब तक उस का काम प्रारम्भ करने की आशा की जा सकती है ?

डॉ केस्कर : माननीय सदस्य ने बजट के साथ दी गई मिनिस्ट्री की रिपोर्ट में देखा होगा कि टेलीविजन यूनिट पहले बम्बई और दिल्ली में बनाने की कोशिश होगी और सब से पहले वह बम्बई में लगाया जायेगा ।

Shri Kasliwal: What is the range of the television set?

Dr. Keskar: Low range.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know if the Government has accepted any plan in the Second Five Year Plan with regard to the Introduction of television? How long will it take for at least big cities like Delhi and Bombay to have television units?

Dr. Keskar: The first part of the question has already been answered in answer to the question which came before. As regards the second part of the question I may say that we hope that within 24 months we may be able to have television units in India.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know for how long the research division has been experimenting and from where these sets have been obtained?

Dr. Keskar: The hon. Member has completely misunderstood my reply. When we say that we are carrying on research in this particular unit it means it is being tried out. As far as the systems are concerned, there are four systems working at present and competing in the world. We are experimenting under the guidance of a

technical committee as to which one is most suitable for us.

Algeria

*1239. **Shri M. . Gu upadswamy** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of Algeria and the Government of France have accepted the Prime Minister's five-point plan; and

(b) if the plan has not been accepted, whether the Government of India have made any new proposal for the settlement?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sada-th Ali Khan): (a) The suggestions made in the Prime Minister's statement of the 22nd May, 1956 cannot be regarded as a "Five Point Plan". They were not proposals, intended to be formally communicated to the parties for acceptance or rejection, but suggestions which in our view could form a basis of negotiation between the parties.

One of these suggestions was that there should be direct negotiation between the parties.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether, after this suggestion there was any change in the policy of France with respect to Algeria?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The hon. Member has come after some questions on this subject have been answered earlier today. However, I should add that without formally accepting or rejecting those suggestions, the French Government at that time did move towards two things, cease fire and negotiations, which were the main points suggested by us. So also on the other side. But, unfortunately, other things have supervened now like the Suez Canal crises which have diverted attention from this issue.

Printing Machinery

*1240. **Shri Radha Raman :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2540 on the 26th May, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the survey regarding assessment of demand of the types of printing machinery has been completed;

(b) if so, the details of the survey report; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to implement this report?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 36]

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether the Government will have only one big unit or it will have several units spread over the country.

Shri M. M. Shah: The N. I. D. C. has taken a decision to start the manufacture of printing machinery. It may not be easy to say today whether there will be one unit or more than one unit. Practically all the ranges which the survey indicated will be manufactured in the country.

Shri Joachim Alva: Along with this survey, was a survey undertaken of the number of printing presses in the country as well as the men working inside these?

Shri M. M. Shah: This does not arise out of this question. This was only with regard to printing machinery. The survey gives the whole range.

Shri Bansal: With which foreign countries are the Government collaborating in the setting up of this machinery?

Shri M. M. Shah: The East German authorities, M.A.N. of West Germany and an Italian firm have shown their interest.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether in the printing machinery to be manufactured as a Government enterprise, are efforts to be concentrated only on automatic machines or even on cylinder machines fed by hand?

Shri M. M. Shah: As indicated in the survey, we will try to manufacture as many categories as are required for the different categories of printing.

श्री म० ल० शुद्धेशी: क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि जो मशीनें हिन्दुस्तान में बनाई जायेंगी क्या वे विदेशी मशीनों के मुकाबले में सत्ती रहेंगी?

श्री म० म० शाह : क्वालिटी के विषय में तो कोशिश की जायेगी कि वे फ़ारेन (विदेशी) मशीनों के बराबर हों। उनकी कास्ट (लागत) का अन्दाज़ा इस बचत नहीं लगाया जा सकता है।

International Supervisory Commission

*1244. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian military personnel serving with the International Supervisory Commission in Indo-China will be replaced; and

(b) if so, the number of Indian military personnel to be replaced and when?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) 73 officers and 667 JCOs/Other Ranks were involved in the turn-over programme which began on the 15th June, 1956 and was completed last week.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

War Reparation from Germany

*1245. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any plant as war reparation from Germany; and

(b) if so, whether services of foreign experts are likely to be commissioned for the operation of the same?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naikar): (a) Government of India received in 1947-48 allocations for over 10,000 items of machine tools and machinery. It is not quite clear as to which particular item is in the mind of the Honourable Member.

(b) Bulk of these items have been disposed of. The Disposals Organisation have not engaged any expert for the purpose mentioned in the question.

Industrialisation in Travancore-Cochin

*1246. { **Shri A. K. Gopalan:**
Shri V. P. Nayar:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish any new industries in Travancore-Cochin State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 37]

Exodus of Hindus from East Pakistan

*1247. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question

No. 1 on the 16th February, 1956 and state :

(a) whether any communication has been received from the Government of Pakistan in reply to the protest made by the Government of India with regard to the expulsion of Hindus from Jessore and other places in East Bengal; and

(b) if so, the nature of the communication received?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). Yes. The Branch Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs at Calcutta, who had taken up the matter with the Branch Secretariat of the Pakistan Foreign Office at Dacca, have since received a reply in which the latter have denied that efforts were being made to expel Hindus from Jessore and other places in East Pakistan.

Ambar Charkha

*1207. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had invited a West German textile engineer to give his opinion on the technical potentiality of the Ambar Charkha;

(b) if so, what prompted Government to take such a step;

(c) whether it is a fact that the engineer has discouraged the idea of large-scale Ambar Charkha programme at the expense of the mill industry;

(d) if so, what reasons has the engineer given for his attitude towards the Ambar Charkha; and

(e) what are Government's reaction thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board desired that this should be done.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The main conclusions given in the report are shown in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 38]

(e) Steps have already been taken to intensify the training programme. The question of quality control of yarn as also recommended by the Ambar Charkha Committee is under examination. The other conclusions have been noted.

पाकिस्तान द्वारा हवाई सीमा का अतिक्रमण

*1208. **{पंदित द्वारा जारी :**
सरदार इकबाल सिंह :

क्या जवाब मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अप्रैल, १९५६ से जून १९५६ तक पाकिस्तानी विमानों ने कितनी बार भारतीय हवाई सीमा का अतिक्रमण किया;

(ख) क्या इस सम्बन्ध में भारत के विरोधों का कोई उत्तर पाकिस्तान सरकार ने अभी तक दिया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसमें क्या कारण बताया गया है?

विरोधिक कार्य मंत्री के समाचारिय
(बी जावत अली जा): (क) १ अप्रैल से ३० जून, १९५६ के दौरान में पाकिस्तानी हवाई जहाजों की पच्चीस अनंतिकृत उड़ानों की सूचना हमें मिली है।

(ख) तथा (ग), अभी तक, पाकिस्तान सरकार ने हमें से ६ उड़ानों के बारे में जवाब भेजा है। हर मामले में उन्होंने पाकिस्तानी हवाई जहाज की मौजूदगी से इनकार किया है।

आपान को कच्चे लोहे का निर्यात

*1210. **बी विभूति मिशन :** क्या वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मई और जून १९५६ में एक जापानी शिष्टमंडल कच्चे लोहे के सम्बरण के सम्बन्ध में बात करने के लिये भारत आया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या बात-चीत का अन्तिम निष्पत्ति हो गया है; और

(ग) निषिद्धत किये गये प्रबन्ध में कौन कौन सी मुस्तै शर्तें हैं?

आपान मंत्री (बी करमरकर) :

(क) से (ग). भारतीय संनिधि लोहे में

दिलचस्पी रखने वाली जापान में तथा भारत में स्थित जापानी फ़र्मों के कुछ प्रतिनिधि जनिज लोहे के भावी व्यापार के सम्बन्ध में राज्य व्यापार निगम से प्रूफ़ताल्क करने के लिये मिले थे। भारत सरकार से इस मामले में कोई भी सम्पर्क नहीं किया गया है।

Engineering Personnel Committee

*1212. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Engineering Personnel Committee has submitted its final report;

(b) if so, the main recommendation thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement these recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir. Printed copies of the Report have already been supplied to Members of Parliament.

(b) A summary of the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee is given at pages 40 to 44 of the Report.

(c) The Report is under consideration.

Oil Refineries in Trombay

*1213. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the capital outlay on each of the Burmah-Shell and Stanvac Refineries in Trombay; and

(b) the working results of the Burmah-Shell and Stanvac refineries for the first year of their working?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):

(a) The capital of the Burmah-Shell Refineries in Trombay as on 31st December 1955 was 24.74 crores and that of the Stanvac, 12.66 crores (approximately).

(b) The working results of the Burmah-Shell Refineries are contained in their balance sheet and Profit and Loss Account for the year ending 31-12-1955, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. The audited accounts of the Standard-Vacuum Refinery for the year ending 31-12-1955 have not yet been officially received.

National Instruments Factory, Calcutta

*1215. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state

whether it is a fact that the National Instruments Factory, Calcutta has been a losing concern?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): No, Sir, not since 1954-55.

Pilot Plant at Ghatsila

*1218. **Shri Jaipal Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the Pilot Plant at Ghatsila;

(b) the quantum of copper tailings made available by the Indian Copper Corporation; and

(c) the plans, if any, for the beneficiation of low grade uranium ores?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Out of the 11 items of machinery for the Pilot Plant ordered from abroad, 10 items have already been received and installed. One item, *viz.* the Thickener is expected to be received by the end of October, 1956. If the same is received by the anticipated date, the Plant is expected to go into scheduled production by March, 1957.

(b) The total quantity of copper tailings made available from the Indian Copper Corporation is about 900 tons per day.

(c) The plans so far have been to carry on tests for up-grading all low grade Uranium Ores at the Chemistry Division Laboratory of the Department of Atomic Energy at Bombay and the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur. On completion of tests on any ore, the reserves for which have been adequately proved, Pilot Plant testing will be carried out, if necessary at the Plant at Ghatsila.

One-Room Tenements

*1220. **Shri R. P. Garg:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Medical Association had advised the Government of India against constructing one-room tenements for health reasons;

(b) if so, what led the Government to disregard the advice;

(c) whether despite this advice Government are going ahead with the construction of more one-room tenements; and

(d) what were the suggestions put before the Planning Commission by the Indian Medical Association and to what extent these will be implemented in the course of the Second Five Year Plan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The higher cost of two roomed tenements which render them far beyond the rent paying capacity of the occupants, even if some reasonable measure of subsidisation is conceded, and the possibility of extensive sub-letting which would nullify the benefits that are expected to accrue from the two roomed tenement, have induced Government not to abandon the construction of the so-called single room tenements which will provide housing accommodation to a larger number of individuals. Actually a verandah of 80 sq. ft. is attached to the room and in practice it is utilized as an additional room. I may also mention that in the Subsidised Industrial Housing Scheme we have made provision for loan and subsidy being given to two-roomed tenements also.

(d) Attention is invited to the statement laid by the Deputy Minister of Health on the Table of the Lok Sabha in reply to parts (d) and (e) of Starred Question No. 2614 on 28-5-56.

Kerosene-operated Receiving Sets

*1225. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether the kerosene-operated Receiving Set constructed by the All India Radio has passed through all stages of tests;

(b) if so, when these Receiving Sets will be manufactured in large numbers to meet the demand of the rural parts; and

(c) what will be the cost of each set and whether any further research has been made to lessen its price to enable every home to own a Receiving Set?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (c). What has been developed by A.I.R. is only a thermo-electric generator operated by kerosene which can supply power for operating a radio set. That generator has passed through tests and the patents for this purpose have been made available to the industry for commercial exploitation. The cost of the generator is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 120/- to Rs. 150/-. This is of course in addition to the cost of the set which remains unaffected.

Cement Factory

*1226. **Shri Sudham Gupta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government has proposed the establishment of a Cement Factory in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government on the proposal?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is under consideration.

स्त्रीवेद

*1227. **Shri बादशाह गुप्त :** क्या वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि किस-किस प्रदेश में सीमेन्ट बिना परमिट या अन्य किसी प्रकार के नियंत्रण के बिल रहा है ?

भारी उद्योग मंत्री (श्री म० म० शाह) : जम्मू और काश्मीर तथा भूतपूर्व कांसीसी बस्तियों को छोड़ कर शेष सारे भारत में सीमेन्ट के वितरण तथा मूल्यों पर नियंत्रण लागू है। प्रत्येक राज्य में यह नियंत्रण लागू करने का दायित्व राज्य सरकारों का है ?

Government Advertisements

*1226. **Shri Biren Futt :** Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the considerations the Tripura State Government follow in distributing advertisements; and

(b) whether the State Government demands any audit report of circulation from the local press for the purpose of distributing advertisements?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) : (a) The Government of Tripura generally follow the directive issued by the Central Government regarding this matter i.e. effective circulation in relation to the coverage intended to be secured, class of readership and proper journalistic and production standards.

(b) No. Audit reports are not insisted upon in the case of small newspapers. The State Government is generally in possession of facts regarding effective circulation of a paper.

भूदान आन्दोलन

*1228. **Shri विभूति मिश्र :** क्या प्रदान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उन्होंने कांग्रेस के घट्यक्ष वी डेवर से सर्वोदयपुरम् (कांचीपुरम्), मद्रास में होने वाले सर्वोदय सम्मेलन में कहा था कि वह उनकी ओर से, उनके भूदान या आन्दोलन में सहयोग और समर्थन का आश्वासन जनता को दे दें ; और

(क) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार भूदान यज्ञ की सफलता के लिये क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री सादत अली खां) : (क) प्रधान मंत्री ने भूदान यज्ञ के लक्ष्यों से अपनी सहमति कई अवसरों पर प्रकट की है। उन्होंने ऐसा कथित अवसर पर भी किया था।

(ख) भारत की केन्द्रीय सरकार का इस यज्ञ से कोई सीधा सम्बन्ध नहीं। पर बहुत सी प्रदेशीय सरकारों ने इसे कई प्रकार की सहायता दी है।

Sanskrit Lessons from A. I. R.

*1243. Pandit D. N. Tiwary : Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the benefit to and interest of the listeners from the Sanskrit lessons broadcast from some stations of the All India Radio; and

(b) the names of the stations from which Sanskrit lessons are broadcast?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) : (a) and (b). Lessons in Sanskrit language as such are not broadcast by A.I.R. All stations excepting Simla, Srinagar and Jammu provide Sanskrit programmes which are intended to help the listener in cultivating his knowledge and appreciation of Sanskrit literature in its diverse aspects and as part of these programmes significant passages from Sanskrit classics in poetry, drama, and philosophy are selected and explained with exegesis. These programmes have been generally appreciated.

Recovery of Abducted Persons

*1245. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of recovery of abducted persons in India and Pakistan has been completed; and

(b) if not, whether it is proposed to extend the life of the Abducted Persons (Recovery and Restoration) Act of 1949 which expires by the end of November, 1956?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh) :

(a) No.

(b) The question is at present under consideration of the Government.

कराची हवाई अड्डे की घटना

*1246. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** श्री मु० ला० अप्रालाल :

या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दमिश्क से वापस आते समय वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री के सभा-सचिव, श्री सादत अली खां को पाकिस्तान पुलिस ने कराची हवाई अड्डे पर रोक लिया था; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उसके क्या कारण थे?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक-कार्य तथा वित्त मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) :

(क) जी हाँ, लेकिन वे बगदाद से लौट रहे थे, दमिश्क से नहीं।

(ख) मालूम हूँ कि श्री सादत अली खां को कराची हवाई अड्डे पर रोक लिया गया था क्योंकि उनके पास पाकिस्तान के लिए मार्ग बीजा नहीं था?

Ambar Charkhas

*1247. Shri Dhusiya : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are getting Ambar Charkhas manufactured by the local carpenters;

(b) whether tenders have been invited for the same; and

(c) if so, what are the rates?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey) : (a) Through decentralised Saranjam Karalayas and through a few commercial firms.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Brahmaputra Tributaries

*1248. Shri Rishang Keishing : Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Burin and the Dihing tributaries of River Brahmaputra twisted their banks and inundated the town of Dibrugarh and other neighbouring areas;

(b) if so, the extent and value of damages on land and properties; and

(c) the relief rendered both by the State Government and the Central Government?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra) : (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 39].

Sambhar Salt

*1249. **Shri Ram Krishan** : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the nominees quota of Sambhar salt is given to Sambhar Traders' Association, for free sale; and

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that salt is sold at higher prices?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey) : (a) Yes.

(b) No, Sir; Government have had no complaints since the introduction of this scheme.

Starch Industry

*1250. **Shri Jhulan Sinha** : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the present condition of the starch industry in the country since the discontinuance of the protection enjoyed by it?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : Government have no reasons to believe that the Starch Industry has suffered in any manner since the protection granted to it was withdrawn on the 1st January, 1956. The production of the industry as a whole for the first four months of the year was 17,673 tons which compares favourably with the total figure of 47,633 tons during 1955.

Industrial Development in Pondicherry

*1251. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the Sabha showing :

(a) the industrial development in Pondicherry; and

(b) the amount allotted for it so far as the big, medium, small scale and cottage industries are concerned?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) and (b). Under the Second Five Year Plan a provision of Rs. 120 lakhs has been made for the development of large, medium, small scale and cottage industries in Pondicherry. Details regarding the various industrial projects that are to be

taken up during the Second Plan period in this area are yet to be decided.

Advertisement Revenue

*1252. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary** : Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state :

(a) the improvements in income circulation and get up of the "Indian Listener", "Awaz" and "Sarang" since the transfer of administrative control from All India Radio to the Publication Division; and

(b) the present advertisement revenue from these papers?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) : (a) The administrative control has been transferred to the Publications Division only with effect from 1-1-1956, and it is, therefore, too early to assess improvements in income and circulation. The improvements in get-up consists of revised lay-out for the cover and the programmes, introduction of new features such as Listener's Questions Box, sketches and boxing of important programmes.

(b) A Space-Selling Unit for the Ministry has been constituted, the object of which is to maximise advertising revenue for all the publications of the Ministry. A gross business of Rs. 87,887 has been booked for the three journals as part of the total business secured by the Space-Selling Unit.

Indian Missions Abroad

*1253. **{ Sardar Iqbal Singh : Ch. Raghbir Singh : }**

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstamped Question No. 737 on the 5th April, 1956 and state at what stage is the consideration of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Health to advise on the supply of furnishings etc. for Indian Missions abroad?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) : Supplies of items such as Crockery, Cutlery, and Glassware have been standardised. Scales of Carpets and Linen have been prescribed and arrangements are in hand for their supply through a centralised agency. As regards other items such as silverware, objects d' art, paintings etc. details are being worked out as to costs etc. and a decision will be taken as soon as possible.

Tubewell Electrification Scheme of Pepsu

*1254. **Shri Ram Krishan** : Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of progress made in the implementation of Pepsu tube-well

and electrification scheme upto the 30th June, 1956,

(b) the areas so far irrigated through these tube-wells in different districts;

(c) the places district-wise electrified so far; and

(d) the future schemes of expansion?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 40].

Aluminium Plants

771. { **Shri Ram Krishan :
Shri S. C. Samanta :**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the team of U.S. experts has completed the task of surveying possible sites for a plant or plants to manufacture 10,000 tons of aluminium per year;

(b) if so, whether Government have received a report from the team; and

(c) if so, the details of the report?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Cottage Industries

772. **Shri Ram Krishan :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state whether the Action Committee at the State level to secure co-ordination between different organisations at State level has been set up as recommended by the Conference of State Ministers and representatives of All India Boards dealing with cottage industries held at Delhi during the 3rd week of June?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): Not yet, Sir.

Radio-active Minerals

773. **Shri V. P. Nayar :** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the names of the regions where radio-active minerals and fissionable material, if any, have been found in Kerala?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Radio-active minerals like Uranium and Thorium have been found as minor constituents of the mineral monazite at several places along the

Travancore-Cochin and Malabar beaches. It is not desirable in the public interest to disclose the information regarding the exact localities, where these minerals are found.

Cane Workers

774. **Shri V. P. Nayar :** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Rattan (cane) workers in the Travancore-Cochin State; and

(b) the total value for which cane furniture has been exported from Travancore-Cochin State to other States in India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Tea, Coffee and Rubber Cultivation

775. **Shri V. P. Nayar :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total acreage in Travancore-Cochin State under cultivation in the following in the years 1951-52 and 1955-56:—

- (i) Tea,
- (ii) Coffee, and
- (iii) Rubber?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The total acreage in Travancore-Cochin State under cultivation in 1951-52 and 1955-56 is as follows:—

	1951-52 (in acres)	1955-56 (in acres)
Tea	82,885	83,634*
Coffee	1,746†	4,882 (as on 30-6-55)
Rubber	1,36,360	1,68,580 (as on 31-12-51) (as on 31-3-56)

*Provisional.

†Cochin State only. Figures for Travancore not available.

Handloom Weavers

776. **Shri V. P. Nayar :** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom weavers in Travancore-Cochin State;

(b) the number amongst them who got full employment in 1955-56;

(c) the number of handlooms and the percentage of looms working in the above year ; and

(d) the estimated total earnings of the handloom workers of this State in each of the years of the First Five Year Plan ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) and (c). We have no precise information about the number of weavers. But it is said there are about 80,000 looms in the area. This figure is uncorroborated.

(b) There are 29,045 weavers within the co-operative fold, and they are getting employment. The number of weavers outside the co-operative sector, getting employment is not definitely known.

(d) No definite information is available.

Yarn Consumption

777. Shri V. P. Nayar : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coarse, medium and fine yarn consumed in Travancore-Cochin by the handloom weavers in the years 1951-52 to 1955-56 ;

(b) the total amount paid for these yarns ; and

(c) the subsidy, if any, actually given by the State or the Central Government for buying yarn in these years ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) and (b). A statement giving the information for the calendar years 1951-55 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 41].

(c) No subsidy has been given by the State or the Central Government for buying yarn.

Oil Mills

778. Shri V. P. Nayar : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Ceylon Copra used by oil mills during 1954-55 and 1955-56 ; and

(b) the quantity of indigenous copra used during the same period ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) 1954-55 — 41,245 tons. 1955-56 — 67,507 tons.

(b) The estimated quantity of indigenous copra used during each of the two periods is 185,000 tons.

सिंगलाइट परियोजना समन्वयकारी समिति

779. जी बृहस्पति जोही : ज्ञा उत्पादन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५६ में लिणलाइट परियोजना समन्वयकारी समिति की कितनी बैठक हुई ; और

(ल) उनमें किन-किन मुद्रण विषयों पर चर्चा हुई ?

उत्पादन मंत्री के समाप्तिव (जी रा० शि० दुबे) : (क) १९५६ में कभी तक पांच बैठक हुई हैं ।

(ल) इन बैठकों में समय-समय पर परियोजनाओं की प्रगति तथा नतीजों पर विचार किया गया तथा परीक्षण कर्त्ता के लिए जरूरी पम्प-मुद्रों, बिजली और साज-सामान की आवश्यकताओं के बारे में फैसले किये गये । समिति मिली-जुली परियोजना के भविष्य के आयोजन, लास तौर से लिणलाइट की खाल के लिए जरूरी प्रबलित तथा विशेष खनन-मशीनरी की आवश्यकताओं तथा विस्तृत-विवरणों की ओर भी ज्ञान दे रही है । ऊपर के मलबे को हटाने के लिए जिस प्रबलित साज-सामान की जरूरत है, उसकी सप्लाई के लिये प्राप्त हुये टेंडरों पर विचार कर लिया जाया है और उसके संतुष्टि के बारे में सरकार से सिफारिशें कर दी गई हैं । इसके अलावा समिति ने, जमी की प्राप्ति, अफसरों, कर्मचारियों तथा भजूरों के लिये मकानों की आवश्यकता तथा छोटी-छोटी बातों के लिये सामूली स्वीकृतियां आदि, परियोजना से संबंधित बूसरे विषयों पर विचार किया है ।

Employees in Sindri Fertiliser Factory

780. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state :

(a) the number of employees category-wise, employed in the Sindri Fertilizer Factory ; and

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes amongst them ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [S. Appendix VII, annexure No. 42].

Loan for Irrigation Projects in Punjab and Pepsu

781. Sardar Iqbal Singh : Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether the P.E.P.S.U. and Punjab Governments have asked for a long-term loan for the development and remodelling of its irrigation Projects?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra) : The reply is in the affirmative.

A. I. R. "Inspection Unit"

782. Pandit D. N. Tiwary : Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state :

(a) how far the administrative efficiency of the All India Radio has improved since the formation of the "Inspection Unit";

(b) the expenditure incurred on this unit in 1955-56;

(c) whether the Inspection Unit has suggested any new methods to check waste, detect corruption and prevent errors and irregularities; and

(d) whether any grave irregularities have been detected during inspection of various stations made so far?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) : (a) The Inspection Unit is part of the normal structure of any Department which has Branches all over the country. As All India Radio was in 1947 a small organisation, there was no separate section for inspection purposes. With the expansion of A.I.R., the need for a regular and separate Unit became urgent. Hence the formation of the Unit.

(b) The separate expenditure on this Unit is Rs. 42,299-8-0.

(c) As the Unit is performing a normal function, there is no new method that it has suggested or is expected to suggest. However, the preliminary survey work for the Unit which was carried out by an officer on special duty, who was of the rank of a Deputy Accountant General, has led to the preparation of a regular manual for the administrative work and accounts keeping of All India Radio. This has now been finalised and is being observed in all the stations.

(d) No.

Indian Visitors to West Pakistan

783. Sardar Iqbal Singh : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian citizens who visited West Pakistan during this year so far, month-wise; and

(b) how these figures compare with the figures of the last three years?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when it is available.

Gangwal and Kotla Power Houses

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

(a) the total amount of power that is being generated at Gangwal and Kotla Power Houses;

(b) the amount contracted for; and

(c) the names of the parties taking the biggest bulk supply?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra) : (a) About 47,500 K.W.

(b) About 47,500 K.W.

(c) Apart from the participating States of Punjab and Pepsu, the other biggest consumers are:

(i) Delhi State Electricity Board;

(ii) Bhakra Dam;

(iii) Delhi Cloth Mills, Hissar;

(iv) Jagjit Textile Mills, Phagwara;

(v) Electric Supply Undertakings at Ambala City,

Ambala Cantt.,

Jagadhri,

Kaithal,

Rohtak,

Okara, and

Rewari;

(vi) M.E.S., and

(vii) Railways.

Indian Saries

785. Sardar Iqbal Singh : Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for Indian Saries is increasing in the U.S.A., Canada and France; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase the demand for Indian Saries in other countries of Europe and America?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) No separate statistics are maintained about the export of Saries. However, from the export figures of handloom fabrics as a whole, it is observed that the demand from the U.S.A. for the handloom cloth has been increasing.

(b) The steps taken to increase the demand for handloom fabrics in Europe and America include publicity in foreign newspapers and periodicals, display of fabrics in Indian Trade Commissioners' offices and participation in International Fairs and Exhibitions.

Film Producers

786. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state the details of remuneration paid to the individual producer for each film, during 1955-56?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keshar): A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 43]. The rates for payment vary considerably depending upon the nature of the film, the amount of travelling and shooting that might have to be done and the quality of work. It would not be desirable to give the rates for individual films as it might come in the way of reasonable quotations from producers when tenders are called for that purpose.

I. & B. Ministry Officers

787. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Class I and Class II Officers in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and its attached and Subordinate offices at present; and

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes in each category?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keshar): (a)

Class I	:	:	270
Class II	:	:	1,328

(b) Class I	:	:	Nil.
Class II	:	:	22

NOTE :— Recruitment to Class I and Class II posts is made generally through the Union Public Service Commission.

In making recruitment, the express reservations prescribed for Scheduled Castes are borne in mind. As far as possible, preference is also given to such candidates.

Power Generation at Bhakra Nangal Dam

788. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved so far on the generation of power at the Bhakra Nangal Dam; and

(b) the share of the Punjab State in this power generation?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Gangwal and Kotla power houses having two units of 24,000 KW each have been commissioned. The combined capacity of the two power houses is now 72,000 KW treating one unit as a stand-by.

(b) 62.36% of the power available after meeting the common pool load such as Delhi, Bhakra Dam etc.

Auction of Evacuee Buildings

789. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of evacuee buildings that have been auctioned in the Panjab upto the end of July, 1956; and

(b) the number of such evacuee buildings the possession of which has been given to the purchasers?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

High Altitude Laboratory

790. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state at what stage is the proposal to set up a High Altitude Cosmic Ray Research Station in Gulmarg-Khillanmarg area in Kashmir?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The recommendations made by the Committee appointed to prepare detailed plans and estimates for the setting up of a High Altitude Cosmic Ray Laboratory at Gulmarg-Khillanmarg, at its meeting held on 26th July, 1956, are under consideration. The Committee has *inter alia* suggested that an all year base-laboratory with workshop and other facilities be established at Gulmarg at a height of 8,800 ft. and a high-level laboratory should be constructed on a spur on the hill towards Apharwat (at a height of about 12,500 ft.). The base laboratory and the high-level laboratory will be linked up with wire rope way

for which the necessary survey has been suggested.

Steel Board

791. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to set up a Steel Board to coordinate the work of all the three steel plants in the Public Sector; and

(b) if so, what will be the constitution of the Steel Board?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

Bakra Dam Project

792. Shri M. R. Krishna: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the names of the members of the Committee set up to investigate into the cause of explosion at Bakra Dam Project on the 1st July, 1956?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): A magisterial enquiry is being held by the Additional District Magistrate, Bilaspur. The Police including C.I.D. are also investigating. A departmental enquiry has also been held, the members of the committee being:

1. Shri S. C. Katoch, Superintending Engr. . President.
2. Shri D. D. Soni, Executive Engineer . . . Member.
3. Shri I. S. Ahluwalia, Executive Engineer . . . Member
4. Shri Darshan Singh, Executive Engineer . . . Member.

The committee was assisted by:

1. Shri Lahri—Inspector of Explosive Department.
2. Shri Gamlin — of M/S Imperial Chemical Industries.

Foreign Delegations to India

793. Shri R. P. Garg: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number and purpose of foreign delegations that visited India during 1955?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Regional Commission's Office at Rajkot

794. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) when the Regional Commission's Office was opened at Rajkot for Saurashtra and Kutch;

(b) whether full-fledged office is running there at present;

(c) if so, whether compensation applications from old, disabled and T. B. patients and students and other categories of displaced persons have been taken up and settled; and

(d) the amount of cash compensation that has been paid up-to-date to those mentioned in part (c) above?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) On the 18th April, 1956.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The cases of all priority category claimants have been taken up by the Regional Settlement Commissioner. Upto the 31st July, 1956, a sum of Rs. 1,27,027/4/- was paid as compensation to 136 claimants. The amount paid in cash was Rs. 1,12,335/-.

Design Centre

794. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a Design Centre in Bihar for the development of handicrafts; and

(b) if so, when and where?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) and (b). A design centre for the development of handicrafts was started in Bihar during the year 1955-56. It has since been merged with the Institute of Industrial Designs set up at Patna by the State Government in March, 1956.

Embassy Cars

796. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Cars used by the Indian Embassies in foreign countries, country-wise;

(b) the type of cars with price of each particularly meant for Ambassadors in the country they have been sent to;

(c) the usual period by which a replacement is made to the Ambassadors' car; and

(d) the number of Ambassadors' cars replaced during the year 1955-56?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). A statement containing particulars is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 44].

(c) Normally 5 years.

(d) Four.

Dyeing and Printing Houses

797. **Shri Dhusiya:** Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) how many dyeing and printing houses have been opened till today since the Khadi Board has come into being;

(b) where they are located;

(c) how many artisans are employed in each house; and

(d) what is the minimum pay for a qualified artisan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) No new dyeing and printing houses have been opened since the coming into being of the Khadi and Village Industries Board *viz.* since February, 1953.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Development Works in Orissa

798. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2666 on the 30th May, 1956 in respect of Development Works in Orissa and state whether a copy of the report made by the officers of the Planning Commission will be placed on the Table of the Sabha?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): A summary of the Report will be laid on the Table of the House.

Workcharged Staff of C. P. W. D.

799. **Shri Nambiar:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India agreed in 1946 to give tools essential for work to the workcharged staff of the Central Public Works Department;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Masons, Carpenters, Wiremen etc. have not so far been provided with the tools; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Essential costly tools are already being provided by Government. The question of providing other ordinary tools was under examination in consultation with the workers through their Unions and it has been decided that all essential tools required by the workers will be supplied by the department. Necessary detailed rules are being drawn up.

इंगलैंड में स्टोर्स (सामान) की जारी रकम

८००. श्री शूरू शूरू सोविया : क्या निर्माण, आवास और संभरण मंत्री यह बताने

की रुपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इंगलैंड में स्टोर्स के लिये खर्च किये जाने के लिये मंत्रालय के चालू वर्ष के आयव्ययक में मांग संख्या १०४ के शीर्षक के० आर०० के अन्तर्गत १२ लाख रुपयों की व्यवस्था की गई है ;

(ल) यदि हां, तो क्या इस रकम के व्यय का पूरा आयोरा उपलब्ध है ; और

(ग) उसकी स्थूल रूपरेखा क्या है?

निर्माण, आवास और संभरण मंत्री के सभासचिव (श्री पू० श० नास्कर) :

(क) जी, हां।

(ख) तथा (ग). यह रकम उस लेखन सामग्री व छपाई के समान का मूल्य, पैकिंग व भाड़ा चुकाने के लिये है जिसे लेखन सामग्री व छपाई विभाग अपने याचकों की मांग पूरा करने के लिये विदेश से मंगा रहा है। मोटी-मोटी मर्दे इस प्रकार हैं :—

(१) लेखन सामग्री	रुपये
झच्छी किस्म का ड्राइंग	
पेपर	२,५०,०००
ड्राइंग का अन्य सामान	
जैसे ट्रेसिंग पेपर, ट्रेसिंग	
क्लाय वेरा	६,००,०००
विशेष प्रकार का छपाई	
का कागज जैसे लियो	
प्रिन्टिंग (Litho	
Printing), ही-	
लिंगवर्थ (Holling-	
worth)	५०,०००
(२) छपाई का सामान.	१,००,०००
(३) प्रयोगशाला का	
सामान	३,०००
(४) अचानक आने वाली	
मांगों के लिये	१,४७,०००
(५) पैकिंग और भाड़ा .	५०,०००
योग	१२,००,०००

Refugee Educational Institutions

80x. Dr. Satyawadi: Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for financial assistance from the displaced educational institutions received from Punjab and PEPSU separately during the current year;

(b) whether the final decision has been taken on these applications; and

(c) if so, the details of the grants sanctioned?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna):

(a) (i) Punjab 129
 (ii) PEPSU 10
 (b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Poles for Electricity Transmission Lines

80z. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the varieties of poles in use for the electricity transmission lines in different places;

(b) the places where wooden poles are easily available; and

(c) the facilities which are being provided by Government for getting such poles to the village communities from the Forest Department for the extension of rural electrification?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [See Appendix VII, Annexure No. 45].

चाय बागान

80३. श्री बाबराह गुप्त : क्या बाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि किस-किस राज्य में कितने-कितने चाय बागान विदेशियों तथा देशवासियों के पास हैं?

बाणिज्य और उद्योग तथा खोज और इस्यात मंत्री (श्री हर्षभाषारी) : ठीक ठीक जानकारी तो उपलब्ध नहीं है, लेकिन अनुमान यह है कि १९५३-५४ में ६३४ चाय बागान विदेशियों के पास हैं जिनका

क्षेत्रफल ५,१०,६८० एकड़ था। भारत में उस समय कुल ७,८६,४४१ एकड़ में चाय होती थी। विदेशियों के पास जो चाय बागान है, उनमें से अधिकांश आसाम, पश्चिमी बंगाल तथा दक्षिण भारत में है।

Residential Quarters in D. I. Z. Area

804. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to reconstruct residential quarters in the D.I.Z. area;

(b) if so, when the scheme is likely to be implemented; and

(c) the number and class of quarters to be constructed there?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) No, Sir.

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

Zinc

805. Shri Balwant Singh Mehta: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirement of Zinc in country at present;

(b) how much we produce in our country and how much we import from other countries and the value thereof; and

(c) what charges we have to pay annually to foreign countries to get the Zinc content rates changed into metal?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamchari) : (a) The current demand for zinc in the country is estimated to be about 35,000 tons per annum.

(b) Zinc is not produced in the country at present. Imports of zinc were as follows:—

	Quantity (Cwts.)	Value (Rs.)
1952-53	4,03,712	3,91,16,528
1953-54	5,44,179	3,12,14,041
1954-55	8,89,874	5,29,09,576
1955-56	5,81,420	4,15,43,388

(c) Government have no information as the operations are undertaken by private firms.

China Clay

807. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing:

- (a) the types and the quantity of china clay available in India;
- (b) whether any china clay is being exported; and
- (c) if so, the countries to which and the total quantity exported in 1955-56?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) China clays of ceramic, paper, textile and rubber grades are available in the country. Separate quantities of each grade are not available. *Total* output during 1953 and 1954 was, however, 94,432 tons and 146,144 tons, respectively. But the *actual* quantity available in the country will be much more if the mines are worked to full capacity.

(b) No Sir, as far as I am aware. Export of China clay is not controlled. It is not shown as a separate item in the existing trade classification of the country.

- (c) Does not arise.

DAILY DIGEST

[Monday, 20th August, 1956]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

S.Q. No.	Subject	COLUMNS
1208.	Bara Hoti Plateau	1389-92
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1216.	Quality Control over Salt	1394-95
1217.	Migration of Muslims to Assam	1395-96
1219.	Plantation Enquiry Commission	1396-98
1224.	Export of Prawns	1398-1400
1225.	Textile Industry	1400-01
1228.	Foreign Films in India	1401-03
1229.	Soap Industry	1403-04
1230.	Khadi	1404-06
1231.	Industrial Co-operatives	1406-07
1232.	Cheap Housing	1407-08
1233.	Rural Electrification	1408
1234.	Aid to Travancore-Cochin State	1408-09
1237.	Import of Bicycle Tyres and Tubes	1409-12
1238.	Television	1412-14
1239.	Algeria	1414
1240.	Printing Machinery	1414-15
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1204.	War Reparation from Germany	1416
1205.	Industrialization in Travancore-Cochin	1416
1206.	Exodus of Hindus from East Pakistan	1416-17
1207.	Ambar Charkha	1417
1209.	Violation of Air Space by Pakistan	1418
1210.	Export of Iron Ore to Japan	1418-19
1212.	Engineering Personnel Committee	1419
1213.	Oil Refineries in Trombay	1419
1215.	National Instruments Factory, Calcutta	1419-20
1218.	Pilot Plant at Ghatsila	1420
1220.	One Room Tenements	1420-21

S.Q. No.	Subject	COLUMNS
1221.	Kerosene operated Receiving Sets	1421
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1245.	Recovery of Abducted Persons	1423
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1250.	Starch Industry	1425
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1252.	Advertisement Revenue	1426
1253.	Indian Missions Abroad	1426

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774.	Cane Workers	1428
775.	Tea, Coffee and Rubber Cultivation	1428
776.	Handloom Weavers	1428-29
777.	Yarn Consumption	1429
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779.	Lignite Project Co-ordination Committee	1430
780.	Employees in Sindri Fertilizers Factory	1430-31
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<i>U.S.Q. No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>COLUMNS</i>	<i>U.S.Q. No.</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>COLUMNS</i>
789. Auction of Evacuee Build- ings		1434	799. Workcharged Staff of C.P.W.D.		1437
790. High Altitude Laboratory .	1434-35		800. Purchase of Stores in England		1437-38
791. Steel Board	1435		801. Refugee Educational Insti- tutions		1439
792. Bhakra Dam Project . . .	1435		802. Poles for Electricity Trans- mission Lines		1435
793. Foreign Delegations to India	1435		803. Tea Plantations		1439-40
794. Regional Commission's Office at Rajkot	1435-36		804. Residential Quarters in D.I.Z. Area		1447
795. Design Centre	1436		805. Zinc		1440-41
796. Embassy Cars	1436		807. China Clay		1441-42
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LOK SABHA DEBATES Dated... 12.3.1956
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Monday, 20th August, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 NOON

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

SITUATION IN AHMEDABAD

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

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): I have given notice of an adjournment motion in reply to which it was communicated to me verbally that you have refused consent as the matter is *sub judice*. If you would be pleased to read the contents—I am not going into the merits whether the arrest was justified or not....

Mr. Speaker: I have done so.

Shri K. K. Basu: My whole argument is that Members of Parliament were refused even curfew passes to move round the city. But we find that when a few days ago the Chief Minister of Bombay wanted to hold a meeting in Ahmedabad, even 144 was withdrawn though it was said there was a disturbed state of affairs in the particular city, and we find now he is going in for direct action by fast unto death as the people refused to hear him. I am not going into the matter whether the arrest was justified or not. That is *sub*

judice. These Members, Shri A. K. Gopalan and Shri Kamath, were refused even curfew passes to go and visit the places and make an on-the-spot enquiry. That is the short point I am making. I am not challenging those arrests because they are judicial matters which will be decided by court.

Mr. Speaker: True, I received notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member on:

"The situation arising out of the widespread unrest at Ahmedabad, consequent on the people of Gujarat protesting against the formation of the bilingual state of Bombay, and refusal to allow Members of Parliament, including Shri A. K. Gopalan and Shri H. V. Kamath to visit the places of disturbances...."

Has the hon. Minister to say anything?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): It is a matter of deep regret to me that conditions should still continue to be abnormal in Ahmedabad. Whether the people of Gujarat are in favour of the decision taken by this House is not probably a matter to be discussed now, but I understand one of the very representative organisations in Gujarat passed a resolution yesterday by 110 to 10 supporting the decision taken by this House. That points just the other way. In spite of the opinion of the people of Gujarat in general in favour of the decision formally recorded by this House after prolonged discussion, I am sorry to find that a campaign of organised intimidation is still being conducted in certain parts of Gujarat and especially in Ahmedabad. In the circumstances

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

if some people have been arrested under the law, I do not see how I can come in the way of the enforcement of the law. In fact, no Member in this House can have any sympathy with such defiance of the law. I have nothing more to say.

Mr. Speaker: As soon as an adjournment motion is given, I consider whether consent ought to be granted to it or not. Though an hon. Member, leader of one of the groups here, had to be arrested, I have written here on this: "It is purely a matter of law and order. Consent not given. Further a case is pending against Shri Gopalan and the matter is *sub judice*." I have nothing to add to what I have already written. Inasmuch as he is the leader of a group here, I allowed reference to be made. Normally, when once this is communicated, no further reference ought to be made when I withhold my consent. I treat this as an exception.

Shri K. K. Basu: I am not challenging this. Originally it was reported to us and it came out in the press that they were refused curfew passes to go round the areas, and we are not challenging what might have happened subsequently so far as the cases are concerned. The courts will decide. These Members were refused curfew passes, but two days hence a public meeting was held and 144 was withdrawn and people could attend. Within two days how did the situation so improve? And today also it is said there is still disturbance. There seems to be an invidious distinction. That is what we want to know.

Mr. Speaker: I find from the statement of the hon. Member himself that the situation seemed to be changing and was delicate. Under the circumstances, those in charge of law and order are the best judges to grant or refuse permits. It is purely a matter of law and order. I am not going to give my consent.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COIR BOARD

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): On behalf of Shri Kanungo, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Second Annual Report of the Coir Board for the period ending 31st March, 1956, under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953. [Placed in Library. See No. S-345/56].

IRON AND STEEL (CONTROL) ORDER

Shri M. M. Shah: I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order, 1956, published in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1109/ ESS. COMM/IRON AND STEEL, dated the 12th May, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. S-346/56].

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following two messages received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 14th August, 1956, agreed without any amendment to the Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th July, 1956."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 97 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, 1956, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 14th August, 1956."

NEWSPAPER (PRICE AND PAGE)
BILL

Secretary: Sir, I lay the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha, on the Table of the House.

—
ARREST OF MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following telegram dated the 17th August, 1956 from the Superintendent of Police, Ahmedabad City:

"Shri A. K. Gopalan, Member Lok Sabha was arrested today, the 17th August, 1956 at 19-30 hours for being a member of an unlawful assembly and holding a meeting in defiance of Additional District Magistrate Ahmedabad's ban on processions and meetings in Ahmedabad. He refused to bail offered on personal recognition. Further report follows."

I have also to inform the House that I have received the following telegram dated the 19th August, 1956, from the Superintendent of Police, Gorakhpur, U. P.:

"I have the honour to inform you that I found it my duty in the exercise of my powers under section 551 Criminal Procedure Code to direct that Shri Shibanlal Saksena, Member of Lok Sabha be arrested since a report had been made against him along with others on the 9th August, 1956 at police station Shyamdeorwa, District Gorakhpur for cognizable offences under section 148/440/427/436 I.P.C. and a reasonable suspicion existed of his having been concerned with the above offences. Shri Shibanlal Saksena, Member, Lok Sabha, was accordingly arrested at 1-30 P.M. on the 19th August, 1956, and is at present lodged in the District Jail Gorakhpur."

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that Dr. Indubhai B. Amin has resigned his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 14th August, 1956.

INDIAN COTTON CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL—concl.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh on the 14th August, 1956:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri K. K. Basu was in possession of the House.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): As I was saying the other day, though this Bill is a short one, dealing with the composition of the Board, we are really worried as the hon. Minister has not given us any information as to the extent to which the cess collected on cotton has been utilised for the improved production of cotton in our country. As I was stating the other day, this movement for our locally manufactured cloth, and Gandhiji's economic movement, Khadi movement and Charkha movement were all based on the theory that we should produce cloth which we can wear and not import from Lancashire. But even today, really 9 years after our independence, we find that we have to import a large quantity of cotton from outside. It may be argued, because the hon. Minister comes from a cotton-growing area, that the conditions are not such that we can produce that quality of cotton which we used to get from that part of India which has now become Pakistan, and therefore we have to import from America or Egypt. I would like the hon. Minister to take this House into confidence and say that all efforts have been made so that in course of time we shall be in a position to produce quality cotton, at least of the

[Shri K. K. Basu]

quantity that is being required for the manufacture of textiles as textiles have been very important in our country from ancient times, and they used to be exported even to the European and other markets.

I would only like that the amounts collected by way of cess should be utilised properly, because we have been told that the moneys are merely accumulated and they are not being utilised for the improvement and development, both qualitative and quantitative, of cotton, which is so vital in the interests of the textile industry.

I hope that in the new committee that is being proposed under this Bill, there will really be persons who will be representative of the producers and not merely persons who may be connected with them but who will have actually nothing to do with the production processes. Very often, we have been finding that the producers' representatives who are nominated by Government have only, by some chance, an interest in the particular branch of production, and they are often deemed to be experts, which they are not. So, we want that the actual producers' representatives should be there, because those persons who are concerned with production techniques should also feel that they are also partners in the common endeavour to produce better quality and a larger quantity of cotton.

With these words, I generally support the provisions of the Bill.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): I suggest that the consideration of this Bill be adjourned to some other day in the next session, the reason being that the States referred to in clause 3 of the Bill will not be there after 1st November. For instance, the State of Andhra will become Andhra Pradesh. The State of Mysore will be bifurcated. PEPSU and Punjab are going to be merged. In this way, most of the other States also

will be clubbed together or bifurcated, with the result that this Bill will have to be further amended some time later.

I would, therefore, suggest that this Bill can wait until the next session. The appointed day for the coming into force of the States Reorganisation Bill would be 1st November. So, this Bill may be brought before this House after that date. At that stage, Government would do well to bring in their own amendments and see that the provisions in the Bill are properly amended before it is passed.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): May I take up first the contention of the hon. Member who spoke last? He suggested the postponement of the consideration of this Bill until after the reorganisation is complete. As the House knows, this Bill was drafted long before we had any idea of how exactly the reorganisation was going to take place. But I do not think it is necessary to postpone consideration of this, because, after all, the territories are not going to change, and by a simple adaptation order, it would be possible to allocate the representatives to the different States that will come into being after 1st November. If there is any change required in the provisions consequent on reorganisation, I do not think any difficulty will arise, because all these four Bills, which I have been piloting in the Rajya Sabha as well as in this House refer specially to representation of growers, and to representation of the two Houses of Parliament.

So far as the representation of the two Houses is concerned, there will be no difficulty. The difficulty may be there only with regard to the re-organised States. But, here also, since we have gone on the basis of acreage under each crop in a particular area, I think it would not be difficult to bring about the necessary changes by a simple adaptation order, and no change in the Bill itself would be necessary. So, I think I may be

permitted to proceed with this Bill, and there is no need to adjourn its consideration.

There are two hon. Members who have spoken on this Bill; one was Shri Sadhan Gupta, and the other was Shri K. K. Basu. Shri Sadhan Gupta had made several points, and he had also given notice of some amendments. I can understand his argument that some of these organisations like the East India Cotton Association and others should not have any representation. But I could not follow his complaint that in spite of the amendments I have proposed in this Bill, the representation to the growers is not adequate. I do not think this contention can hold water, because we have raised the representation to the growers from 9 to 26, which is nearly three hundred per cent. I do not think any Member of this House will contend that the representation given to the growers is unsatisfactory.

The other point that he made was with regard to doing away with the representation given to some of these organisations. I do not wish to contest his view of any particular association. But the East India Cotton Association has been in existence for a very large number of years. Secondly, it is not an organisation consisting merely of the trades people or the commercial people; there are representatives of other interests also on it. It is the only non-official organisation, which deals with cotton trading as well as marketing, and specifies the quality and standards of trade, and the commercial varieties of cotton in India. This is a very useful function. So long as we have no other organisation which can do it, it will be too late in the day to try to bring into existence a similar organisation. By and large, this organisation has certainly functioned very well. So, I submit that no case has been made out for doing away with the representation given to them, nor can it be said that it does not function properly.

So far as the other organisation, namely the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation is concerned, that is also a non-national body, which is represented on the Central Cotton Committee on a reciprocal basis. The Cotton Committee sends some representatives on this corporation, and thus this works on a reciprocal basis.

The other objections raised are not of a substantial character, and therefore, I do not think I need refer to them specifically or put forward any arguments to meet them.

By the by, this Cotton Committee is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, cotton commodity committee in India. It has functioned very satisfactorily, and there is a large volume of work to its credit. It was established as far back as 1923, and it has not only been helpful to the textile industry, from the point of advising what particular variety of cotton is best from the textile point of view, but it has also contributed very substantially to the improvement of cotton-growing in the country.

The committee sponsors a large number of schemes, and in the Second Five Year Plan, it has a big programme of establishing certain centres for research in cotton. All these schemes will be financed through this committee.

My hon. friend Shri K. K. Basu said that there were large balances in some of these commodity committees. I admit that the Lac Cess Committee has a somewhat large balance, which has not been spent, but so far as this committee is concerned, we will probably be short of funds rather than have any surplus. So, I do not think this criticism is correct, so far as the Cotton Committee is concerned.

My hon. friend had also referred to the question whether we had made any progress in cotton production. I do not give the whole credit for increasing the production of cotton to the Cotton Committee. But I am

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

sure the House is aware of the progress we have made in cotton production, as in general agricultural production. Here, our results and our production are still more spectacular, even as compared with the spectacular successes we have achieved in the larger production of foodgrains, jute and other crops like sugarcane.

Taking opportunity of the criticism levelled by Shri K. K. Basu and the suggestion made by him as well as the question asked by him, I would like to say that as compared with 1947-48, when we produced only 21 lakh bales—and we went down in 1948-49 to only 17 lakh bales—the production in 1954-55 was 42 lakh bales. This production which began with the year 1953-54 has been, more or less, maintained in the year 1955-56, although there was a shortfall of about 2 lakh bales. I would also like to point out that this 100 per cent. addition to our production as compared with what it was about seven years ago is also on the very conservative side. These figures are based on official estimates which vary a great deal from the trade estimates. If we look at the trade estimates it will be found that in the year 1955-56 we had produced anything between 47 and 49½ lakh bales; for 1954-55, the trade figures vary between 48 and 54 lakh bales, and for 1953-54, they vary between 41 and 46 lakh bales. As against these, the official figures of production in 1953-54 are 39.65 lakh bales, in 1954-55, 42.98 lakh bales and in this year, in the neighbourhood of 40 lakh bales—actually it is 39.98 lakh bales.

So this will show that we have made excellent progress in the production of cotton. This production is remarkable from another point of view also. That is that we are not now producing too much of short staple cotton; we are producing far more of medium and long staple cotton. The production of long staple cotton is nearly 500 per cent. more than what it was in 1947-48 or 1948-49. We were producing only 3 lakh bales in those

years. Now our production in 1953-54 of long staple cotton has gone up to 14.20 lakh bales, and in 1954-55, it has been 15.87 lakh bales. The production of medium staple cotton has also increased from about 10 lakh bales to 18.86 lakh bales, whereas the production of short staple cotton is, more or less, the same as in the previous years, if it has not gone down consistently from 1951-52. In that year, it was 9.92 lakh bales; it has come down to 8.25 lakh bales.

Now that my hon. friend, Shri K. K. Basu, is here, I would like to repeat these figures for his benefit. So far as long staple cotton is concerned, during the last 7 or 8 years we have added 500 per cent. more. The previous production of 3 lakh bales has now gone up to 15.87 lakh bales. So far as medium staple cotton is concerned, the production has gone up from 10 lakh bales to 19 lakh bales. The production of short staple has, more or less, remained the same, if it has not gone down by about a lakh of bales. This has been the position during the last three years; it is not a matter of a single year nor a matter of accidentally good production for one year. We have made consistent progress, and the progress has been much more satisfactory and striking during the last three years, so that we do not require any other cotton from outside except that of 1" and 1-1/6" staple or above.

Shri K. K. Basu: Are Government utilising all the money that they have got? That is most important.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. The consumption of Indian cotton in the mills has gone up tremendously, so much so that except for a small quantity of very long staple cotton,—the quantity grown in India is not sufficient yet to that extent—we can be regarded as, more or less, self-sufficient so far as our textiles are concerned.

Shri K. K. Basu: Are Government conducting any research on those lines so that in course of time we become self-sufficient in that respect also?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. This is partially at least due to the research carried on by the Cotton Committee. There are innumerable schemes, and in the Second Five Year Plan, we are going to increase the tempo of research and production of better varieties.

I do not wish to take any more time of the House. I have answered most of the criticisms levelled. I hope the House will pass the Motion.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 5

Mr. Speaker: Now, we shall take up the clauses. I find that the hon. Members, Shri Sadhan Gupta, Dr. Rama Rao and Shri B. Y. Reddy, who have tabled amendments to the clauses, are absent. So I shall put all the clauses together.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 5, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5, Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coconut Committee

Act, 1944, be taken into consideration".

This is a Bill which is very similar in its provisions to the three Bills which have already been passed by this House. The main amendments which have been brought forward before this House are; firstly, with respect to increased representation of growers and certain incidental matters, at least one of which is of a more or less drafting nature. There was in the Bill representation given to the Indian Merchants' Association. The correct name of that body is the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay. This is one of the amendments suggested in the Bill. The other is to give larger representation to growers. From ten, we have raised the representation to twelve, and also given representation to some of the States which did not have it before, namely, Bombay, Orissa and West Bengal—these are the three States which deserve to be represented. Therefore, provision has been made for them.

There was one more difficulty, about the word 'owner'. In the original Bill, the word used was not defined and, therefore, we had certain difficulties in collecting the cess. That difficulty is now sought to be rectified by putting in this amending Bill a definition for the word 'occupier'. This is in item (cc) of sub-clause (i) of clause 2. It says:

"'occupier' in relation to any mill, means the person who has ultimate control over the affairs of the mill, and where the said affairs are entrusted to a managing agent, such agent shall be deemed to be occupier of the mill".

This is intended to remove the difficulties in the way of the collection of the cess.

So far as the other clauses are concerned, I do not think there is anything controversial. It is merely an adjustment of representation and addition of representation that we thought was necessary. So, without taking any more time of the House, I would submit that the Bill may be accepted by the House.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944, be taken into consideration."

Shri Achuthan (Crangannur): Sir, I welcome this Bill. In fact, the Indian Coconut Committee was brought into being in 1944 and during the last 11 or 12 years it has done good work as far as our area is concerned.

With regard to coconut cultivation, India stands second, next only to the Philippines and in India itself, Travancore-Cochin and Malabar, the new Kerala is the main producing area. You know the whole coastal region depends upon coconut cultivation and the economy of the whole area depends mainly on this. When statistics were taken of the landholders in possession of the area under coconut it was found that more than 80 per cent. of the landholders own not more than one acre of coconut garden and only 2 or 3 per cent. of the landlords of this coconut growing area have more than 5 acres. What I mean to say is that the whole area has been distributed to small landholders whose main occupation and whose main sustenance is coconut growing.

The Committee has its own research centres throughout the length and breadth of Kerala State. Not only that; during recent years it had extended its activity. It is stated in the Bill—the Statement of Objects and Reasons—that Government wanted to include representatives of Orissa, Bengal, Mysore, Bombay etc. In fact, the research centres at Kayangulam and Kasergode are doing good work.

But, I would like to bring to the notice of Government one important factor which has been engaging the serious attention of the Travancore-Cochin Government, about a particular disease which is affecting the root and leaf of the coconut trees of the whole State. It is stated that it is a horrible disease. A large num-

ber of coconut trees of the State have been affected by the root and leaf disease. It is a virulent disease and it causes very serious damage. The disease is prevalent in 22 taluks out of 36 taluks in the State. If the disease is left unchecked, it is likely to spread to other areas and consequently wipe out coconut cultivation in the whole State. That is the seriousness of the disease. The value of the loss in yield due to this disease is estimated to be Rs. 2 crores per year. If the disease is not controlled by spraying the crown of the tree with Bordeaux mixture, the whole coconut cultivation of that area is likely to be wiped out.

Shri D. C. Sharma: (Hoshiarpur): What is the loss or will be the loss in all the States in a year?

Shri Achuthan: About 70 lakhs of trees have been affected. It has been represented that if the entire affected area is not covered by systematic spraying, the coconut cultivation in the State would be wiped out within the next 10 years. As the economy of the area is dependent on this coconut cultivation, it is very imperative to combat the diseases. In view of this, the State Government want to expand the activities and to make it compulsory and say that spraying should be brought on a war footing. The State Government consider that unless the disease is fought on a war footing, there would be no hope of any substantial results. It is essential that Government should themselves undertake the spraying of all the 70 lakhs of infected trees at least twice a year. I want to impress upon the Central Government that they say that even spraying with Bordeaux mixture twice or thrice a year may not be able to completely root out the disease. They should see that the disease does not spread. I would appeal to the Central Government to see that more research is carried on to find out the causes of these diseases. The researches may be carried out in these research centres or at some higher level in some other laboratories which

the Government possess like the Agricultural Research laboratories and other chemical laboratories so that the damage that is done and the sorrowful picture of the State may not become very serious. That is one aspect of the question.

According to me the Central Government is not attaching too much of importance to the value or the cost that the grower gets for this coconut. During the last three years, 1954 to 1956, in answer to a question of mine a few days ago it was said by the Food Minister that the prices have gone down in Alleppey, Cochin and Kozhikode markets by more than 30 per cent. How can the grower or the landholder who has got only one acre of land expect to maintain himself and his family if he gets not even the economic or fair price for his produce.

We know that in India we are not self-sufficient with regard to coconut oil. At present we are milling to produce 1,13,000 tons of coconut oil and the copra used is 1,83,000 tons, according to the statistics available from the industries. The demand is roughly 1,90,000 tons of oil; and the inland produce comes roughly to 70,000 tons less than the demand.

The Central Coconut Committee has recommended to the Government of India more than once—umpteen times—that there must be restrictions with regard to the import of copra. After going into all the aspects of the question, this organisation, this competent organisation on which not only the growers are represented but also the industrialists and Governments, has categorically stated that there should be a ceiling put on the import of copra to the extent of 1 lakh tons in terms of copra and coconut oil products from abroad. We are importing mainly from Ceylon.

In answer to one of my other questions about import, it was stated on the 14th August by Shri Karmarkar that in 1954, 62,125 tons of copra and 58,05,000 gallons of coconut oil were

imported; in 1955, 74,578 tons of copra and 55,69,000 gallons of coconut oil, though the prices were coming down. And, in 1956, from January to April, so far, they have imported 22,647 tons of copra and 15,64,000 gallons of coconut oil. If this state of affairs continues, I do not know what is going to take place in that region. Already there is political turmoil. If the economy of the rural side in that area is going to be affected seriously by this unnecessary extra import of copra and coconut oil, I do not know what will happen. If the Government does not take serious notice of this and impose restrictions on the import of copra or its equivalent oil in the light of the recommendations made by the Indian Central Coconut Committee, or raise the import duty to a considerable extent so that a reasonable price may be expected to accrue to the grower, the situation will become very serious. I do not know what we should do today in this matter. This has been agitating our minds for the past two or three years.

This Bill now comes and it is said that growers' interests are to be protected by putting more representatives. Merely putting more representatives is not enough. They are already associated with others. Government must properly assess that question. I do not dispute the fact that they do not want to or are not prepared to restrict the import of copra or coconut oil because more consumer goods are to be there. But there must be positive steps taken in order to raise the import duty. What has been done by the Government? It is really surprising and very dejecting for us to know that in answer to my question No. 1082 on the 14th August 1956, the Government said that in 1954, the standard rate of import duty on copra was 15 per cent. *ad valorem*, and for 1955 and 1956 the same thing was fixed, and the assessment is based on tariff values which were as follows: for 1954 Rs. 50 per cwt; from 1-1-55 to 31-8-55 Rs. 50 per cwt; from 1-9-55 to date, instead of raising the

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tariff values, they decreased it to Rs. 45 per cwt. I do not know what were the motives, what were reasons and what were the specific grounds which made them do so or whether the Madras Government or the Travancore-Cochin Government or anybody on behalf of the growers wanted that the tariff values were to be reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 45. Anyhow, it is really surprising that it is reduced instead of being increased.

With regard to coconut oil also, the same is the position. The tariff values were for 1954 Rs. 75 per cwt.; from 1-1-55 to 31-8-55 Rs. 75 per cwt.; from 1-9-55 to date Rs. 67-8-0 per cwt. The pity is that Government did not restrict the import of coconut oil or copra. The Ceylon Government, which is the main exporter of copra and coconuts was more lenient, kind and sympathetic towards her growers and had tried to reduce the export duty. To another part of my question, the answer of the Government was that in 1954 the export duty on copra in Ceylon Government was Rs. 260 per ton, in 1955 it was reduced to Rs. 200 per ton, and thus you see the Ceylon Government have reduced it from Rs. 260 to Rs. 200 per ton. For coconut oil also, from Rs. 208 in 1954 it was reduced to Rs. 135 in 1955, per ton. It is clear that the Ceylon Government wanted to help the growers there and have reduced the export duty. Instead of raising the import duty and restricting the import quota, our Government are doing just the opposite. It is very surprising to see this. It has become irresistible for us to stand the criticisms, the representations and the sorrows of the growers when we go to their places; they make representations to us and we make representations to the Government, but the Government says "No", because they want more consumer goods. Let there be more consumer goods, but let Government see that the grower gets a reasonable price, minimum price, particularly in a State where

more than 95 per cent. of the area is held by owners who own less than one acre each. But that has not been done. Even now we have sent representations to the Minister concerned. A few days back I personally told him that it is a very serious matter, and that unless it is looked into and some restrictions are imposed, the position will become very serious. In his answer to my question, the hon. Food Minister stated that a restrictive import policy for coconuts and its products is already being followed for ensuring a fair price to coconut growers. If there is a restrictive import policy, it must reflect in the price level, say, in Alleppey, Cochin and Kasargode markets. If there is a fluctuation of Re. 1 or Rs. 2 on one day, the next day it goes down below by Rs. 2. So, there is no improvement at all. Unless Government makes up its mind and takes up the matter seriously, the whole position will become very serious.

I have raised this question again and again in the House. I know Dr. Deshmukh is known for his sympathetic attitude towards the agriculturists and cultivators, not of big zamindars but of peasants who have got half an acre, or an acre or two, and I request that he will personally pay some special attention to this matter. Have the Government looked into the reasonable price that is received by the cultivators?

The Indian Central Coconut Committee, what it is and what it does was issued in 1953 and the Committee has stated that as far as possible it has made enquiries not only in Travancore-Cochin and Malabar but in all other areas concerned and has come to the conclusion that there is to be a reasonable price given for the growers and it must be given to them and the policy of the Government must be so adopted. But what has the Government done? What is the purpose of having the Indian Central Coconut Committee? They represent the growers, industrialists and all other people, and their re-

commendations are not given any consideration at all by Government; they are given scant courtesy by the Government. Because the Committee themselves sent them to us, and the growers also have given their representations to us, we make representations to the Government in the strongest possible terms. The situation there, not only political but economic, is very serious, but Government says "Let it go on as it is". Are we to take it that because we are very far away from here, we should not be paid any attention at all? This is the one problem according to me in the whole of Kerala, which must come to the forefront of the Central Government. I very seriously ask the Central Government not to sleep over the matter.

As I have already said, with regard to the pest trouble, within a few years the whole cultivation there will go to dogs if it is not attended to immediately. That is the position. I have read out the passage in which I pointed out that the State Government is doing its best. The central Coconut Committee has made recommendations in this regard to improve the situation. I welcome them. Side by side with all these steps to encourage the cultivators, let Government try and see that the growers get a reasonable price. We can see that the prices of all other articles go up, but with regard to coconut alone, it has not been so for the last two or three years. I have got statistics with me but as I do not wish to take too much time of the House, I am not giving them now. I have got a number of figures to show that the growers are not getting a reasonable price. I urge that definite steps must be taken by Government.

I ask this question: what have the Government done? They decided their import policy on copra and coconut oil from July to December 1956. Have they taken this question seriously? Has the Food Ministry raised the question with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in all its aspects and sought the advice of

the Travancore-Cochin Government and the Madras Government, which are the two competent Governments to tender advice in this matter? The Madras Government is concerned with this question in one district only, but with regard to the Travancore-Cochin Government, the whole of its area is concerned with this problem as coconut is grown there.

I appreciate that other States are also getting representation along with us—Andhra and Orissa. In Travancore-Cochin we have seen that not only in coastal regions but also in the hilly regions there are certain varieties of coconut trees which are grown without being watered every year and are giving a good yield. Let the Committee look into that aspect also and see that in the interior of India—Central India region—this tree is grown in abundance, that is, where there is no salt water or loose soil etc.

Once more I would appeal to the hon. Minister, Dr. Deshmukh, that if he wants to say that he champions the cause of the agriculturists—he is touring round the country, his representatives are meeting here and visiting foreign countries to study how the peasants prosper there—he should see that the coconut growers get a reasonable price in the near future, and this he can do through the instrumentality of the Committee and also through his own personal influence. In conclusion I may add, that to carry conviction to what I have stated, please refer to page 2 of the ex-Finance Minister, Shree John's budget speech, in March last in the Travancore-Cochin State Assembly, wherein the farmers' deteriorating condition is well put by facts and figures.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to the hon. Minister because he has put into action the suggestions, we, from this House put before him during the discussion on the Bill seeking to amend this Act in 1952. He has provided for the representation of States like

[Shri S. C. Samanta]

Bombay, West Bengal and Orissa. If we look to the production and cultivating areas in India, we find that Travancore-Cochin is the State which produces most of the coconuts, and more areas are cultivated and are cultivable there. By this amending Bill most of the States have been represented in the Committee.

I would respectfully point out to the hon. Minister to consider the question of Andamans and other States such as Saurashtra, Kutch, Bhuj and so on. The cultivation in Andamans was surveyed by the Ministry through the Vice President of the ICAR recently, or, as I remember, some two years back. There is a great possibility of coconut cultivation in those places. During my recent visit to Saurashtra and Kutch, I saw stray coconut trees being grown there. So, these places should somehow or other be represented, occasionally at least, in the Committee. The Indian Central Coconut Committee, in their sittings, may invite some representatives from these places so that there will be an urge in the minds of the people from these States to cultivate coconut trees in a large number.

Andamans is a centrally administered area. Therefore, while the Government will go to nominate its representative from the Centre, I hope sometimes a representative from Andamans will be sent to the Committee.

Sir, coconut is a very essential thing. We may call the coconut trees as 'multi-purpose trees', as we are having multi-purpose projects. Here the tree itself is a multi-purpose one. Any and every part of it we utilise. We utilise its leaves. The leaves can be used for broomsticks, for manufacturing fans, for making baskets, for purposes of thatching in the case of huts, for preparing mats and, lastly, these leaves are used also as fuel. The trunk, which we see, of the tree, if we get ripe ones, can be

used as timber and for furniture purposes. I shall not mention about the husk, because the Coir Board has been formed for utilising the husks. So, what I am saying is that it is a very essential thing. In order to meet our demands in the country, we have to import copra and coconut oil. Therefore, more stress through this Committee should be given for the mass cultivation of this tree in the eastern and western regions of India, I mean the coasts, because in the central parts of India which have no salty soil coconut cannot be grown.

In West Bengal what I find is that half the production is consumed in the green stage itself. Even the doctors prescribe that the water of the green ones should be taken by invalids. So half the production in West Bengal is being used for that purpose and generally to entertain people green coconuts are served. Until now the encouragement for growing more coconuts in West Bengal was not there. It is only in the last three or four years that the attention of the Indian Central Coconut Committee has been drawn to this State. Perhaps, one or two development centres have been opened in West Bengal. I would request the hon. Minister to think over the question whether good research stations should be started on the eastern side, because of the leaf disease which many a time destroys even the trees. I think some research stations on the eastern side are necessary. There are so many on the western side and really there is necessity for them. So I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this aspect of the question.

Assam is another State where there are greater possibilities for production of coconuts. But, as I find from the figures here, the production is very less. I hope the representatives from Assam and the Coconut Committee will work out how more areas in Assam can be cultivated under coconut and how the production can be increased.

We in Bengal use coconut oil for other purposes also. We use it for besmearing our body and also as hair oil. Therefore, in Bengal the consumption of coconut oil is increasing day by day. Coconut oil is edible in South India. So, as we are in deficit as far as this oil is concerned, and we have also to export this oil, greater emphasis should be given by the Government for the production of coconut in India, especially in those areas which are not yet represented in the Committee.

With these words, Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill.

Shri Barman (North Bengal Reserved-Sch. Castes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have heard that Babar, when he came to India and went back, told his people that in India there is a wonderful tree the fruits of which give two pieces of bread and one glass of water. It is really a wonderful fruit in that sense. While India is in the grip of scarcity of food, this wonderful fruit is one of the main products of India that can go a long way in solving the food problem. It is the view of many experts that so far as the production and development of cereals are concerned the Ministry has done a lot. So, in allowing further development, the Government's attention should be turned towards producing protective foods, and coconut is one of the protective foods, so far as human consumption is concerned.

1 P.M.

I find that the Indian Coconut Committee Act came into the statute-book in 1944 and its objective was, the improvement and development of cultivation, marketing and utilisation of coconut in India. So, it was as far back as 1944 that the utility of coconut cultivation was appreciated by the Government of India. It would be illuminating to us if the Ministry could give us what developments they have made towards the production and development of coconut fruit in India since that time.

Even on 25th July, 1955, the food bulletin of the Food Ministry said

that India imported nearly 60,000 tons of copra seed and oil annually. Besides, the import from Pakistan has now been stopped since the partition of the country. We know that the main coconut growing area, namely, East Bengal, has gone out of India. So, there is a great scope, as the bulletin says, for increasing the yield and production of coconut in India. After having given us so much hope by their bulletins and the various enactments, it will be profitable for us to know how far the Ministry is progressing year by year.

As regards the area of production, I would like to bring to the notice of the Ministry that there are vast scopes for increasing the area in the north-eastern part of the country. There was sometimes the notion that only in the coastal area, where the proportion of salt is much, coconut can grow in plenty. But my personal experience is that on the foot-hills also and in areas which are about 20 or 30 miles from the foot-hills, coconut trees grow very well. Not only that. When I compare the fruit-bearing capacity of trees in the coastal side with that of the trees on the hill belt, my experience has been that the coconut trees at the foot-hills and those much below the foot-hills bear much more fruit than the coconut trees on the coastal side. It may or may not be correct, but it is a fact that the trees on the hill belt bear very good fruits. If that be correct—and I think it is correct—I can tell the House that there is vast scope of increasing the area of production of coconut in the north-eastern areas of the country. Experiments have already been conducted in those areas. The condition of soil in Assam being the same as in north Bengal, there is enormous scope for the Development of cultivation of coconut in that part of the country.

My friend Shri Achuthan also has mentioned that in his part of the country coconut grows well below the foot-hill regions. If that be so, we can have a coconut-growing belt throughout the foot-hills of the Himalayas and that will give ample scope

[Shri Barman]

for producing more coconuts than we require.

There is one more point which I should like to mention. In some places as North Bengal, Assam, etc., the young trees are sometimes affected by white ants. We have seen that after three or four years, when the plants have developed well, the plants are afflicted with leaf disease or rot disease. When, we tried to understand the reasons, we found out that the white ants have an attraction for the roots. So, the research stations should find out some remedy for this and see that until at least the trees mature—for a period of eight or ten years, at least—the white ants do not approach the roots of the young plants. Some method must be adopted towards this end, so that the trees could become hardy without being affected by the white ants. If a remedy can be found, the coconut plantations can be expanded enormously in many parts of the country. Since we are deficit in food and especially in protective foods, I hope that the Ministry and this commodity committee dealing with the coconuts will pay their best attention to all the problems that are at present embarrassing the coconut cultivators.

My friend Shri Achuthan has mentioned about the low price that the growers get because of the wrong policy of the Government. Government should also pay attention to that problem. Unless the grower gets a remunerative price, he will have no incentive to grow more. That is a fact which need not be stressed again. So, along with the initiation of developmental measures, the Ministry should also find out some way so that the growers may not be compelled to sell their product at a lower price during the season time and enable the profits to go to the middlemen. The profits should go to the growers and not to the middlemen. Our marketing boards and such other machinery might be improvised in such a way

that Government, with the help of co-operative societies, may purchase the fruits at season time and see that they are sold at higher prices or are converted into industrial products, so that ultimately the profit may go back to the growers according to their shares in the co-operative societies. Something must be devised to save the cultivators from distress. Otherwise, all the attempts of Government through research and other measures will not be of much avail. I support the provisions of the Bill.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): This amending Bill which provides for a larger representation of the growers on the Indian Central Coconut Committee is certainly welcome, although it is a belated measure. We have been pleading for a larger representation for growers on this Committee, for the last several years, and so we are glad that the Ministry has now come forward with this Bill to provide for the larger representation of growers, particularly from States which had no statutory representation up till now. We know that Travancore-Cochin is the largest grower of coconut and next comes Madras, but we have to consider the possibilities of certain other coastal States also. From this point of view, West Bengal, Orissa and Bombay certainly have large potentialities. We put several questions enquiring about the number of nurseries in West Bengal; we know that adequate attention is not being paid to the development of nurseries there. Had it been done earlier, certainly by this time we could have produced a much larger quantity of this important commodity in that State.

It has already been pointed out how this coconut serves multifarious purposes. It can be used for vegetable product and for certain other purposes also. So, from the point of view of the consumers, it is very necessary that its production should be encouraged. We feel so far as West Bengal is concerned, if steps are taken to have

a larger number of nurseries and if there is a proper arrangement for the distribution of seedlings, then larger areas can produce coconut in much larger quantities than at present.

I would like to point out that mere representation of growers is not sufficient to increase production. It is true that the representation of growers would be increased from 9 to 12 and the State of West Bengal, Orissa and Bombay would have each one representative of the growers. But, what we should pay special attention to is the price which the growers will be ensured up till now the growers have been facing various difficulties and Members from Travancore-Cochin and Madras have been raising this question time and again. So, we feel that something should be done by the Central Coconut Committee to ensure a fair price to the growers of coconut. In the Bill it is provided that each of the States of Bombay, Orissa and West Bengal, which had no representatives till now, would get one representative each. But, there is no mention of certain other States like Andamans and Nicobar and certain other west-coast States, which may not exist as States later. These areas have no representatives now. If it is intended to provide for their representation through the coming State, then still there remains the case of Andamans and Nicobar. We feel that there should be provision for one representative from Andamans and Nicobar and we wish the Ministry brings in an amendment providing for this.

Another point I would like to express in this connection is with regard to the function of the Central Coconut Committee. So far something has been done by way of research on the diseases of plants etc. So far as certain parts of West Bengal are concerned, we feel that if a proper test is made of the soil in certain areas and if growers are given proper advice, they can grow a sufficient quantity of coconut in those areas also. It is noticed that they plant the seedlings, but after some time due to cer-

tain deficiencies in the soil, the trees do not thrive. In these areas, it is necessary to have some investigation with regard to the composition of the soil. While plants grow well in certain areas, in certain contiguous areas plants do not thrive well. It is generally felt that if a certain test is made of the soil and if proper manuring is done, even in those areas plants will thrive better. From this point of view, I would urge upon the Minister to look into the matter and provide for certain tests of the soil, so that by using a particular kind of manure, larger areas can be brought under cultivation, so far as coconut is concerned.

The provisions in the Bill are quite welcome, but there are other issues involved, so far as increased production is concerned. The most important thing is fair price and also proper utilisation of all available areas. We hope that adequate steps would be taken by the Government so as to increase the production of this very important commodity, which serves so many purposes.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): I do not want to speak in detail about this small Bill, as much has already been said by my friends from the areas which grow coconut in large quantities. I will only deal with one particular aspect. Researches are being carried out in the various nurseries, but to what extent the seedlings we get from these nurseries are distributed among the actual growers remains to be examined. I do not know about the situation in the south, but in West Bengal, especially in places like my constituency in Sunderbans and Diamond Harbour adjoining the sea, right along the coastal belt of West Bengal, there are small-growers of coconut. The ordinary peasants who have paddy fields also grow, say, half a dozen to a dozen coconut trees to get some subsidiary income. Unfortunately, the cultivation of coconut has not developed so much in West Bengal as in the south, because in the south, they utilise this for many purposes, whereas our use of coconut is

[Shri K. K. Basu]

more or less restricted, namely, using the leaves for broomsticks, the coconut for food and a small quantity for the preparation of the oil and the waste for fuel I would urge upon the Minister to see that the small-growers are fully protected, because in the shape of things to come, there is not going to be large-scale cultivation of coconuts. As far as the small-growers are concerned, if they are taught to grow coconut in a scientific way by using manure and chemicals for protection against diseases, certainly they will be getting a higher return.

As far as the fixation of price is concerned, it has been already dealt with by my friend who spoke before me. I would like to point out that the function of the Central Coconut Committee should not be restricted only to researches and nurseries. They must see to what extent the results of the researches are actually transmitted to the real growers and to what extent the seedlings are distributed. I hope the Minister will take into consideration this point. I feel the Committee has not lived up to the expectations of the average peasantry in our country who grow coconut not in large quantities but in small quantities. So, I hope the Committee will see to it that technically and financially, the small-growers of coconut are given proper help, so that they can derive the benefits financially from the cultivation of coconut in our country.

Shri C. R. Iyyunni (Trichur): I am glad that a committee has been appointed in connection with the distribution of seedlings. As a matter of fact, it would be seen if seedlings of a very good variety are distributed in various parts of the country where coconut can be grown, certainly it will give good results. What we have been doing is that even now we are importing large quantities of copra and coconut oil for the purpose of manufacture of soap. If an earnest endeavour is made in this country, there is not the slightest doubt that it will be possible to produce the

quantity of coconut that would be required for our purposes. That has not been done.

What is really necessary is that we must have a number of nurseries all over the country and in the nurseries seeds of good varieties have to be collected and distributed to people who would like to cultivate. If that is done, the percentage in the production can be very much increased. Not only that. There are areas in our country where coconut can be cultivated. As a matter of fact, up till now I don't think a very earnest endeavour has been made in this line. There are large areas which can be brought under cultivation where there is plenty of water and the climatic conditions are also congenial there.

If coconut trees are to be planted in those places, it would be necessary that people there must feel that they can do something in the line and that feeling can be brought about by having some members representing those places. As a matter of fact, the Bill is intended to give greater representation to places where coconut is grown. But the people there do not know whether anything can be done in the line of cultivation of coconuts.

There are, I understand, various places, say in Malnad, where coconut can be planted and if those places are completely planted, our production will increase and there will not be any necessity of importing coconut from other places. From that point of view, it is absolutely necessary that the number of persons representing the various parts of the country where coconut can be grown should be increased.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, as I pointed out in my speech which I made while making the motion, this is quite a simple Bill. I am glad, however, that the House has taken the opportunity of bringing out certain difficulties of the coconut growers and referred to the question of prices, the question

of researches and the results of researches being taken to the people. All these are very relevant questions and I for one am glad that the House has had the opportunity of referring to those points.

I am fully aware also that this Committee is of very vital importance to the State of Travancore-Cochin. In fact the States of Madras, and Travancore-Cochin grow the largest quantity of coconut in the country.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru): What about Andhra?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The production of Andhra is comparatively small.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Still it is there.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is so small as not even to be mentioned in my brief. The acreage in Travancore-Cochin is 6.67 lakhs; in Madras 6.48 lakhs; in Mysore 1.72 lakhs; Bombay 31,000, West Bengal 16,500, Orissa 11,000 and Assam 3,500. The rest are only 1,000 acres and they grow only about 2,000 nuts per acre. The production of Assam is strikingly more than in other States. It comes to about 7,000 nuts per acre as against hardly 2,250 in Travancore-Cochin, 2,500 in Madras and so on.

So far as representation is concerned, we have also gone into the areas covered by coconut and the importance of it in the economy of the particular State. As I said, Travancore-Cochin's economy does depend very largely on this because, as has been pointed out by my hon. friend Mr. Samanta, this is regarded as the golden tree and no part of it is wasted but is utilized for some purpose.

Shri Achuthan: *Kalpaka vriksha.*

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is known as the *Kalpaka* tree.

A committee was constituted in the year 1944 for the purpose of encouraging better plantation of coconut and also to find out remedies for them, diseases which affect this crop and also to find out remedies for them. I am sorry to say that the criticism

made by my hon. friend Mr. Achuthan is very, very correct. It is certainly true that a very large number of coconut trees are threatened by this disease and I also do not mind admitting that sufficiently early steps had not been taken to cure this disease.

Actually, the remedy is quite simple. It requires certain sprayings with certain chemicals. That really is the cure. But, unfortunately, delay occurred because of the dispute between the State and Central Governments as to what proportion of the expenditure should be borne by us and what should be borne by the State. But I may inform the House that I am paying my whole personal attention to this matter.

We have started a campaign since the last one year for better cultivation of coconut and it is quite a simple thing. As a matter of fact, it is astonishing how without researches and only by practising the common-sense things, we can increase the production in a larger scale. In the case of coconut, it has been ascertained, if every coconut grower digs round about the coconut tree sometime before the monsoon, removes the weed and adds some salt to it, without going into any researches or any very expensive methods, 25 per cent more nuts can be obtained.

As a matter of fact, like other agricultural production, our production of coconut is very miserably low.

Shri Punnoose (Alleppey): You are referring to trees which are not affected by diseases. What about the trees which are already affected?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I will come to that. Let us look after the trees which are not affected. If you want to raise the production, this is the remedy, the remedy of having nurseries and increasing the acreage which probably is a long-term remedy. But whatever trees there are, they must be properly looked after as has been done in the case of foodgrains. How did we obtain addi-

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

tional food production? As compared with the average of the first five years of our freedom from 1947-48 to 1951-52, we have added during the last four years an average production of 1,25 lakhs tons, not maunds. Every one of the last four years we have added to the country's food production to the extent of 1,25 lakhs tons on the average. Of course, we have had minor and major irrigation projects and so many other things but essentially this result has been obtained by a larger number of cultivators following the commonsense improved methods like better tillage, using a little more manure, weeding operations, ploughing and other things. These are the simple things which have added so enormously to our production.

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon cum Mavelikkara—Reserve—Sch. Castes): Is it about the Government farms that the Minister is speaking, or cultivation by the people?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Government farms alone could not have added even one lakh of tons. It is the people who have done it.

Shri Matthen (Thiruvellah): Do the measures suggested by the Minister give cure, or immunity to the trees?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I was, for the time being referring only to additional production.

so far as this disease is concerned, I have already mentioned that spraying is enough. But it is not within the capacity of every farmer to do it. Therefore, we have had to launch a campaign and assist him to spray the trees, and if that is done we will certainly be able to check the spread of this disease. What I was pointing out was that by practising better cultivation methods on a larger scale the production in the country can be very substantially increased. The production of coconuts can be increased by as much as 25 per cent.

Shri Punnoose: May I ask the Minister.....

Mr. Speaker: Why should he be disturbed in the middle of his speech?

Shri Punnoose: It will not be a disturbance; in fact, it will be helpful to him. I want to know how many research stations we have to investigate into the cause of the disease.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I will give the information to the hon. Member at the end of my speech.

Mr. Speaker: What I wish to point out to hon. Members is that the trend of ideas is broken by such interruptions. Hon. Members may note down the points and put them at the end of the speech.

Shri K. K. Basu: Very often you go to the next subject.

Mr. Speaker: In such cases they may put the questions; I have no objection.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as this disease is concerned we have recently had a conference on this subject and I hope the Government of Travancore-Cochin would be able to bear certain financial burdens for treating a large number of trees in the way I have suggested. We are quite conscious of the urgency of the problem and we hope we will be able to produce some results.

In regard to prices, my information is that the drop in prices is more or less seasonal and is not so drastic as has been pointed out, but I do not wish to go by the information given to me. If there has been a very serious drop in prices and if my hon. friend's contention is correct that there has been a drop of 33 per cent., we will certainly look into the matter and see to it that reasonable prices are restored. In fact, I have always taken personal interest in the prices of coconuts, because on it depends not only the question of employment or unemployment, but the economic position of the people, especially in Travancore-Cochin. So it is very vital that we keep an eye on our import policy as well as on the import duties we charge and we cannot

afford to lose sight of it. So I can assure my hon. friend that I will look into all these various points that he has mentioned so far as prices are concerned and we will see if there is anything to be done in the Commerce and Industry Ministry for the sake of either raising the import duty or for the purpose of reducing the quantity of imports. We will certainly take the necessary steps in that direction.

I may also mention in this connection that the Indian Central Coconut Committee has appointed a special sub-committee to go into the question of fixation of minimum fair prices for coconuts and coconut products. The findings of this committee are awaited, but I can assure the House that we are not going to keep quiet in the meantime. The Committee may probably take some time, but if there is a great fall in the prices of coconuts we will see what steps we should take in order to restore them to a reasonable level.

A point has been made that the Andamans is very important from the point of view of coconut cultivation, and more than one hon. Member has suggested that we should see that some representative of Andamans is present on the committee. There have been one or two reports which have brought the importance of coconut cultivation in Andamans to our notice. As hon. Members will see there is provision for additional representatives and the Central Government's nominees have been raised from 1 to 5. The increase was intended essentially to see that any representation which is not given to any particular area may be made good. So I can assure hon. Members who are worried about Andamans not being represented that there is ample opportunity for us to provide for representation for Andamans and it will not at all be difficult for us to see that Andamans is kept in touch with the committee's work and whatever steps may be necessary for encouraging coconut cultivation in that area will be taken.

One of the five places was meant for the representative of finance. We have streamlined all the commodity committees and in order to save time for financial sanctions and expediting the actual implementation of our programmes, we have put a Finance Ministry's representative on every one of these committees and one of these five will be given to Finance Ministry.

My hon. friend Mr. Chowdhury referred to want of nurseries in West Bengal. As my hon. friend Mr. Samanta knows we are no longer neglecting the interests of West Bengal so far as coconut cultivation is concerned. We have already got two nurseries and one research station in West Bengal. But I can assure the House that if there is need for any additional nurseries, the coconut growing interests of West Bengal will be duly protected. I may also say in reply to Mr. Chowdhury, who is not here, that for the first time we are having these facilities of soil testing. As the House knows we are going to establish twenty soil testing laboratories and they will certainly take care of soil testing for the growing of coconuts and also recommending what particular soils are more suitable or less suitable.

Of course, it is a general complaint as to whether our researches reach the common farmer. I cannot say that we have reached the ideal condition, but during the last four or five years increasing attention is being paid to convey the results of our research to the people. When I made mention of what we have done in the case of food production my hon. friend doubted what the Government had done. Government had carried this mission, this campaign and this technique of better cultivation to as large a number of farms as possible. That alone has given us this astounding and very satisfactory results and we want to persist in these efforts of ours in carrying them to the largest number of people.

Shri K. K. Basu: It is not so far as West Bengal is concerned.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I may inform my hon. friend that about a year ago I launched a campaign for the better cultivation of coconut and I think his Agriculture Minister had been on the radio to broadcast on this point. I think they have also produced a good deal of literature. The way in which most of the States, during the last four years, have taken.....

Shri K. K. Basu: I hope you will appreciate that in view of the low literacy in our country, literature does not always help. What we need is, as in the case of fertilisers you have opened depots even in the villages, some sort of direct help to the small grower.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is why I have made mention of radio only. It does not require any capacity to read.

Shri K. K. Basu: We have not got sets in every village yet.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have also other methods. We have got some films. We have produced a very good film on coconut growing which we intend to show all over the country. We know that every one of our cultivators is not literate. We cannot merely depend on the printed word and its distribution. We are fully conscious of it. Wherever possible, we try to utilise the other audio-visual methods in carrying all this information to the people.

Shri Barman referred to the importance of coconut as a protective food. As the House knows, our food position is comparatively better. I do not say that we are out of difficulties. We are not. Fortunately, our people are demanding more food and it is a happy sign that the consumption has increased also. In spite of better production, it is not sufficient for our requirements. It is, therefore, necessary for us to gird up our loins and produce more. While doing so, we also want, because our

ordinary food supplies are more or less adequate, to pay more attention to protective foods. I have no doubt that we will attain better production and large production of coconut also from this point of view.

Mention was also made about Andamans, about representation to Saurashtra, Coorg, Kutch, etc. All this could be provided for, probably in rotation, from amongst the three places that we have in the hands of the Government and representatives could be invited to take part in the deliberations of this Committee. There is one point which my hon. friend has raised about how many research stations we have. Although the Committee is of recent origin, we have got coconut nurseries in as many as 28 places already. There are nine in Madras, eleven in Travancore-Cochin, one in Mysore, two in Orissa, two in Bombay, two in West Bengal and one in Assam. This is the state of affairs under the First Five Year Plan. So far as the Second Five Year Plan is concerned, we are going to add to them. We have planned to spend a sum of Rs. 37.2 lakhs. So far as development and starting of new nurseries is concerned, there is going to be one nursery in Andhra, one development centre for Pondicherry, one in Hyderabad, and Kutch. Saurashtra is going to have a scheme for the development of coconut and one scheme in Orissa, Madras and Assam. West Bengal is going to have two schemes for development and propaganda of coconut which will cost about Rs. 3 lakhs nearly. I hope what we have done in the case of coconut will be considered as fairly satisfactory. Especially, under the Second Five Year Plan, the development that we envisage will add to the production of coconut. But, it is a fact that we are not self-sufficient in coconut. We have to import a large quantity from outside. Our aim is to progressively reduce the import and come to a stage when no more imports would be necessary.

I therefore propose that the Bill may be passed into law.

Mr. Speaker: The question is: .

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Clause-by-clause consideration. There are a few amendments. Let us start with clause 2.

Clause 2—(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 12—

for "Indian companies Act, 1913" substitute "Companies Act, 1956".

—[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 and Enacting Formula.

Amendment made:

(i) Page 1, line 4—

for "1955" substitute "1955".

(ii) Page 1, line 1—

for "Sixth Year" substitute "Seventh Year."

—[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, the Enacting Formula, as amended, and the Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, the Enacting Formula, as amended, and the Title were added to the Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri Punnoose: I am obliged to the Minister for promising to look into

the price aspect of the commodity. Whatever representation we give here to the producers or the various States or even the researches can be of no avail unless we are able to give a substantive inducement and incentive to the cultivator. I believe that the information with the Minister—I do not say it is incorrect—is very incomplete. The price of coconut today is ranging between Rs. 125 to 130 per 1000 nuts. That is a very uneconomic price for the producer. There is an impression in the Government circles here that this being an edible commodity, to pay a high price would be against the people. That is not a totally correct impression. It is true that part of it is being consumed. But, that is a very negligible part. This is mainly a commercial commodity. Also, the fact is that even a small peasant with a small plot of land has some trees. A rise in the price of coconut, if you take the whole picture into account, is in favour of the country and the people. Therefore, I would like the Government to take a more helpful attitude with regard to the import of coconut and coconut oil from Ceylon. We must be guided by our interest. If that is done, I think the first step will be taken to improve the cultivation also.

Then, the hon. Minister referred to the commonsense point of view. Commonsense one must have; but it is also true that it is seldom found. Nevertheless, that cannot help very much in taking coconut cultivation out of trouble. What can be done by research and scientific methods of cultivation one can understand from what has been achieved, for example, in rubber. Twenty years back we in this country could produce only five lbs. or at the most seven lbs. of rubber from $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres, but today by research we have been able to raise it to 40, 45 and 60 lbs. per acre. So tremendous progress can be made and it can be made only through research and the application of science. Therefore, greater attention should be paid to it. That exactly is the most commonsense way of tackling the

[Shri Punnoose]

problem. There are some research stations, but there are more nurseries than research stations. Unless there is proper research and also some method of organisation by which the knowledge which our experts get is imparted to the cultivator immediately and effectively, we cannot improve the situation. Therefore, while I am glad to support this Bill I would like the Government to pay more attention to the research aspect. More money should be allotted to it and there should be a well organised campaign to impart this knowledge to the peasants.

Shri S. C. Samanta: We all wholeheartedly welcome the Bill. I only wish to make a suggestion to the hon. Minister and that is this. We are observing *Vana Mahotsava* every year. If Government comes forward with some money to pay for the saplings of coconuts, then they may be distributed among the cultivators in the cocoanut-growing areas, and that will be fruitful.

Secondly, I would request the hon. Minister that one research station during this Five Year Plan period should be established in the North-Eastern area.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I quite agree with my friend Shri Punnoose that research and carrying the results of research are very necessary for the betterment of any agricultural production, but I completely disagree with him when he says this is the only method of increasing production. Of course, we want to pay more attention to research. We are doing so. In the Second Five Year Plan we are spending much more money, but as I said in my speech, there are many things which ordinarily are not done by cultivators for which no research is necessary and which, because of their poverty, because of certain other circumstances, are not carried out. If some of these things are done, a considerable increase in the production can be obtained. I do not want to

minimise the importance of research in any way.

So far as the suggestion of my hon. friend about *Vana Mahotsava* is concerned, as a rule we do not spend much money on *Vana Mahotsava* as such. In the case of cashew-nut, lots of States have taken to planting the cashew-nut trees in the course of the *Vana Mahotsava* weeks. I am not sure if this is not being done also in the case of coconuts, but I note his suggestion and shall pass it on to the State Governments. In *Vana Mahotsava* of course we try to do one thing, that is to provide free of cost saplings and seedlings to the people, and if this is not already being done, I will certainly note.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What about subsidy?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It will be governed by other policies that we pursue. We cannot make an exception in one case. Then it recoils on us and we have to go the whole way.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

The motion was adopted.

SUPREME COURT (NUMBER OF JUDGES) BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for an increase in the number of Judges of the Supreme Court, excluding the Chief Justice, be taken into consideration."

This is a non-controversial measure. The Supreme Court consists at present of eight Judges including the Chief Justice. During the last six or seven years the work of the Court has considerably increased. Taking the average of appeals, the number of cases has gone up by about 54 per cent, and the arrears today are heavy and every day they are progressively going up. The Supreme Court has to set up a Bench of at least five Judges in order to deal with constitutional

*Moved with the recommendation of

the President.

points, and other matters which come before the Supreme Court also require, in order that they may be adequately and effectively dealt with, the presence of three Judges. So, in order that there may be a Constitution Bench and two other Benches, the number should be not less than eleven. So, it is proposed that the number should be raised from eight to eleven. Under the Constitution such an increase cannot be made without the approval of Parliament. That is why this Bill has been introduced.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for an increase in the number of Judges of the Supreme Court, excluding the Chief Justice, be taken into consideration."

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (जिला बनारस मध्य) : इस बिल का मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। आज हम को एक भोका प्राप्त हुआ है कि हम न्याय विभाग के विषय में अपने विचार प्रकट करें। इसलिए इस सम्बन्ध में मैं कुछ शब्द कहना चाहता हूँ।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट (उच्चतम न्यायालय) के न्यायाधीशों को साल में तीन महीने की छुट्टी दी जाती है, जो कि मेरे विचार में बहुत ज्यादा है। उसको कम किया जाना चाहिए।

प्रगर इन पदों पर रिटायर्ड (सेवा निवृत्त) लोगों को कम रखा जाय, तो अच्छा है। इस सम्बन्ध में नए लोगों को भोका देना चाहिए। उन को न रख कर रिटायर्ड लोगों को री-एप्लाय (पुनः नियुक्त) करना उचित नहीं है।

हम देखते हैं कि हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर की तनस्वाह २२०० रुपए है, जब कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट (उच्चतम न्यायालय) के जजेज की तनस्वाह करीब करीब पांच हजार रुपए है। यह बहुत बड़ा अन्तर भालूम पड़ता है। हिन्दुस्तान के आजाद होने के बाद हमारे दृष्टिकोण में भी योड़ी अन्तर होना चाहिए और हमारी सर्विसेज में सेवावृति का भाव आना चाहिए। सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट

(उच्च न्यायालय) के जब अब नौकरशाही के अंग नहीं हैं। आजाद हिन्दुस्तान में जिस प्रकार हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर (प्रधान मंत्री) और होम मिनिस्टर (गृह मंत्री) सेवा करते हैं और योड़ी तनस्वाह लेते हैं, उसी प्रकार की सेवावृति का भाव हमारे जजेज (न्यायाधीशों) में भी होना चाहिए। जैसा कि आप जानते हैं, अगर हमारे होम मिनिस्टर साहब वकालत में रहे होते, तो कम से कम चालीस या साठ हजार रुपए माहवार उन की आमदानी होती। लेकिन उन्होंने त्याग किया और आज वह योड़ी सी तनस्वाह पर काम कर रहे हैं। उन्हों की तरह हमारे सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट के जजेज में भी सेवावृति का भाव होना चाहिये और उनको कम तनस्वाह पर काम करने के लिये तैयार होना चाहिये। उन को आमदानी की दृष्टि से नहीं बल्कि सेवा की दृष्टि से काम करना चाहिये।

जैसा कि मैं ने पहले कहा है, उन के लिये तीन महीने की छुट्टी बहुत ज्यादा है और वह कम होनी चाहिये। हम देखते हैं कि हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर और होम मिनिस्टर रात-दिन काम करते हैं और फिर भी बहुत योड़ी तनस्वाह लेते हैं, तो को कारण नहीं है कि हम अपने जजेज को पांच पांच हजार रुपये तनस्वाह पर रख कर उन को साल में तीन महीने कीछुटी दें।

जहां तक केसेज का सम्बन्ध है, उन का फैसला बहुत दिनों में होता है। मैं आप के सामने एक एज्जाप्ल (उदाहरण) रखना चाहता हूँ। हमारे इस हाउस ने अनटचेबिलिटी (अस्पृश्यता) बिल (विधेयक) पास किया। इसके बाद बनारस में एक मुकदमा दाखिल हो गया कि श्री काशी विश्वनाथ मन्दिर में अनटचेबल (अस्पृश्य) न जायें। इंजक्शन इस्यू (आपरित जारी) हो गया, इसको आज से तीन बरस का जमाना

[श्री रघुनाथ सिंह]

हो गया, लेकिन आज तक तारीख नहीं पड़ी और न उसका फैसला हुआ। इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि उत्तर प्रदेशीय सरकार को एक नया विवेयक पास करना पड़ा। जहां तक केसेज का सवाल है, इनका फैसला बहुत जल्दी होना चाहिये।

2 P.M.

हम लोकतन्त्र में इस सिद्धान्त को स्वीकार करते हैं कि जहां तक हो सके न्याय विभाग को स्वतंत्र होना चाहिये क्योंकि जब तक न्याय विभाग स्वतन्त्र नहीं होगा तब तक डिपोर्केसी (लोकतन्त्र) सक्सेसफुल (सफल) नहीं हो सकती। आप देखें कि जिन नार्जी और फैसिस्ट बड़े नेताओं ने न्याय विभाग का गला घोटा, उनको एक दिन उसी विभाग के सामने जाना पड़ा और उसके द्वारा उनकी रक्षा हुई।

मैं इन घोड़े से शब्दों के साथ अपने होम मिनिस्टर साहब के सामने तीन बातें रखना चाहता हूँ। जो लोग रिटायर हो चुके हैं उनको फिर से मोका न दिया जाय बल्कि नये लोगों को मोका दिया जाय, तीन महीने की छुट्टी कम की जाय, यह जो लम्बी तनल्वाह है इसमें भी अगर कमी की जाय तो अच्छा है, और खास बात तो यह है कि छः छः और सात सात बरस तक जो केसेज पैंडिंग (विचाराधीन) रहते हैं इससे वकीलों को और जो लोग उनमें इनवाल्ड (सम्बन्धित) होते हैं उनको बहुत तकलीफ होती है। इसलिए कोई ऐसा उपाय होना चाहिए जिसमें कि इनका फैसला बहुत जल्दी हो सके।

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): This is a very short and simple Bill, which seeks to improve the working of the Supreme Court which is a very important functionary under our Constitution.

We all want that our judiciary should be as efficient as possible, and that justice should be done as

quickly as possible. It is true, as the Home Minister has pointed out in his introductory speech, that owing to the increase in volume of work, there has been a delay. But I would only urge that along with this proposal to increase the number of judges, so that we can have one more permanent Bench, we should also consider the question to what extent procedural improvements are necessary to mitigate this delay, because we know from experience that we are still following the procedures that we had followed during the British days, and more so, because we have on a number of occasions, adopted the procedures, which prevail in England with its highly centralised administration and centralised economic life, and which are quite unsuited to the conditions of India. Of course, we had the all-India judicial reforms committee, who have given their report, and we are told that some legislation is going to be brought forward for giving effect to their recommendations. I do not wish to go into the details of that at this stage. But what I would urge upon the Home Minister is that he should try—I would not say, issue a directive, but—to request the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to consider whether procedural improvements could be made to shorten the period of delay and to see that justice is done as quickly as possible.

In this connection, I would like to emphasise that there should be not only quick dispensation of justice, but so also cheap dispensation of justice. So far as the lawyer's fees are concerned, I do not know to what extent Government are in a position to put some sort of check on them. But what I would urge is that at least the deposit money that the litigant has to deposit with the Supreme Court should be reduced, so that the common man who wants that justice should be done by the Supreme Court and who comes to the Supreme Court for the establishment of his rightful claim may not be penalised by being asked to deposit a huge sum, which

may be too harsh for him even if that may possibly be the amount he would get, if his case wins, or the cost that he may get from the other side. To be asked to pay a huge amount as deposit is rather harsh on the common citizen of India, whose average income, as you know, is very small. I hope the Supreme Court would take this into consideration. I think this matter comes more or less within their rule-making powers. If they so wish, they can, under their rules, reduce the deposit money to as small an amount as possible.

Then, I come to the point made by Shri Raghunath Singh, that retired judges of the High Court should not be appointed. In the case of the Supreme Court Judges, the age of retirement is 65, whereas that in the case of the High Court judges, it is 60. And it may be that a person who has acquired some experience by working as a judge of the High Court may be helpful to the Supreme Court.

But along with this, when we are having three more new judges, we should also consider whether we could have direct recruitment from the Bar, as is usually done in most of the Supreme Courts or the highest judiciaries in the different countries of the world. I think even in the Supreme Court of the USA, direct appointments are made. In the court of appeals in England or even in the case of law Lords of England, there are persons appointed from the profession as judges. We should also consider whether such a direct recruitment could not be made here also, because so far as our Supreme Court is concerned, we have appointed so far only sitting judges or Judges on the verge of retirement in the High Courts, or even retired High Court judges. I hope the Home Minister will take this into consideration, and certainly consult the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, when the new judges are appointed on his recommendation.

Even with the existing set-up of eight judges, there have been occa-

sions in the Supreme Court, when the two Benches had to sit simultaneously. I was rather pained to learn that on one occasion, one Bench was sitting with two judges, and one of the judges of the Supreme Court had gone on tour. I do not know whether he had gone in connection with the affairs of judicial administration, but from what the press reports indicated, we found that he had gone for some other purpose, which might have been important from his own angle. I do not want to go into the merits of that, but I am only pointing out that when the Supreme Court is in session, naturally, we expect—apart from the Constitution Bench which, under the Constitution, must have five judges—that the other Bench also must have at least three judges. Of course, two judges are permitted under the law but we find that one judge had gone on tour to some place in Central India and to some other areas. That sort of thing should not happen, because, as my hon. friend has pointed out, the Supreme Court had already enjoyed three months' vacation, and also, generally, the holidays in the High Courts and the Supreme Court are more than those enjoyed by the executive.

I hope that in the new set-up of things, care will be taken to see that justice is dispensed quickly and cheaply, so that the ordinary citizen or the litigant may feel that he can get justice from the Supreme Court quickly and speedily. The Supreme Court is a very important functionary under our Constitution, and its role is very important. So, apart from the Constitution Bench which should have five judges at least, the other Bench should have at least three judges as a rule, unless, of course, there are special circumstances which do not make it possible to have three judges for the time being.

Then, my hon. friend Shri Raghunath Singh had asked for a reduction in the remuneration of the Supreme Court judges. It is true that com-

[Shri K. K. Basu]

pared to our Ministers, they have been getting more. But the walks of life from which our Ministers and High Court or Supreme Court judges come, are different. The judges usually come from the Bar. When they take up a job on the Bench for an income which is perhaps lower than what they would be getting at the Bar, naturally, they are doing a little bit of sacrifice. With our social conditions being what they are, I do not know how far it is proper for us to have judges on a very low pay, especially when we want that the judiciary should maintain its independence from the executive. I, for my part, would wish that the judges may, of their own volition, surrender a certain portion of their salaries, as they had done earlier, when there was an appeal by Government in that behalf. But the point remains whether it will be in the interests of our Constitution, which envisages an independent judiciary, that we should have judges on a very low pay. As a matter of fact, from our own experience, we know that in many of the High Courts, it is very difficult to get senior persons as judges, with the provision of compulsory retirement at the age of 60 being there, along with a salary which is limited to Rs. 3500 now. So, as it is, only the younger members of the Bar, and not the leaders of the Bar could join the Bench, and hope to serve there for some period at least.

I hope the Home Minister will take all these points into consideration. I am not speaking in any vein of criticising the Supreme Court. By and large the Supreme Court has fulfilled the purpose for which it has been constituted under our Constitution.

I hope, being an important functionary under our Constitution, the Supreme Court will endeavour to see that the Constitution is worked in the true spirit, and the citizens of India enjoy justice from the Supreme Court in the best possible manner, as quickly as possible, and as cheaply as possible.

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah—Jhalawar): I very much welcome this Bill. I should have thought that the Home Minister should have brought forward a Bill, increasing the number of judges, not to ten, but to twelve.

I know what amount of work there is in the Supreme Court. There is an increase in the amount of work there; as the hon. Minister himself has just now said, and this Bill is going to serve a very useful purpose.

There is another point which I would like to mention—that has also been referred to by Shri Raghunath Singh. It is with regard to the appointment of retired Judges. There is a convention in USA that Judges of the Supreme Court never retire. That is to say, there is no age limit. I suppose that that is a matter which must have been discussed in the Constituent Assembly. I do not know how and why the Constituent Assembly came to be of the view that at 65, Judges should retire. I can say that in the last three or four years, four Judges have died when they were actually on the Bench and only two Judges have retired—the last two were both Chief justices. I am sure that if they had continued on the Bench, their experience—their very valuable experience—could have been available not only to the Bench but to the country as a whole. I would suggest that the hon. Minister reconsiders this matter as to whether Judges of the Supreme Court should retire at all; so long as they are of good behaviour and are sound in body and mind, there is no reason why they should be retired.

Mr. Speaker: That requires amendment of the Constitution.

Shri Kasliwal: That is true.

With regard to simplification of procedure, I am in agreement with Shri K.K. Basu, that this should be done. I know that the rules of the Supreme Court have now been considerably changed, and there is

simplification, but yet it has not given relief to the litigant public. I think that if a Committee is appointed by the Supreme Court to go into the whole question of procedure—not only the procedure obtaining in the Supreme Court but also in the High Court—it would be of great help to the litigant public.

There is another matter, to which Shri Raghunath Singh referred. That is with regard to reduction of salary of Judges. With all respect. I do not at all know whether there should be a reduction of salary of Judges, for the very simple reason that they are not getting very much salary looking to the amount of fees which a lawyer of some importance and name earns in his own State or in Delhi in the Supreme Court. It is easy for a lawyer to earn Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000, whereas if he goes to the Bench he will get about 1/6th of it. So I do not know how far it would be fair to reduce his enormous income to this extent when he is appointed to the Bench.

There is a convention in England that once a person is offered a judgeship, he cannot refuse. I know that in our country such a convention is not to be found. I wish that some day a convention to this effect is established in our country also so that once a lawyer who is of great integrity and honesty—whether he earns millions or not makes no difference—is offered a judgeship of the High Court or the Supreme Court, he cannot refuse. I would very much like the hon. Minister to take this point also into consideration.

With these words, I welcome this Bill.

पंडित ठाकुर बास भासंव (गुडगांव) :
जो वजूहात (तर्क) इस बिल में दी गई है कि चूंकि सुप्रीम कोर्ट (उच्चतम न्यायालय) की कांस्टीट्यूशनल (संविधानिक) बैच (विभाग) में ५ जजेज (न्यायाधीश) होने चाहिये और दूसरी सुप्रीम कोर्ट की मामूली बैचेस में कम से कम तीन जज होने चाहिये और चूंकि सुप्रीम कोर्ट में वाल्यम

आफ वर्क (काम की मात्रा) काकी बढ़ गया है और इसलिये जजेज (न्यायाधीश) की तादाद में भी इजाफा होना चाहिये ताकि अभी तक जो एक ऐसी बैच हाईकोर्ट स (उच्च न्यायालयों) की अपीलें डिस्पोज (निवारा) करती है उसकी जगह पर दो बैचें सुप्रीम कोर्ट में काम करने लगें। मैं समझता हूँ कि दोनों ही वजूहात माकूल हैं।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के मुतालिक जहां तक दूसरी बातों का सम्बन्ध है, मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि सब से पहली बात तो यह है कि मेरी नाकिस (तुच्छ) राय में सुप्रीम कोर्ट का जो क्रिमिनल जरिस्डिक्शन (दंडिक क्षेत्राधिकार) है वह बहुत नैरो है। जिस बक्त हम कास्टीट्यूएंट असेम्बली (संविधान सभा) में कांस्टीट्यूशन (संविधान) बना रहे थे उस बक्त भी शायद जनावराला को याद हो कि कुछ अमेंडमेंट्स (संशोधन) हाउस के सामने आये थे और वह इस गरज से थे कि जो पुराना स्कोप फेडरल कोर्ट या जूडिशल कमेटी आफ प्रिवी कॉसिल (प्रिवी कॉसिल की न्यायिक समिति) का था वही स्कोप हमने अपने सुप्रीम कोर्ट के बास्ते रखता था और उस बक्त यह बहस की गई थी और मैं समझता हूँ कि यह बहस आज भी जायज है कि क्रिमिनल जरिस्डिक्शन जो हमने सुप्रीम कोर्ट का मुकर्रर किया हुआ है वह दरअसल में हमारे हिदुस्तान के हालात के मुताबिक निहायत ही नैरो है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट में हम आये दिन देखते हैं कि दफा (धारा) १३६ के मातहत जो एप्ली-के शंस (आवेदन पत्र) उसके सामने आती है उनमें से अगर ज्यादा नहीं तो करीब ६० परसेंट या उससे भी ज्यादा रिजेक्ट (रद) हो जाती है। लोग सुप्रीम कोर्ट इस उम्मीद में अपनी अर्जी लेकर जाते हैं कि वहां पर उनको इंसाफ मिलेगा लेकिन उनको मायूसी का सामना करना होता है और फौरन रूल कर दिया

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

जाता है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट इसमें दखल नहीं दे सकता और जो कुछ हाईकोर्ट ने कर दिया वह चलेगा, भल ही हाईकोर्ट ने किसी गवाह का यकीन कर लिया हो और चाहे कितना ही एबसंड उस गवाह का स्टेटमेंट हो, सुप्रीम कोर्ट आम तौर पर उसमें दखल नहीं देता। यह बात नहीं है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट को ऐसी पावर (शक्ति) नहीं है, सुप्रीम कोर्ट को कांस्टीट्यूट असेम्बली (संविधान सभा) ने जो पावर मत्रा की है वह इतनी लम्बी चौड़ी है कि उनके मुताबिक हर किसी को हर हालत में इंसाफ दे सकता है लेकिन उसके साथ जो स्ल्स आफ कोर्ट्स और कनवीशंस (प्रधान) भी कर गये हैं जिनके कि मुताबिक जहां हाईकोर्ट्स ने किसी मामले की जांच कर ली हो और अपना फैसला दे दिया हो उसके अन्दर सुप्रीम कोर्ट वाले दखल देना पसन्द नहीं करते क्योंकि एक तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट का काम बढ़ जाता है और दूसरे उसके लिए हर मुकदमे में यह तभी ज करना मुश्किल हो जाता है कि आया कहां हम इस रूल को रिलैक्स करें और कहां न करें।

इस सिलसिले में मुझे एक केस का बड़ा तल्ख तजुर्बा है। मैं उन तमाम केसेज की जिनका कि मुझे इत्य है यहां पर दूहराना नहीं चाहता लेकिन बर्गर किसी का नाम लिए जनाब की लिदमत में एक दो वाक्ये (घटनाएं) अर्ज करना चाहता हूं जहां कि हाईकोर्ट के जज ने गलती की। वाक्या तो एक हुआ था एक अंधेरी रात को नी बजे, और अंधेरी रात थी और बड़ी बारस थी जब कि वह वाक्या हुआ था लेकिन मैं आपको बतलाऊं कि उस केस में हाईकोर्ट के जज साहब ने कुछ दिनों के बाद जो फैसला मुनाया तो बजाय मन् १९५६ की डायरी देखने के उन्होंने मन् १९५५ की डायरी देख ली और सन् ५५ की डायरी में दो दिन पहले की डेट देख कर न मालूम किस गलती से बजाय इसके कि वाक्ये के रोज बिल्कुल अंधेरी रात्रि थी, बड़ी बारस

थी उन्होंने मपने फैसले में लिख डाना कि पूर्णमासी के दिन वह बाक्या हुआ। पहले माल की डायरी देखकर उन्होंने लिख दिया कि पूर्णमासी के दिन वह बाक्या हुआ हालांकि बिला शक उस रोज थोर अंधेरी रात थी, लेकिन चूंकि पूर्णमासी के दिन उन्होंने लिखा कि वह बाक्या हुआ तो उस रोज तो चांद रोशन था और उस रोज अच्छी तरह से देखा जा सकता था और इस तरह की गलती उन्होंने कर डानी। मामले को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में ले जाया गया। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने रिमार्क भी किया कि अनसीटिसफैक्टरी जजमेंट (असंतोषजनक निर्णय) है लेकिन चूंकि हाईकोर्ट के जज साहब ने उस गवाही को तसलीम कर लिया था इसलिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उसमें दखल नहीं दिया। कहने का मतलब यह है कि इस तरह के कितने ही मामले और मैं बतला सकता हूं जहां कि हाईकोर्ट्स में गलत फैसले हो गये हैं लेकिन सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने उनमें दखल नहीं दिया है। ऐसा मैं इस बहत कोई किटिसिज्म (आलोचना) करने के बास्ते नहीं कह रहा हूं लेकिन मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि कांस्टीट्यूट असेम्बली में जब यह मामला पेश था तब यह कहा गया था कि जिस किसी केस में हाईकोर्ट द्वारा भौत की सज्जा दी जाय उसकी अपील जहर सुप्रीम कोर्ट के सामने आनी चाहिए। भेरा ब्याल अब भी है कि जब आपने २० हजार से ऊपर की रकम के मामले की सुनवाई के लिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट में अपील करने का अधिकार दिया हुआ है तब भेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि जहां पर लाइफ और डैथ (जीवन और मृत्यु) का मामला दरपेश हो और एक मर्मता अगर हाईकोर्ट से डैथ सैटेंस (मृत्यु दंड) हो जाय तो वह रिकॉर्ड नहीं किया जा सकता अगर फैसले में कुछ गलती भी मालूम पड़े। कर्ज कीजिये कि हमारे होम मिनिस्टर माहब को बाद में पता लगे कि एक शर्स बिल्कुल बेगुनाह है तो उनको यह पावर हासिल है कि वह उस आदमी को बिल्कुल थोड़ सकते हैं। मैंने ऐसे

केसेज देखे हैं कि जिनमें हम होम मिनिस्टर साहब के पास पहुंचे और हमने उनसे अर्ज की कि फलां शस्त बिल्कुल बेगुनाह हैं तो प्रेसीडेंट साहब ने अपने अस्त्यार से उस मामले में तहकीकात करा कर उस 'आदमी' को बिल्कुल छोड़ दिया। मैंने खुद एक बाद में रिप्रेंजेंट किया था और वह आदमी बाद में बिल्कुल छूट गया। प्रेसीडेंट [राष्ट्रपति] साहब को तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट से भी अगर किसी को भौत की सजा कर दी जाय और प्रेसीडेंट साहब या होम मिनिस्टर को यह पता लगे कि अमुक व्यक्ति के साथ बेइन्साफी हो रही है तो उसको ४०१ दफा [बारा] की रु से माफी दी जा सकती है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि पेशतर इसके कि होम मिनिस्टर के पास इस तरह की कोई रिप्रीव या पांडन की दरखास्त आये, सुप्रीम कोर्ट को अस्त्यार होना चाहिए कि इस तरह के मामलों को वह अपने यहां अपील में आजादाना देख सके इस तरह का नैरो जुरिसडिक्शन सुप्रीम कोर्ट [उच्चतम न्यायालय का संकुचित क्षेत्राधिकार] का हमारे मुन्तक के हालात में मनमिल नहीं है। जहां लाइक और डैथ का संबंध दरपेश हो वहां इस तरह का रूल कि चुंकि हाईकोर्ट ने इस बर जांच कर ली है और अपना फैसला दे दिया है, इसलिए सुप्रीम कोर्ट इसमें दखल नहीं देगा, यह दुरुस्त नहीं होगा। इस बास्ते में अदब में अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट के इस नैरो जुरिसडिक्शन को हमें बाइडेन [विस्तृत] करना होगा। लेकिन आज आठ साल के तजुर्बे के बाद मैं होम मिनिस्टर साहब की खिदमत में यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि उनको यह सांख्यना ही होगा कि वह इस नैरो जुरिसडिक्शन को कहां तक और बढ़ा मार्कते हैं और उस को कितना बाइडेन किया जा सकता है। इस में शंक नहीं कि उनका काम बड़ आयेगा लेकिन इन्साफ तो सातिररखाह हो जायेगा और कोई शस्त यह कहता हुआ नहीं मिलेगा कि मेरा जुडिशल मर्डर [न्यायिक मृत्यु] हो गया। दूसरी चीज जो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ

वह यह है कि हमने जो सुप्रीम कोर्ट बनाया और सात जज रख कर उनको अस्त्यारात दिये, तो वह हमने यह सोच कर किया था कि एक तरफ तो हमारे लेजिस्लेचर्स और हमारी पालियामेंट हमारे हृकूक की हिफाजत करेगी और दूसरी तरफ हमारे कोटर्स करेंगे। अगर लेजिस्लेचर्स भी किसी तरह से कोई गलड़ी कर बैठें तो सुप्रीम कोर्ट हमारे लिये बुलवर्क [प्रावारी] है और हमने जितने फंडामेंटल राइट्स [मूल अधिकार] रखते हैं तो उन को एनकोर्स [लाग] करना सुप्रीम कोर्ट का फर्ज है। मैं बड़ा खुश हूँ और बात भी ऐसी है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपने अस्त्यारात का बड़ी अच्छी तरह इस्तेमाल किया है और जहां तक हमारे फंडामेंटल राइट्स का सवाल है वहुत बेबाकी के साथ, बिना इस की परवाह किये हुए कि एन्जिक्यूटिव [कार्यपालिका] क्षा चाहती है, उसने जो कुछ किया है, वह सराहना के काबिल है। लेकिन ताहम मैं यह अर्ज किये बगैर नहीं रह सकता कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाईकोर्ट में मुकद्दमों में जो देर होती है, वह इस कदर लंबाब है कि जिसकी कि कोई इन्तहा नहीं है। मुझे तो वही कहावत याद आती है जो मशहूर है कि जस्टिस डेलेड इज जस्टिस डिनाइड [न्याय में देरी अन्याय हो है] आज एक पिटिशन [याचिका] दाखिल हुई। महीनों तक किसी चलता रहता है, न किसी को पता रहता है कि वह कब दाखिल हुई और न यह पता रहता है कि वह कहां पर है। एक दफा आ कर इस बड़े मकान के अन्दर दाखिल हो गई, उस के बाद हम नहीं जानते कि कब उसका नम्बर आयेगा, या आयेगा भी या नहीं। मैं अर्ज करता हूँ कि एक केस मेरे पास मौजूद है जिसमें १६ अगस्त १९४६ को कल्प किया गया था, लेकिन उसका फैसला आज तक नहीं हुआ, अब भी सुप्रीम कोर्ट में पड़ा हुआ है, नहीं मालूम उसका नम्बर कब आयेगा। एक दूसरा केस सन् १९५० में हुआ था, वह भी अब तक सुप्रीम कोर्ट में पड़ा हुआ है, उसका फैसला अब तक नहीं हुआ है। जहां

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भारत]

तक लोधर कोट्स [निम्न न्यायालय] और हाई कोट्स का सवाल है, हमने कानून पास करें दिया है। पिछले क्रिमिनल प्रोसीजर कोड ऐमेंडमेंट बिल [वंड प्रक्रिया संहिता संशोधन विधेयक] के बहुत भी मैंने कहा था कि जल्दी फैसला हुआ करे। लेकिन अगर ३०२ के मुक्तमें सात सात साल तक पहे रहते हैं अदालतों में तो क्या रिलीफ कंप्लेनेट [शिकायत करने वाले] को पहुंचेंगे और क्या एक्स्प्रूज का बनेगा? इस लिये मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो जजेज बढ़ाये जा रहे हैं उस से हम लोगों को किसी कदर रिलीफ मिलेगा। लेकिन आज जो नम्बर उनका किया जा रहा है उसको और बढ़ाया जाय। अगर सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट का फायदा पूरी तरह से लोगों को पहुंचाना है तो जो देर वहां पर होती है वह नहीं होनी चाहिये। इसका इलाज होना चाहिये। अब सवाल यह उठता है कि इलाज क्या हो, और इस बिल में उसका इलाज है या नहीं। मैं कहता हूँ कि इसमें पूरा इलाज नहीं है। उसका इलाज एक ही है कि जस्टिस [न्याय] को जल्दी देने के लिये आप को जजेज का नम्बर और ज्यादा बढ़ाना चाहिये। जब तक सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जस्टिस जल्दी नहीं मिलेगी तब तक मुक्त की तसल्ली नहीं हो सकती है।

बहस में जजेज की पे [बेतन] का और रिटायर्ड जजेज [सेवानिवृत्त-न्यायाधीशों] का जिक हुआ है और यह भी जिक आ चुका है कि जजेज बड़ी उम्र के बैठे। इस के बारे में मैं ज्यादा नहीं कह सकता। लेकिन एक चीज जरूर कहना चाहता हूँ जो कि लीब के सिलसिले में है। इस बहुत तीन महीने की छुट्टी होती है। यह कायदा उस बहुत से चला आ रहा है जब कि अप्रेज जज होते थे। उस जमाने में तीन महीने की छुट्टी हुआ करती थी और वह लोग विलायत ही आया करते थे। लेकिन अब तो सारे जेज हमारे हिन्दुस्तान के ही हैं। यहीं के

जजेज और यहीं के कोट्स। हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर [प्रधान मंत्री] और हमारे होम मिनिस्टर [गृह कार्य मंत्री] जो कि १५, १५ और १६, १६ घंटे काम करते हैं जब उनको छुट्टी की जरूरत नहीं रहती तो हमारे सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोट्स के जजेज और वकीलों को तीन तीन महीने की छुट्टी की क्या जरूरत है? यह चीज हमारे नेशनल इंटरेस्ट [राष्ट्रीय हित] के बखिलाफ है। यह सब चीजें इंडियनाइज [भारतीयकरण] होनी चाहियें। तीन महीने की छुट्टी अलावा आम छुट्टियों के, देने की कोई जरूरत नहीं है। बहुत हुआ तो साल में एक दफा या दो दफा १५, १५ दिन की छुट्टी कर दी, या एक महीने के बास्ते छुट्टी दे दी कि गरमी में पाहड़ हो आये और हैल्प रिकूप कर लें। गरमी के दिनों में मैं समझता हूँ कि यहां पर भी बहुत काफी आसाइयों [सुविधाएं] मोजूद हैं, हमारे मेम्बरान [सदस्यों] के बास्ते भी और जजेज के बास्ते भी। अगर पालियामेंट के ५०० मेम्बर इस एक्स्प्रूज कोट्सन्ड [शीतोष्ण नियन्त्रित] करने में सह से सह गर्मियों में काम कर सकते हैं तो कोई जरूरत नहीं है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोट्स के जजेज को तीन तीन महीने की छुट्टी दी जाय। आज तो उनको इतनी छुट्टियां भी मिलती हैं और जैसे ही चार या पांच बजे, जो भी बहुत उन का मुकर्रर हो, उस के बाद एक मिनट भी काम नहीं करते। वैसे मैं इस को पसंद करता हूँ कि जो भी बहुत मुकर्रर हो, उस पर पूरी तरह से अमल हो। लेकिन इस कदर छुट्टियां बांजब नहीं हैं और उनको कम किया जाना चाहिये।

जहां तक सैलरी [बेतन] का मवाल है और रिटायर्ड जजेज का सवाल है, कई दफा जनावर के रूबरू यह आ चुका होगा कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट का जज कोई हाई कोर्ट का जज हो सकता है या सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जो वकील इस साल तक प्रैक्टिस कर चुका हो वह हो सकता है, और कोई नहीं हो सकता है। हाई कोर्ट

के बाज की भी क्वालिफिकेशन [प्रहृता] है ऐन इअसं प्राफ जुडिशल बर्क [दस वर्ष का न्यायिक कार्य] । जब हम कोई द्राइव्यनल [न्यायाधिकरण] बनाते हैं तो उस में भी कहते हैं, अभी थोड़े दिन हुए हमारे सामने लेबर द्राइव्यनल और लेबर कोर्ट सं का जिक आया तो उसमें भी कहा गया : “हृ हैं बीन ए जज आफ द हाई कोर्ट” [जो उच्च न्यायालय का न्यायाधीश रहा हो] । लेकिन जब भी कोई जज हाई कोर्ट का या सुप्रीम कोर्ट का इस तरह से मुकर्रर किया जाता है तो वह बहुत महंगा पड़ता है । उसको तन्हावाह दो, उस को और सब चीजें दो । उनके सामने और भी वडे बड़े काम होते हैं, वह ऊंचा काम करने वाले हैं, उन को थोटे कामों में मुकर्रर करना मेरे स्थाल में मुनासिब नहीं है और इस चीज को हमें बदलना चाहिये । इतने कास्टली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन [महंगे प्रशासन] को हम बर्दात नहीं कर सकते । साथ ही मैं यह भी कहता चाहता हूँ कि हम उनको थोटे थोटे काम देते हैं, साथ में उनको अपने यहां का भी काम करना पड़ता है, इसमें उनको ऊपर काकी काम का बोझ पड़ जाता है, जैसा हमारे भाई ने अभी कहा कि कोई सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जज अपना काम करते करते गुजर भी गए । कुछ अर्सा तक तो उनको सुप्रीम कोर्ट में काम करना चाहिये, कुछ बक्त तो वह अपनी कुर्सी को जीनत बक्शे । सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जज अपनी लाइफ [जीवन] के उस पार्ट [भाग] में वहां पर आते हैं जब कि वहां के स्टेन [कठिनाई] को वह बर्दात नहीं कर सकते । और थोड़ी ही दिन बाद वे हमारे बीच में नहीं रहते । इस लिये जहां तक उन की सैलरी का सङ्कल है, उस को मैं इस बक्त छोड़ता हूँ । मैं चाहता हूँ कि हर एक जज सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट का इतनी तन्हावाह पाये कि वह आराम से अपने काम को कर सके । ही मैं भी ऐबव टेस्टेशन [वह लोगों न हो] । उन के ऊपर कोई असर किसी किस्म का भी न हो सके, लेकिन फिर भी मैं जानता हूँ कि जो रिटायर जज होता है उसकी निगाह कहां होती है । उसकी निगाह यह होती है कि रिटायर होने

के बाद उसे कोई जाब मिले जाय । यह बड़ी गलत चीज है । यह इतनी गलत है कि जौ प्रसल उमूल है कि For one's lifetime a person is appointed a High Court Judge or Supreme Court Judge उससे ही डिपार्चर [प्रतिकूल] है । आज हिन्दुस्तान की लगेविटी [दीर्घायुता] बढ़ गई है । हम भी अपने बाप दादाओं से उम्र में बड़े हैं, जजेज की हालत भी इतनी कमजोर नहीं है । आज आदमी ६० और ६५ बरस तक पहुँचने पर भी फुल विवर में रहते हैं, इसलिये अगर आज आप रिटायर-मेंट [सेवा निवृत्ति] की उम्र के बढ़ा दें तो कोई गड़बड़ी नहीं होगी । अगर कोई आदमी नौजवानों से ज्यादा काम करता है, तो कोई बजह नहीं है कि उस को ६० बरस में रिटायर कर दिया जाय । यह दुस्त नहीं है कि ही मस्ट रिटायर एंट दि एज आफ सिक्टी [साठ वर्ष की आय में अवश्य सेवा निवृत्त होना चाहिये] । लेकिन जहां तक उन की सैलरी का तालिक है, पिछले जमाने की हालत के मूलाधिक उस को देखिये । आज हिन्दुस्तान की औसत आमदानी क्या है, आज हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब को क्या मिलता है, स्पीकर साहब को क्या मिलता है, हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब और वाइसप्रेजिडेंट [उप-राष्ट्रपति] साहब को क्या मिलता है । इसलिये मैं अब इसका किया कि पूँजे जज को जो पे है वह मुकाबला न कियो किर ज्यादा मालूम होती है । ताहम इस को देखते हुए कि कित लोगों में मे वह लिये जाते हैं, क्या उन का मेघार होता है । मैं किलहाल इस को पसन्द नहीं करता हूँ कि उन की ये कम कर दी जाय । पिछले दिनों राजस्थान और कोई हाई कोर्ट्स के जजेज की ये कम थी, मैंने अब किया यह कि उनकी तन्हावाह बढ़ा दी जाय । मुझे पता नहीं कि जो प्रैक्टिसिंग लायसें [विधिजीवी] हैं वह कहां तक इस को पसन्द करेंगे कि लायसें की जो आमदानी है वह इनकम टैक्स के जरिये या किसी और जरिये कम कर दी जाय । आम तौर से कहा जाता है, मुझे तो पता नहीं, मेरे और दोस्त इस

[पंडित शक्तर दास भाग्यवं]

को ज्यादा जानते होंगे, हायेस्ट लायसें [उच्च-तम बॉल] ३० और ४० हजार रुपया माहवार तक कमा लेते हैं। अगर उनमें से आप जेजेर को लेना चाहेंगे तो वह कम ने पर आना पसन्द नहीं करेंगे, और लेना उन लोगों में से ही चाहिये जो कि हायेस्ट आदमी प्रोफेशन के हों और यह कनवेशन भी मूनासिव होगा कि जो जज मुकर्रं किये जायें उन को काम करना ही पड़ेगा—उनको इन्कार न करना चाहिए। लेकिन ताहम सारी हालत को देखते हुए और इनकम टैक्स के जितने उसूल बने हुए हैं, और जिस तरह से उनको खार्च करना पड़ता है उस को देखते हुए मैं फिलहाल यह कहने के लिये तैयार नहीं हूँ कि फौरन ही जेजेर के इमाल्युमेंट्स किसी तरह से भी कम कर दिये जायें, अगर आप को ऊंचे से ऊंचे आदमी लेने हैं और उनको तसली देनी है तो उनके इमाल्युमेंट्स कम करना मूनासिव नहीं है, आइन्वा बक्त आये तो आप ऐसा कर सकते हैं क्योंकि मोशनिस्ट पैटर्न में उनको जितनी आसाइश देनी चाहिये वह उनको हासिल होगी।

इन हालात में मैं इस बिल को सपोर्ट करता हूँ, लेकिन होम बिनिस्टर साहब की खिदमत में अर्जन करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर जरूरत हो तो आप कांस्टीट्यूशन को एमेंड कोजिये, या इसी बिल में कोजिये, लेकिन जो इसका नैरो जूरिस्टिक्शन है उसको बदाना चाहिये। यह बड़ी ज़रूरी बीज है और इसको मानना बड़ा अच्छा होगा। लोग समझेंगे कि उनको हायेस्ट इन्साफ मिला और उसको एंप्रिशाण्ट करेंगे। दूसरी बात जो मैंने कही है वह इन्साफ मिलने में जो देरी हो जाती है उसके बारे में है। पिछले आठ मासों में हमें चाहिये कि हम कुछ एंप्रिशियेबल फिक्सेस केसिम के डिसपेजल में दिलाते हैं। मैं मानता हूँ कि जितनी पहले देर लगा करती थी उतनी देरी अब नहीं लगती है और क्रिमिनल केसिस में तो खास तौर से अब इतनी ज्यादा देर नहीं

लगती है। जितनी पहले लगती थी। मुझ पंजाब का तजुर्बा है। क्रिमिनल के सिस में अब वहां पर हाईकोर्ट जल्दी फैसला कर देती है और जहां पर कैपिटल मेंटेंसिम (मृत्यु दंड) का मबाल होता है, उनका तो खास तौर से जल्दी फैसला होता है। लेकिन दसरी हाई कोर्ट में जिन का मैं ने जिक्र किया है उनमें अब भी सात सात बरस लग जाते हैं कैपिटल मेंटेंसिम के केसिस का फैसला होने में। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस तरफ भी व्याप दिया जाए।

Pandit G. B. Pant: The proposal for raising the strength of the Supreme Court from eight to eleven has the support of the entire House. So far as that goes, there is no difference of opinion. I am really not called upon to deal with other matters, but it would perhaps be not courteous if I did not refer to them.

The first speaker referred to the vacations which the Supreme Court observes every year. I have taken note of the views expressed by hon. Members of this House that they would feel grateful to the Supreme Court if after examining the present position and the changes that have taken place since the transfer of appeals from British to Indians hands, the Court would consider whether it would not be advisable, desirable and proper to reduce the period of three months to something less than that. What exactly it should be is for the Supreme Court to consider. We all want to maintain the independence of the Supreme Court, and we can only make a suggestion to the Court, but I hope that the almost unanimous view expressed by hon. Members will be duly considered and the Supreme Court will attach such weight to it as it deserves. The decision, however, rests with the Court.

There were some suggestions and special emphasis was laid on the desirability of quick disposal of cases. We all agree, as has just been pointed out, that justice delayed is justice denied, and the decision howsoever perfect it be loses much of its force and importance, and to some extent

even its utility, if it is unduly delayed. If the Supreme Court has not been able to decide cases as quickly as the public would like it to do, it must be at least partially due to the inadequate number of Judges that the Court had so far. We can well hope that with the addition of three Judges, the position would certainly improve and that hereafter cases will be disposed of as quickly as one can reasonably expect. I do not know how far the impression of Shri Raghu-nath Singh is right that the case in which an injunction was issued relating to a temple situated in Banaras was the subject matter of an appeal or revision or of any petition in the Supreme Court. Whether it was the Supreme Court or some other Court which was in charge of that particular proceeding, I am not sure. But whatever be the facts of that particular case, other hon. Members who seem to be familiar with the working of the Supreme Court are strongly of the opinion that cases should be dealt with as rapidly and as expeditiously as may be possible. We all share that view, and I hope the Supreme Court is equally anxious to expedite the proceedings.

Some reference also was made to the procedure that at present obtains in the Court. I think the Supreme Court will be prepared to consider any specific suggestions that are made to the Chief Justice. It would be better if the Members who have any particular proposals to make are good enough to bring them to the notice of the Supreme Court, and certainly I believe they would like to adjust their procedure to the needs of our own country. The system of justice should be in accord with the genius of our people, and they would like to do all that can contribute towards the achievement of the same.

Hon. Members are presumably aware that the Government has set up a Law Reform Commission and that Commission is examining the whole position. It is going down to the fundamentals, and we expect

that the report of the Commission will be of great help in reforming our system if it calls for an overhaul in any respect. Hon. Members will, I hope, give full support to the proposals that may be made by the Commission.

Some reference has been made to the salaries that the members of the Supreme Court receive. Their salaries were fixed by the Constitution some years ago. If at all the value of the rupee has fallen since, so that looked at from a purely economic point of view there is no justification for any reduction. In other countries too the salaries that the Judges of the Federal Court receive are, as a rule, higher than the salaries received by Ministers and others who are expected to serve the people so far as possible, without any regard for their own personal interests, at least not to a large degree. But here we must take note of the fact that successful lawyers earn a considerable amount, and if you want suitable and competent, impartial and able Judges, to man the Supreme Court, then their salaries should have some relation to the earnings of the successful lawyers. It was, I think, suggested by Shri Basu that the recruitment should not be confined to the Judges of the High Courts, but advocates also—most eminent and distinguished as they are—should be given a chance to serve as judges of the Supreme Court. Well, the recruitment is not confined to retired or serving judges of the High Courts. Advocates can certainly be appointed. I would not like to say more about it. But we did not succeed in securing the assent of successful advocates when we tried to persuade them to join the Supreme Court. So, if there has been any lack in the matter, or if anybody has failed from among the advocates, it is not because of the Supreme Court or the Government but it is because they themselves, such of them as could very well have adorned the Supreme Court, have not been able to join the Supreme Court. But recruitment is open to the advocates and I would like advocates

[Pandit G. B. Pant]

to be appointed. They can bring fresh blood and they can also introduce an element which need not necessarily be expected from other quarters. So I wish that we could succeed in that but there is no bar and no ban.

As to the judges being allowed to serve to their very end, I think that will be somewhat cruel. Some of the judges have already lost their lives while serving in the courts and two or three judges had died in recent months or years. So, if you were to force them to serve on for an indefinite period, they would not be able to carry the heavy burden and it would not be fair to enforce such a burden on them. On the one hand, we want to reduce the vacations that they are enjoying today and, on the other hand, we want them to remain in the bench for ever; once a judge of the Supreme Court, always a judge. I think the two are not quite consistent.

As to the judges of the High Court being recruited and being appointed to the Supreme Court, I think we want in the Supreme Court distinguished men, erudite men of mature wisdom and mature experience. That is why the age of retirement for Supreme Court judges has been fixed at 65 while that for the High Court judges stands at 60. It was mainly with a view to either promote judges from the High Courts to the Supreme Court or to appoint judges who are even retired from the High Courts to the Supreme Court, if they were otherwise fit; as one of the hon. Members said: sound in body and sound in mind. So I hope that all of them are sound in every respect and we are all rather grateful for the excellent service that the judges of the Supreme Court have rendered. Their task is pretty difficult and intricate. They have to interpret the Constitution. They have to arbitrate between the subject and the State and they have also to decide cases in which domestic issues or munici-

pal issues of far-reaching character are involved.

I do not know if it is necessary to extend their criminal jurisdiction or to give the persons who are sentenced still wider opportunity for approaching the Supreme Court. This matter was fully discussed when the Constitution was framed and I personally feel that our people, regardless of the merits of the case, sometimes have a sort of a passion for litigation, and if you were to establish 15 appellate courts and there were 15 appeals, a man who can afford to go to the 15th court would try to go to the 15th and not be satisfied with the judgements of 14 courts. So, in public interests, it is necessary to restrict the scope of the number of appeals and I hope, while every effort will be made to see that the judges are in every way capable, impartial, fit and well-equipped for their task, the number of appeals and even of revisions will be reduced to the minimum.

A suggestion was made that the number should have increased not to 11 but to 13. 13 is not a very lucky number, so let us be satisfied with 11.

Shri K. K. Basu: Then it should be 14.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Well, nobody suggested it. Too late.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for an increase in the number of Judges of the Supreme Court, excluding the Chief Justice, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 and 2, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Pandit G. B. Pant: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

बीमती लिवराजमती बैंक (जिसा स्वतन्त्र-मध्य) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सिफे दो शब्द कहना चाहती हूँ। मैं वकाल नहीं हूँ लेकिन मेरी बहुत सी बहिनों ने वकालत पास की है और वे वकालत करती हैं। इस बिल के द्वारा हमारे गृह मंत्री महोदय सुशीम कोट्ट में दो या तीन जज बढ़ा रहे हैं। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि वह इस बात को व्याप्ति में रखें कि हमारे भारतवर्ष में औरतें मिनिस्टर हो गई हैं, मैरिजस्ट्रेट हो गई हैं, पार्लियामेंट की मेम्बर हो गई हैं, शाई० ए० एस० में हो गई हैं, लेकिन अभी तक कोई औरत हाई कोर्ट की जज नहीं बनाई गई है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि अगर कोई औरत इस काबिल हो, तो उस को मौका दिया जाय कि वह जज बन कर मुकदमों का—और विशेषकर स्त्रियों और बच्चों के मुकदमों का—फैसला करे।

पंडित गो० ब० पन्त : मैं इस बात की साईद करता हूँ कि औरतों को, चाहे वे वकालत पास न भी हों और कानून न भी जारी, तब भी सुशीम कोट्ट में रखा जाय। मुझे इस में कोई उत्तर नहीं है।

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The next Bill on the Order Paper stands in the name of Shri Khandhubhai Desai—the Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill. The hon. Home Minister desires that that may be passed over and the Jammu and Kashmir (Extension of Laws) Bill may be taken up immediately. I suppose the House has no objection.

Several Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Before I call upon the hon. Minister to make the motion, I have to inform the House that the half-an-hour discussion to be raised by Shri T. B. Vittal Rao fixed for today has had to be cancelled. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao is not here. He is held up somewhere in Dhanbad.

He was to come this morning. Dr. Rama Rao wrote to me a letter that it may be taken some other day. Therefore, the half-an-hour discussion would not be coming off today. The date on which it will be taken up will be duly notified later in the list of business.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR (EXTENSION OF LAWS) BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of certain laws to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, be taken into consideration".

I am thankful to the House for allowing me to make this motion. This Bill is of a purely formal character. Under the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, the Parliament has the authority to extend certain laws to the Jammu and Kashmir State. So, in accordance with the powers that are vested in Parliament by virtue of the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order of 1954, I move that this Bill be taken into consideration and be approved and the laws that are specified in the Bill be extended to Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the extension of certain laws to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6, the Schedule, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Pandit G. B. Pant: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

2-53½ P.M.

The Bill is purely a clarificatory one and it does not impose any additional liability on employers or detract from any of the benefits accruing to the workers. In the course of the operation of the provisions relating to retrenchment and lay off, doubts were raised as to the exact scope of the law and what the Bill proposes is to remove these doubts.

One of the amendments relates to retrenchment compensation. It has been held that an out-going employer will be liable to pay retrenchment compensation even when, on change of the ownership, the employees are continued in service by the incoming employer on the same terms as under the out-going employer. But this is not what was intended by the original legislation. Apart from this, such an interpretation would tend to do harm by impeding the sale, transfer or amalgamation of companies. Clause 3 of the Bill clarifies the position. While not affecting the workmen in anyway whatever, this might enable the transfer, constitution or amalgamation of companies, whether by agreement or by operation of the law, to be effected without any technical difficulty. The incoming employer shall be responsible for the payment of retrenchment compensation for the entire service of the workmen if at any future date it becomes necessary to carry out any retrenchment.

The second amendment relates to the lay off compensation. Sub-clause (b) of the first proviso to Section 25C has been interpreted in certain

cases as lending support to the view that if a workman is laid off in any year for more than 45 days without any break he will be entitled to lay off compensation only for 45 days and not for the entire lay off period. This also was not the intention, and the present amendment makes it clear that if during a period of twelve months a workman is laid off for more than 45 days, whether with or without break, for a continuous period of one week or more, he will be paid compensation for all the days of any lay off and not for 45 days only.

Today's atmosphere here is one of short speeches and speedy disposal and I should not change this welcome mood of the House. I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang): The Bill which has been moved is welcome. During the discussions at an earlier stage, when the House decided to grant compensation for lay off to the extent of 45 days, the question that was agitating our minds was, "Why 45 days only and why not the period be extended?" If there is a lay off, the worker has a liability to continue on the spot so that he might be available for work. Now, if you expect a man to be available on the spot for work even beyond 45 days, then the same principle which meant the payment of compensation for the 45 days should apply. Nobody in the country should have the right to expect another man to dance attendance on him and at the same time denying payment. That was the principle on which compensation was fixed. What we said at that time has borne fruit, and I am glad that the Government has

come to the conclusion that compensation should be extended even beyond 45 days. Therefore, this Bill would be welcomed all over the country.

In this Bill, there is a proviso which says that whatever compensation is given shall be adjustable later on against payment of compensation for retrenchment. Here is a question of principle involved—the principle of lay off and the principle of retrenchment. In the earlier stages also, I made the point that the principle on which retrenchment is compensated is completely different from the principle of lay off. In the lay off period, the worker is given compensation in order to carry on. He needs food. He must continue as an individual. Without money he cannot continue. But he continues for the purpose of working in the farm or in the industry. That is the reason why lay off is given. But the principle of compensation for retrenchment is separate. It is given so that he may get some time for searching for alternative employment. When he goes away from one industry, he has to find out alternative employment. Of all the countries in the world, much more in this country, it is not easy to get alternative employment. It always takes time and unless the man goes out in search of an alternative employment, he cannot get one. Therefore, the principle of compensation for retrenchment means that he is given some cash money, some ready cash money, so that he may go out and try to discover if any alternative employment is available elsewhere. Therefore, to adjust compensation which was meant only for lay off against compensation which should be meant for retrenchment is, I think, basically wrong. I do not know the reason which is given for the purpose of retrenchment. It may be that whatever the principle, ultimately the man who is running the industry has to cope up with the industry, and his resources cannot be depleted. Once the resources get depleted, the

difficulty of paying compensation arises. Practical considerations seem to have weighed with the Government when they have provided that the employers would be entitled to adjust the compensation for lay off against compensation for retrenchment. We are going to build a socialist pattern of society, and so, a man who is retrenched must be enabled to find a job. In countries like England and America, there is unemployment insurance and even if a man does not get a job immediately, he is maintained out of that insurance fund. But in our country, it has not been possible to maintain such a fund and it is not likely that we shall get it quickly. Therefore, in the present context of things, compensation for retrenchment is a highly valued compensation and there is no doubt that the working class in this country will regard it to be so until unemployment insurance is introduced in this country. Till then, we have no doubt that we will continue to press the Government for this benefit; and, just as we have won now in respect of lay off compensation for more than 45 days, we will also be able to prevail upon the Government to accept our view-point on this question of retrenchment compensation not being adjusted against the lay off compensation.

3 P.M.

There is a very important provision towards the end of this Bill with regard to the conditions of service in firms or industries which change hands. The question dealt with here is, what would happen if a firm or an industry changes hands, so far as the interests of labour are concerned? It will be remembered that in the course of the last three years, a large number of industrial units have changed hands; particularly those owned by foreigners were sold out at tremendous prices in a boom market. They used to have huge reserve funds and those reserve funds were repatriated. At the same time, as soon as the new employers came, the workers were served with notices saying, "Your service is new; you do

[Shri K. P. Tripathi]

not get the benefit of your past service and the benefit of a share in the reserve fund". All these questions were raised and under the existing law of the land, there was no answer. All that wealth which had been accumulated in the course of several years out of savings of the industry, for which both the employers and the workers had to forego some benefits, went to the employers alone. When this agitation started, the Government considered the matter and ultimately they have come forward with this legislation. It says that when the conditions of service of the workers under the first employer and under the second employer continue to be the same without any change, then the workers shall not be entitled to any compensation. By implication, it may be meant that if there is a change in the conditions, then at least they might be entitled to compensation...

Shri Abid Ali: If it harms the workers.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: If it harms the workers, then they would be entitled to compensation. This is by implication; it is not said so in positive terms. The Bill provides in a negative form that if there is no change, no compensation should be paid. For the first time it is put on the statute-book and from our workers' point of view, it is a very important principle that the workers are entitled to compensation when there is a change in the conditions of service. This will be welcomed all over the country.

I will now try to discuss what happens to the accumulations in the industry by way of reserve funds. I do not know about other countries, but particularly in India, it will be remembered that most of the reserve funds arise out of the savings of the industry. So much so, the industry in India has come forward with this argument that for the purpose of further development, these savings must be utilised. In other countries, fresh capital is raised for the purpose

of further development, but in India no fresh capital is raised. In other countries, the capital which is saved is utilised for the purpose of replacement only. In this country also, the Income-tax Department gives them relief, so that replacement might be continued. But, it is not merely a question of replacement. If a firm starts with a capital Rs. 1 lakh for one-type of industry, it goes on saving year after year and out of the savings, it expands and builds a new industry. A firm dealing in cement now expands and takes up plantations, jute, cotton and so on, out of the savings. In other countries, this is not regarded as proper; they raise fresh capital for fresh ventures. When you save, the saving might arise either by foregoing your dividends or by giving less wages to labour. In this country, it has been accepted as principle that bonus is the right of workers. Bonus comes out of profits and annual sharing of profits is bonus. If it is admitted that the worker has a right to share the profits, and if out of profits accumulations are made and kept as non-distributed profits, it is very clear that the workers have a right to share the non-distributed profits put into the reserve fund. If a firm changes hands, the question arises as to whom the reserve fund should belong; should it belong only to the employer or to both. If it should belong to both, in that case, it is very clear that the worker has a right to get compensation if the firm changes hands and the reserves are repatriated. But, if the reserves are retained in the industry which changes hands—instances are there—the question of compensation does not arise. But, if the reserves are taken away—it happened during the last two or three years that a very large number of firms changed hands and the reserves were repatriated to England—the question obviously arises: What is the share of the workers in that? It is not a small question. The conditions of service remain the same, but both the employers and the workers forewent certain benefits and created a reserve

fund. If the reserve fund is taken away, then the capital itself is taken away to that extent; the company becomes poorer and its capacity to weather the storm is reduced. So, I humbly submit that when we are progressing towards a socialist pattern of society, the society has to determine the most important things like capital formation. Capital formation determines the difference between the socialist pattern of society and the capitalist pattern of society and one must be able to say that this is the way in which the capital formation could arise in a socialist pattern of society.

I humbly beg to submit that in a socialist pattern of society whatever reserves are created after the distribution of normal dividends, in that there should be a share for the workers and if such reserves are likely to be taken away then the workers should be given their share. The workers' demand for such a share is not by way of compensation but by way of right just as if I deposit an amount in a bank and then the question arises as to whom that deposit should go, it should obviously come to me. But that has not been included in this.

Then again there is the new point arising out of the decision of this Parliament to have a socialist pattern of society as the goal. Since we have adopted this view, it has become incumbent on our part to consider the question of reserves also because reserve is capital formation and socialist pattern of society determines capital formation in a particular way, at least with regard to allocation, with regard to ownership. Therefore, I humbly beg to submit that while this clause 3, which amends clause 25, is quite acceptable to the working classes as it is, the working classes go further in its interpretation and their demands and the demands are with regard to what should happen with regard to reserves or reserves which are capitalised, reserves which are non-distributed, and the demand is that there

should be legislation which should authorise distribution of the same to workers also.

So far as the employers right is concerned, he is quite free and is at liberty to sell away the company along with the reserves. In that case he gets higher price. If I sell a company with reserves, obviously I get higher price. If the company has a capital structure of three lakhs of rupees and reserves of three lakhs of rupees, then obviously the employer can sell that company for six lakhs of rupees. Then what happens? He realises the price of the company plus the reserves also, the total reserves. In this way, by an agreement between the seller and the buyer, the total reserves, part of which belong to the workers, go to the original employer or, if he makes a mistake, to the buyer. In either case, who loses? It is the worker about whom there is no legislative provision in the law of today. Therefore, I humbly beg to submit that this question has to be considered sometime or other and I hope the Government would, like in the case of lay off compensation where they have been kind enough to consider and come to the conclusion regarding its extension beyond 45 days, in the case of workers' right to a share in the reserves once a company is transferred also, make the law up to date in terms of our intentions to establish a socialist pattern of society.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea (Serampore): While welcoming this Bill, I fully support what Shri Tripathi has said firstly with regard to the right of the workers to have compensation in case of retrenchment and secondly about the more fundamental point that he has raised about the workers' share in the matter of reserves.

The point about compensation for retrenchment is, I think, a very vital one and when the Government has come forward to amend that part of the clause, I think that gap should be filled up in this amending Bill. If a worker, who has already got lay off benefit for 45 days, is retrenched

[Shri Tushar Chatterjee]

after that, he is not entitled to get any other compensation. That goes against the original section 25F of the Industrial Disputes Act. In this section very clear conditions have been laid down for compensation, for retrenchment and, as Shri Tripathi has stated, lay off and retrenchment, these two things should be judged in different ways. Whereas lay off is a temporary measure, retrenchment is a drastic measure by which the worker is rendered unemployed. Therefore, in this amending Bill, the proviso in clause 2 should be suitably amended so that the worker, even if he is being retrenched after 45 days, is entitled to get compensation. I know personally, having my connection with a number of trade unions, if any worker is regarded as an undesirable element by the employer, he can easily be retrenched in this way and he can easily be deprived of this compensation benefit. I think it is a very vital point. It touches the very basic principle and, therefore, suitable modification should be made.

Another thing which Shri Tripathi has not mentioned but I want to mention is this. It is quite right that benefit for lay off has been provided even beyond 45 days. But here it is stated:

"and the lay off after the expiry of the first forty-five days comprises continuous periods of one week or more....."

That means, if further lay off is more than a week, then only the worker is entitled to get lay off benefit for that further period. That is to say, if his lay off is for any period which is less than a week, he is not entitled to get any lay off benefit. This puts the worker in a difficult position. I do not understand why when this benefit has been extended beyond 45 days, this special restriction has been imposed that if beyond 45 days, more than seven days lay off is there, then only the worker is entitled to get benefit, otherwise

not. I suggest that this defect should be remedied.

Lastly, as Shri Tripathi has pointed out, I also feel that the wording of the new section 25FF, as it has been put here, may give rise to legal complications ultimately in case of any transfer of ownership. If the service condition of the worker is in any way disadvantageous than the previous one, he will get compensation. If the service conditions remain the same, he is not entitled to any compensation. But the wording of the proviso here is:

"...the terms and conditions of service applicable to the workman after such transfer are not in any way less favourable to the workman than those applicable to him immediately before the transfer."

I think this qualification should not be included in the proviso. If it is included in the proviso, then the main part of the section may be interpreted in a different way and there may be complications ultimately. So, I think, instead of putting it in a negative way, it should be put in a positive way so that in such cases where service conditions have been altered in any way compensation should be paid. This sort of direct assertion should be made. As the Minister himself says as regards the first portion of the amendment, this has been brought forward only because of some misinterpretation by the legal interpreters. From that point of view, I think, section 25FF should be suitably re-written so that there remains no loophole for making a wrong interpretation of this provision.

I think this Bill has corrected some defect but I feel that it should have gone much further to safeguard those fundamental rights of the workers that are involved in the case of retrenchment benefit.

Shri Abid Ali: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, taking the last point of the hon. Member Shri Chatterjee first, I

may mention that section 325FF is a positive section. It says what shall happen. The workman has been guaranteed one month's notice in writing and compensation. The proviso to the section is also definite. It is in negative form. What he wants is already in section 25FF. Proviso (b) to section 25FF says—

"(b) the terms and conditions of service applicable to the workman after such transfer are not in any way less favourable to the workman than those applicable to him immediately before the transfer;"

If it is more favourable he will be of course happier; but if it is less favourable, then the worker would be entitled to retrenchment compensation as has been provided for in the Act.

The point about one week was raised by Shri Chatterjea. There is nothing new to that effect mentioned in the amending Bill. It has only been reproduced from the original section. So, we are not making any amendment to the clause to the detriment of the worker, as has been pointed out by Shri Chatterjea. He will find it in the principal Act.

With regard to the provision for setting off the lay off compensation in case there is ultimately retrenchment and the retrenchment compensation may become less, I may submit that this has been put with a purpose, to give an employer some chance to make all attempts for working the factory. Otherwise, if we make him pay off the lay off compensation and then ultimately retrenchment compensation, then some employers may at the very beginning of the trouble coming up pay the workers retrenchment compensation and close the factory. We feel it is in the interest of the workers that the factory is worked and should not be closed. It is a sort of inducement to the employers in the interest of the workers and the industry, so that they may continue to run the factory. There may be difficulty about mar-

ket conditions, raw materials may not be available, finance may not be available. In those circumstances he should be given some breathing time to get the necessary help from the sources he can and continue the factory. From that point of view I hope hon. Members who did not like this provision would welcome it.

About sharing the profits, I am one with my hon. friends who have spoken that certainly workers should get their due share in the prosperity of the concern. About that there can be no two opinions. We are ourselves very much anxious to find some norms to fix, if it is possible, the bonus from the profits and also otherwise. But the difficulty, as hon. Members who are themselves field-workers, know, is that nobody has been able to find an all satisfactory solution. Some solution has been found for current bonus about which there is some opposition from some quarters. We hope that in course of time that also will subside and the system which has become popular in some of the industries in some parts of the country will become more popular elsewhere also and perhaps that may be adopted universally by trade union workers everywhere.

My hon. friend Shri Tripathi mentioned about profits. That is true. But if there is loss that also has to be taken into consideration. While making rules or framing legislation all the possible contingencies have to be taken into consideration and not profit alone. I do not agree with the remarks that the Bill is defective in that respect, because that particular provision cannot find a place in the Industrial Disputes Act. As hon. Members know, we are appointing wage boards for some of the important industries. Perhaps it may be possible for the wage board to give some consideration to the suggestion the hon. Member has made and this effort will of course continue. It is an important matter not only from the worker's point of view, but also from the point of view of the industry. It cannot be given up as it is and will be continued through the wage

[Shri Abid Ali]

boards and other sources. I hope that this explanation will satisfy hon. Members and they will appreciate that we are also alive to the issues that they have in mind.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shri Abid Ali: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Shri Rane (Bhusaval): May I make a request that the House be adjourned for a few minutes because the business has collapsed? Seven hours had been allotted for two Bills.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House is adjourned for half an hour to meet again at four o'clock.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): Why adjourn for half an hour? Let it be adjourned for tomorrow. As matter of fact, the next motion about displaced persons was to come up on the 22nd.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): The House has already adjourned.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It was by chance that on all the other Bills there was no debate or discussion and the whole thing collapsed. This

item was to come off on the 22nd. I was informed that it will be taken up on the 22nd. Some Members asked me whether it will come up today or they could remain absent. I told them to remain absent if they so chose as these rules were not coming for discussion today.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That was my information also. Lala Achint Ram enquired of me yesterday at Hissar. He thought that it would be coming up after the 21st. If the House is of that view....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It happened like this. I received a chit from the Secretariat that this will be taken up on the 22nd. I came back from Hissar yesterday. I did not even look into the papers. This morning Lala Achint Ram asked me if it was coming up today. I said, no. He asked, why is it so. I said that I had received a chit that it will come up on the 22nd. When I came to the House today at about 12, and saw there was some chance of the business coming up, I collected my books. Though I may be ready, the hon. Minister is not ready.

Then, it is not fair to those whom we have asked to be not present....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Readiness has to be known subsequently. For the present, the Minister is not here.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: The Minister is not here. Lala Achint Ram asked me at about 9-30 this morning. I asked him to go away because according to the note from the Secretariat which I received, I knew it was coming up on the 22nd. I asked him to go away. He wanted to take part in the debate. If the House is to be adjourned, let it be adjourned to tomorrow.

Some Hon. Members: Day after tomorrow.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: If the business has collapsed earlier can we not wait?

Shri Rane: The Jammu and Kashmir Bill was allotted four hours and this Bill was allotted three hours.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have finished the work of 11 hours within 3½ hours.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: We can proceed with the work and finish the rest of the work in five minutes. The Ministers are not here. There are my motions. The other two motions can also be taken up and disposed of and the whole thing can be gone through easily but Parliament is meant for discussion and Debate and not to dispose of work when members are not present.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: The House should congratulate itself on having expeditiously disposed of the business. We may take up the next business.

Some Hon. Members: Let the House be adjourned for the day.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Of course, it was unexpected that the debate will collapse and we would finish the work. But that should be no reason for adjourning the House for the day. We ought to be ready for the next business that is to be taken up and ready for this contingency that the debate might collapse.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): The Ministers themselves do not seem to be ready.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For the present, we might adjourn for half an hour. Then, we will see.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: It follows that if the Minister does not come in time, then the business may be adjourned for half an hour, but if the Members, who are under the impression that the debate will be coming on the 22nd, do not turn up, the debate cannot be adjourned to the next day.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Agreed. I have to look into this. If that was

the impression that it will be taken up on the 22nd, it would be adjourned. Let me satisfy myself if that impression has been given and by whom. Perhaps the hon. Member said that some one from the Secretariat....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Two Members asked me and I told them that it will be coming on the 22nd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: On what basis?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: On the basis that I received a note from the Secretariat.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I must see whether the person who has given that impression was authorised or not.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Everybody thought like that. The four Bills would take 10 hours.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I agree that that was the impression.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): I asked the hon. Member this morning when this would be taken up. He said that it will be taken up on the 22nd. Other Members have gone.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If one hon. Member was under an impression and he passes on that impression to 20 Members, the position remains the same. There is no other source. The hon. Member was under the impression that it would come up on the 22nd and he has passed on that impression to other Members as well. It does not become strengthened by passing on that impression to other Members. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava says that he got the impression by a note from some Member of the Secretariat. I am putting it to the hon. House. Let us adjourn for half an hour. In the meanwhile, I will ascertain. If that impression has been given by some person who is authorised, certainly, we will adjourn afterwards. The House is adjourned for half an hour.

3-35 P.M.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Five minutes past Four of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Five Minutes Past Four of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Mr. Speaker: What is the desire of the House regarding the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Rules?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): I have suggested they may be taken up day after tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: Is that the pleasure of the House?

Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: It will be taken up as the first item after Question Hour day after tomorrow.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): It will be the first item tomorrow or the day after?

Mr. Speaker: Tomorrow is a holiday. The House will now take up Supplementary Demands for Grants for 1956-57.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS* 1956-57

DEMAND No. 113—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry'."

DEMAND No. 126—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during

the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Loans and Advances by the Central Government'."

DEMAND No. 128—PURCHASES OF FOODGRAINS

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 80,48,22,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Purchases of Foodgrains'."

DEMAND No. 131—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Home Affairs'."

DEMAND No. 142—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,50,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Transport'."

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): May I respectfully submit that so far as these Demands are concerned, we are taken by surprise and cut motions have not been tabled? The whole business is upset.

Mr. Speaker: How is it upset? Hon. Members want the statement of the work a week in advance. If the statement is late even by a single day or a single hour, there is so much demand here.

Shri Raghavachari: You will be pleased to see that so far as these

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Demands are concerned, we must really contribute something. The whole arrangement for five to six hours is upset and even the consideration of the rules has been deferred on account of some other reason. This is an important matter in which some principles are involved. Several crores of rupees are also involved.

Mr. Speaker: I find there are Demands for Excess Grants. We are not going to do anything with them except make some observations. So far as the Supplementary Demands for Grants are concerned, wherever there is a new item, we will have to make an observation. So far as the old items are concerned, it is an adjustment and appropriation from one to the other. I do not think much is going to be gained by postponement. As a matter of fact, we have got a lot of work to do and whatever we gain we will be only wasting away by adjourning the House. How are we to get through the other business? There is no surprise so far as this matter is concerned. I will give opportunity to any hon. Member who wants to speak on any of these Demands.

Let the hon. Minister just say a few words as to why he wants these Demands, what are the broad items for which he wants them etc.

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): There is a rather elaborate note attached to each of the Demands. The total Demands would be for about Rs. 89.65 crores. This will be on capital account. The one item is for the loan to Burma Government. The first proposal was that they would draw it in two years. Last year they did not draw anything and we provided in the Budget this year only Rs. 15 crores, but now they are taking the entire amount this year. So, we are putting a Supplementary Demand for Rs. 5 crores.

The main item would be the purchase of food which would come to about Rs. 80 crores. I think the

House is aware there is something not very easy with the food situation. So, we have to import food from outside for our buffer stock as reserves. That will come to about Rs. 80 crores.

Then there is some amount also about Asoka Hotel. Previously it was arranged that Government would only take a small share of Rs. 26 lakhs in the company in the form of preference shares and would give Rs. 25 lakhs as loan. The promoters of the company have not been able to fulfil their part of the agreement in raising sufficient money. So, the proposal is that Government should take up the entire project and finance it wholly from the Government and run it entirely under the Works, Housing and Supply Ministry.

These are the main items, and elaborate notes have been attached to the Demands. I hope the Demands will be passed.

Shri Matthen (Tiruvellah): Let us know what was the original idea of the Ashoka Hotel.

Shri A. C. Guha: I have stated the original idea was that the Government would take up preference shares for Rs. 26 lakhs and would give a loan of Rs. 25 lakhs carrying an interest of five per cent, but now the promoters have not been able to raise sufficient money. (Interruption).

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members will kindly rise in their seats and put questions leisurely. Half sitting and half standing and putting the questions simultaneously is not right. The hon. Minister is certainly going to answer whatever is asked.

Shri Matthen: We want to have some idea of the finances. What was the original capital of the company, what is the Government's share, what is now sought to be done etc.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): May I ask.....

Mr. Speaker: On the same matter?

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may note down the other points raised by hon. Members and reply once for all.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: How much of this is for rice and how much for wheat?

Mr. Speaker: That relates to the hotel. The Demand is for Rs. 80 crores for the purchase of foodgrains which is made up by adjustment. The existing provision of Rs. 37 crores is to be raised to Rs. 126 crores. That is by Rs. 89 crores but even there they want to appropriate Rs. 8 crores from surplus under other heads. The Demand is thus for Rs. 80 crores for which in effect they want the vote of the House.

So far as the hotel is concerned, originally it was expected to be a private company. Later on, these shares are being purchased by the Government.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Not entirely. It was a Government-sponsored company in which Government took 25 per cent. of the shares, or rather Rs. 25 lakhs, and also gave a fairly big loan. Later on, we gave more in the shape of loan, and later we decided that Government should take it over completely. Of course, there is some private capital, too, about Rs. 15 to Rs. 16 lakhs, and it may be some more private capital may come in. We do not object to that. But we could not allow it, having gone thus far, and leave it in the air. I would invite hon. Members, if they have the time, to go round to this place and see this enormous structure which has been built with remarkable rapidity, because we wanted it specially to be ready in October, for this big UNESCO conference that was going to take place.

Shri Raghavachari: May I know whether all the Demands for Grants are going to be put together?

Mr. Speaker: There are only five of them.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: His point is whether we are to discuss Demand after Demand, or all the Demands together?

Mr. Speaker: I would like that every hon. Member may have one opportunity and he may say whatever he wants to say on all the Demands in one speech.

I shall put the demands separately to the vote of the House.

Shri A. C. Guha: In the meantime, may I reply to the questions put?

Mr. Speaker: The Minister may reserve his reply and give it at the end once and for all.

Shri Raghavachari: I want to make a few observations on the proposal to take over practically the entire Asoka Hotels Ltd. Last time, when this matter came up, I did participate in the debate and raise my voice against the proposal. But that proposal was passed. Now, the present proposal is to take it over completely.

The original proposal was that it was to be a private company, and Government wanted to take shares of only Rs. 26 lakhs; now the private parties have contributed about Rs. 16 lakhs only. Government also wanted to advance to them a loan of Rs. 25 lakhs. I also understand, from the memorandum of association and other particulars that were then available, that the Government had granted to them a site worth about Rs. 40 lakhs, on which the building was to be built.

I have gone round the building, and I have seen it. It is, no doubt, a mountain of a building coming up there. But the point we are concerned with here is that the promoters originally intended to raise Rs. 1 crore of share capital, including the Rs. 26 lakhs which Government had

to contribute; that is to say, the promoters expected to raise a share capital of Rs. 74 lakhs, and also debentures worth Rs. 1 crore.

The particular gentleman and his friends who were interested in the promotion of this hotel started the whole thing, but now we find that they have not been able to raise more than Rs. 16 lakhs' share money; they have not been able to raise even Rs. 1 crore worth of debentures promised. So, we see now that the entire thing is in a confused condition. The promoters and the sympathisers and friends have left it in such a condition that Government have now to take over the whole thing. Government have now to contribute the balance of the money required to make up Rs. 1 crore of share capital, and also the amount required by way of debentures, for construction, this, that and the other. That means, that nearly Rs. 2 crores are going to be invested in a hotel, of this kind, which, personally I feel, judging from the articles of association and the objects with which it has been started, is meant to provide hotel accommodation to foreign people who are expected to come to India for a particular conference.

If, for a particular conference, a number of guests are expected, and they have to be kept in comfort, then, is it the business of Government to enter into a huge concern of this nature, and run a hotel in which all kinds of things are supplied to cater to their needs? We know that even where things are planned well, scrutinised and done with the utmost care, the concerns go out of control, and many of them end in a loss. Particularly in concerns like hotels, where innumerable details are involved at every stage, and all sorts of goods for consumption are used, it almost becomes impossible to think of any Government trying to control it and run it at a profit. We have seen what the position has turned out to be in many other concerns already started. It is true that private people are running hotels and are making profits. But in a Government concern, with its

red-tapism, and the way in which things are managed, I am particularly sure that the whole thing will end in a condition in which we would have completely lost everything. Even factories like the housing factory,—where everything was conceived in advance, and there was co-operation from the private people, and things were started well,—have ended in a huge loss.

Here, we expect to sink Government money to the tune of nearly Rs. 2 crores from the Consolidated Fund. I am afraid, by granting this amount, we shall unnecessarily be involving Government in this concern, where the consequence will be that we lose the whole money.

Now that Government want to take it over, let us see what the present position of the concern is. From the booklet that has been supplied, we find that Government have not even settled the scheme or its terms. The whole thing is yet to be decided and settled with the promoters. So, we find that the concern was first started, and Government advanced the initial loan and share capital, without knowing and without even settling the details. Again, we find that even after the very people who promoted it have proved that there is no value in the promises they had made and in the hopes they had raised, and they have collapsed and they are not able to raise any capital, Government, once again, without definitely knowing the terms and without settling the scheme, want to take it over, and still run it as a company in co-operation or collaboration with these very people.

We do not know whether the promoters have had any experience so far of running a hotel. As far as we know, I do not think they have shown any such experience. We have already seen what kind of experience they have exhibited in the working of this concern. Without knowing the terms, and without exactly settling the scheme, we are asked to commit Government and its funds in this hotel. I think that this is certainly not proper.

[Shri Raghavachari]

Another point that I would like to submit is this. The whole building is being built now. Who settles the contracts? What are the rates at which the building is built, and at what rates have we to take over the innumerable things of the hotel, such as crockery, cutlery, furniture and so on? For all these items, there have been prior commitments? Who can guarantee that they have contracted to get these supplied at proper prices and not at exorbitant prices? The whole thing is left in the air. The private people are unable to meet their commitments. Since Government have already advanced Rs. 25 lakhs loan and Rs. 26 lakhs by way of share capital, they feel that they should go on advancing an additional sum of Rs. 150 lakhs. To my mind, it appears that the Consolidated Fund of India and the moneys raised by way of taxation should not be utilised for purposes of this kind, and particularly, for catering to all kinds of needs in a hotel, which certainly is not going to be profitable, and which is not likely also to be a creditable concern into which we can safely enter. The whole thing appears as if we are anxious to provide some kind of accommodation or assistance to people who have started the hotel but find themselves at sea, in the middle of the venture.

I protest against this kind of contribution being made out of the Consolidated Fund, and particularly, to a hotel where we do not know the details, where we have not settled the whole shape of the thing. Government had about one year's time at their disposal. What prevented them from placing the whole scheme, together with all the details, before this House? Why should they now come forward and say that everything is still to be settled and yet want us to agree to this grant?

To my mind, it looks as if this is a way of doing a thing, without taking us into confidence; and without themselves looking into the whole thing carefully, they want to commit us to

an expenditure of nearly Rs. 2 crores. I am, therefore, against this.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): The House has noted on a previous occasion how clumsily this Ashoka Hotels affair has been conducted by Government. On that occasion, the House was told that a lot of money was going to be raised by a private company and what Government was going to do was to lend money and give some other assistance. But now it has come to be a completely government concern. How the concern is being developed when the promoters of the company have left it and how the entire management is going to be hereafter taken up has neither been made clear by the hon. Minister in his speech nor in the note that has been given under the Demand. It looks as if they have entered upon an adventure without actually knowing the capacity of the promoters. Even now the House must be told how the construction is being managed, whether the contractors engaged by the old company or the promoters are still going on with the work or whether Government have called for fresh tenders and given the work to fresh contractors. We should also know how the supervision of the entire work is managed and whether the CPWD or any other government agency is looking after the construction.

After saying this, I would suggest to Government that even after the building is completed and the hotel is established, it should invite some hotel keepers or company of hotel keepers to take over the entire management, and leave it there. Otherwise, if Government wants to manage the hotel, I am afraid it will be doing one of the greatest wrongs to the Consolidated Fund of India. I do not, at this stage, want to say that we need not give any further convenience or accommodation to the members who come here for the UNESCO Conference or that we do not have the responsibility of making necessary arrangements. Once the building is

completed and the hotel is established, I do not think Government will be well advised in taking over or carrying on the administration of the hotel from day to day. I would only suggest and request that at that stage at least, without incurring further losses in an enterprise like this, Government should hand over the concern to some company which will be able to run it at its own risk.

Then I would say a word about the Orissa Mining Corporation, for which about Rs. 30 lakhs have been subscribed by the Governments of India and Orissa in equal proportion. I would like to ask for further details about this. This is going to be an enterprise taken up by the Governments of Orissa and of India, and it is going to be a sort of private limited company. The memorandum and articles of association of this company have not been placed before the House even as the memorandum and articles of association of the Ashoka Hotels also have not been placed before us. That shows the courtesy shown by the Government, in not informing the House of the details of how the work of these enterprises will be conducted hereafter.

In this connection, I would like to ask whether we would have surplus of iron ore or other minerals available for export to other countries, in view of the fact that we are now going to have a number of iron and steel companies started in India. If there is no possibility of having a surplus, and as such, no idea of exporting it, it is high time that we thought of not advancing this project but of moving cautiously in the matter of this particular project. We have, no doubt, large mineral deposits in India. Already, in the Bihar and Orissa area, we have also got several companies started for development of our iron and steel industry. There are other areas in the country where such deposits are available, where such companies or factories are not going to be started. If it is the intention of Government to see that all the mineral resources should be developed in this

country, it would have been better for Government to take it over to States where such companies are not going to be started, so as to help the area by developing its mineral resources. After that, if there is a surplus, it can be exported.

Then a large allotment has been made for the purchase of foodgrains. I do think that we have to keep ready sufficient quantities of foodgrains for the purpose of distributing them in areas that do want them from time to time either on account of famine conditions or flood situations or other scarcity conditions. In this connection, I would suggest that care must be taken by Government to see that warehouses or store-houses should be constructed in such places where there is production of these foodgrains—wheat or rice. As it is, there is procurement going on—not compulsorily—in the districts, and the grains are taken over to the headquarters of the State. I would suggest that this practice should be abandoned or, to a large extent, reduced with a view to purchasing these foodgrains in surplus centres and storing them in the same areas, so that whenever they want to supply any particular area, they can send the grains there at proper notice.

What is now happening is that paddy is produced and converted into rice and taken to the headquarters of the State. There the rice will be stocked or stored. Within three or four months, single-polished or double-polished rice would certainly deteriorate, with the result that it will not be useful for consumption, unless it is forced upon the people. On the contrary, Government must be able to purchase paddy and store that paddy, and convert the paddy into rice whenever there is demand from a particular area and transport it to that area. If paddy is stored, it will remain in good condition for two to three years, but if it is converted into rice, it won't last even two to three months or at the most six months. So I would only suggest that when-

[**Shri Ramachandra Reddi**]

ever in future foodgrains are purchased, they should be kept in paddy form so far as rice is concerned.

Then, in surplus areas in each State, there will be big panchayats. In such areas, storage facilities can be arranged, and it can be kept under the control or jurisdiction of the panchayats. If stocks are purchased during the harvest season at lower prices, then such stocks can be stored up, and whenever there is demand from elsewhere, they can be transported to such places.

Shri A. C. Gaha: I have not been able to follow what the hon. Member was saying about panchayats in connection with procurement.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: There is a panchayat in each of the surplus areas. The procured paddy can be kept in their care. Otherwise, Government will have to engage a very big staff and spend a lot of money over it, and probably the expenses thereon will be rubbed on the consumer.

To avoid all those things and to have a careful watch over them the Panchayats must be entrusted with the task. In fact, in Madras, sometime ago, there was an idea of subsidising some of these store-rooms or warehousing facilities and paying money to the mill-owners. It was then suggested that the mill-owners need not be given such huge sums but the Panchayats may be entrusted with the work of constructing these godowns and have them under their care later on to be utilised for the storing of the purchased grains.

In the end, I notice that a very large amount of money is going to be spent for the upkeep of the Rashtrapati Bhawan or rather the Residency buildings in Hyderabad for the purpose of keeping it ready for Rashtrapati's residence. I think the Rashtrapati does not live outside Delhi, and especially in places like that, for more than a week or two. We are now thinking of expending about Rs. 25 lakhs or so for the purpose of improving the buildings and also for remodel-

ling them. I am sure the Residency buildings are rather very big and a few patches up here and there will, probably, make them perfect and livable even for the Rashtrapati. I do not say that the Rashtrapati should be kept in any discomfort at all. But, for a stay of one or two weeks in a place like Hyderabad, to spend Rs. 25 lakhs now, at one stretch, seems to be a little too much.

If it is the idea of Government to utilise these buildings for some other purpose when the Rashtrapati does not occupy them, namely for housing the offices of Government, which have become very big owing to the amalgamation of Hyderabad and Andhra, for which more space is required—some lakhs of rupees may be spent on them. In that case, if there is a possibility of utilising these buildings when they are not occupied by the Rashtrapati for locating some of the offices, then, probably, this amount would be worth while spending. Otherwise, it does not seem to be necessary to spend such sums. Without meaning anything against the Rashtrapati, I may say that even the Rashtrapati Bhawan in Delhi is not fully used. A large portion of it has been handed over to the Planning Commission offices. That being so, any extra accommodation made available in Hyderabad may not be used by him or his staff and as such that will be a waste unless it be the intention of Government to utilise the buildings for some other purposes when the Rashtrapati does not occupy them.

Shri Asoka Mehta (Bhandara): I beg to support some of the observations made by my friend, Shri Raghavachari.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member was not here when I said that if an hon. Member rises and speaks, he may speak on all the Demands as a whole. He gave me to understand that he would speak only on one Demand.

Shri Asoka Mehta: No, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member desires he can speak on the other Demands as well because he will have

no opportunity later to speak on them.

Shri Asoka Mehta: I have no desire to speak on other Demands. That was why I began by saying that I would like to support the observations of my hon. friend Shri Raghavachari. I shall not waste the time of the House by repeating them.

The Minister is here and I would like him to take note of what my hon. friend said. I would like to invite your attention to Demand No. 128 about the purchase of foodgrains. When the Budget was drawn up and when we were discussing the Budget we were told that Government would be buying 5 lakhs tons of imported wheat and 3½ lakh tons of indigenous foodgrains. Now, we find that 24,65,000 tons of wheat and rice are to be imported in order to build up buffer stocks. It means that the imports are to be stepped up by 500 per cent.

This Demand gives us an opportunity to review not only the food policy of the Government but the general economic policy of the Government also, for this very simple reason that we were told the other day by the Food Minister that it is necessary to have this kind of imports and it is necessary to build up our buffer stocks, not because, as my friend Shri Reddi said just now, there are floods here or famines there but mainly because, with deficit financing and increased purchasing power coming in the country, the only way we can meet this increasing purchasing power and we can provide against a possible rise in prices is to have more and more stock at the disposal of Government. Such a policy needs to be seriously reviewed and considered.

Some weeks back when the Second Plan was placed before the House, the Prime Minister told us that the targets for food production for the Five Year Plan had to be revised and they were virtually revised on the floor of the House. You will recollect, Sir, that I had pointed out that when a certain revision of the food

targets for production takes place, the entire Plan will have to be reviewed and reconsidered because other targets will be affected. No reply to that criticism has been offered so far.

Now we are told—and the Prime Minister has been saying it off and on—that he expects not only that India will be self-sufficient in food production but India is going to export a lot of food and that way we shall have an export margin, from which we shall be able to import the capital goods that we need. That is the basic economic assumption on which the Prime Minister has been working. But, I am sorry that he is not here and I have got to refer to him in his absence. If the assumption is that we are going to be self-sufficient in food and we are going to have a margin for export, the question arises—and it is a very simple question—firstly, how is this margin going to be produced and secondly, how will there be a marketable surplus? It is not enough to have foodgrains production in the country; it is necessary to have a marketable surplus in the country. How is that marketable surplus to be created? How will you make it possible for the peasants to part with the additional foodgrains that they may be persuaded to produce? So far, none of these questions have been answered. I shall go into them a little later.

But here we are told that we have not enough foodgrains in the country. When the Budget was discussed, we were told that 5 lakh tons would be imported and 3½ lakh tons of indigenous foodgrains would be purchased. It seems that we are not in a position to purchase foodgrains from indigenous sources to build up our buffer stocks. All these tall claims about increased food production seem to be so much hot air.

Secondly, if we are going to increase our import of foodgrains by 500 per cent. what does it mean? As it is, we have an acute shortage of external resources. One of the weakest points in the Second Five Year Plan is of foreign resources. We need 1'6 billion dollars. We do not know how

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we are going to raise them. You are well aware of the difficulty that we are experiencing of the limited resources at our disposal. We feel the dire necessity to gather all our resources to put the Plan through and we have started squandering them away. For what? For building up our buffer stocks. Buffer stocks should have been built up from regular purchases; buffer stocks should be built up by improving internal production; buffer stocks should be built up by a long-term policy and not by the hand-to-mouth policy the Food Ministry has been following. What is the result? You have deficit financing. What is the result of deficit financing? The result of deficit financing is that in certain pockets of our economy more and more money tends to accumulate; whether the pockets be those of the peasants working in the fields or they be the pockets of the big industrialists, is not to the point. Deficit financing results in putting more and more money into the pockets of some people in the country. Now, you have got to take away these additional resources which are pumped into our economy into channels of safety. Unless you do that, if that money is used up for consumption, no economic development takes place. Economic development takes place when the additional resources that are pumped into our economy are drained out or drawn out for the purpose of savings, are used again or are again injected into our economy for the purpose of investment. That is the whole mechanism of a developing economy. I am amazed when I find that you put in money, people get some money, immediately you get more foodgrains; but where does development take place? Why is this being done? It is for the very simple reason that the Government is not prepared to pump out of the economy the super-abundant profits that are being made today by the big industrialists. I am sure you read every day and it would be useful if you spare some time to look at the quotations on the stock exchanges. The prices of our industrial shares are

booming up, and it is surprising that the day the Prime Minister took over the Finance Ministry in his own hands, the stock exchange registered an increase. One would expect that the Prime Minister, such an outstanding exponent of socialism in this country, should be conscious of the fact—as I had pointed out on more than one occasion, not only that, but the ex-Finance Minister had accepted that analysis—that whenever you have deficit economy, profits will tend to accumulate, firstly, with the big industrialists and, secondly, with the small producers, particularly those who produce foodgrains and raw materials. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that we should have fairly stiff taxes on profits. You will remember that I had said that we should have a curb on wages on the one hand and we should have stiff taxes on the other. Nothing of the sort. What are the anti-inflationary measures taken? Dumping more foodgrains in the country is done hoping that thereby it would silence the opposition of the people. That is not the way that a country builds her economy. We are not interested in following a consistent policy, a policy of mopping up or mobilising for the purpose of development all the additional resources that may come up in the country. Secondly, I realise that in India we must have buffer stocks at our disposal for special reasons, for calamity reasons, as pointed out by my friend, Shri Reddi. All those resources may be obtained locally. But what is happening here? Here the Food Minister, who is also the Minister of Agriculture, has nothing to do with the community projects. The community projects are a sort of advance guard of our agricultural development. The community projects are under a different Minister. The Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission looks after the community projects administration. He is a very experienced person and I have great respect for him, but I see no logic whatsoever for the fact that in this country the writ of the Minister of Agriculture does not run whatso-

ever as far as the community development areas are concerned; the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission has overall supervision and control of the community development areas, but he has nothing to do with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.

I would tell this House to go and find out what is happening because of this bifurcation of control. What amount of avoidable waste, what amount of avoidable waste, what amount of avoidable irritation and conflict is going on there? It is an illogical bifurcation for which no kind of logical or rational explanation has been offered by those who are in power today. On the one hand we do not know what is happening to food production. Then again, food is imported. I do not know whether imported foodgrains are made available to the flour mills in Bombay and Calcutta. These flour mills have a capacity, I believe, of about 12 to 15 per cent. of the wheat production in India, which is utilised for the purpose of making atta. Are the foodgrains that are being imported from foreign countries being utilised there? What kind of foodgrains are being imported? What is happening there? If all these things got the attention of the Food Ministry, I do not know. I do not think the Finance Minister will be in a position to reply to me on these points; these are important points. Even for the purchases of foodgrains from foreign countries, you will be surprised to learn that Indian business men have no part in it. All the tenders have to be submitted in New York or in London, not in Delhi. Indian business men are not in a position to participate in that. Indian business men who are in a position to quote for the purpose of importing foreign foodgrains at competitive rates are barred simply because within the time that is given to them they cannot make these offers in New York unless they have their office in New York. How many business men in India can have their office in New York?

You are going to spend Rs. 80 crores on imported foodgrains, and even if

the commission is half a per cent., it runs into lakhs of rupees; no Indian will get it and that money must go to foreigners because the conditions are such. What is the net result of your policy? When it comes to concrete cases, no attention whatsoever is given even to Indian business.

If you look at it, you will find the entire economy—it is not the Rs. 80 crores, it is not the import of foodgrains, but behind it is the sorry tale of incompetence, lack of thought, lack of co-ordinated planning. And with this they come to us and say "We are going to implement the Five Year Plan".

I usually speak in restrained terms, I have always tried in this House to use measured language, but I find that on some of these economic matters, even elementary thinking is not being given. It is not that the friends who occupy the Treasury Benches are not capable of applying their minds, but I do not know what has happened to them. The result is that some isolated questions are brought up here. One day the newspapers carry the report that India is going to produce 30 per cent. more foodgrains and after three months, from that very Government comes the demand that we want to increase by 500 per cent. the import of foodgrains. What kind of consistency is there in this policy? If there is no consistency, why are they building up buffer stocks. Last year the food prices had gone down and collapsed so much so that the whole House was agitated about it. I remember that last year this was the recurring question, persistent question, each one of us was raising here. Surely they could have purchased the buffer stocks at that time and our peasants would have got something. If the prices had not been allowed to fall during last year, there would have been better sowing and harvesting this year. But they permitted the prices to rise and fall in any manner whatsoever. There is no kind of a co-ordinated policy, with the result that the peasant has not got any incentive or confidence today that even by larger production

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he would be able to do anything. You will remember that I pointed out on a previous occasion, and I am happy that a large number of Members are in agreement with me, that it is inconceivable to believe that you could have an increase of foodgrains by 30 per cent. and decrease in food prices by 20 per cent. That is the policy that is being advocated by some members of the Planning Commission and some members of the Government. It is amazing, and if you will permit me to say, it is a fantastic policy, with which you cannot hope to redress the economic difficulties of our country.

Now you have got into all these difficulties and you want Rs. 80 crores. Nothing can be done now. Have it but let us warn you that this kind of a policy, which is without a purpose, without a point, without a direction, is inconsistent with any claim to planned economy.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy (Wandiwash): I shall deal only with one or two Demands.

First I shall deal with Ashoka Hotels Ltd. The Points have been very well put forward by my friends, Shri Raghavachari and Shri Reddi, about the working of this Hotel. I wish to add one small point, that is, that the two promoters who gave such hope to the Government as to make them part with Rs. 25,00,000, to run this Hotel, now find it very difficult to run it and want to go back. I only insist that after the completion of the Hotel, they need not in any way be associated with the administration or with the running of the Hotel. Once they tried to create a confidence in the Government. Now they have almost gone out of it and they really want to have entry into this hotel by back-door means. I only want an assurance from the Minister that he will have nothing to do with them hereafter and if they have sunk any money it will be returned. They, their nearest relations or their kith

and kin should have no participation in the administration or the running of the hotel.

Ultimately, I only insist in this. The present Government can be very well versed with regard to State-craft, but so far as hotel-craft is concerned, it is quite a new job which they are entering into. I only insist that they shall not enter into such a hazardous adventure leading to ultimate loss. It may also be later on said that the Government are running so many hotels. Also they will be called 'hotel-keepers'.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): They will also have a Minister for that.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: In Simla there is a Grand Hotel. It was not running profitably. So they had to liquidate the contract and give it to some other contractors. Therefore, I only suggest that this hotel after completion should be handed over to a contractor. We can just collect the rent and other things, instead of running the entire show by the Government. It is better always to wash off our hands lest it becomes ultimately a dirty one and it does not deserve any more wash. Therefore, I say that this Government will ultimately find itself in difficulty when it finds that after one year the hotel is running at a loss.

Even in the running of the catering department in respect of the Railways, we have seen that they have now incurred a loss to the extent of Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs. Here in this case, after investing Rs. 2 crores they will find ultimately that the hotel is not being run in a profitable way and they will have to give it up.

You know, Sir, this hotel is situated in Chanakyapuri. Chanakya is said to be a very able and keen man, but there are not good things said about Chanakya. The very name of the hotel is "Ashoka Hotel". *Athi Shoka* means too much of sorrow. We all know what is *Shoka*. You will

ultimately realise its painful effects, that is what I feel from the name.

Mr. Speaker: "Ashoka" stands for peace.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: I do understand that. But I am interpreting it in a different way. I take it as *Athi Shoka*, that is my own way of interpretation. That is what I find from the history of earlier hotels run by the Government.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): That is only the name of the company and not the hotel.

Shri N. R. Muniswamy: I only wish that it runs in a very profitable way. But I visualise gloomy things in the future. Since the promoters have created confidence in the Government to part with an amount of Rs. 25 lakhs and now they have backed out, it does not augur well. It is not that I do not like to give accommodation to the foreigners who come here. According to the dignity of the country we must provide all comforts and conveniences, but it shall not be at the cost of losing Rs. 2 crores. It is only in that way I am suggesting that the Minister shall not have anything to do with these two individuals who happen to be big wigs, since ultimately they have created confidence in the Government and as the Government is not such a thing to be easily duped.

As regards the other Demand No. 131, I have to say only this much. The communication that is now being maintained between the main land, India, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is very little. There is only one steamer that is running. It has to be supplemented with some more ships. I quite appreciate that there should be bi-weekly or tri-weekly service to and from these islands. I also want that the passage rate should be lowered and it must be made as low as possible so that people from the mainland can go to the islands. If the charges are very low, say, to the extent of Rs. 5 or Rs.

10, more people will go and thereby there will be more income. Though it may not, to start with, yield any profit, in the long run I am sure it will lead to large profits. Therefore, I want that the rates should be reduced and they should not be so exorbitant as they are.

As regards the Bharat Line Limited, Bombay, which entered the India-Persian Gulf trade on a regular basis, they find that it is not remunerative and have decided to withdraw from this service. To supplement it the Government has started the Western Shipping Corporation (Private) Limited and it has been registered on 22nd June, 1956. Here I find that for a period of 5 years if there is any loss the loss has to be made up by the Government and, I understand, this loss has to be ultimately recouped by the profits of the Corporation in future. If you are to recompense all the losses that might likely be incurred by the Corporation, the Corporation might not be able to do its work properly. Therefore, such a guarantee in respect of the losses should not ordinarily be given by the Government so that it will only end in a loss.

Lastly, what I want to say is in regard to an expenditure which has been shown here as a Charged one. I am referring to the expenditure on additions and alterations to the Rashtrapati Bhawan in the Residency Building at Hyderabad. Though we cannot discuss it because it is a Charged one. . . .

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members can discuss on any Charged item; only they cannot vote on them.

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Shri N. R. Muniswamy: Here a fat amount has been fixed for expenditure on additions and alterations to the building and construction of some additional buildings. This note which has been given to us does not give the details of the additions and alterations and also the extra buildings that are to be brought into existence for the purpose of giving

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comfort to Rashtrapati. As my hon. friend Shri Ramachandra Reddi has said, unless we know that these additions and alterations are mainly intended to house the Government offices in Hyderabad, in which case there is some meaning in carrying out this work, and if these are intended only for the purpose of providing accommodation for a period of 10 or 15 days—the Rashtrapati may or may not go yearly to Hyderabad—to Rashtrapati, to sink Rs. 25 lakhs on this work is too much. The present building I am told is well provided with all modern sanitation and other things and it needs no further additions or alterations except, perhaps, to suit the taste of the occupant. I am sure the Rashtrapati himself may not like this work to be done, but the thing is, it might have been designed by somebody else. Still, unless it is assured to the House that it is not only for his habitation but is meant for other purposes also, it may not be justified to spend so much money.

Shri L. N. Mishra (Darbhanga cum Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to confine my remarks to Demand No. 128—Purchases of Foodgrains. The position of foodgrains has recently again come to light. There has been an abnormal rise in the wholesale price index. Recently the wholesale price index has gone up to 409.1 taking 1939 as the base year. In this the prices of foodgrains have played their customary fundamental role. As Shri Asoka Mehta has suggested, it is going to hit the Plan itself if the price line is not steady. We do not know what will be the fate of the Plan. Today we are in the first year of the Second Five Year Plan and we are going to have more foodgrains. We are going to import as much as 17,65,900 tons of wheat and 7 lakhs tons of rice. What has happened to our surplus stocks? What about the buffer stock? It was said that we were maintaining a good quantity as buffer stock to meet any abnormal rise in prices or failure in crops. There were some

reports in the Press in October or November last year that our buffer stock had gone down. But no effort was made to maintain the buffer stock. I am also told that during those months Burma was very much eager to dispose of a large quantity of rice, but no action was taken. When the situation has deteriorated very much and we are alarmed, we are running from one country to another for foodgrains.

Therefore, I feel that our food-policy is not very cautious. We are not managing the affair with some imagination. I am very much alarmed because we cannot do without food. We will have to manage it somehow.

If we do not have indigenous production, then we are bound to import. If we import food from abroad, what the other developments will be, I do not know. We are earning our foreign exchange mainly through our export of three or four articles such as jute manufactures, textiles, tea and ores. We know Markets of all these articles are very much competitive. As a result of inflationary pressure in our indigenous economy, the prices of these articles are bound to go high. If the prices go high, we will lose our foreign markets, and if we lose our foreign markets, we will lose our foreign exchange too. Whatever foreign exchange we shall be earning will be spent on importing foodgrains. Therefore, I feel that if the Government are at all serious that the Plan should be implemented, they should face the situation. Already, there is the problem of foreign exchange. If we desire that all our foreign exchange is to be spent on the import of foodgrains, then God alone knows what will happen to our Plan. It is not, however, too late. The Government should come forward and have some measures to meet the food crisis and to meet the deficit in food.

The year before last, we had shortage of sugar. Instead of managing the situation ourselves, we just import sugar and we met the situation. That does not speak good of

our policy. I would also go to the extent of saying that if we are short of food, and if we cannot meet the situation in the normal way, we should resort to price control and rationing. What is this method of importing foodgrains as soon as there is some shortage of food in the country? If we are serious about the implementation of the Plan we must have a serious measure and we must tackle the situation in a serious manner so as to meet the requirements of the Plan. If we add more and more money to society, especially in an economy with a low standard of living, the first reaction will be on the foodgrains and cloth. If the development projects go on pumping in more and more money into the hands of the people, there will be greater demand on the foodgrains. If there is demand for foodgrains the Government has to take precautions and make the foodgrains available. If it cannot manage it in the normal way, it should have control and other restrictions like rationing etc. To allow the people to carry on in the normal course of *laissez faire* ways and to import foodgrains and spend the foreign exchange I think, is not advisable.

Then Shri Asoka Mehta raised the question of the Community Projects Administration in the matter of foodgrains. I also support his idea. In the Community Project areas, we find that more and more areas are being brought under irrigation. Alongside that area, there are other areas where, though water resources are available, there is no progress in respect of irrigation. What I feel is, there should not be any lopsided development. If in place A, there is the Community Project, let the work go on, but if, in place B, there is no Community Project, and irrigation work is carried on through the Food and Agriculture Ministry, let that Ministry take up the administration of both A and B, in the same area, there is at present a lopsided development. In one village, the work is being carried on by the Revenue Department and in another village, the

work is being carried on by the Community Projects Administration, through another Ministry. Therefore, there should be some co-ordination. If A is to be developed, let the whole area of A be developed by one and the same authority, and if B is to be developed, let the work be completed by one and the same authority. If we are not going to have a co-ordination of policy and a coherence of administration, the whole Plan will crash on the rock of food crisis. Therefore, it is high time that the Government should visualise these difficulties.

We are now importing about 24 lakhs tons of foodgrains this year. This is not much. But if this policy continues, and if there is a continuous drought and if there is a continuous flood, the situation will become more and more alarming. The purchasing power is bound to go high and so, how are we going to meet the situation? Therefore, we should be aware of the developing situation and some policy should be evolved. The food policy of the Government should be on such lines as will help us to keep the price line steady so that we may be able to implement the Plan in the right manner as is visualised. If we disturb the price line, I do not think we will be able to carry on with the Plan in the manner we think of.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture said in the Rajya Sabha that we are short of about 2.5 million tons of coarse grains and 300,000 tons of wheat. Last year we had surplus and so we exported our foodgrains. This year, we are short of 2.5 million tons of coarse grains and 300,000 tons of wheat. What has happened during the course of the past four or five months? I feel that there might have been some statistical jugglery or something very wrong. There should have been something fundamentally wrong with the policy. If, in six month's time our position could become so worse, I do not know what will be our position in the course of the next four or five years.

Therefore, this question must be tackled in the proper manner. There-

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must be some correctives to our policy. I admit that there has been some corrective rise in regard to the prices. But that we can take only up to the middle of 1955. What is the position after the middle of the year 1955? There have been rises in the prices of foodgrains and they have been abnormally high. The Minister of Food and Agriculture says that it was only due to inflation and deficit financing. I feel that there is lack of co-ordination in the Government itself. Some Ministry says something and another Ministry says something else. There should be co-ordination in all things and especially in the matter of food which matters so much in the second Five Year Plan.

I therefore appeal to the Government that they should not take these happenings as a normal thing. This is something very serious. We are very much apprehensive as to what will happen to our food position in the near future. Therefore, I would suggest that before the Government decide to import foodgrains or sugar or any such commodity, they must realise the position of our foreign exchange. What is our foreign exchange position? What is our trade? Unless we realise these things, I feel that the good and fortunate position which we have been able to build up during the last two or three years in our foreign trade might be lost. If this state of affairs continues, I do not know what will happen to our foreign trade position which has been very good since the past two or three years. We must also admit that rise in prices of food will also create the problem of cost price which may upset the programme of the Second Five Year Plan to a considerable extent.

सरदार श्री सिंह सहगल : बिनासपुर अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं डिमांड नं० १२६ पर, जिस की तरफ हमारे कई मित्रों ने ध्यान आकर्षित करते हुए अपनी राय दी है, कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। चाणक्यपुरी में अशोक के नाम पर जिस होटल की स्थापना १९५५ में की गई थी और जिस को एक कम्पनी ने लेने का निश्चय किया था उसमें

हमारे एच० एच० जाम साहब आफ नावानगर और उनके साथी श्री एच० एल० चड्ढा थे। गवर्नरेंट ने उन को २६ लाख रुपये के प्रिफरेंस शेअर (पूर्वाधिकार शेअर) दिये थे और यह तय हुआ था कि उन को २५ लाख रु० ५ ह० सैकड़ा सूर के हिसाब से एडवान्स (दिया) किया जायेगा। लेकिन कम्पनी जो कि मैनेजरेंट कर रही थी, जिस को २६ लाख रुपया दिया जाने वाला था, और १६ लाख रुपया जो कि प्रमोटर्स (प्रबंधक) ने बसूल किया था, उस से ज्यादा वह लोग बमूल नहीं कर पाये। जो यह दो सज्जन मुकर्जर किये गये थे, उन पर लोगों का काफिडेस था या नहीं, यह मैं नहीं कह सकता, लेकिन जो यह १६ लाख रु० बसूल किया था, उससे ज्यादा वह बसूल नहीं हो सका। यह बात पक्की है। अगर आप की यह राय पक्की हो गई है कि वे इस काम को नहीं कर सकते हैं और न कर सकेंगे, इसके लिये हालांकि सन् १९५६ की प्रवैत में लिला पढ़ी हो चुकी थी, लेकिन जब कम्पनी अपने वादों को पूरा नहीं कर सकती है, तो गवर्नरेंट का यह फर्ज ही जाता है कि चूंकि यहां पर यूनेस्को का इजलास होने जा रहा है इस लिये वह इस काम को अपने हाथ में ले और वर्कर्स, हाउसिंग और सप्लाई मिनिस्ट्री (निर्माण, आवास और संभरण मंत्रालय) के लिये इस काम में जितनी कमी रह गई हो, उस को दूर करे, और इस के लिये अपने बोर्ड आफ डाइरेक्टर्स (निदेशकों का बोर्ड) रख कर इस काम को कराये। मैं जो सलाह दे रहा हूँ, मैं नहीं जानता कि उस को माना जायेगा या नहीं लेकिन यह सत्य है कि जो दो आदमी पहले मुकर्जर किये गये थे, यदि उन पर लोगों का काफिडेस होता तो १६ लाख रुपया से ज्यादा जो बसूल करना आवश्यक था कर लेते। लेकिन चूंकि १६ लाख रुपया ही बसूल हो सका, यह प्रभाव है कि उन लोगों पर काफिडेस नहीं था और ऐसे लोगों को बोर्ड आफ डाइरेक्टर्स में न रखका जाय। इस सम्बन्ध में जो रहो बदल जूँही हो वह की जाये और वहां

पर ऐसे आदमियों को रक्खा जाय जो कि पक्षपात से काम न लें।

मैं नहीं कह सकता कि इस होटल का क्या नाम रक्खा जायेगा, लेकिन इस होटल में यह जरूरी बात है कि बहुत दूर दूर के लोग आयेंगे, वहां पर बहुत से चांदी और सेने के व्यापारी जायेंगे, कामीर की जो चीजें हैं, तथा दूसरी बाकी हिन्दुस्तान की जो चीजें हैं, उन सब के दूकानादार वहां जायेंगे, उन दूकानादारों को दूकानें देने के बारे में मेरा यह सुझाव है कि सारी दूकानों को नीलाम किया जाये और नीलाम में जो सब से ज्यादा पैसा दे उस को ही दूकान बेची जाये। बोंड थार्फ डाइरेक्टर्स के हाथ में यह चीज नहीं होनी चाहिये कि वह जिस को चाहें उस को दूकानें बेचें। जब गवर्नरेंट प्राप्त हाथ में इस होटल को लेने जा रही है तब बोंड थार्फ डाइरेक्टर्स को यह अधिकार देना मैं समझता हूँ कि ठीक नहीं रहेगा। इस लिये मैं वकर्स, हाउसिंग और सप्लाई मिनिस्टरी को इस १५८ लाख रु० की मांग का समर्थन करता हूँ।

इस के साथ ही जो डिमांड (मांग) नं० १४४ है, जिस का सम्बन्ध राष्ट्रपति जी जो दलित में जा कर रहते हैं, उस से है, उस के बारे में हमारे मित्रों का यह कहना है कि वहां पर पूरी व्यवस्था इस सम्बन्ध में नहीं होनी चाहिये अर्थात् वे बहां जा कर ज्यादा दिन नहीं रहते हैं। मैं थार्फ से कहता हूँ कि इस बात से तो मेरे मित्रों को प्रसन्नता ही होनी चाहिये कि राष्ट्रपति जी, जिन को दिल्ली में ही रहना चाहिये, वह मरीना भर या २५ रोज वा ढेढ महीना, दलित में जा कर रहते हैं। यदि इस के लिये प्रबन्ध करने में वर्ज की मांग की गई है सल्ली-मेटरी डिमांड (अनुप्रुक्त मांग) नं० १४४ में तो वह उचित ही है। जब राष्ट्रपति जी जा कर हैदराबाद में रहेंगे तो वहां पर जो रेसीडेंसी स्थान है उस को ठीक करने में और उस में रहोवाल करने में कुछ रुपया खर्च होगा ही। इस के लिये जो ६ लाख और ६६ हजार रु० की मांग इस वर्ज के बजट में की गई है वह उचित

ही है। मैं समझता हूँ कि उन को जितनी भी रकम डिमांड नं० १४४ दरभायी गयी है तथा जिसकी जरूरत है उस को बजट में से जरूर दिया जाये।

इस को कहते हैं जो डिमांड है, मैं उनका समर्थन करता हूँ।

Shri Mathew: As regards the loan proposed to be given to the Burmese Government, I am so glad that our Government have been very friendly to the neighbouring sister country, which was emancipated from colonialism along with us. Our Prime Minister has been very very kind and that has very much strengthened the bonds of unity, especially in very bad times. Even now I do not think they are completely out of the woods. So, I congratulate the Government for this liberal loan they are giving to Burma, and I wish more help is given to them in due course as and when necessary.

Along with this, let me just refer to a private personal matter of my State. For over 100 years we are having a very good export trade in a kind of dried fish called prawn. (Interruptions). I am only appealing to the friendly spirit; I am not putting it as a business proposition. The same sentiments we have been showing towards them, I am expecting them to show towards us. I know they are very good people and they will certainly do it. They have not done it only because they have not appreciated our situation. This morning I heard from the Commerce Ministry that our prawn trade with Burma has gone down by more than half compared to last year. During 8 months of this year, our prawn trade with Burma is not even one-eighth of what it was for the whole of last year. What I want to bring home to the House, to the hon. Minister and through the hon. Minister to the Burmese Government is this. In the first place, that is a commodity which is in great demand in Burma. People like our T.C. prawns very much. Originally it was in the O.S.L and it was taken away from the O.G.L.

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only last year. Of course, Burma has its difficulties and I am not minimising them. They are trying to get some prawns from People's China to whom they have issued licences for exporting prawns to Burma. But in our case, about 10,000 bags were tendered by our people; but, it was not accepted by the Burmese Government, though the price was reasonable. Let me tell you that this is not a bloated capitalist industry, but a poor man's industry. About 8 to 9 lakhs of people, who will be actually starving without this, are engaged in catching and exporting prawn fish. You know it is a commodity which cannot be kept for a long time; it gets spoiled and that means those people are driven to absolute poverty. That is one appeal I have to make to the Burmese Government for their consideration. Again, there was another tender for about 14,000 bags recently—about the end of July or the beginning of August. We had tendered for it and I am not sure whether the fate of this tender will also be the same as that of the last one. I am requesting to the hon. Minister, who said this morning that a trade delegation is coming here, to see that the needs of the 9 lakhs of poor people in Travancore-Cochin, who would be otherwise starved, are given due consideration when the trade delegation comes here; and, I am sure he will do it. It is a very very important matter. If it were rubber or tea, I would not have bothered much; but, this is a poor man's trade. That is my appeal.

Shri K. K. Basu: It is very delicious.

Shri Matthen: Yes; it is more like a vegetable.

I now come to the Ashoka Hotel. I hope everybody in this House knows that really first class accommodation is very limited in Delhi, which with its growing importance has become a show place and a big tourist centre for people from all parts of the world. I wonder if our friends here realise the growing importance of Delhi

which is appreciated outside. I know from my humble experience—of course I am for a socialist pattern and cannot afford to stay in big hotels, but I tried for my friends—that it is very difficult to get good accommodation in hotels. Sometimes it is a matter of favour done by hotel managers when they give accommodation for two or three people, especially in the cold weather. Therefore, a hotel like the Ashoka Hotel is a necessity not only for Delhi, but for India. If we want to attract more tourists, as it is our deliberate policy to do, a hotel like the Ashoka Hotel is very very necessary, and any money spent on that is not a waste. It cannot be a waste, as some of my friends like Shri Raghavachari feared. We have adopted a mixed economy. What we want now is a decent hotel....

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West cum Rae Bareli Distt.—East): Who will run it?

Shri Matthen: If Government can run steel plants and so many other places like Western Court, Constitution House, etc. they can do this also.

Shri K. K. Basu: They are so badly run that they cannot be taken as examples.

Shri Matthen: I strongly support the investment in the Ashoka Hotels. I want a first class show place which will be admired by everybody who comes to India and which will be admired in New York and Washington. At the same time, I have to admit that I cannot understand why a multi-millionaire like the Jam Saheb of Nawanager has come forward with the excuse that he has no money. Nobody could believe it. Government originally started it with a small capital. Of course, they have to carry on the work.

Mr. Speaker: How many shares?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Rs. 16,00,000 worth of shares.

Mr. Speaker: Have they paid Rs. 16 'akhs?

Sardar Swaran Singh: Yes, Rs. 16 lakhs; Jam Saheb of Nawanagar and one or two others.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Have you paid it back?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No.

Shri Matthen: I beg to submit that it should not be paid back. If you can get back the balance, it must be got back. They cannot escape. But I am definitely for the Ashoka Hotels. I am glad that it is coming under direct control of the Government. I am glad it is in the public sector. As I have already pointed out in this House, I want both the public sector and the private sector to compete in the country. Now there is the Imperial Hotel here and an Ambassador Hotel there—the same kind. If there is a first class hotel run by the Government, competing with them, Government will be in a position to bring down the prices. Now they have a monopoly and they can charge any price.

I want to say something about the Western Shipping Corporation. I congratulate the Government for having taken up a new line. But my complaint has always been that the Government, the Transport Ministry and the Planning Commission have not been paying adequate attention to this very important potential, which can develop India's economy and which can provide employment like anything. Permit me to say what I said on more than one occasion in this matter. In 1947 the Shipping Policy Committee recommended, with the background of that time, that a target of two million tons be completed by 1955. There was no Five Year Plan at that time in 1947. It was, in fact, a committee appointed by the Britishers. Knowing the needs of India, for our nationalising coastal shipping, for our trade with adjacent countries and for 50 per cent of the foreign shipping, according to the Committee, India needed in 1947 two million tons G.R.T. If the same committee is appointed today, I am sure it will recommend that our target for the same

percentage of trade for our existence, for our integrity, for our safety and for our economic development, will be not less than 3 million tons. But today, in 1956, we have hardly come up to 500 thousand tons. Where is two million tons and where is 500 thousand tons? Before the first Plan started, India had, thanks to the private sector more than 350,000 tons G.R.T. That means, hardly about 200,000 tons were added to it by the end of the Plan. Of course, I concede that the first Plan target was 600,000 tons G.R.T. It may be implemented by about 1957 end or the beginning of 1958, as the Transport Ministry has indicated.

Then, for the Second Plan our target is 300,000 tons G.R.T. Don't forget that we have to make our replacements. The life of a ship is supposed to be 20 years; some of them may last longer. That does not come in the 300,000 tons. The point is: why is it that we have not been able to implement it, that is, the first Plan target even by now?

In the first place, we have no adequate ship-building yards in India. Between Gibraltar and Hongkong on the Asian-African continent there is only one ship-building yard and that is the Vizag yard, thanks to the foresight of that great industrialist Walchand Hirachand—a memorial for him will be a deserving thing as it will remind others of the courage and the faith of that great man.

The war-shattered three important maritime countries were Germany, Italy and Japan. After the war was over, Italy was able to build not only for her pre-war tonnage but much more than that. Germany and Japan are also in the same position now. They all started from scratch. But what they did was they built ship in their own nation ship-building yards. That is why they have been able to build for themselves, more and they have been able to secure very good export trade by building ships.

What about us? We have only one solitary yard and our shipping is very

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very inadequate. For more than 3,000 miles of coast line with with our several natural harbours having more potentialities, we have only one ship-building yard and the achievement of that one yard—I do not want to repeat what I have stated again—during the last five years is very very poor.

Now, I was told by the Planning Commission as well as the Transport Ministry that they expect to implement the target of the 1947 Shipping Policy Committee of two million tons by the end of the Third Plan. That means, even assuming they are implementing 300,000 tons and the balance left over the first Plan by the end of the second Plan,—I have my own doubts about that—assuming that, it will come only to 900,000 tons, which means 1,100,000 tons have to be built. Certainly, Vizag ship yard is not going to do it. I have been told by the Transport Ministry—and I know even independent of them—that all the foreign ship yards are over booked, they have got much pressure and it is not possible for any of the yards to give delivery before 1961 if you place an order now. At this rate of progress it would be almost impossible to get the 1,100,000 tons G.R.T. ships built outside and we have to be satisfied with whatever we can get from the Vizag yard.

The point I want to stress is that unless we have one or two more efficient bigger ship-building yards—let there be no mistake about it—we are not going to implement the 1947 targets at the end of the third Plan.

Today, in the shipping industry the progress of tankers is much more rapid than in the case of other vessels. It was not so before. I think more than 30 per cent of the ships now built in the various ship-building yards are tankers. But what have we got? Even though we have got three refineries, even though we have nationalised our coastal shipping, according to the agreement with the refineries we have given them ten years, time for using

their own tankers for the distribution of the refined oil, not to speak anything about the import of crude oil which is estimated to be about 5 million tons or so. Last year we purchased one tanker of about 5,000 tons G.R.T. and the Transport Minister announced in the House that they are going to have two or three more. I have not heard anything further so far. But, in any case, my point is that in the new ship-building yard that we are contemplating we want to build tankers as well. In this connection, permit me to add a word.

Mr. Speaker: We are not going into the general policy of shipping. We are considering whether a corporation is necessary or we can leave it to the private enterprise. That is the main point.

Shri Matthen: That is exactly my point. It is now said that the tanker industry will be exclusively earmarked for the public sector. That was not the original idea; it was not the policy. I do not understand the justification of not giving it to the private sector. Buy as many tankers as possible. We need development of shipping. Where private sector can do it, let them also do it.

About Andamans I am glad that there is a new boat to be built for service to the Andamans.

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah-Jhalawar): Purchased.

Shri Matthen: Yes, purchased. Thank you for the correction. Andamans are being developed and we want more shipping services to the Andamans. Even now the Member of Parliament from Andamans finds it difficult to come here in time because there is no regular service. I congratulate the Government and suggest that they should buy more ships.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव (गुडगांव): मैं आपकी इजाजत से सिर्फ एक डिमांड (मांग) पर बोलना चाहता हूँ यानी परचेज आफ कूड़ प्रेन्स (खाद्यान्न का क्रय) की डिमांड पर। तकरीबन आठ दस साल से कूड़प्रेन्स का मामला

हर साल गवर्नमेंट (सरकार) के मामले में और पार्लियामेंट (संसद) के सामने आता है। एक बक्त या जब कहा जाता या कि हमारे यहां फूडप्रेस (खाद्याश्रम) में १० पर सेंट की कमी है और उस बक्त जो अनाज मंगाना पड़ता था उस कमी को पूरा करने के लिए मंगाना पड़ रहा था। मुझे याद है कि हाउस में कहा गया था कि हमको ४०० करोड़ स्ट्रिंग बाहर से अनाज मंगाने में खर्च करने पड़े हैं। लेकिन अब कई बर्षों से हमको बतलाया जा रहा है कि हम फूड के भामले में सेल्फ सफीशेंट (आत्मनियंत्रण) हो गये हैं, और अब कोई जरूरत बाहर से गलता मंगाने की नहीं है।

जब कभी इंडिपेंडेंस डे (स्वतन्त्रता दिवस) आता है तो गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से और पब्लिक बर्कसं की तरफ से बड़े जोर शोर से हर मीटिंग (बैठक) में कहा जाता है कि एक काम जो हमको सुखरू करता है वह यह है कि हम फूड के भामले में सेल्फ सफीशेंट हो गये हैं। हम जहां जाते हैं डा० देशमुख साहब का छिंडोरा पीटते हैं कि उन्होंने जापानी तरीके से खेती करवा के उपज बढ़ा दी है और बड़े जोर शोर से हर मीटिंग में कहा जाता है कि हमने पहला काम यह किया है। लेकिन जब हम देखते हैं कि.....

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): May I point out that I have never claimed self-sufficiency? All that I have claimed is actual, factual and physical additional production that we have achieved. I have generally never said that we are self-sufficient, because our demands are increasing, our people are eating better and more.

पंडित ठाकुर शास भार्या : मैं ने डाक्टर साहब के बारे में यह नहीं कहा था कि वह ऐसा कहते हैं। मैं ने तो एक फैक्ट बयान किया था। मैं तो कहता हूं कि डाक्टर साहब की मेहरबानी से चाचब और दूसरी चीजों की उपज बढ़ी है। लेकिन मुझे आज पता चला कि डाक्टर साहब अब तक यह यकीन नहीं करते

कि यह देश फूडप्रेस के मामले में सेल्फ सफीशेंट हो रहा है।

डा० पं० शा० देशमुख : आगे चल कर हो जायेगा, अभी नहीं है।

पंडित ठाकुर शास भार्या : मेरे बास्ते यह आई अमेनिर (आकां लोलने वाली) है। मैं हमेशा यह यकीन करता रहा हूं कि इस देश में अनाज की बहुत कमी नहीं है, जब कट्टोल (नियंत्रण) या उस बक्त भी भेरा यह खाल या कि देश के बन्दर गल्ले की इतनी कमी नहीं है जितनी कि गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से बतलायी जाती है। अब भी मैं समझता हूं कि देश में गल्ले की कमी नहीं है। मैं समझता हूं कि कट्टोल लगाने की जो बातचीत होती है वह बिल्कुल गलत है। लेकिन आज मुझे यह सुन कर सक्त घबराहट होती है। जब मसूरी में कान-फॉरेंस (सम्मेलन) हुई तो हम ने सुना कि सीकिड फाइब इम्पर प्लान (द्वितीय पंच वर्षीय योजना) के दौरान में हम चाहते हैं कि हमारी गल्ले की उपज ४० पर सेंट बढ़ जाये, लेकिन हमारे फूड मिनिस्टर साहब ने उस कान-फॉरेंस में कहा था कि अगर हमको रुपया नहीं दिया जायेगा तो हम इतनी उपज नहीं बढ़ा सकते, उन्होंने कहा था कि रुपये का मजीद प्रबल्ल न करके वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा १५ पर सेंट बढ़ा सकते हैं। तो यह सुनकर हमको यह यकीन हुआ था कि हम सिर्फ सेल्फ सफीशेंट नहीं हैं बल्कि हम तो उस जमाने की तरफ देख रहे हैं जब कि हम सरप्लस (भ्रतिरिक्त) हो जायें और हमारी हालत आज से बेहतर हो जाये।

पिछली दफा जब हाउस में इस मसले पर बहस हुई थी तो मरहूम किंदवाई साहब जिन्दा थे। उन्होंने उस बक्त शुगर इम्पोर्ट (चीनी का आयात) करने का जिक्र किया था। उस बक्त मैं ने कहा था कि जब हम शुगर के इम्पोर्ट का बात करते हैं तो हमारा शिर शर्म से झुक जाता है। मैं ने यह बात बहुत जोर से कही थी। मैं ने कहा था कि हमारा एंट्रोकल्चरल (कृषि प्रबल) देश है और जब तक हम फूडप्रेस और शुगर इम्पोर्ट करते हैं तब तक हम दुनिया में

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

कैसे कह सकते हैं कि हम साने पीने की चीजों के मामले में इंडिपेंडेंट (स्वतन्त्र) हैं। हमारे लिए इससे ज्यादा शर्म की ओर क्या चीज़ हो सकती है।

डा० पं० डा० देशमुख : अब तो हम शुगर एक्सपोर्ट (निर्यात) करते हैं।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : उस बक्त किदवाई साहब ने करमाया था कि वह भी यह महसूस करते थे कि यह शर्म की बात है कि हम शुगर इम्पोर्ट करें आयन्दा शुगर इम्पोर्ट नहीं की जायेगी। आयन्दा फूड मिनिस्टर साहब व गवर्नर्मेंट की कोशिशों से यह हालत आयी कि हमको अब शुगर इम्पोर्ट करने की जरूरत नहीं है और उनकी पेशीनारोई दुस्स्त साखित हुई। मैं आज किदवाई साहब की रुह से प्राप्ति करूँगा कि वह डा० देशमुख साहब को इन्सपायर (प्रेरणा देना) करे, और अगर वह यहां खड़े हो कर यह कह दे कि आयन्दा इस हाउस के सामने एसी तस्वीर जो कि हम को सक्ष प्रेशानकून है नहीं प्रायेगी तो मैं समझूँगा कि मेरा ऐतराज करना सफल हुआ।

कहा जाता है कि जो गल्ला अब बाहर से भंगाया जाता है वह बफर स्टाक के लिए भंगाया जाता है लेकिन मैं तो देखता हूँ कि हमारे साने पीने की जरूरत को पूरा करने के लिए काम आता है। इसके तो मानी यह है कि देश के अन्दर गेहूँ और चावल की कमी है और इसीलिए हम को यह बाहर से इम्पोर्ट करना पड़ता है। जनावर को याद होगा कि एस्ट्रीमेट्स कम्पनी (प्राक्कलन समिति) में हमारे सामने फारिन मुर्कों के वह मुशाहिदे थाए थे जो कि गल्ला इम्पोर्ट करने के लिये होते थे जिन पर हमको कुछ उज्ज करने का हुक नहीं था। हमने ४५ करोड़ रुपया सिर्फ शिप फेट (जहाजी भाड़े) पर खर्च किया। उस बक्त हम ने महसूस किया कि बाहर से गल्ला भंगाने में हमारे देश को कितना सर्वा करना पड़ता है और दूसरे मुर्कों के आगे कितना जलील होना पड़ता है। जब हमारे

५२ करोड़ २६ लाख रुपया दूसरे देशों में खर्च होगा तो हम अपने यहां अनाइम्पलायमेंट (बेरोजगारी) के सवाल को कैसे हल कर सकेंगे। देश में जितना अनाज ज्यादा पैदा होगा और खेती बढ़ेगी उतना ही लोगों को काम मिलेगा। हम जो बाहर से गल्ला भंगाते हैं उसके मानी यह है कि खेती में जो हमारा असल काम है, औड़ दीजिये आप इंडस्ट्री (उद्योग) वर्गरह को, हमारी यह हालत है कि हम फूडप्रेस के मामले में सेल्प सफीशेंट नहीं हैं और हमें इस मामले में शर्म से सिर झुकाना होता है।

पिछली दफा जब यहां इस मामले पर बहस हुई तो हमको बतलाया गया था कि हम ने कुछ अव्यवहार दर्जे का राइस एक्सपोर्ट (निर्यात) किया है। मैं जानता हूँ कि चना भी काफी तादाद में इस मरविया एक्सपोर्ट हुआ है। हमारे इलाके में लोग आम तौर पर चना, बाजरा बीरा भोटा बनाज साते थे। लेकिन पिछले दस सालों में गवर्नर्मेंट की कोशिश से लोग गेहूँ की तरफ ज्यादा रागिब हो गये हैं। मद्रास के लोग भी गेहूँ साने लगे हैं। मैं नहीं कह सकता कि यह प्रब्ल्यू हुआ या बुरा लेकिन यह बाक्या है। अब जो आप १७ लाख टन गेहूँ और ७ लाख टन चावल बाहर से भंगा रहे हैं इसके मानी यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान में आप इतना गल्ला कम पैदा कर रहे हैं। मैं तो बफर स्टाक का मतलब यही समझता हूँ कि जब लोगों की जरूरत पड़ती है तो आप उसको बेच देते हैं। यह कीमत कम करने के लिए नहीं है बल्कि साने की जरूरत पूरी करने के लिए है।

आज हमारी बहुत सी स्कीम्स चालू हैं जैसे भावधारा डैम, तुंगभद्रा, कोसी बर्गरह, जिनमें से कुछ अभी नामुकम्मिल हैं। इन पर हम काफी रुपया खर्च कर चुके हैं। इसके अलावा १०० करोड़ रुपया हम यो मोर फूड कंपनी पर खर्च कर चुके हैं। लोगों को कंट्रोल के जमाने में बहुत तकलीफ उठानी पड़ी थी, पर अब उन्होंने समझ लिया था कि हमारी

तकनीफ खत्म हो गयी और हमको अब बाहर से गलता नहीं मंगाना पड़ेगा। लेकिन जब मैं इसको पढ़ता हूँ तो मालूम होता है कि आभी हम उस हालत में नहीं आये हैं जिसकी कि उम्मीद थी।

इसके अलावा इसके अन्दर राइस का जिक्र है। मुझे पता नहीं लगता कि राइस जाता कहाँ है। मैं जानता हूँ कि पंजाब के अन्दर इतना ज्यादा राइस पैदा होने लग गया है जितना कि पहले कभी नहीं हुआ। फिरोजपुर के अन्दर तो खास तौर से बहुत ही ज्यादा राइस पैदा हुआ है। इस तरह से गवर्नरेंट की तरफ से हर एक चीज़ के अन्दर तरक्की ही तरक्की दिखलाई जाती है। लेकिन इसका नतोज़ा क्या निकल रहा है, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता है। आज आप १७,६५,००० टन गेहूँ बाहर से मंगाने की बात कह रहे हैं और इसी तरह से बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में सात लाख टन चावल बाहर से मंगाने का विचार कर रहे हैं। अब ये किस भाव पर, मंगाये जायेंगे इसके बारे में आपने कोई जिक्र नहीं किया है। मैं आपको यह भी बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि जो अनाज आप बाहर से मंगाते हैं उसको लोग खुशी से नहीं खाते हैं। हाँ, अगर आप इस अनाज को उन्हें जबर्दस्ती खिलाते हैं तो उन्हें खाना ही पड़ता है। इस अनाज में न्यूट्रिटिव वैल्यू (स्वास्थ्यप्रद अंश) भी इतनी ज्यादा नहीं होती है।

चंकि स्पीकर साहब का हूँस है कि जैनरल पालिसी (सामान्य नीति) पर डिमांड नहीं आ रही है इस बातों में इस बक्ट प्रोटेक्टिव फूड्स (रक्षित खाद्यान्न) पर नहीं जाना चाहता हूँ। मैं बड़े अदब से धर्वे करना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ तक इस अमर का सवाल है, न इसके लिए हमारे देश तैयार हैं और न ही पालियामेंट तैयार है कि हमारे सामने इस तरह की डिमांड्स आये। आप जो इसीमें चला रहे हैं उन को मैं दुर्स्त मानता हूँ, जायज मानता हूँ। मैं यह भी जानता हूँ कि आप दूसरी चीज़ों

की उपज बढ़ाने का भी प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं जैसे काटन (कपास) है, ज्यूट (पटसन) है। मैं इस चीज़ को भी मानता हूँ कि इससे अनाजों की उपज में किसी कदम कभी आ सकती है। लेकिन मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप जो इतना ज्यादा अनाज बाहर से मंगा रहे हैं, इसका लोगों पर क्या साइकोलोजिकल (मनोवैज्ञानिक) असर पड़ता है। जब उनको यह पता लगता है कि यहाँ पर कभी है तो खुद-ब-खुद ही भाव बढ़ने शुरू हो जाते हैं। लोग इससे यह अंदाज़ा लगाते हैं कि हम सैल्क-सफिशेंट नहीं हैं। ऐसी हालत में आपके जो बफर स्टाक्स (अन्तर्वर्ती भंडार) हैं वे आपकी इतनी ज्यादा भद्र नहीं कर सकेंगे। इन बफर स्टाक्स को बनाने के लिए ही आप कहते हैं कि बाहर से अनाज मंगाया जा रहा है। लेकिन मैं आपसे बहुत अदब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप इस पर भी क्या गौर नहीं करेंगे कि इसका लोगों पर क्या साइकोलोजिकल असर पड़ रहा है। तो मेहबानी करके बाहर से जो अनाज मंगाया जा रहा है इसको आप बन्द करें। बाहर से अनाज मंगाने की जरूरत ही आपको महसूस नहीं होनी चाहिए। पिछले साल हमारे देश में इतना ज्यादा अनाज पैदा हुआ था कि जिस की कोई हृद नहीं। उस बक्त आपको अपने बफर स्टाक्स को रिफिल कर देना चाहिये था ताकि वे ऐसे के ऐसे ही कायम रहते। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यहाँ ऐसा नहीं किया गया। क्यों यह बफर स्टाक्स की चीज़ हमारे सामने आती है। आप की प्राइस पालिसी न डैफोनेट है न सरटन है और यह बहुत सी स्तरांशियों की जिम्मेदार है आखिर मैं मैं बड़े अदब से अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप देशासियों का द्वितीय पंच वर्षों योजना के प्रति एव्यूजियेंजिम (उत्साह), पैदा करना चाहते हैं, अगर आप देश के अन्दर सुख और शांति कायम रखना चाहते हैं अगर आप चाहते हैं कि हमारा कदम आगे बढ़े, तो कम से कम आयन्दा से अनाज मंगाने की जो तज्जीज़ जैसी आज आपने पेश की है, इस भवन के सामने न लायें।

Shri Kashiwal: I welcome Demand No. 126 so far as Ashoka Hotels are concerned. There is only one question that I would like to ask. You will please see that out of Rs. 200 lakhs, only Rs. 16 lakhs are subscribed by these directors. Is it fair that there are 13 directors drawing Rs. 1000 a month? Out of the 13 directors, there are only two Government directors. There are 11 directors who are getting Rs. 1,000 a month. In other words, these persons who have subscribed Rs. 16 lakhs are already getting by way of directorship allowances Rs. 11,000 per month that is, annually Rs. 1,32,000.

Sardar Swaran Singh: I may straightforwardly say before this point is developed that nothing has been paid to any director yet.

An Hon. Member: Now or before?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It has never been paid.

Shri Kasliwal: That was the scheme. Is it not true?

Sardar Swaran Singh: You may forget it.

Mr. Speaker: What is the amount spent so far on this building?

An Hon. Member: Nobody knows.

Sardar Swaran Singh: That would be difficult to say straightforwardly as that would mean up to date accounts and all that. The total expenditure is as has been indicated here.

Shri K. K. Basu: How much the directors have got as managerial remuneration so far?

Sardar Swaran Singh: We have not yet paid.

Shri K. K. Basu: No directors have been paid?

Sardar Swaran Singh: No.

Shri Kasliwal: I am very glad that the assurance has been given by the hon. Minister. I want another assurance. These shares for Rs. 16 lakhs, which represent about 8 per cent of the total amount should be taken away from the directors. What is

their business? The shareholders of Rs 16 lakhs are going to have their finger in Rs. 200 lakhs. This is not fair. I suggest that the entire Ashoka Hotels should be nationalised.

I do not want to go into other matters except with reference to the question of foodgrains. This has come as a great shock to me. I can only say that this is a complete volte face on the part of the Ministry. All the time we had been under the impression that there is a rise in production of foodgrains. I submit, and many other Members have also spoken, that there is a foreign exchange resources gap of Rs. 1100 crores in our Second Five Year Plan. Another sum of Rs. 80,48,00,000 is going to be added. This is an extraordinary thing. We do not know how far our Second Plan is going to be a success if probably next year the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture brings a further demand for Rs. 50 or 60 crores for purchase of foodgrains from abroad. I want to ask one particular question. In October or September last when this House was debating certain matters with regard to food policy, there was a talk in the House of price support. I remember the Government started purchasing jowar and other crops at reasonable prices. In my own State, they purchased jowar at Rs. 4 a maund or Rs. 5 a maund and so on. But, within a very short period,—these were presumed to be buffer stocks—these buffer stocks were sold to certain capitalists at the rate of Rs. 5-8-0 or Rs. 6-8-0 a maund. The same capitalists, two or three months later, sold this jowar at the rate of Rs. 11 or 12 a maund. I want to know from the Minister as to why these stocks of jowar in Rajasthan were sold by the Government to these capitalists who made at least Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 a maund.

There is another question that I would like to ask, and that is about the Rashtrapati Nilayam in Hyderabad. I have all respect for the Rashtrapati and I am not suggesting any disrespect to him. But, is it necessary that Rs. 6,96,000 should be spent

on the renovation of this? I would like to know from the Minister whether he cannot reconsider this question if the renovation of the Rashtrapati Nilayam in Hyderabad can be postponed.

Mr. Speaker: I intend closing this debate on the non-official side at 6 o'clock and then calling on the Ministers. We will sit half an hour more. We have cancelled the half-an-hour discussion. This item may be closed today.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): I shall take up Demand No. 126 first. The subject of Ashoka Hotels came up for discussion in September last in this House. We criticised the policy of the Government with regard to this venture of about Rs. 2 crores, the terms of the agreement then available, the risk involved, and the capital that the Government was going to invest. Our anticipations have come true. As we pointed out at that time, these two gentlemen who were launching upon this scheme and whom the Government was going to oblige by providing them with a huge amount of loan and other facilities, have failed to come up to our expectations. At that time, we also pointed out that it was not at all proper for the Government to spend so much money over a hotel. It was said that in our country people are ill-housed and there are lakhs of people in industrial towns who are passing the nights sleeping in the foot paths. Under these conditions, it is not at all proper for a Government that speaks about a socialistic pattern etc., to spend such a huge amount over a single hotel. We are aware that we are going to have a UNESCO conference in our country, but for the accommodation of those guests, we could have used the State guest house, the President's guest house etc. At that time I referred to the Bandung Conference. In a country like Indonesia, it was possible for them to accommodate so many dignitaries of different countries for the purpose of

that conference. How is it not possible here to organise a UNESCO conference in Delhi in a similar manner? We are conscious of the growing importance of Delhi as the venue of international conferences. We are conscious also of the limited hotel accommodation in Delhi, but when we are not in a position to build houses for industrial workers, when very little money is spent for the purpose of developing rural housing, why should we spend such a huge amount? Had it been a more modest venture, we would have supported it.

Anyway, when the Government has spent so much money and now those people have mismanaged the whole thing, there is no escape. At that time, it was also pointed out by us that instead of the preference shares which the Government had undertaken to purchase, Government should take over the entire thing. Now that they have decided to take over the entire enterprise, we should expect that there should be proper management and the details of the set-up should be available to us. It has been given in the notes that the details of the new set-up have yet to be settled. We do not know how they are going to settle matters, what would be the relation with those two gentlemen and although it has been mentioned that they will also continue to be associated, it has not been very clearly stated in what capacity they will function and what benefit they will derive from this venture. So, with regard to this hotel, we feel that the Government has mismanaged the whole thing and this Demand cannot be supported.

Coming to the foodgrain purchase policy under Demand No. 128, it has already been said by all sections of the House, and whether it is Shri Mehta or others, they have all criticised Government's policy in this respect. With regard to a fundamental thing like food, the Government have bungled several times. We heard earlier, and it was said by no less a person than the Prime Minister himself, that the country was expect-

[Shri N. B. Chowdhury]

ing to be self-sufficient by 1951, but later on it was regretted. Later there was the Grow More Food Campaign with which hon. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava was associated and he has already given his views on this matter. Some time back when the third progress report on the First Five Year Plan came, there was mention about the climatic factor that led to the sufficient increase in food production etc. We are glad to note the increase in food production, but there was a sense of complacency and whenever anybody pointed out that there was much shortfall and we had to make up much leeway etc., it was not liked by the Government spokesmen. It was reported once that the hon. Minister made a remark that it was easier to deal with shortage but it was difficult to deal with surpluses so far as foodgrains were concerned. The remark was made about a year and a half back when the price of foodgrains was low and uneconomic. Not even two years have passed and now we find this difficulty. There is an upward rise in prices of foodgrains and there is an alarm. What are you going to do with this buffer stock whether you purchase the foodgrains internally or import foodgrains from other countries? What we find today is that when there is stock in Government godowns, the stock is not released for the areas where it is very much needed. The Government here and sometimes in the States also state that they have sufficient stock, that they can give any amount of foodgrains, there would be no shortage, there would be no difficulty, they are prepared to pay subsidy also to the extent of 50 or 75 per cent. in scarcity areas, in areas hit by flood and other natural calamities. But what happens when we go to the actual area? There the local officer says, and we hear this kind of statement at the district co-ordination meeting, that they have a stock of one maund and 30 seers, that they are indenting but no stock is available. So, whatever Government spokesmen may say in the Assembly and other places, actually

people do not get it. When there is to be test relief work or doles are to be given, in those areas we find there is very little stock. It is said only people who pay six annas of tax will get food at a cheaper rate. Those who are so poor that they cannot pay at market rate will get the subsidised food, but there are middle class people, low income group people who cannot purchase at market rate. So, this is the position prevailing in the country. Although they say that they have sufficient stock at their disposal, that they are ready to give any quantity, in practice it is noticed that only very few people are supplied with rice or other foodgrains at the subsidised price and the rest of the people have to buy at a very high rate. That is the position now.

6 P.M.

Sometimes Government says that speculators, hoarders and other people will be firmly dealt with. But with regard to the recent policy, we have noticed that when the Reserve Bank took certain action with regard to the prevention of supply of credit for speculation in foodgrains, it had some effect, but before that the mischief had already been done, and we know of cases where even when Government spokesmen or Ministers went to certain areas where the mills had thousands of tons in their stocks, they did not take any action. These things come to their knowledge, but they do not take any action.

So, if we are to build a buffer stock, it has to be built up not only because of the shortages that may be created due to natural calamities and other reasons, but also because of the speculative activities which these hoarders and profiteers may indulge in. So, for various reasons it is very necessary that we should build up stocks, but at the same time, in order to increase production it is not sufficient to say that there is increasing irrigation facility, more manure is being supplied, but there should be a basic land reform also. If, as the hon. Prime Minister said, there is to be a

forty per cent. increase in production during the Second Five Year Plan, how do we expect to achieve this target? We are time and again speaking about the necessity of distributing waste lands. Had you done that, lakhs of acres would have been brought under cultivation, virgin soil would have been brought under cultivation by this time and that would have led to increase in production, but the Government even while experiencing difficulties with regard to this basic thing, namely food, are not adopting policies which would really increase production. So, with regard to this Demand when a very large amount has been asked for to import foodgrains, we should point out that this import or buffer stocks only would not do. You have to change your policy radically.

It is sometimes said by the Finance Minister that we are not going to pay immediately, we may receive the foodgrains from America or some other countries on credit, so that even if there is deficit financing, it will not affect us very much. But, in any case we have to pay and it has been very aptly pointed out by Shri Mehta that this is not the way the economy of the country can be built up. It may be that America will be in a position to give us the wheat or other things on loan, but we will have to bear the interest and pay it some time. Instead of that, if we increase production inside the country, the peasant economy will be strengthened, the overall economy of the country will be strengthened, and there will be some sort of planned progress. So, with regard to this commitment, we think that Government should change their policy radically.

Lastly, I should like to say a word about the President's residence in Hyderabad, on which a huge amount of about Rs. 25 lakhs is going to be spent. We had been told so long that these leaders are persons who believe in plain living and high thinking. Presumably, they like to live a simple life. We do not contest that point. But our point is that there are some

other people who are interested in providing this amount of money and spending such a huge amount. Therefore, we feel that Government that have come forward with this provision must be criticised for arranging for all these things.

It is time they all realise that our country is really poor, that the vast masses of our people are steeped in misery, and so on. At a time when we are being asked to tighten our belt, when even essential commodities are taxed, and when we are finding so many difficulties in getting the necessary resources for our Plan expenditure, there should be some sense of proportions in whatever we do. From this point of view, we do not think that Government are justified in spending such a huge amount for this purpose.

Dr. Suresh Chandra (Aurangabad): I want to say just a word on Demand No. 144. Possibly, many of the Members here may not know about this Rashtrapati Nilayam, but coming from Hyderabad, I know about it. I had also the occasion of going to the President, when he was last there. I really do not find any justification for sanctioning this sum of Rs. 6 lakhs odd for the current year, out of a total estimated expenditure of about Rs. 25 lakhs, because I feel that the building which is existing now is sufficient. Moreover, the President himself, as we know, is a simple man who believes in plain living and high thinking, and he himself is not very happy in these big buildings which have been constructed here, not by us, but by the Viceroys and the Governor-Generals who were here before.

So, when he himself is against such kinds of big buildings, I do not think it is very proper on our part to provide for such a big building at another place, especially when we want to cut down our expenditure to the minimum. Whatever buildings are there in Hyderabad are quite sufficient and inkeeping with the dignity of the President of the Republic, and also fit for the use of others.

[Dr. Suresh Chandra]

So, I personally feel that there is absolutely no necessity for the sanctioning of this amount.

Sardar Swaran Singh: So far as the necessity of putting up a really good hotel in Delhi is concerned, Parliament was good enough to approve of the principle. I would only add that in view of the growing importance of India in the international world, the visit of a large number of foreign dignitaries, both official and non-official, and the increasing number of tourists that India attracts, it is very necessary that there should be adequate hotel accommodation in the capital city of India.

Government had occasion to survey the existing hotel accommodation, and they came to the conclusion that no big conference of an international character could be held since the existing hotel accommodation in Delhi was extremely inadequate. The obvious thing to be done under these circumstances was to encourage private capital, and give Government assistance.

It was on this basis that the original scheme was chalked out. At that time, it was pointed out by a large number of hon. Members of this House that the terms that were being offered to induce private capital to come in were perhaps too attractive, and that we were not careful enough to ensure that the prospective investors would not get too much profit out of it. But actual experience has shown that in spite of the seemingly attractive terms and the inducement that were there, private capital was not forthcoming. A venture of this nature, in order that it may be ready by the target date, so that it might be available for the delegates to the UNESCO conference, should be finished, once it is started, without any avoidable delay. Otherwise, the expenditure which is incurred, and which does not bring us any return until the project is completed, in itself results in increasing wastage, if the thing is not completed without any avoidable

delay. It was, for this reason, thought necessary that Government should take steps to push ahead the construction, and to acquire a controlling interest in the company.

With that end in view, Government have now acquired shares of the value of Rs. 76 lakhs in the total equity capital of Rs. 1 crore. Therefore, even according to the existing articles of association, Government are in a position to make necessary alterations in the articles of associations, and to modify the original promoters' agreement and the other articles, to ensure that Government have an effective control over the working of this company.

Doubts have been raised about the capacity of Government to run the hotel. I may straightway say that it is not the intention of Government to enter into this hotelier business in any big way, but in this particular case, having been convinced that there was necessity for having a first-class hotel, and having exhausted all steps that could reasonably be taken to attract private capital, Government had no option but to step in and to put in the money, with this precaution that the controlling interest in it was acquired by Government.

As for the actual running of the hotel, obviously, it will have to be run as a hotel and not as a Government department. Therefore, it will have either to be run by an autonomous board or body, which can take decisions quickly, or it may be that after some time, we might give it for being run either by a contractor or a caterer or somebody else, who might provide the necessary services. But it is doubtful whether any arrangement of that nature could be made in a hurry. So, to start with, at least, steps are being taken to ensure that the hotel is run under Government control and supervision, but according to the normal commercial methods that obtain for running hotels of this type.

It has been suggested that, perhaps, the construction thereof, is not being looked after by Government carefully, and that in the matter of contracts and purchases, somebody else was doing all this. It is true that the board of directors of the Ashoka Hotels Ltd. are entering into contracts and making purchases, and are doing the other things which are necessary to bring the project to a successful conclusion. But the dominating control in that board of directors is that of Government. The Secretary to the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply is director on that board; a very senior member of the Finance Ministry, of the status of a joint secretary is another director. So, all this expenditure is carefully scrutinised before any commitments are made.

Shri Matthen: Does the Minister think that it is a commercial proposition with the present prohibition policy?

Shri L. N. Mishra: It is a fundamental thing.

Sardar Swaran Singh: That is controversial issue into which I need not enter, while discussing this small issue of running a hotel.

I was saying that the contract for construction was entered into after careful scrutiny of the tenders that had been invited from a number of firms who had the capacity to execute a work of this nature. An executive engineer from the CPWD had been deputed and loaned to this organisation; he is supervising the work. I want to say that officers and engineers in the Ministry have been devoting a good deal of time, thought and energy to ensure that this project is executed without any delay and in the most economical manner.

It has also been said that some purchases of articles of furniture and furnishing or the like would be required. I think it is a very poor assessment of Government's capacity

to make purchases of this type. After all, we have got a well-organised purchase organisation whom we have been unofficially and informally utilising, both inside the country and outside, for making purchase of various types, and I can say that the terms at which we have made these purchases are quite competitive, and actually, there is no scope for anything going wrong on that score.

Now I would like to add that contractual obligations to the tune of Rs. 181 lakhs—this was the question which the hon. Speaker put to me—have already been entered into, and there might be some more expenditure. Roughly about Rs. 25 lakhs would be necessary as running capital for running this hotel.

Now, I want to add a few words about the renovations and additions to the Rashtrapati Bhavan at Hyderabad.

Dr. Rama Rao (Kakinada): You mean the Rashtrapati Nilayam?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I cannot pronounce that word, but I meant it.

It is not for any personal comfort or for any pomp or show that these additions are being made. This building had not been in any active and great use for a fairly long time, and the building and furniture required renovation. On account of the staff that has to accompany the Rashtrapati on such occasions, the accommodation that was already available there was found to be insufficient, and additional buildings had to be constructed. The additional building for the Rashtrapati and his staff is estimated to cost Rs. 19.9 lakhs. Additions and alterations and special repairs to the Regency buildings are estimated to cost Rs. 2.15 lakhs, and furniture, Rs. 3.59 lakhs.

So I would submit that this item of expenditure is not at all an extraordinary item. It is an item of necessity because the staff has to be housed and the building that exists

[Sardar Swaran Singh]

in the Regency Compound was not really meant to house all the staff which normally accompanies the Rashtrapati. So there is neither any luxury nor extravagance in this.

Shri K. K. Basu: In case the promoters are pushed out of management, have they any special right under the articles of association—since Government will now hold the majority of shares—to be compensated or provided special remuneration?

Sardar Swaran Singh: I had placed copies of the articles of association in the Library. It is a legal point that the hon. Member has raised. Let him study it. We are studying that aspect and we hope that no complications are likely to arise.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I ask the hon. Minister for how many days the Rashtrapati Nilayam is expected to be used in a year?

Sardar Swaran Singh: It is hoped that it is likely to be used for a period not in terms of weeks but in terms of months.

Shri A. C. Guha: I think I should first take the points mentioned by Shri Ashoka Mehta. Theoretically speaking, there may not be difficulty for me personally to agree with many points he has mentioned. But the difficulty is that he has not taken cognizance of other factors—practical difficulties and other things.

He has said that Government has a hand-to-mouth policy in regard to food. I think that is not quite correct. It is a long-term policy that the Government has been following. If he looks into the Report of the Planning Commission, he will find that the acreage under cultivation as also the production has increased considerably. In fact, we have exceeded the target in that respect. Then again, he said that as regards food production, the Government, and particularly the Prime Minister, have given tall promises. That also is

not correct. Whatever the Prime Minister or any representative of the Government might have said should be taken in its proper context.

Before, the Plan, our total production of cereals was only 41.8 million tons. Then it increased to 58.3 million tons in 1954. There has been some decline during the last two years. Still, this year our production is 53.2 million tons, which is very much higher than what it was before the Plan was started, and also higher than the target fixed by the Plan. I think the Plan target for cereals was 52.6 million tons, and in spite of the bad harvest of the present year, our production is 53.2 million tons.

Then some other Members have also mentioned about the programme and policy in regard to food. Shri N. B. Chowdhury particularly mentioned that we have no policy in this matter. I would again ask him to look into the reports of the Planning Commission. He will find that the acreage under irrigation has increased considerably. Besides the big river valley schemes, whose results are not yet available for the country, we have so many small irrigation schemes. Also there are schemes for better method of cultivation, provision of better seeds and more generous use of manure; use of country compost has also been encouraged. These are parts of the programme of Government. I would not say that the expectation we had, say, in 1954 as regards the production of foodgrains, has been fulfilled. Surely there has been a setback. But it is quite natural. I think Shri Ashoka Mehta would also realise that in an agricultural country, such setbacks are not unnatural or unusual.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Therefore, there is more reason for caution.

Shri A. C. Guha: Surely, there is more reason for caution, and we are proceeding cautiously and on

some definite programme for increased food production in the country. When the Prime Minister said something on some occasion about food self-sufficiency, it was just a slogan that he gave to the country, to give a sort of encouragement to the people to produce more. I think that slogan has had its effect in higher production, particularly in 1954.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: If it is true that the deficiency which was said to be 10 per cent and the increase in production which is said to be 18 per cent, why has not self-sufficiency been attained?

Shri A. C. Guha: That is an old controversy again. The hon. Member has always been the protagonist of the theory that the country is never deficient in food production. I can only say that if there has been 18 per cent increase in food production, I think, our food shortage before the Plan should have been something more than 18 per cent and, in the meantime, there has been some increase in population also.

Then another old question has been raised which came before the Lok Sabha previously also in the form of questions about the rise in prices and deficit financing. I do not like to make much of that corrective feature in the present price rise though I firmly believe that there is a great deal of corrective feature in the present rise in prices. For food articles, the index figure was 407 in 1950; in April 1954, it was 389 and in June 1955 it went down to 277. I am sure that no Member of this House would say that the index figure in June 1955 or even in the latter part of 1954 would be an economic price for the agriculturist. So, when the price has gone up to 386, it is still lower than what was prevailing in 1954 and also the price of 1950. That is surely a corrective feature and there is very much of a corrective feature in this. But, I do not like to say that there has been no inflationary pressure. I do not like to use the word 'infla-

tion' because it has an alarmist flavour in it.

Shri L. N. Mishra: But your colleague had used it.

Shri A. C. Guha: That is anybody's choice of words.

In reply to some questions I had admitted that the development expenditures that we have to incur in the Second Five Year Plan and that we have already incurred for the First Five Year Plan must have a sort of expansionist tendency and there has been some increase in the per capita income as also in the national income. The demands have gone up even for cereals and other articles. And, at the same time, there has been some short production of cereals. So, this has a tendency to cause rise in prices. But if this rise in prices particularly of cereals, would have been mainly due to—I do not say solely—the development expenditure whether from our revenue or from deficit financing, then, the rise in prices would have been more or less uniform for all articles; whereas we find that the price has gone up sharply by about 48 per cent in certain articles, for manufactured goods the rise in price has been almost insignificant. So, it cannot be said that this is all due to the development expenditure; but, surely, that has some effect. But the main reason for this is short supply, increase in demand and also speculative trading. For the last item, the Reserve Bank has been taking certain action and we shall see what further action should be taken to prevent speculative trading at least in foodstuffs.

Shri Asoka Mehta said that all that is produced due to development works of the Plan should not be allowed to be consumed. Surely, the Government and the Planning Commission are also of that view. I think, in other countries the domestic savings sometimes go up to about 12 or 13 per cent—even over 25 per cent—whereas in our country the domestic savings before the First Plan was only a little below 5 per cent,

[Shri A. C. Guha]

and, after the First Plan, it has gone up to about 7 per cent. So, some sort of austerity should be practised—so that higher percentage of national income may be saved. I would not say it has to be imposed because in a democratic set-up, it is not possible to impose any austerity but it has to be self-imposed. I hope that Shri Asoka Mehta and his political colleagues will create the necessary psychology in that respect.

He has also said something about the Community Development Project administration having no contact with the Food and Agriculture Ministry. But, simply because these two are under two different administrative set-ups, it should not be presumed that there is no contact between the two administrations. If Shri Asoka Mehta can give some instances where the contact should be tightened and made closer, surely, the Government and the Planning Commission would take care of that. I invite Shri Asoka Mehta to give us any such suggestions where this contact is lacking or can be made closer.

Some Hon. Members: Sir, it is 6:30.

Mr. Speaker: Time is up and we apply the guillotine now.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of the following Demands entered in the second column thereof:—

Demands Nos. 113, 126, 128, 131 and 142."

The motion was adopted.

[The motions for Demands for supplementary Grants which were adopted by Lok Sabha are reproduced below— Ed]

DEMAND NO. 113—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry'."

DEMAND NO. 126—LOANS AND ADVANCES BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,25,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Loans and Advances by the Central Government'."

DEMAND NO. 128—PURCHASES OF FOODGRAINS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 80,48,22,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1957, in respect of 'Purchases of Foodgrains'."

DEMAND NO. 131—CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 35,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Home Affairs'."

DEMAND NO. 142—OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,50,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1957, in respect of 'Other Capital Outlay of the Ministry of Transport'."

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Legal Affairs (Shri Pataskar): Sir, on behalf of the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and with your permission, I would like to announce the following three additional items of legislative business for this House for the current week:—

Bills for consideration and passing

1. The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill, 1953, as passed by the Rajya Sabha.

2. The Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur) Bill, 1956.

Bill for reference to a Joint Committee

3. The Standards of Weights and Measures Bill, 1956.

I would also like to announce that it is proposed to provide a two-hour discussion on the situation in the Naga Hills on Thursday, 23rd August, at 4.00 P.M.

A slight revision has been made in the order of legislative business for the week announced on 17th August. According to this, consideration of the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, will not be taken up during this week.

Mr. Speaker: The House stands adjourned to meet again the day after tomorrow at 11 A.M.

6-32 P.M.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday the 22nd August, 1956.

DAILY DIGEST

[Monday, 20th August, 1956]

COLUMNS

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

3766

The Speaker withheld his consent to the moving of an adjournment motion given notice of by Shri K. K. Basu regarding the refusal of Government to allow two Members of Parliament to visit places of disturbance in Ahmedabad.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

3764

The following papers were laid on the Table :

- (1) A copy of the Second Annual Report of the Coir Board for the period ending 31st March, 1956, under sub-section (a) of section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.
- (2) A copy of the Iron and Steel (Control) Order, 1956, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, published in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1109/Ess. Comm/Iron and Steel, dated the 12th May, 1956.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

3764

Secretary reported the following two messages from Rajya Sabha.

- (i) That at its sitting held on the 14th August, 1956, Rajya Sabha agreed without any amendment to the Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 1956, passed by Lok Sabha on the 24th July, 1956.
- (ii) That at its sitting held on the 14th August, 1956, Rajya Sabha had passed the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, 1956.

BILL PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—LAID ON THE TABLE

3765

Secretary laid on the Table the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, 1956, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

ARREST OF MEMBERS.

(i) The Speaker informed Lok Sabha that he had received a telegram dated the 17th August 1956 from the Superintendent of Police, Ahmedabad city intimating the arrest of Shri A. K. Gopalan on the 17th August, 1956 for being a member of an unlawful assembly and holding a meeting in defiance of ban on processions and meetings in Ahmedabad.

(ii) The Speaker also informed Lok Sabha that he had received a telegram dated the 19th August, 1956 from the Superintendent of Police Gorakhpur, U. P. intimating the arrest of Shri Shibanlal Sakseena on the 19th August, 1956 for cognizable offences under sections 148/440/427/436 I.P.C.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBER

3766

The Speaker informed Lok Sabha that Dr. Amin had resigned his seat in Lok Sabha with effect from the 14th August, 1956.

BILLS PASSED

The following Bills were considered and passed.

- (i) Indian Cotton Cess (Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha. 3766—73
- (ii) Indian Coconut Committee (Amendment) Bill 3773—3804
- (iii) Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Bill 3804—30
- (iv) Jammu and Kashmir (Extension of Laws) Bill 3830
- (v) Industrial Disputes (Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha 3831—43.

73

[DAILY DIGEST]

COLUMNS

COLUMN

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS
1956-57.

3847-3910

The Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1956-57 relating to the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Finance, Food and Agriculture, Home Affairs and Transport were discussed and voted in full.

AGENDA FOR WEDNESDAY,
22ND AUGUST, 1956.—

Consideration of Demands for Excess Grants, 1951-52, Motions *re* Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Rules and Government Premises (Eviction) Amendment Bill, as reported by Select Committee.
