



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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VOLUME I, 1950

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FIRST SESSION  
OF  
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA  
1950

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 13th March, 1950

*The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR WORKERS IN INDUSTRIES

\*790. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of industrial concerns where medical facilities for workers, such as hospitals and dispensaries, exist?

(b) Have Government taken steps to introduce such facilities in all industries in India?

(c) If so, how many have complied with this requirement and, if no one has complied with it, what are the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) Government are not in possession of complete information on the subject. A statement is, however, placed on the Table of the House giving whatever information is available [See Appendix V, annexure No. 1.]

(b) Under the Factories Act, 1948, every factory is required to provide and maintain first aid boxes which should be kept in charge of persons trained in first aid treatment. In addition, factories employing more than 500 workers are required to provide and maintain an ambulance room of the prescribed size, containing the prescribed equipment and in charge of such medical and nursing staff as may be prescribed by the State Government. The enforcement of the provisions of the Factories Act is the responsibility of the State Governments. Similar provisions have also been made in the Mines Bill. Moreover, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, provides for a comprehensive system of medical benefits to factory workers. In regard to Coalmines, Government have instituted a Fund under the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947, and medical aid is one of the important activities to be financed from the Fund.

(c) The statutory requirements mentioned above are being enforced.

**Shri Sidhva:** What is the total number of hospitals, dispensaries and maternity homes in the various industrial centres according to the statement which the hon. Minister has laid on the Table?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** It may be found from the list though it has not been totalled.

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**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** Is the hon. Minister satisfied that the State Governments are taking adequate steps to enforce the provisions of the Factories Act?

**Mr. Speaker:** It will be asking for opinion if the hon. Member asks whether the hon. Minister is satisfied etc. She may ask for information as to whether Government are taking steps as they should.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** May I know what information the hon. Labour Minister has as to whether the State Governments are taking adequate steps in enforcing the provisions of the Factories Act in respect of medical facilities?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram.** Under the new Factories Act the scope has been very much increased and even smaller units employing more than ten workers are covered by the Factories Act. The result has been that even smaller factories in rural areas have come within the purview of the Factories Act and we are finding that the present complement of staff for inspection of factories in the States is not quite adequate for the task before it.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** On a point of order, Sir I beg respectfully to submit for your consideration that in disallowing questions which involve matters of opinion, hon. Members should be entitled to ask the extent to which the hon. Minister is satisfied with the steps taken. It is not a matter of giving the questioner's point of view or stating what is a matter of his opinion but asking the hon. Minister to say, under the circumstances, the extent to which he is satisfied with the steps taken. That should not be ruled out and I beg to draw attention to this aspect.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will only say that it is entirely opposed to parliamentary practice. The Question Hour, as I have often stated, is intended for eliciting information on certain facts. An hon. Member may feel absolutely dissatisfied and the hon. Minister may, on the other hand, feel quite satisfied with his own administration [*Interruption*]. I have understood the point of order. The rule is clear and the parliamentary practice is very clear that opinions should not be asked for. Hon. Members may get the information and come to their own conclusions as to whether a matter is satisfactory or not. I asked the hon. Member in this case to put her question in a different form and enquire by way of asking for information as to whether the State Governments are doing what they should or not.

**Shri Sidhva:** The hon. Minister stated that he had no accurate information of the number of hospitals. What is the function of the Factory Inspector when he visits an area? Does he also note down the number of hospitals existing or not besides other things?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I may explain for the information of my hon. friend that the administration of the Factories Act is the responsibility of the State Governments and the factories are inspected by the inspecting staff of the State Governments. If they note down the number of hospitals, dispensaries, etc. that information would be with the State Governments and not with the Central Government. In all propriety these questions should have been addressed to the State Governments concerned and not to me.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** In view of the fact that the executive powers of the Central Government are co-extensive with those of the State Governments, is the Central Government completely absolved of their control and supervision over the execution of the provisions of the Act by the State Governments?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is again a matter of opinion.

**Shri Kamath:** Do the workers in Ordnance Factories, like workers in other factories, enjoy the same medical facilities and other amenities?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Under the Factories Act they are, but some more facilities have been provided in Ordnance Factories than in other factories.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know how many hospitals, dispensaries and maternity homes exist in the Centrally Administered Areas?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I have not got the figures separately. If the hon. Member gives notice I can give him that information.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** May I know whether the hon. Minister's Ministry has undertaken research into the incidence of occupational diseases?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** We have recently appointed an officer and some work has been just started but we have not made any appreciable progress in that regard.

**Shri Sidhva:** My question was with respect to the number of industrial concerns where medical facilities are provided. The hon. Minister said that this matter is looked after by State Governments. At least in regard to the Centrally Administered Areas he could give me the figures.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is passing a remark. The hon. Minister says that he has not got the information. The hon. Member may ask for that information by a subsequent question, if he desires.

**Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:** How many cases of amputation were conducted in such hospitals and of what nature were they?

**Mr. Speaker:** These are matters for State Governments.

**Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:** My question relates to the Centrally Administered Areas.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I know how the various functions regarding labour welfare have been divided between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I will refer my hon. friend to the number of Acts which have been passed by this Parliament and to which the hon. Member has also been a party. I will refer him to the Factories Act, the Employees' State Insurance Act, the Coalmines Welfare Act, etc. and he will find there how the responsibilities have been divided as between the Centre and the States.

#### TRAVANCORE FERTILIZERS LTD.

\*791. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether Government have given financial assistance to the Travancore Fertilizers, Ltd. and if so, what is the amount?

(b) What will be the production of this factory from the increased capital amount granted to this Company and from what period will the increased output materialise?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply given by me to Starred Question No. 208 on the 1st December, 1949. The matter has not as yet been finalised.

(b) With the necessary financial resources the factory can increase output by 60 to 70 tons per day.

**Shri Sidhva:** What is the amount that was wanted by this concern? What is the position now and are Government prepared to give them a loan or a free grant?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** The company wanted financial assistance to the extent of about Rs. 60 lakhs and Government was prepared to help them to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs according to a certain scheme. A draft agreement has been prepared and it is now under scrutiny.

**Shri Sidhva:** If this grant of Rs. 20 lakhs is given may I know whether that will immensely increase the production of ammonium sulphate and super-phosphate, for which there is such a great demand in the country?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** It is not a grant. It is proposed that this amount will be paid to the company against purchase of fertilisers to be made by the Central Government from this company and this will enable the company to increase its production by about 50 tons.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether the present production of the company is given to the Government or to private concerns?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** The purchaser mainly is the Government.

**Shri Goenka:** May I ask the hon. Minister the date of the application and the date on which this amount was sanctioned? Also, is it not a fact that after sanction, for the last one year the amount has not been paid although the matter was supposed to be urgent?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** No, Sir, it was not sanctioned a year ago—it was sanctioned about three or four months ago. Since the fertilizer will have to be purchased by the Agriculture Ministry, the case has been referred to that Ministry.

**Shri Goenka:** Is it not a fact that this matter came up before the Standing Committee of the Industry Ministry about a year ago and the sanction was made by that Committee about a year ago?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** The hon. Member is aware that at that time the request was for a straight loan which it was not possible for various reasons for the Finance Ministry to agree to.

**Shri B. Velayudhan:** May I know whether the State Government has given any subsidy to the fertilizer factory there?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** I believe so.

#### ARRANGEMENTS BY STEAMER COMPANIES TO CARRY PASSENGERS FROM STREAM TO PORT

\*792. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the steamer companies operating between Bombay, Kathiawar and Kutch ports charge fares inclusive of boat hire from stream to port?

(b) Who arranges the hire of boats to carry passengers from the port of Mandvi to the steamer in stream?

(c) Is it a fact that complaints have been made that in several cases, no arrangements are made to carry passengers on boats?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaints made by several passengers in this connection which appeared in the *Bombay Samachar* dated the 26th December, 1949?

(e) Have Government drawn the attention of the steamer companies in this direction and if so, with what result?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a) At present Bombay Steam Navigation Company Limited is the only Steamer Company running a service between these ports. Their fares between Bombay and Kathiawar/Kutch are not inclusive of boat hire from stream to port.

(b) The boats carrying passengers from the port of Kutch/Mandvi to the steamer in stream and *vice versa* are all owned by private boat-owners. The boats are licensed by the Kutch Administration Water Police and the boat-owners are under the control of the Kutch Administration.

(c) There have been some complaints regarding the unsatisfactory arrangements prevailing at Kutch/Mandvi for the carriage of passengers, shore to ships and *vice versa*.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government have drawn the attention of the steamer company and the Kutch Government to the complaint. The general question of effecting improvements in the existing arrangements for the embarkation and dis-embarkation of passengers at Mandvi port is under consideration in consultation with that Government.

**Shri Sidhva:** The hon. Minister stated that the boat fare is not included in the steamer fare. May I know whether there has been a recent change in that direction or this system prevailed from the very commencement?

**Shri Neogy:** That I do not know but as regards the particular incident referred to, it is covered by the system to which I have made reference.

**Shri Sidhva:** Is there any scheduled charge fixed for this boat conveyance from Mandvi to the steamer in stream?

**Shri Neogy:** I do not think so.

**Shri Sidhva:** In view of the hardships I have mentioned, may I know whether Government have taken this matter into consideration?

**Shri Neogy:** Oh, yes. As I have already stated, the State Government concerned is having the matter under consideration and there are various proposals for effecting improvements in this matter.

#### COMPENSATION UNDER WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT

\*793. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of labourers who have been awarded compensation by the Central Government during the year 1949 under the Workmen's Compensation Act?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** Figures for the year 1949 are not available. During the year 1948, compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act was paid in respect of 66,537 labourers which included 13,289 labourers employed in Railways and 96 employed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Information in respect of other Central Sphere establishments, is not separately available.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** १९४८ और १९४९ की क्या अभी कुछ और दरखास्तें हैं जिन का फैसला नहीं हुआ है ?

**Seth Govind Das:** Are some applications of 1948 and 1949 still pending decision?

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** यह तो मैं नहीं बता सकता, क्यों कि १९४९ में कितने लोगों को कम्पेंसेशन दिया गया इस का रिटर्न अभी तक नहीं आया है ।

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I can not give this information just now because the returns have not yet been received for the compensations paid during the year 1949.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या १९४९ की कुछ दरखास्तें अभी बाकी हैं ?

**Seth Govind Das:** Are some applications of 1949 still pending?

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** जैसा मैंने बताया यह खबर अभी मेरे पास मौजूद नहीं है ।

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** As I have just said the information is not with me at present.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** May I know the total amount of compensation awarded?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Rs. 42,10, 780.

**Shri Venkataraman:** Have any representations been received by the Government that the amount of compensation fixed is inadequate in view of the high prices prevailing in the country?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I will refer my hon. friend to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The amount of compensation is linked with the wages of the workers. In view of the rise in prices the wages, or rather the total monthly earnings of the workers have also gone up, and as the compensation is linked up with the earnings, the compensation has also gone up.

**Shri Venkataraman:** Is it not a fact that the present scale of compensation was fixed in the year 1933?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Well, I have answered that it is not linked with the basic wages alone, but is linked with the basic wages plus allowances, and when the cost of living index has risen the basic wage plus dearness allowance have also risen, and compensation also to that extent.

**Shri Shankaraiya:** May I know how many were below the age of twenty years, that is children, who received compensation?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I have not got the figures separately, but it may be a very small number.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Is it possible for the Minister to give the maximum and minimum amounts of compensation awarded to any individual labourer?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** No, Sir. I have got figures industry-wise and State-wise, but not of individual cases.



## GURDWARAS IN PAKISTAN

**\*794. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from Shromini Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee regarding the maintenance and management of the Sikh Gurdwaras in Pakistan?

**The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saxena):** Yes.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Have any protests been made to Pakistan or any representations sent to that country?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saxena:** No, Sir.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Do Government propose to make any representations like that?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saxena:** The Committee appointed to go into the question has written to the Pakistan representatives to have a meeting of the Committee.

## CONFERENCE OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES

**\*795. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether there is any plan for holding a conference of the South East countries of Asia in the near future concerning the defence of these countries?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar):** Government are not aware of any such plan.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** In view of the disturbing conditions that prevail in these countries, do the Government of India feel the necessity for convening such a conference?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** No, Sir. The Government have no such intention.

**Shri Rathnaswamy:** May I know if the Government considers it desirable to convene such a conference especially at a time when the menace of communism is growing in these countries?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether, if such a conference is convened by some of these nations, the Government of India is willing to take an active part in it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It will be hypothetical.

**Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** May I know what other measures Government propose to take in order to preserve the integrity of these States?

**Shri Buragohain:** Is it not the policy of this Government to cast its moral and material weight in favour of peaceful, ordered and free life in these countries?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid it is too general a question to be allowed.

## TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES

**\*796. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Middle East countries, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt have approached the Government of India for a treaty of friendship and commerce and if so, with what result?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar):** The Governments of Iraq, Lebanon and Syria have not approached the Government of India for a treaty of friendship and commerce. The Government of Egypt, have, however, sent us the draft of a treaty of Establishment, relating to immigration, trade and other cognate matters which is at present under examination.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether it is a fact that the good and friendly relation that existed before between India and these countries has become impaired on account of the anti-Indian propaganda by Pakistan?

**Dr. Keskar:** I do not think so. The friendly relations with these countries are as friendly as they were before. No doubt a certain amount of anti-Indian propaganda is taking place in these countries but our relations have not deteriorated on that account.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Do Government think it necessary, in order to maintain the good and friendly relation between India and these countries, to make arrangements for placing the Indian viewpoint before all these countries more strongly?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid I cannot allow that question.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether a Treaty of Friendship exists between Iran and India?

**Dr. Keskar:** No, Sir.

**Shri Gautam:** Are Government considering the desirability of having a Legation in Syria in view of the fact that our Embassy in Egypt finds it difficult to keep in touch with all the currents and under-currents in the Arab countries?

**Dr. Keskar:** Our Ambassador in Cairo is accredited to Syria.

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) rose—**

**Shri Deshbandu Gupta:** What steps have Government taken to counteract anti-Indian propaganda in these countries?

**Dr. Keskar:** Government take every possible step by way of supplying correct news about events to the newspapers and periodicals of these countries and also by other means.

**Shri Gautam rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next Question.

**Shri Gautam:** The hon. the Prime Minister was going to say something.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Gautam:** He was on his feet.....

**Mr. Speaker:** But then the question has been replied to by the Deputy Minister. Next Question.

## HYDERABAD HOUSE IN LONDON

\*797. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware, about the existence of a palace in London, named "Hyderabad House" purchased by the Nizam of Hyderabad; and

(b) if so, to whom the palace now belongs, to the Nizam or to the Hyderabad State

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar):** (a) Yes.

(b) The Hyderabad House belongs to the Hyderabad State.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know what is the present condition of this Palace—whether it has been rented to somebody or it is lying vacant?

**Dr. Keskar:** It is not a Palace. It is a "House" and it is in good condition.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** I want to know whether it is occupied or not.

**Dr. Keskar:** It is occupied.

**Shri Sidhva:** By whom?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid the hon. Members forget that it belongs to the Hyderabad State, as the Deputy Minister has stated. It is no use going into these details.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** In view of the fact that our Government require accommodation for housing their staff and other guests of the Government of India in London and for this purpose proposals have been made for purchasing another building—in fact, I think it has been purchased—, may I know whether the possibility of using this 'House' has been explored?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** I should have thought it rather undesirable for us to take possession of a 'House' belonging to the Hyderabad State for our purposes at the moment.

**Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Since Hyderabad has acceded to the Indian Union, may I know what is the object in keeping a separate 'Hyderabad House'?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. What is the connection between these two things? It does not arise.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the Hyderabad State Government manages this 'House' directly or through the External Affairs Ministry of the Government of India?

**Dr. Keskar:** The 'House' is managed by our High Commissioner in London on behalf of the Hyderabad State.

## RELEASE OF JUTE BY PAKISTAN

\*798. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state;

(a) the quantities of jute that have been released by the Pakistan authorities since his statement in the Assembly in December, 1949;

(b) the quantities that have reached India; and

(c) the condition of the jute thus received?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a) and (b). The quantities of jute that have been released by the Government of Pakistan up to the 8rd March, 1950, are 5,96,201 maunds of Assam jute and 6,87,817 maunds of Pakistan jute. Out of this 4,75,621 maunds of Assam jute and 5,01,828 maunds of Pakistan jute have reached India.

(c) The condition is reported to be generally satisfactory but in some cases the consignments are short in weight.

**Shri B. K. Das:** What is the position of the rest of the jute?

**Shri Neogy:** It seems to be very uncertain.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Is it expected that it will be received very soon?

**Shri Neogy:** I have ceased to be an optimist in our dealings with Pakistan.

**Shri Goenka:** What is the truth about the barter of jute for other goods with Pakistan?

**Shri Neogy:** I have seen an allegation to that effect in the Press, but Government have absolutely no information.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to a report entitled, "Output of Jute Goods" with a sub-column "Barter deal..."

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. He may put one question at a time.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Shall I continue, Sir?

**Mr. Speaker:** No. Let the first question be answered; then the hon. Member may put another question. Has the hon. Minister heard the question?

**Shri Neogy:** Sir, I have covered this point substantially in the answer I just gave. I might, however, repeat that I have seen the report referred to by the hon. Member but, so far as Government are aware, there is no truth in it.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Is it true that India and Pakistan have reached an agreement for the exchange of 60,000 tons of raw jute from East Bengal with 40,000 tons of gunnies manufactured in Indian mills?

**Shri Neogy:** There is no truth in that statement, so far as Government are concerned.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Is it true that negotiations were conducted between Mr. A. J.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. This question does not arise. The hon. Member has given notice of a Short Notice Question on the same subject and the House is perhaps anxious to know what is happening. Since the matter is coming up, I am allowing the hon. Member to put such supplementaries as he can within, of course, the limits of such supplementaries.

**Shri Neogy:** And I am prepared to answer them.

**Mr. Speaker:** So he is putting questions on that, but the point is: when the agreement is denied, how can the question of negotiations arise?

**Shri Joachim Alva:** I shall ask another question then.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** I want to know whether Mr. Walker, the President of the Indian Jute Mills' Association, went over to Pakistan to conduct negotiations.

**Shri Neogy:** Mr. Walker, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Indian Jute Mills' Association, had I understand, occasion to visit Dacca to negotiate in connection with the release of jute held up there. As to what actually took place there, I am not in a position to state.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** We were told in December that about 12 lakh bales of jute had been purchased in Pakistan and five lakh bales had been held up and these, we are told, have now arrived. What about the other bales?—are they still there? Have they been paid for? Or had they arrived earlier?

**Shri Neogy:** I am afraid my hon. friend has not followed the answer already given by me. I have given the figures, indicating how much was claimed by us—(i) in regard to Assam jute in transit and (ii) in regard to jute purchased in Pakistan before devaluation. I have also indicated the figures of actual arrivals in regard to these two categories. I have also stated that I am not in a position to say why the rest of the jute is still being held up and when—if at all—it is likely to be released.

**Shri Goenka:** What is the position of Mr. Walker as the Jute Controller *vis-a-vis* Government?

**Mr. Speaker:** As the Jute Controller?

**Shri Goenka:** Yes, Sir, as the Jute Controller—he is the Jute Controller. I would like to know whether he is in the employ of Government or whether he holds an independent position.

**Shri Neogy:** He has been entrusted with certain functions under a law that has been passed on the subject. That does not make him a Government servant. He is acting in an honorary capacity mainly for the purpose of ensuring supplies on behalf of India to certain countries. That has nothing to do with any negotiations with Pakistan. He is not authorised by Government to carry on any negotiations, either directly or indirectly on behalf of the Government of India, with Pakistan in regard to jute trade.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether Pakistan has demanded any supplies of coal before they can release the jute held up by them?

**Shri Neogy:** The question of supply of coal has not figured of late. As a matter of fact, the House will remember the statement that I made on the 24th December in this connection. The question of release of coal is linked up with the question of resumption of trade generally between India and Pakistan. That condition has not been satisfied and we are prepared to have any Conference with Pakistan on the subject, but so far there has been no response from the other side.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** What is the total quantity of jute that we have purchased in Pakistan which has yet to arrive?

**Shri Neogy:** I have given the figures already, I think.

**Shri Buragohain:** Is the river route from Calcutta to Assam open?

**Shri Neogy:** I saw certain reports that, due to the recent disturbances, there was some amount of impediment in that route functioning in the normal way right from Assam to Calcutta.

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF SCIENTISTS

\*799. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what progress has been made regarding the compilation of a National Register of Scientists and Technical personnel?

(b) Is registration at present compulsory for all persons concerned?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) The names of over 88,000 scientific and technical personnel have been registered by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The lists are being printed and the 1st volume is expected to be out shortly.

(b) No.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know whether there is any scheme before Government to use the services of these scientists?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Surely the lists are made so that they might be before all the possible public and private users and employers. So far as the Scientific Research Department is concerned, they supply this information to all and employ such of those whom they themselves can employ.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know how many out of these lists have been employed by Government for scientific purposes and research work?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** This list is not a list of the unemployed. It is a list of scientific personnel employed or unemployed—most of them are employed. I cannot obviously say how many of the scientists and technicians in Government employ are in the lists.

**Shri Karmarkar:** Have Government considered the question as to how far we may be able to provide technical personnel for our participation in the United Nations Technical Assistance Scheme?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** As a matter of fact, so far as the higher technical personnel is concerned, we are in need of others and, therefore, we tried to get the highest technical talent from abroad, when needed. Occasionally some of our technicians go abroad—in fact, some of our ablest scientists are serving in America, much to my sorrow. I would rather have them serve here.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether a large number of technicians who have recently sent their applications to hon. the Prime Minister will be included in this list?

**Mr. Speaker:** Let the hon. Member refer to the list himself.

**Shri Rathnaswamy:** May I know to what extent the services of these scientists have been utilised by Government to tackle the country's scientific problems?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

#### SCHEDULED CASTE DISPLACED PERSONS

\*800. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state what is the total number of displaced persons belonging to Scheduled Castes who came from West Punjab?

(b) How far have they been rehabilitated?

(c) How many of them were given occupational training?

**The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saksena):** (a) About 3,50,000.

(b) (i) Nearly 3,25,000 have been allotted land in the East Punjab and Akwar.

(ii) About six thousand Harijans have got employment in Government and Municipal Health Services as skilled and unskilled labourers in Punjab. The remaining Harijans earn their livelihood by manual labour.

(iii) Although almost all the displaced Harijans have been able to find out one or the other casual employment, yet housing is still a problem. 1,190 Harijan families have been provided with mud-huts in the Punjab. About 200 families have been allotted houses in Rameshawari Nagar Colony, Karol Bagh, Delhi. Separate housing schemes are also in the course of implementation in certain States.

(c) About 800.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** How many of these were allotted agricultural land?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** The total number of people allotted land is 8,25,000.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Scheduled Caste displaced persons are allotted houses separately from caste Hindus?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** It is not a fact. As a matter of fact they are being allotted in the townships that are built. But in addition to that the Harijan Sevak Sangh have offered to build certain colonies and Government have agreed to help them.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** May I know whether it is true that those who are allotted lands are not given possession of those lands?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** It is a fact that many of them were allotted lands on a temporary basis. But in view of the present quasi-permanent allotment scheme of East Punjab, some of them who have been allotted land on a temporary basis may not get them.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know if the hon. Minister has any idea of the Scheduled Caste people left in West Punjab and about their condition?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** I could not give the exact figures. It is roughly two to three lakhs.

**Ch. Ranbir Singh:** May I know whether Harijans will be allowed to retain the land which has been allotted to them, or not?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** If they were land-owners they will be allowed to retain land in East Punjab. In other States they will be allowed to retain land, if land has been allotted to them.

**Shri Sonavane:** Will the hon. Minister let us know about the housing conditions of Harijan displaced persons at Jawahar camp in Ludhiana?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** I will require notice of that question.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** Is there any truth in the report that those people who are already in occupation of these lands are refusing to deliver possession to those people to whom they have been allotted, and if so, what steps are Government taking to see that the allottees are given possession of these lands?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** I am not aware of such cases; but that may be so in East Punjab where those who have been allotted land on a temporary basis may not be delivering possession to those who have been allotted land on a quasi-permanent basis.

**Shri Sidhva:** The hon. Minister stated that two to three lakhs of Scheduled Castes are left in West Pakistan. Does this include the Scheduled Castes in Sind and have they made any applications for being evacuated?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** This number includes those in Sind. They have made representations for being removed.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know whether it is the policy of Government to distribute these Scheduled Caste displaced persons among Caste Hindus so that untouchability may be removed?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** As a matter of fact, where separate colonies have been built by the Harijan Sevak Sangh, Government have decided that a certain number of the houses should be allotted to the Caste Hindus. Similarly a certain number will be allotted to them in other colonies.

#### IMPORT OF SUGAR

\*801. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether a proposal is under consideration to allow the import of sugar into India?

(b) If so, what is the quantity of sugar that will be imported?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** In view of the fact that the people of India cannot get sugar except through black-market, will the hon. Minister consider the possibility of exporting some portion of our sugar production, so that our export trade at least may be increased?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Tyagi:** Has the Tariff Board recommended the import of sugar from foreign countries?

**Shri Neogy:** It is not a positive recommendation. They contemplate the possibility of some import being necessary to meet the internal demand.

**Shri Sidhva:** What is going to be the policy of Government in regard to sugar—are they going to decontrol it or will the control be continued?

**Shri Neogy:** That does not arise out of this question.

**Shri M. C. Shah:** In view of the fact that the Tariff Board in its report to Government estimates 13 lakh tons to be the home consumption per annum for the next two or three years, and in view of the fact that indigenous production is less than that, will Government now seriously consider the question of importing sufficient quantity of sugar on State account to meet the deficit as is being done in the case of cereals.

**Shri Neogy:** All this will be considered.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** May I know what is the expected deficit between the production of sugar and its consumption during the next year?

**Shri Neogy:** Consumption has been estimated by the Tariff Board as between 12 and 13 lakh tons, and the estimated production is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 10 lakh tons; I do not know exactly because during the first period up to the end of February there has been a larger output of sugar as compared with the output last year. We have to wait and see what would be the actual output before we can give any opinion.



**Shri A. P. Jain:** Is anything being done to cover this gap, or is it proposed to leave it at that?

**Shri Neogy:** All this, as I said, is under consideration.

**Shri B. Das:** Has the price of sugar fallen in ports like Calcutta and Bombay since protection was removed?

**Shri Neogy:** I am afraid I am not in a position to give an answer to this.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Arising out of the reply given by the hon. Minister that there has been a larger output this year, may I know what is the quantum of that increase?

**Shri Neogy:** These are the figures: Production up to February 1950 works out at 7,27,794 tons as against 6,05,097 tons up to the same period last year. This increase, I am told, is due to the early start in the sugar factories this year.

**Pandit Maitra:** What is the estimated production of *Khandasari* sugar during the coming season?

**Shri Neogy:** I have no information.

**Shri Goenka:** If the idea is to make up the deficit by imports, may I know whether enquiries have been made to find out whether sugar is available from sterling area countries?

**Shri Neogy:** Enquiries are actually being made.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि कुछ फैक्ट्रियां बन्द हो चुकी हैं और अगर बन्द नहीं हुई हैं तो कितनी चल रही हैं ? क्या उन की तादाद उतनी गये साल थी ?

**Seth Govind Das:** Is it not a fact that some factories have closed down and if not then how many are working? Was the number same last year?

**Shri Neogy:** I am afraid I am not in a position to give this information.

#### AGRICULTURAL LABOUR ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

\*802. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

- (a) when the All India Agricultural Labour Enquiry Committee was formed;
- (b) the names of members of the committee; and
- (c) what are the terms of reference?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) No Committee has been constituted for the purpose, but the Government of India in the Ministry of Labour, have in collaboration with the State Governments, undertaken an enquiry into the conditions of agricultural labour to ascertain the level of earnings, cost and standard of living and opportunities for employment of agricultural workers in the country and to consider what protective and ameliorative measures, including the fixation of minimum wages under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, should be undertaken to improve their conditions.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Shri S. N. Das:** Which of the States have taken up the work?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** All the States.

**Shri S. N. Das:** Is any interim report being asked for?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** We are receiving interim reports also.

#### ALLOTMENT OF LANDS TO DISPLACED PERSONS

\*803. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of allotment of lands to displaced persons from West Pakistan is uniform so far as the Centre and the States are concerned;

(b) whether any evacuee lands are in the possession of persons other than the displaced persons; and

(c) if so, what is the area of such lands under (i) the Centre and (ii) the States?

**The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saksena):** (a) Uniform policy is being followed in all the States excepting the Punjab and P.E.P.S.U.

(b) Evacuee lands are as a rule given to displaced persons, but there may be cases where land may have been temporarily allotted to others.

(c) There is no such lands directly under the Centre, information is being collected from the States.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Has any cut been applied by the Centre so far as the allotment of land to displaced persons is concerned?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** So far as the Centre is concerned, there is no question of cut. We give only such land as can be cultivated.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Irrespective of whether they held land on the other side?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** We give land only to those who owned land on the other side.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** May I know whether evacuee lands in Alwar and other States are still lying unallotted?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** No.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** What is the underlying idea of making allotments of lands on a temporary basis?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** First, as the displaced persons came and land was available, they were allotted land irrespective of whether they owned land on the other side. Now enquiries have been made and records have been exchanged and so in the Punjab land is being allotted on a quasi-permanent basis to all those who owned land on the other side.

**Oh. Ranbir Singh:** May I know whether non-Muslim tenants who developed the lands of Muslims are being ejected?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** No.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Is it the idea that land temporarily settled upon may be taken from some of the displaced persons afterwards?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Yes. The scheme in the Punjab is to give land only to those who owned land on the other side and if there are any persons—I think there is a large number of them—who did not own land on the other side, their land will be taken away from them.

**Shri A. P. Jain:** What will be the position of those who did not own land but who occupied land either as occupancy tenants or otherwise in Pakistan and who have come here?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** They will be allotted land in the same capacity as they were occupying there.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** May I know whether there is any proposal to give land to such Harijans from whom lands will be taken in East Punjab on the ground of their being no landowners or tenants in West Punjab?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** So far as I am aware, there is no such proposal before the East Punjab Government.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Before the Centre?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** The Centre is handling only those persons who came from Sind, N.W.F.P. and Baluchistan and not with those who came from West Punjab.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** What steps are Government taking, so far as the Centrally Administered Areas are concerned, e.g., Delhi, for the permanent allotment of land to the tillers of the soil?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** So far as Delhi is concerned, we have made allotments of lands to persons on a *quasi*-permanent basis and we have no idea of disturbing them.

**Shri Gautam:** What is the position of those non-Muslim tenants who were tilling the soil before the partition? Have those lands been allotted to Punjabi refugees?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** If there were any persons who were attached as tenants to Muslim landlords who have left, they will continue to occupy that land and they will not be disturbed.

#### ALLOTMENT OF EVACUEE GARDENS

\*804. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the considerations that have guided the Government of India in the allotment of gardens left by Muslim evacuees in the Centrally Administered Areas?

(b) What is the number of evacuee gardens allotted to local persons (not displaced) in these areas?

**The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saksena):** (a) The policy of the Government of India regarding allotment of gardens is outlined in the Press Note, issued on the 16th March, 1948, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 2.*] It has also been further decided that such of the allottees as have received allotment of evacuee property elsewhere or are entitled to receive allotment in Punjab and P.E.P.S.U. shall not be entitled to renewal of the allotment.

(b) Nil.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** After the expiry of three years for which these gardens are auctioned, to whom are these gardens to be allotted?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** They will be allotted to those who have come from Sind the N.W.F.P. and Bahawalpur and who are not entitled to allotment of land in Punjab and P.E.P.S.U.

**Pandit Maitra:** What is the purpose for which these gardens are allotted?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** They have been allotted as gardens.

**Pandit Maitra:** Are they for raising crops or are they for raising flowers, fruits, etc.?

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** As a matter of fact, they are being used for garden purposes to grow fruit trees, etc. Some of them also growing vegetables.

#### TREATIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE

\*305. **Shri Kamath:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with which India has concluded treaties of friendship and peace;

(b) the names of countries with which India proposes to conclude such treaties in the near future;

(c) whether India proposes to enter into mutual non-aggression pacts with any countries; and

(d) if so, with which and when?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) and (b). The Government of India have entered into Treaties of Friendship with Afghanistan and Switzerland. Negotiations are also in progress for Treaties with the Philippines, Iran, Nepal, Yemen, Czechoslovakia, U.S.A., and Thailand (Siam).

(c) and (d). In view of the fact that all independent countries are members of the United Nations, the Government of India do not consider it necessary to enter into mutual non-aggression pacts with separate countries.

**Shri Kamath:** Does India propose to conclude or initiate any moves for the conclusion of friendship treaties with Soviet Russia, and also Peking 'China' to which we have lately accorded recognition?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** India would welcome some kind of treaty of friendship with either of those countries.

**Shri Kamath:** With a view to promoting world peace, does India propose to take any steps in the United Nations under Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations, in order to outlaw the hydrogen bomb which is endangering world peace today?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid it does not arise out of this question. It goes beyond its scope.

**Shri Kamath:** What is the position today in regard to the move made by us about the non-aggression or no-war pact with Pakistan?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I think that question was answered recently. Nothing has happened in this matter since day before yesterday.

**Shri Frank Anthony:** Is the Government considering any treaty with Tibet?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir. We have got certain arrangements. So far as I can remember, they are not at present being modified.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that, when the Prime Minister was in the United States of America, it was suggested in certain United Nations circles that he might mediate between the two not-too-friendly blocs?

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is not really relevant and does not arise.

**Shri Kamath:** The whole question is about world peace, Sir.

**Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Is a Regional Pact incompatible with the United Nations Charter?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is asking for opinion.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It depends on the nature of the Pact.

LIST OF SCHEDULED CASTES

\*806. **Prof. Yashwant Rai:** Will the Minister of Law be pleased to refer to Article 341 of the Constitution and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many castes are anxious to know their inclusion in the list of the Scheduled Castes; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this direction and when the list of the Castes included in the Scheduled Castes will be announced?

**The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar):** (a) and (b). As required under article 341 of the Constitution, the Governors and Rajpramukhs of States have been consulted with regard to the castes, races or tribes etc. which are to be specified as Scheduled Castes for the purposes of the Constitution and their views and suggestions are at present being examined. This examination is expected to be completed soon, and thereafter the Notification specifying the Scheduled Castes will be issued.

**Prof. Yashwant Rai:** May I know, Sir, how long will the Government take to announce the list?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** I have said 'soon'. I am sure it will not take very long.

**Shri Rathnaswamy:** May I know the basis on which the Government comes to a decision in regard to the inclusion of castes?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** The question is not clear. We have got the Schedules under the Government of India Act, 1935. In addition to that, we have addressed queries to provincial Governments as to their opinion regarding the inclusion of certain other castes. After their opinions are received, the lists will be finalised.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether in the coming census the Scheduled Castes will be marked as Scheduled Castes?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** I suppose so.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** I want to know whether the lists proposed to be compiled will be uniformly applicable to all the States in the country or whether they will differ from State to State?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** It cannot be. It is always a provincial list.

**Shri Buragohain:** May I know whether the list of Scheduled Tribes is also under examination?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** Oh, yes.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it the intention of Government to exclude from the list castes that have progressed to the level of the so-called Caste Hindus?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** The Scheduled Castes have been always untouchables. Nothing less.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it the intention of Government to revise the lists so as to exclude those castes that do not have the disability of untouchability after the progress they have made?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** The procedure for revising the Schedules is provided in the Constitution. It can be done by parliamentary legislation.

**Shri Naik:** May I know whether any steps have been taken by the Government to implement article 340 of the Constitution?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** The appointment of a Commission is a separate matter. That is also under consideration.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** Since untouchability has been banned by the Constitution, can it still form the basis of exclusion or inclusion?

**Shri Barman:** Is it contemplated to publish a provisional list before the final list is published?

**Dr. Ambedkar:** It is not contemplated, because the power is given to the President to issue the list.

#### CONTROL ON PAPER

\*307. **Shri V. K. Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that control on paper other than newsprint still exists?

(b) If so, what is the reason?

(c) What are the stocks at present held in India?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) Yes.

(b) The supplies are still short of requirements. But the position has improved to a certain extent, and the question whether some of the controls can not be withdrawn or relaxed is now under examination.

(c) The information is not readily available. The stocks are reported to local authorities and not to the Government of India. It has not been possible within the time available to obtain the figures from the State Government.

**Shri V. K. Reddi:** Is it proposed to obtain the information?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** No, Sir.

**Shri Goenka:** In view of the fact that the supply of newsprint is short of our requirements, will Government consider the question of imposing control on newsprint?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** Although this question does not refer to newsprint, I may say that I have received certain proposals asking the Government to reimpose control on newsprint. That is now under consideration.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** May I know what quantity of art paper and white paper the Government of India consumes?

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** I have not got the information.

## MICA LABOUR CONCILIATION AWARD

\*808. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

- (a) the date of giving the Mica Labour Conciliation Award;
- (b) the period for which the award was to remain in force;
- (c) whether the period has expired;
- (d) if so, the reasons for not giving a fresh award; and
- (e) the time by which a fresh award will be given?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) The hon. Member presumably refers to the Award of the Central Industrial Tribunal, Dhanbad. That Award was published on the 10th July, 1948.

(b) The award was enforced for a period of one year from the 1st July, 1948.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). The parties have themselves entered into an agreement to keep the award in force for a further period of two years.

**Shri Jnani Ram:** What is the wage rate?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I will refer the hon. Member to the award of the Tribunal.

## Dhowras CONSTRUCTED FOR COLLIERY LABOURERS

\*809. **Shri Jnani Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of labourers at Bhurkunda, Argada and Kargali collieries;
- (b) the number of *Dhowras* constructed by Government for them;
- (c) the number of *Dhowras* proposed to be constructed;
- (d) the number of temporary sheds constructed by the labourers; and
- (e) the reasons for not constructing adequate number of *Dhowras*?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) to (d). A statement containing the information required is placed on the Table of the House.

(e) Mainly due to shortage of building materials. *Dhowras* could not be built quickly enough to meet the increase in labour strength.

## STATEMENT

Questions.	Names of the Collieries.			
	Bhurkunda.	Argada.	Kargali only.	Kargali Group of Collieries.
(a) Number of Labourers.	2,150	889	7,933	17,124*
(b) Number of <i>Dhowras</i> constructed by the Government.	1,074	722	5,160	9,194*
(c) Number of <i>Dhowras</i> to be constructed.	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	100	200*
(d) Number of temporary sheds constructed by the labourers.	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>	136	1,187*

\* Includes the figures of 'Kargali only' also.

**Shri Jnani Ram:** Is it a fact that to check inflation the construction of new *Dhowras* has been stopped

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** No, Sir.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

## LABOUR DISPUTES IN MINES

\*810. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

- the number of labour disputes in mines at Hazaribagh, Dhanbad and Asansol since 1947;
- the number decided by the Tribunal;
- the number compromised at the instance of the Tribunal and the Labour Commissioner; and
- the number of disputes pending?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) The number of industrial disputes in which officers of the Central Industrial Relations Machinery intervened since 16th September, 1947, is (i) 746 in Bihar; and (ii) 237 in West Bengal (Asansol).

Separate figures for Hazaribagh and Dhanbad are not available.

- Nine.
- 966—all by the labour relations machinery.
- Eight.



## BONUS TO LABOURERS OF CHIRIMIRI AND JHAGRAKHAND COAL FIELDS

\*811. **Shri Zangre:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state as to what is the total amount of bonus that is pending to be paid to the labourers of Chirimiri and Jhagrakhand coal fields?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** According to the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme which has recently been extended to Korea (now merged in Madhya Pradesh) the employees of Chirimiri and Jhagrakhand collieries are entitled to a quarterly bonus at the rate of one-third of their basic earnings from the 1st January, 1950. The bonus for the first quarter is payable in the month of May, 1950.

Prior to the application of the Scheme to Korea, the employees were entitled to bonus under the Korea State Award, the implementation of which was the responsibility of the Korea Government. From the information available it appears that bonus was generally paid in terms of the award.

## TRADE WITH WESTERN GERMANY

\*812. **Shri R. Velayudhan:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state whether the Government of India have entered into any trade agreement with Western Germany and if so, when?

(b) What were the main exports to Western Germany from India in the year 1949 and what was the quantity of each article exported?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a) A trade agreement with U.S./U.K. Zones of Germany was entered into on the 28th July, 1948, for the period 1st July, 1948 to 30th June, 1949. A fresh Agreement was signed on 28th June, 1949, for the period 1st July, 1949, to 30th June, 1950. This Agreement is between India and the U.S./U.K./French Zones of Germany.

(b) A statement showing exports of principal commodities to Western Germany during January to December, 1949, is placed on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

*Quantity of principal commodities exported to Western Germany during the year January—December, 1949.*

<i>Name of Commodity</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
Jute manufacture	409 tons
Jute raw	27,210 tons
Cotton raw	2,843 tons
Tobacco	10,15,000 lbs.
Tea	28,46,000 lbs.
Groundnut seed	1,717 tons
Niger seed	68 tons
Groundnut oil	197 tons
Linseed oil	114 tons
Castor oil	108 tons
Mica	6,605 cwts.
Manganese ore	18,102 tons
Lac	17,584 cwts.
Hides and skins	760 tons.
Pepper	303 tons.

## INDO-PAKISTAN AGREEMENTS

\*813. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a complete list of the agreements entered into by the Government of India with Pakistan Government, from time to time, since the formation of Pakistan and which have been broken by Pakistan?

(b) What is the number of protests made by the Government of India which have been disregarded by Pakistan?

**The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):** (a) A statement showing the Agreements reached between India and Pakistan since the partition and up to February 1949 was placed on the Table of the House in answer to Q. No. 205 of the hon. Seth Govind Dass on 8th February 1949. A list of the eight agreements entered into since, specifying against each whether it has been violated by Pakistan or not, is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) The Government of India have protested to the Government of Pakistan whenever breaches of the agreements occurred on the part of the latter. In some cases satisfactory replies have been received and action to comply with the terms of the agreements promised. In other cases counter-allegations have been made by the Government of Pakistan against India. In view of the large volume of correspondence on the subject I regret that it is not possible to state precisely the number of protests which the Government of India made to the Government of Pakistan and the number of cases in which satisfactory replies have been received.

### *List of Agreements with Pakistan*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| (1) Agreement reached at New Delhi in April 1949 on economic, financial, Railway, Relief and Rehabilitation matters etc.      | (1) No.  |
| (2) Agreement reached at Lahore in April 1949, on banking.  | (2) No.  |
| (3) Commodities Agreement of June, 1949.  | (3) Yes. Devaluation has also affected its implementation.   |
| (4) Agreement reached in July 1949, on food supplies.   | (4) No. Payments for <i>atta</i> supplied to Pakistan under the agreement are however outstanding.                                 |
| (5) Agreement reached in July 1949, on rebates of central excise.   | (5) Yes.   |
| (6) Agreement reached on the 18th August, 1949, regarding handloom cloth.   | (6) Yes.   |
| (7) Agreement supplementary to the Payments Agreement between the Governments of India and Pakistan, on 10th September, 1949. | (7) No.  |
| (8) Agreement reached on the 6th November, 1949, regarding the booking of traffic interchanged between India and Pakistan.    | (8) Owing to the difficulties caused in the wake of devaluation, the agreement is not being implemented now by both the countries. |

## IMPORT OF ELECTRICAL GOODS

\*814. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state the total value of the imported electrical goods during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):**

1948-49

About Rs. 25 crores.

1949-50

(Upto 31st December, 1949).

About Rs. 24 crores.

## ALUMINIUM

\*815. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state the quantity of aluminium in tons produced in India during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50?

(b) What is the quantity imported during those years?

(c) When will India become self-sufficient in this commodity?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):**

(a)	1948-49	1949-50 (upto 31st January, 1950)
	3563 tons	2984 tons
(b)	1948-49	1949-50 (upto 31st December, 1949)
	9450 tons	6250 tons

(c) It is difficult to give a definite reply at present. Self-sufficiency can be attained only when adequate ingot producing capacity is installed.

## LEATHER TANNING TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

\*816. **Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state how many leather tanning technical schools have been opened since January 1948 to 1950 up to date?

(b) How many persons have been trained in these Schools?

(c) Are any of these trained personnel unemployed?

(d) If so, what are the reasons for their unemployment?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) No leather tanning technical school was opened by the Ministry of Labour during January 1948 to January 1950. There are, however, two training centres at Jullunder under the Ministry of Labour (Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment) where training in tanning and dyeing of leather is imparted.

(b) 82 persons have, so far, been trained in tanning and dyeing of leather.

(c) and (d). Information is not available.

## SUPPLY OF COAL TO NORTH BIHAR

\*817. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state whether Government are aware that since the last six or seven years practically no coal for brick burning has been supplied to the public of North Bihar due to shortage of wagons and difficulty in route via Mokama Ghat Railway Station (E.I.R.)?

(b) If so, have Government any plan to make arrangements for the same?

(c) Is it a fact that the Railway Administration (E. I. R.) has stopped the transport of coal to North Bihar for the use of the public by long distance routes also?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) and (b). Rail capacity via Mokameh Ghat being limited, supplies of coal for brick burning, which has low priority have been extremely poor. During 1949, however, nearly 12,000 tons were allotted for brick industry via Mokamehghat.

(c) Yes, Sir. The matter has already been taken up with the Railway Administration concerned.

## IMPORT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

\*818. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and value of motor cars, buses, trucks and motor-cycles imported into India during the year 1949 separately from the hard and soft currency countries; and

(b) the number of motor cars, buses, trucks and motor-cycles imported into India on Government's account?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

## YARN (COTTON, SILK AND WOOL)

\*819. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state what are the quantities of highest counts of yarn manufactured in India from cotton, silk and wool?

(b) What is the difference in price between the highest count of yarn produced in India and the yarn of the same quality imported from abroad?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) and (b). The highest count of cotton yarn produced in India is yarn of the 100s count. The average monthly production is about 62½ bales. The price of Indian yarn of this count is about Rs. 56 annas 11 per ten pounds, and price of imported yarn is about Rs. 95/-.

Information about silk and wool is not readily available.

## SELECTION BOARDS AND COMMITTEES ASSOCIATED WITH EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

\*820. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the composition, personnel and functions of the various Selection Boards, Recruitment Boards and Committees associated with the Ministry of External Affairs

which make recommendations for recruitment and promotion in the Indian Foreign Service, the Central Secretariat Service and other similar services for higher appointments in the Ministry?

(b) Are these Boards and Committees permanent, semi-permanent or temporary bodies?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar):** (a) The Union Public Service Commission is consulted on all cases of recruitment, promotion, disciplinary action, etc. in which consultation with that body is necessary under the regulations. For the purpose of regulating promotions, leave and transfer etc. in the Indian Foreign Service and other services under the control of the Ministry, a Foreign Service Board, an Establishment Board and a Senior Departmental Promotions Committee have been constituted. A statement showing their composition, functions and personnel is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, Annexure No. 3.*]

(b) Both the Boards and the Committee are constituted on a permanent basis.

#### CABINET ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

\*821. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the composition of the Economic Committee of the Cabinet and its precise functions?

(b) What schemes have been considered by this Committee since its formation and with what results?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) The Composition of the Economic Committee of the Cabinet is:—

The hon. Minister of Finance (Chairman),

The hon. Minister of Labour,

The hon. Minister of Commerce,

The hon. Minister of Industry and Supply,

The hon. Minister of Transport,

The hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture.

The hon. Minister of Law.

The precise functions of the Committee are to direct and co-ordinate all Government activities in the economic field which relate mainly to production, supply, distribution of essential commodities and regulations of the national economy.

(b) The Committee have considered from time to time the measures adopted and the proposals formulated by Ministries having a bearing on the economy of the country. It is not in the public interest to divulge information relating to the proceedings of the Committee.

#### MANUFACTURE OF SLATES

\*822. **Shri Ranga Reddi:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of slates (writing) that are being annually manufactured in the country and the various places of manufacture;

(b) whether the total production is sufficient to meet the requirements of the country;

(c) whether there are any imports and if so, from which countries; and

(d) whether any protection is being given to this industry?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookarjee):** (a) About 24,700,000. Main production centres are: Azamgarh (U.P.), Delhi, Amritsar, Kurd (Punjab), Bangalore, Bowringpet (Mysore), Markapur, Tumkur (Madras), Kund (PEPSU) and Kaladgi (Bijapur).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Very small, if any. Import statistics are not available.

(d) No. Sir.

#### LICENCES FOR IMPORT OF NEWSPRINT

**\*823. Shri Deogirikar:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) how long it normally takes to grant licences to newspapers for the import of newsprint;

(b) whether there is any procedure for fixing the quota before the licence is granted; and

(c) how many applications for import licences are pending?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a) The time taken to grant a licence depends upon the nature of each case. If the application is complete in all respects, i.e., the requisite treasury receipt is produced, Income-tax Registration or Exemption No. is furnished and proof of the rate of consumption of newsprint is also available, licences are issued within a week from the date of receipt of the application. In most cases, licences are granted within three or four days, if all particulars are in order.

(b) Yes, Sir. Out of the total ceiling, a certain portion is earmarked for grant of licences to the actual users, such as newspapers, etc., and the balance to the established importers. Licences to the actual users are granted on the basis of their six monthly consumption. As regards the established importers, the highest value of imports in any complete financial year of the basic period is ascertained and the ratio between the available ceiling and half the value of the highest imports in the basic period is worked out to calculate the quota and licences are issued at the rate of the quota percentage, so determined, on the basis of past imports of each applicant in any complete financial year of the basic period 1937-38 to 1948-49.

(c) There are no applications from newspapers pending at present.

#### LABOUR UNIONS IN GIRIDIH COLLIERIES

**\*824. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) how many registered Labour Unions are working in the Government collieries at Giridih in the district of Hazaribagh; and

(b) whether any union is backed by the Communists and Socialists?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) There are three registered trade unions namely: (i) Hazaribagh District Coal Mazdoor Union, (ii) Coal Workers' Union, and (iii) the Indian Government Railway Coal Department Employees' Association.

(b) Nos. (i) and (iii) are affiliated to the Indian National Trade Union Congress and No. (ii) is reported to have decided to seek affiliation to it.

#### EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION IN GIRIDIH COLLIERIES

**\*825. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether there is any Employees' Association or Union (other than Labour Unions) in the Government collieries at Giridih?

(b) Whether there has been any wholesale strike in the said Government collieries at Giridih since January 1947 and if so, for what demands and with what results?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) Yes, *viz.*, Indian Government Railway Coal Department Employees' Association, Giridih.

(b) There has been no wholesale strike in these collieries since January, 1947. There were partial strikes in different pits on the ground of non-implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations in respect of workshop staff. Reasonable demands were met.

#### EXPENDITURE ON GIRIDIH COLLIERIES

**\*826. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual produce of coal of all kinds in the Government collieries at Giridih in the district of Hazaribagh for the last three years *i.e.*, in the years 1947, 1948 and 1949;

(b) the total annual expenditure during the above years on the maintenance of these collieries;

(c) the total amount paid to the labourers as wages and allowances of all kinds in 1947, 1948 and 1949; and

(d) the system of making payments to the labourers and whether any bonus and dearness allowances are paid to the labourers?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) to (d). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix V, *annexure No. 4.*]

#### CORRUGATED IRON SHEETS

**\*827. Shri M. Hazarika:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of corrugated iron sheets manufactured in India in the years 1948-49 and 1949-50;

(b) whether any quantity of corrugated iron sheets is imported from any foreign country;

(c) the quantity allotted to each State in each of the above years; and

(d) the quantity that is allotted to industrial concerns and the quantity allotted for the use of the general public?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) 64,186 tons in 1948 and 84,428 tons in 1949.

(b) No, Sir, except for a small quantity of 43 tons imported in 1949

(c) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 5.]

#### RADIO MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

\*828. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how many companies are engaged in the manufacture of radio sets in India?

(b) How many have been started in Madras so far?

(c) Has any company in Madras asked for subsidy from the Centre to start manufacture of radios?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) Twelve organised manufacturers.

(b) Two.

(c) No.

#### CONCENTRATION OF PAKISTAN FORCES ON BIHAR BORDER

\*829. **Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Minister of the State of Bihar in the State Legislative Assembly in reply to a short notice question that the Armed Forces of Pakistan are being concentrated on the borders of the district of Purnea in the State of Bihar?

(b) If so, have Government any information about the concentration of Pakistan Armed Forces on the Borders of Bihar?

(c) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) to (c). Yes. The Chief Minister of Bihar referred to a press report. Government attach no particular importance to this report. But necessary steps are always taken to protect the frontiers of India.

#### CREATION OF LABOUR POOL

\*830. **Shri Satish Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have created a Labour Pool, registering the names of persons retrenched from Government service in order to give them priority in the matter of employment as and when vacancies to which they could be posted occur again?

(b) Is there any special section for doing this work in the Employment Exchanges?



**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) No separate labour pool consisting of retrenched Government employees has been created. All retrenched Union and State Government employees who seek employment assistance are, however, registered as a separate category by the Employment Exchanges. Retrenched Union Government employees are given second priority in submission to Union Government vacancies. The Union Government accord priority to their retrenched employees when filling vacancies that arise.

(b) No, as this is not considered necessary.

#### WORKERS IN KOLAR GOLD FIELDS

\*831. **Shri Ohanniah:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total number of workers in the Kolar Gold Fields?

(b) What is the minimum wage paid to each worker in the above mines?

(c) How many strikes took place in the mines during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50?

(d) What is the arrangement made for their housing?

(e) Do these workers get any pension or grant after retirement?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

#### MANUFACTURE OF NEWSPRINT FROM BAGASSE

91. **Prof. Ranga:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's representative was present at the demonstration made on the 28th January, 1950 at Holyoke, Massachusetts, U.S.A. for the manufacture of newsprint from bagasse-waste of sugar cane;

(b) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report in the New York Times dated the 30th January, 1950, International Edition, page 9, on this matter; and

(c) what steps Government proposes to take in order to establish paper and pulp mills in our country in co-operation with the Chemical Paper Manufacturing Company of Holyoke?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) I have no information.

(b) Government have seen the report.

(c) Government have received no such proposal. Government are however trying to obtain technical information relating to the manufacture of newsprint from bagasse.

#### GAZETTED AND NON-GAZETTED STAFF IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

92. **Prof. Yashwant Rai:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scheduled caste members in each grade in the Ministry of Industry and Supply;

(b) whether the number is not as reserved for scheduled castes; and

(c) what special steps Government propose to take to fill in the reserved quota under the spirit of Article No. 335 of the New Constitution?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** The required information is given below:

(a) Gazetted officer.	One.
Superintendent	Nil.
Assistants.	Seven.
Stenographers.	Nil.
Clerks.	143.

(b) No.

(c) Efforts are made to recruit suitable Scheduled Caste candidates through the Scheduled Caste Associations in the States.

#### PAID-UP CAPITAL OF JOINT-STOCK COMPANIES

**93. Shri Blyani:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the total paid-up capital of joint-stock companies of the following principal classes of joint-stock enterprises in August 1947 and at the end of 1948 and 1949 in the Indian Union (i) Banking, loans and insurance companies, (ii) Transit and Transport, (iii) Trading and manufacturing, (iv) Mills and Presses, (v) Tea and other planting companies, (vi) Mining and quarrying, (vii) Estate, land and building, (viii) Breweries and distilleries, (ix) Sugar manufacture, (x) Hotels, Theatres, etc., and (xi) Other companies;

(b) the total paid-up capital of private companies in August 1947 and at the end of 1948 and 1949 in the above principal classes of business; and

(c) how much of the increase in the paid-up capital during the period from August 1947 to the end of 1949 is due to the issue of bonus shares or capitalisation of reserves by companies and how much is due to new floatations?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a) and (b). Figures are not readily available to show the position as at the end of August and December since the returns furnished by the Registrars of companies show the position at the end of financial years. Figures for the financial years ending in March 1947 and March 1948 are being tabulated and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as this has been done. Figures upto the end of March 1949 will not be available for several months.

(c) Information asked for is not available.

#### TRADE MISSION FROM IRAN

**94. Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether a Mission from Iran has arrived in India with the object of negotiating trade relations with India?

(b) Is this Mission sponsored by the Government of Iran?

(c) What is the result of the negotiations?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a) to (c). The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the press note of the 12th January, 1950, issued by the Ministry of Commerce a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Another copy is laid on the Table for the convenience of the hon. Member. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 6.]

## FARES ON SHIPS ON KONKAN COAST

**95. Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state whether the Board of Enquiry set up to go into the question of increase of passenger fares by 50 per cent. on ships plying on Konkan coast has submitted its report?

- (b) If not, what is the cause of the delay?  
 (c) Has any interim report been sent?  
 (d) Are the members of the Board whole-time members?  
 (e) How many meetings of the Board have been held?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy):** (a), (c) and (d). No, Sir.

(b) There has been some delay in the submission by the Shipping Companies of the accounts in the form required by the Board. There was also some delay in the submission and examination of the views of the Passengers' Associations. Every endeavour is however being made by the Board to complete their work at an early date.

(e) The Board have held four public meetings so far, viz., on 12-8-49, 7-10-49, 21-12-49 and 23-1-50, in which the representatives of the Steamship companies and those of the Passengers Associations were present. In addition to these meetings, the Board have met informally amongst themselves several times and they have also had opportunities of meeting separately the representatives of the steamship companies to discuss various questions arising out of their enquiry.

## INDIAN PRISONERS IN PAKISTAN

**96. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any decision has been arrived at between India and Pakistan regarding the exchange of prisoners of the Kashmir operations; and  
 (b) if not, whether there is any hope of arriving at a decision?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** It has not been found possible to reach an agreement with Pakistan regarding the exchange of prisoners of the Kashmir operations since Pakistan is ready to exchange prisoner for prisoner only, while our claim is that the totality of our prisoners should be exchanged for the totality of theirs.

## COAL PRODUCED IN GIRIDIH COLLIERIES

**97. Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the coal produced in the Government collieries in Giridih are utilised for Government purposes, or whether any portion thereof is sold to the public; and  
 (b) what is the method of fixing the price of coal produced in the Government collieries at Giridih?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) The major portion of the coal is utilised for the Government purposes. A small proportion, ranging between 5 per cent. and 14 per cent., is sold to the public, mainly to steel works.

(b) Prices fixed are different for different grades, but are uniform for each grade of coal produced in all the collieries in the Bihar field including the Government Collieries at Giridih. Prices are based on cost of production of representative group of collieries.

#### LOSS INCURRED ON GIRIDIH COLLIERIES

98. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government collieries at Giridih in the district of Hazaribagh are maintained at a loss and if so, why?

(b) What is the amount of loss incurred in the years 1947, 1948 and 1949?

**The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee):** (a) Yes, Sir. Loss is due to many reasons, mainly higher production cost on account of higher grain concessions to labour, inadequate supply of wagons, surplus of non-productive labour. These collieries are run even at a loss in order to reduce the dependence of Railways on irregular supplies from market collieries, to avoid large scale retrenchment of labour and finally due to the fact that once a colliery is closed it is flooded and is difficult and expensive to re-open.

(b) The loss for the three years ending 1948-49 was as follows:

Year	Kerharbarea Rs.	Serampore Rs.
1946-47	17,30,557	9,50,508
1947-48	20,24,000	19,81,000
1948-49	14,94,039	14,34,917

Monday, 13th March, 1950



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

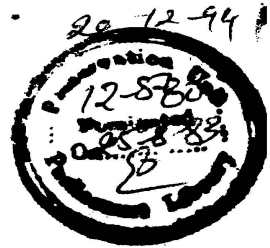
OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME I, 1950

First Session  
of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950



## CORRIGENDA

to

the Parliamentary Debates (Part II—Other than Questions and Answers), 1st Session, 1950,—

In Volume II,—

1. No. 1, dated the 24th February, 1950,—

- (i) Page 809, line 19 for "cbroadly" read "broadly".
- (ii) Page 814, line 20 for "alsod" read "also a".
- (iii) Page 826, line 24 after "have" read "got".
- (iv) Page 831, line 12 for "stile" read "still" and in line 13 for "would" read "would".
- (v) पृष्ठ ८५४, पंक्ति ६ में "बैठेगो" के स्थान पर "बैठेंगे" पढ़ें।
- (vi) पृष्ठ ८५७, पंक्ति ४ में "डब्बो" से पहले "और" को निकाल दें।
- (vii) Page 865, last line for "15th" read "25th".

2. No. 2, dated the 25th February, 1950,—

- (i) Page 884, line 27 from bottom for "latterly" read "laterly".
- (ii) Page 898, line 11 for "fact" read "feet".
- (iii) Page 901, line 11 omit "a" after "had".
- (iv) Page 903, line 10 from bottom for "low" read "law".

3. No. 3, dated the 27th February, 1950,—

- (i) Page 950, line 5 from bottom for "alternation" read "alteration".
- (ii) पृष्ठ ९६१, नीचे से पंक्ति १३ में "श्री ए० पी० सिंह" के स्थान पर "श्री ए० पी० सिन्हा" पढ़ें।
- (iii) पृष्ठ ९६६, पंक्ति १ में "मा" के स्थान पर "या" पढ़ें।
- (iv) Page 967, line 9 for "ot" read "to".
- (v) Page 970, line 9 for "Mangers" read "Managers".

4. No. 4, dated the 28th February, 1950,—

- (i) Page 984, line 11 for "Mr. Chairman :- The question is" read "The motion was adopted".
- (ii) Page 986, for the existing last line read "The House then adjourned for lunch till half past two of the clock".
- (iii) Page 994, line 27 from bottom for "onse" read "ones".
- (iv) Page 1010, line 16 from bottom for "Mr. Gaganvinari lal" read "Mr. Gaganvihari Lal".

5. No. 5, dated the 1st March, 1950,—

- (i) Page 1021, line 22 for "has been callous" read "has been even callous".
- (ii) Page 1033, line 25 from bottom for "on" read "or".
- (iii) Page 1053, line 21 for "Shri Ethirajula Naidu" read "Shri Ethirajulu Naidu".
- (iv) Page 1054, transfer lines 29 and 30 after line 31.
- (v) Page 1064, line 4 for "cadamom" read "cardamom".

6. No. 6, dated the 2nd March, 1950,—

- (i) Page 1090, line 17 for "Hon. Members three minutes" read "Hon. Members say three minutes".
- (ii) Page 1096, first line for "section" read "selection".

7. No. 7, dated the 6th March, 1950,—

- (i) Page 1143, line 11 from bottom for "fact" read "face".
- (ii) Page 1150, line 18 for "in" read "the".

(ii)

(iii) Page 1060, line 13 from bottom *delete* "no".

(iv) Page 1164, line 4 from bottom *for* "Shri Satis Chandra" *read* "Shri Satish Chandra".

(v) Page 1165, line 26 *for* "Dr. Matthai" *read* "Dr. Mathai".

(vi) Page 1171, line 2 *for* "as" *read* "or".

(vii) Page 1174, last line *for* "Hudget" *read* "Budget".

8. No. 8, dated the 7th March, 1950,—

(i) Page 1179, line 11 *for* "question" *read* "questions".

(ii) Page 1221, line 13 *for* "by" *read* "but".

9. No. 9, dated the 8th March, 1950,—

Page 1260, line 21 from bottom *after* "so far," *read* "but no".

10. No. 10, dated the 9th March, 1950,—

(i) Page 1306, line 28 from bottom *for* "gah" *read* "Durgah".

(ii) Page 1321, line 28 *for* "has " *read* "This".

11. No. 11, dated the 10th March, 1950,—

(i) Page 1342, line 23 from bottom *for* "panel" *read* "penal".

(ii) Page 1352, line 3 from bottom *for* "Houses" *read* "House".

12. No. 12, dated the 11th March, 1950,—

Page 1385, *for* the existing line 18 from bottom *read* "another thing that I wish to submit is this. It is but fair that, when the".

13. No. 14, dated the 14th March, 1950,—

Page 1507, line 11 from bottom *for* "Shri A. P. Fain" *read* "Shri A. P. Jain".

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WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH, 1950—*contd.*Railway Budget—List of Demands—*contd.*

Construction of Chittorgarh—Kotah Line . . . . .	1056—1057
Class III waiting hall at Kotdwara . . . . .	1059—1060
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
(PART II —PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 13th March, 1950

*The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-45 A.M.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

**Mr. Speaker :** The House will today take up the Demands for Grants in respect of Food and Agriculture Ministries. Before I place these Demands before the House, I would like to know what should be the allotment of time for the discussion of the Demands. If the House is agreeable, the discussion on the Demands for the Ministry of Food may continue up to 3-30 P.M. and thereafter the Demands relating to the Ministry of Agriculture may be taken up and the discussion may continue up to 5 P.M.

I presume that the hon. Minister will speak separately on the Demands under the two Ministries.

I shall now place the Demands before the House.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jairamdas Doulatram) :** I shall make one speech at the end instead of two speeches.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have no objection if the discussion is desired on all connected subjects. Then I will place all the Demands before the House. The difficulty will be as I was anticipating that that might be giving a ground for a legitimate complaint that no cut motion was given a chance in respect of Agriculture and the whole time was taken up in respect of Food. But if that is the pleasure of the House, I have no objection.

**Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh) :** Many members have got cut motions for Food.

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh) :** Sir, will you be good enough to allot half an hour more after 5 P.M. to-day for discussion?

**Mr. Speaker :** I have already expressed my opinion against the idea of extending the time after 5 P.M. and I do not propose, so far as I possibly can, to extend the time of the sittings from day to day beyond 5 P.M.

Now, what about the time-limit of speeches? I think it is already decided as 15 minutes for each Member.

**The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha)** : In view of the large number of Members wishing to speak, I suggest 10 minutes generally for each Member, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker** : Well, I suggest 10 minutes generally, leaving it to the good sense of the Members themselves to finish within that time. I will place the Demands now.

#### DEMAND NO. 24—MINISTRY OF FOOD

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,23,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Ministry of Food'."

#### DEMAND NO. 15—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,08,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Ministry of Agriculture'."

As regards the cut motions, I would like to know which cut motions are going to be moved. Have any cut motions been agreed to ?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha** : No. Let us discuss the subjects mentioned in the cut motions.

**Mr. Speaker** : What about the unattached members ?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha** : No cut motion has been agreed to. If anybody wants to move any cut motion, he can do so.

**Mr. Speaker** : Whoever wants to move any cut motion is at liberty to do so but if they want to move any, I want to know as to whether there has been any agreement. If not, what about the unattached Members. If unattached Members do not want to move any cut motion, they may discuss the Demands for Grants.

**Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh)** : That is the agreement.

**Mr. Speaker** : Do I take it then that no cut motion is going to be moved ?

**Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa)** : I have one cut motion which I propose to move.

**Mr. Speaker** : He may move it but can speak on it later. Now I have placed before the House two Demands only. In view of the fact that there are cut motions to other Demands also, I shall place all the Demands before the House.

#### DEMAND NO. 6—FOREST

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,42,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Forest'."

#### DEMAND NO. 39—SURVEY OF INDIA

**Mr. Speaker** : Motion is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,99,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

## DEMAND NO. 40—BOTANICAL SURVEY

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 92,000 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, 1951, in respect of ‘Botanical Survey’.”

## DEMAND NO. 41—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,92,000 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, 1951, in respect of ‘Zoological Survey’.”

## DEMAND NO. 51—AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,30,97,000 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, 1951, in respect of ‘Agriculture’.”

## DEMAND NO. 52—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,52,000 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, 1951, in respect of ‘Civil Veterinary Services’.”

## DEMAND NO. 63—INDIAN DAIRY DEPARTMENT

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,11,000 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, 1951, in respect of ‘Indian Dairy Department’.”

## DEMAND NO. 94—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

**Mr. Speaker :** Motion is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000 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, 1951, in respect of ‘Capital outlay on Forests’.”

## DEMAND NO. 15—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

*Mechanization of Agriculture and Agricultural Education*

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** I beg to move :

“That the demand under the head ‘Ministry of Agriculture’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**Mr. Speaker :** I will place it before the House and then the discussion will proceed on all the Demands including this cut motion.

Cut motion moved :

“That the demand under the head ‘Ministry of Agriculture’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**Shri Sidhya :** Sir, the question of food cereals has been agitating the mind of the entire nation to a very great extent since the last two years and despite the efforts of Grow More Food campaign and the large amounts given as subsidy to the provinces and others, imports from foreign countries are being increased every year. This is a problem of such a serious nature that it requires the serious consideration of the Minister of Food and particularly of the Minister of Finance.

I do not want to go into the details of the figures as to how the country is self-sufficient as far as its food cereals are concerned. I have from time to time, starting from 1948, tried to prove that the country is not deficit as it is made out by the Food Ministry. I have also given figures and facts in this House whenever an occasion arose. Not only that, I have, both in the press and on the platform,

[Shri Sidhva]

given the figures and also I had a prolonged correspondence with the hon. Food Minister on this subject, and all along there have been sharp differences of opinion between the hon. Food Minister and myself on the figures that I have submitted. I would like to make it clear that the figures I have given every time are from the Government publications and no figure was brought from anywhere else. From this point of view I shall crave your indulgence ; if you would be good enough to give me some more time, I shall not repeat, I can assure you, nor shall I burden the house with figures except in important matters. You will yourself see that I am to the point and on a very important one. As far back as March 1949 the hon. Minister stated that there is a deficit of 34 lakhs of cereals. To that I made a public statement in the month of January last quoting recent figures from August/September 1949 publication of Food and Agriculture showing him that his 34 lakhs is converted into 3 lakhs only. In this instance, I am glad and thankful to the hon. Minister of Food—for his attention was drawn to it and he had discussions with me—and he ultimately agreed that most of the figures I had given in 1949,—he has now realized it in February,—are correct. To that extent I am thankful to him. In the reply that he has given he states—I do not want his thanks ; at least he should have gracefully admitted that his estimates were incorrect in March, 1949 and that he now realizes that what I stated then is more or less correct. I anticipated that in 1949 there was no deficit. The hon. Minister also comes out with the statement that there was not a deficit of 34 lakhs as contemplated. He has now admitted the population figures given by me ; he has admitted the figure for total requirements ; he has also admitted my production figures. He has only not admitted the question regarding non-reporting area under grams. Government publications give the figure as five million tons ; the hon. Minister says it is 3·4 million. He has reduced the figure by 1·6 million tons. According to him the shortage is 33 lakh tons ; I have shown that the deficit is only three lakh. You must remember that there is a fundamental difference with regard to a fundamental point. He has calculated the adult population to be 86 per cent. All the scientists have stated that this is not correct. I am not going into that matter now. I have taken just now 86 per cent. The hon. Minister has stated that gram is not only consumed by human beings, but it is used also as cattle fodder. Every one knows that gram is consumed by horses and cattle also. I ask, all of a sudden, how did it come upon that gram is consumed by cattle, now only? Whatever that may be, with the exception of gram, we have nearly come together as far as production and requirements of the country are concerned.

It is very surprising that despite our Grow More Food campaign, there has been a shortage of 31·34 lakh acres in 1949 as compared to 1947-48. In reply to my question, the hon. Minister stated on 16th February 1950 that the figure for 1947-48 was 482·44 lakhs and the figure for 1948-49 was 451·10 lakhs, a shortage of 31·34 lakhs. I want to know what is the meaning of this Grow More Food Campaign? I can understand shortage in yield due to shortage of water, etc. But, when you are out for increasing the acreage, where has the acreage gone? I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister of Finance to this. In his speech on page seven, he stated that in 1949, 43 million tons were produced against 41 in 1948. Of course, the speech was *extempore* ; there seems to be some mistake. The figures may be right; in my opinion the years are put differently. Whatever that may be,—the answer was given by the hon. Minister of Food on 16th February and the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance was made on 28th February—they can reconcile the figures. It has to be borne in mind that acreage has fallen down last year by 30 lakhs. I want an explanation for this from the hon. Minister.

The imports in 1948 were 28·4 lakh tons ; in 1949 the imports were 37·1 lakh tons. This has increased to such an extent that we have had to pay 320 crores of Rupees. I put a question as to what was the carry over of production on 1st

January, 1950. The hon. Minister said that this cannot be calculated. When we have imported 3·5 million tons in 1949 and only require two million tons, there is a balance of 1·5 million tons on the 1st of January, 1950. I ask, why is that calculation not forthcoming? Why should it be kept a secret from the House?

12 NOON A long statement was given in reply to my question and it was not possible for me to ask supplementary questions. I wanted to discuss this question under the new rules that you have made. But, I thought to myself that I may take the opportunity of the discussion on the Budget and therefore did not send that notice. If I get a complete answer from the hon. Minister, well and good. Otherwise, I reserve my right to send a letter to you, Sir, to allow me to discuss this question. It is a two page statement, and it is a very important matter.

In 1949, the provinces required 60 lakh tons. The hon. Minister supplied them 36 lakh tons. There was no complaint. What does that show? All along, without any statistics, they were giving whatever was required by the states, with the result that our finances have been affected, while there was no fear of shortage in the country. You will see, Sir, we imported in 1947 4·52 lakh tons of rice. I do not want to quote the figures for 1947, because it was partly undivided India. In 1948 we imported 8 lakh tons of rice; in 1949 we imported 11 lakh tons. That is the position. Procurement in 1948 was 25·13 lakh tons; in 1949 the procurement was 43·10 lakh tons. Our complaint all along has been that our procurement system is bad. The very figures show that we have procured nearly 90 per cent. more. This shows that there is sufficient grain, but the procurement is bad. If the Government of India had procurement completely in its hands, I can tell you that it can be proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that there is no shortage. I am glad, Sir, that the Government is going to import this year one and odd million tons. I do maintain even today that there is no necessity to import even one ounce. You are going to pay 63 crores this year as subsidy and bonus. I submit that the Planning Commission must consider this question seriously. Not only that. The scientists have stated—it is not my statement—from time to time that the figure 86 per cent. for adult population is not correct. I would call upon the Food Ministry to show how they have calculated 86 per cent. as adults. They stick to a novel calculation. I have given them my calculation which is based on the method of this Government and its predecessor. Therefore, I submit this matter has to be fully considered by the Planning Commission. It is the first duty of the Planning Commission to see how this deficit is arrived at. I have questioned every time as to how this deficit has been calculated by the Ministry of Food. The hon. Minister says that his import is based on the rationing area. I admit that. Taking the rationing area, even then, his calculation does not stand to reason. The figures are these. There are 44 million people under statutory rationing. At the rate of 12 oz. you require 4·6 million tons. For the remaining 293 millions who are not under statutory rationing, you require 38·2 million tons on the basis of one-pound. The total comes to 42·8 million tons. Our production is 45 million tons. We have a saving of 2·2 million tons. Whatever calculation you take, it is on the right side. Of course, the figures do not tally. But, the Government figures are such that in their various statements, they give various figures, and there is confusion worse confounded. Therefore, I desire that this matter requires to be thoroughly gone into by the Planning Commission. That should be the first task of the Planning Commission. Food is such a vital problem and I may assure the hon. Minister of Finance—let me say nothing about industrial production—that nothing will give him and the country relief until this food problem is solved. That is one of the things to be brought before the Planning Commission and I am prepared to place at its disposal whatever figures I have before me and to satisfy it to the best of my ability and knowledge that there is no deficit. It is only an artificial deficit arrived at in an arbitrary way. The hon. Food Minister by a makeshift calculation has come to the conclusion that there is a deficit.

[Shri Sidhva]

Having spoken about the artificial nature of the deficit, I only want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the price that we have paid for the purchase of wheat in the various countries. The average import price of wheat paid by us is Rs. 405 per ton whereas the U.K. purchased at Rs. 301 and we have paid Rs. 102 more. In 1949 we purchased from U.S.A. wheat at Rs. 402 per ton and the U.K. paid Rs. 365 per ton. I want to know, when they have so many agencies, and when so many persons from the Food Ministry went over to foreign countries to make these purchases, why they have paid more, despite the bad quality. I want to know why so much money has been wasted.

Then I put a question to the hon. Minister on the 16th February as to how much it cost Government for storing the grains. He said it was merely Rs. six crores. I stated at that time that there was a great deal of leakage in that and I have been able to satisfy you that it comes nearly to Rs. 1-5-6 per maund. Do you ever think without paying any duty that the haulage and the storage charges come to Rs. 1-5-6 per maund? It should only come to not more than eight annas and no serious attention has been paid to this matter. I was told that the large amount is due to bags. Rice is always imported in bags, and therefore, to that extent, it is not correct to say that bags were employed for all these purposes.

As for the charges, I would like to point out that the charges incurred by the States are far below the prices which the hon. Minister gave at an early stage on the 30th March, 1949. It was Rs. 17 for wheat, Rs. 21-10-0 for maize and Rs. 17-14-0 for barley. Now the average import price according to their figure comes to Rs. 14-14-0, Rs. 18-10-0 and Rs. 25 respectively. That shows a difference of Rs. 2-2-0. I do not know where that money goes to. No satisfactory answer is forthcoming for all these amounts that have been spent by the State. Our economy is not only involved but they have also put us to such a great disadvantage, and we have lost to the extent of Rs. 72 crores. In the Budget, you will see that we have provided an amount of Rs. 22 crores as subsidy in 1948-49, for import. Rs. eight crores have been borne by the Provinces and Rs. 30 crores of good money of the country has been simply wasted in the purchase of this cereal from foreign countries. On page 167 of the Budget it is shown that Rs. seven crores is paid as bonus for procurement. So to the extent of Rs. 37 crores we have simply paid away to somebody in the State and barring the loss of the merchants, this is an actual loss to the State. How our finances can be adjusted or balanced, I fail to understand. I feel that this matter should be gone into. I may tell you I have not brought this matter up either in the Press or in this House. I have been in communication with the hon. Minister and I have sent copies of letters to the hon. the Prime Minister and I feel very sore about it. I know the Prime Minister is very keen about it and but for his intervention, I am sure the same amount of import would have been made this year; the replies given by the hon. Food Minister are very pessimistic. But before the actual order is placed, I submit, Sir, to the hon. Finance Minister, on whose shoulder rests the responsibility of looking after finance, that industrial production alone would not solve his problem. Production of food by all means must be increased and that will be the duty of the Planning Commission. They should first see and plan out what is the position of our food, what is the position of cotton, what is the position of jute and what is the position of oil-seeds. All these should be planned and I can assure you from the figures that I have gathered that we can import 50 lakh tons of foodgrains in return for oilseeds besides the large amount that we give to our own nation. These are the points for the serious consideration of the Planning Commission, apart from industrial production which is also equally necessary.

Sometimes people put me a question and a pertinent questions: "What happens Sidhva, if your statistics are correct, to this surplus?" I am not in a position to give accurate statistics but most of these goes as fodder. According to Government



three per cent. is wastage and this three per cent. is Re. 0-3-0 per maund. I have seen in Bombay in the godowns many bags of dust collected from the wheat stored on open yard. I have seen this myself. My point is that a certain quantity is used as fodder and then I am prepared to admit that the villagers eat more.

I will give you a concrete instance out of my personal experience. I happened to go to Kharagoda near Viramgam Government salt works last January. They had a consumers' Society there and I was just telling them : why were they indebted to the *baniyas*, when they had got their own society? And they said : "In this village we have no cereals to purchase except from the ration shops from where we can get only eight oz. Therefore the donkey-wallahs bring in wheat for us and we give in return salt." I was completely satisfied that these villagers wanted more food and they stated that without more food, they cannot live. Cereals are their chief means of livelihood.

The point I wish to make is that there is hoarding and no proper procurement and therefore imports ; moreover your statistics are incorrect. I have given my statistics, which have been supported by several others. Whatever the surplus is, it is wasted or used by the villagers for better purposes and the statistics of the Government are incomplete.

I have got a letter from the hon. Minister in which he says that he is looking into this matter. I am very glad that he is coming somewhat near me. He has invited me to discuss points but I have refused to go and told him that unless he told me for what purpose he wished to discuss it was wasting time of all of us. If he merely told his officers to sit with me and then discussed my view-point it will not help. I have satisfied him with my statistics. I am prepared to satisfy him if some neutral persons are prepared to sit with us and take part in discussion impartially. We had a discussion to a certain extent and I am glad to say that we have come nearer and he was good enough to admit that I was right. These are not pre-bureaucratic days and if he feels or has come to the conclusion that previous figures were wrong he must admit.

I have nothing more to say. I have many figures here to give, but I do not want the House to be burdened with these. I only want to say a word and I have done.

Sir, if the procurement policy is to be improved, I have a suggestion to make. For instance, Sind is a surplus province, and when I was in the Legislature I knew something of the parliamentary matters happening there ; of course my hon. friend was not connected with any legislature or assembly there and so these matters he may not be knowing. I know that there was a purchasing Board and that Purchasing Board used to Purchase annually ten to fifteen million tons of food-grains from Sind and this was distributed—mind you there was no black-marketing—to the deficit provinces, after leaving a certain quantity with the cultivators for their own use.

**Shri Hossain Imam (Bihar) :** The total production in Sind is not more than 10 lakh tons.

**Mr. Speaker :** The hon. Member's time is up.

**Shri Sidhva :** I only want to tell the Government that if they want to strengthen their procurement system, then they must tell all the States that they must procure all, leaving with the cultivators what they require—a certain percentage. This partial procurement will not help them. I am not here suggesting any de-control or control. I am only stating that the country is really self-sufficient and we must not waste a single pie more in importing any cereals. The deficit they state of 1.5 million tons, even that I dispute. If you do import, then I may assure

[Shri Sidhva]

you that it will be only so much money wasted from our currency and also a total loss to the country.

I hope that the points which I have submitted will be seriously considered both by the hon. Minister of Food and also by the Planning Commission.

**Dr. Deshmukh :** We have just listened to something which we have become somewhat familiar with since it represents a long-standing quarrel between the hon. Food Minister and Mr. Sidhva.

**Shri Sidhva :** There is no quarrel at all.

**Dr. Deshmukh :** No ! I know the quarrel is not personal. It is only for the public benefit and as a matter of public welfare. But, I am afraid that I must say forthwith that although Mr. Sidhva's figures may probably be right, and they may be based on Government's figures, there are many factors that intervene, as he himself admitted. There is a certain amount of wastage, there is a certain amount of foodgrains given to cattle, and there is also a third factor, and that is hoarding and profiteering. Because of these controls there is the tendency to hoard, and I don't know for what reason the present Government was in such a great hurry to withdraw the Ordinance against hoarding and profiteering. That is not even being spoken of nowadays. We have still so many Ordinances continuing and also new ones are being invented, and also every day within a few minutes and even seconds we pass certain legislative measures because such and such Ordinance is likely to expire and there is nothing else to take its place. But I for one have not been able to understand how and why this particular Ordinance was withdrawn. In any case, if we take all these factors into consideration, and even if Mr. Sidhva is right, still I maintain that the problem of deficiency of food is not likely to be cured without importation of food grains.

Of course, we have to pay a high price for the importation of foodgrains and in this connection, Sir, I would like the House to consider a few facts as given by the Ministry of Food. Actually what is the position ? According to the Wheat Agreement, one million tons of wheat is obtainable if we are not in a hurry and pressed for food, at not more than Rs. 7/12/- per maund. Now if we look at the price at which we procure our wheat, in the whole of India there is no Province, no State where you can procure wheat at the rate of Rs. 7/12/- per maund. The maximum price that we will be required to pay for imported wheat cannot be more than Rs. 11/12/- per maund and that is also the price at which, only in a few States procurement is possible. So, while discussing this question, we have to take into account the cost at which we are raising this crop, the cost at which we are cultivating and obtaining this food, and also the cost at which we are importing. I do not agree with the suggestion that we should concentrate more on money crops at the expense of food crops. Of course, there is equal urgency for both. There is a necessity to raise money crops as for instance jute, groundnut and sugar cane. But food crops also cannot be neglected.

The next point I would like to urge is about certain figures given by the hon. Minister in the Report issued by the Ministry of Food. If we analyse the figures and do some arithmetical calculations, we will find that the prices of imported foodgrains vary enormously. In paragraph 5, we have this statement :

"On account of the unprecedented shortfall in production, due to weather condition referred to in para. 3, the imports in 1949 increased from 28 lakh tons in 1948 to 37 lakh tons."

The price paid for the total quantity of imports in 1948 was Rs. 130 crores and for the 37 lakh tons that we imported in 1949 we paid Rs. 148 crores. Now, if we do a little arithmetical calculation, we will find that this extra nine lakh tons was obtained at an average price of Rs. 200 per ton. If we total up and find out the

price of all the 37 lakh tons of foodgrains that we imported, the average price comes to Rs. 400 in the year 1949. But the price in 1948 was Rs. 454. These are the figures and we find that the variation in the prices is from Rs. 200 for the excess that we obtained in 1949 to the average of Rs. 454 in 1948. Now let us see the cost of giving this foodstuff to the various Departments. The figures are in paragraph 12 where there is an actual statement. I do not know whether the hon. Minister went through the figures carefully or his Secretary did it, and whether they saw the disparity in the prices there. For instance in paragraph 12 you will find it stated :

"During 1949-50, up to end of January 1950, 60,000 tons of various foodstuffs valued approximately at Rs. 6½ crores were purchased from within the country."

If we make a little calculation we will find that this works out at Rs. 1,083 per ton. Then there is this statement :

"A further 24,000 tons of various foodstuffs valued at about Rs. 80 lakhs is likely to be purchased by the end of the financial year."

If we make calculations on this, we arrive at the figure of Rs. 333 per ton. If we go to the next paragraph relating to the making of foodstuffs available to the refugees in the Rehabilitation Directorate, you will find that the price works out at Rs. 641 per ton. And in the last paragraph you find this statement :

"At present only two Centrally administered camps are supplied with foodstuffs by this Ministry and the estimated quantities to be supplied during the months of February and March 1950 to both these camps would be approximately 876 tons valued at about Rs. 4,72,244."

This works out at Rs. 540 per ton. I don't know what is responsible for these variations and I would very much like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to this very great disparity in the various figures.

Then, I must say quite briefly that I am not in favour of these experiments about subsidiary foods. There is a statement contained here, unfortunately we have not been given the report to which reference has been made, but the statement is :

"As a result of the Committee's activities, the cultivation of sweet potatoes has been extended as follows...."

And then are given figures for Bombay, U. P. and Bihar, making a total of 32,500 acres. Sir, before experimenting in this manner and spending well-earned money in this way, I wish the hon. Minister had attended to this a little more carefully. I have had talks with a scientist who knows what he talks about and he is of the opinion that sweet potatoes contain only 17 per cent. of food substance. Although the yield per acre of sweet potatoes is very large, if you cultivate wheat with the same water, you will probably get more than twice the amount of actual food substance. This is what I was told by a responsible person in the Indian Central Agricultural Institute at Pusa and this was reported to have been pointed out to the Ministry also.

Yet these fancy experiments and fads are continuing. They are also trying to mix groundnut cake with good wheat flour. What is the use of spoiling good wheat flour? Actually this groundnut cake ought to be available for animals and cattle. It also makes very good manure. It is no use trying to feed yourself with what is sticking in between your own teeth. There is a saying in Marathi that a man cannot live on the removals that enter into the cavities of his teeth. This is something of that fashion.

It is also pointed out that some bananas have been cultivated. I am sure wherever sweet potatoes or bananas are cultivable it is possible for foodgrains to be cultivated, because both of these cannot be grown on waste or bad lands. These Rs. ten lakhs are being spent on an unedifying experiment which I would like to condemn in the strongest of terms. I hope this Committee will be wound up and the

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experiment will not be carried on any further. The experiment should be devoted to making new lands available for cultivation. If we brought certain kinds of new land under cultivation where we were raising such crops that we could understand. That sort of thing would be desirable. Otherwise these experiments only entail a loss to the country which is not justifiable.

**Shri B. Das (Orissa)** : Each man to his fancy.

**Dr. Deshmukh** : I would like to bring in the Finance Minister at this stage in my speech, because he made a brave statement that he was following the footsteps of Mahatmaji and that he was giving effect to nothing else but Mahatmaji's policy. I would respectfully point out whether the large-scale mechanisation that we are undertaking could be to the liking of or in accordance with the philosophy of Mahatmaji. I do not know whether the industrialisation of the country (with which we agree) which we are embarking upon and insisting upon is something in accordance with the philosophy and tenets of Mahatmaji.

My third point is the large defence expenditure. The fourth point is the concentration of powers, lack of decentralisation, the non-existence of *panchayat* rule and the way in which the State administrations are carried on, where they want to divide people by starting *panchayats* and secure votes for themselves at the next election. Most of the *Panchayat* Acts which have been promulgated in the States..

**Mr. Speaker** : I am afraid it will not be relevant to the present discussion.

**Dr. Deshmukh** : It is only meant to support my argument.

**Mr. Speaker** : The hon. Member's time limit is also over.

**Dr. Deshmukh** : I now wish to draw attention to the continued sugar muddle. God alone knows when we are going to see the end of it. I think there has been a considerable amount of bungling by the administration. I do not know what to say but it is not at all proper that this should continue. There has been so little supply of sugar to the people and so much more is necessary ; people's complaint on this score should be removed at the earliest.

I would like to point out again that there need not be provision for subsidy to the extent of Rs. 21 crores. If we are going to import 1.7 million tons only then the subsidy to the Provinces should go down. In fact I would urge that there should be no subsidy and some method should be found by which no subsidy would be necessary. After all every State must feed its own population.

The procurement prices also vary tremendously. I had made a suggestion during question time on this point. Efforts should be made so that procurement prices do not vary so much giving rise to dissatisfaction among the people.

Also there is necessity for looking into the research organisation under this Ministry. There is a complaint which is fully justified that we are not getting out of our research institutions the results that we would like to get. Secondly, these results are not reaching the people concerned. I would also like to urge that just as the Ministry of Labour has a branch for looking after the welfare of labourers, the hon. Minister, in spite of the difficulties—technical and otherwise—must see that his own Ministry creates a branch to care for the welfare of the agriculturists. This should be a legitimate part of the portfolios of the Agricultural Ministries of the Centre and the States.

**Mr. Speaker** : The hon. Member has already had 15 minutes, five minutes more than the allotted time.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

**Dr. Pattabhi (Madras):** I am sorry I am butting in by the impulse of the moment. I found that the question of the import policy of the Government was being discussed. This is a subject in which I have taken sustained interest and I have kept myself in close touch with persons who are concerned with rationing. I happen therefore to know some inner secrets.

The greatest secret and one that I need not keep from you is that life when left to Nature runs smooth but when life is taken in hand and organised then it bristles with difficulties.

I am a householder. I am not speaking as a politician or as a Congressman or as an economist. I claim to be all of these in some measure or other. But every time you assume to be other than a mere householder you happen to become lopsided. As a householder therefore I represent all these aspects.

I am a married man, now 70 years old with 45 years of active married life to my credit.

**Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh):** Wife alive ?

**Dr. Pattabhi:** My wife is still living and she is 62. I have eleven grand-children.....

**Shri Kamath:** Any great-grand-children ?

**Dr. Pattabhi:** I have not touched money during the last 45 years and yet I have managed my affairs. I keep a close eye upon home matters. I live in a house which has 32 doors and 45 windows but it has only one main gate of entrance, so that I know who is coming in and who is going out. Thus I keep a watch upon every thing that takes place in the home.

Supposing I get my rations and distribute the food that I have amongst all the inmates, about fourteen or fifteen, and ask them to cook their food individually, what will happen ? I have never tried the experiment or the like of it but I had experience of it in jail life. I was in C Class along with thirty others. We were given 60 lbs. of faggots to cook our food with, when there was a surplus of fuel. We were then reduced to 20 and the fuel was still adequate. We were later reduced to 15; the position was tight. We were next reduced to three and we received one faggot of six lbs. weight in order to cook all our preparations with. Was it possible or was it sensible ? Is there any kind of sense in giving one faggot to three people to cook all their food with ? No. Therefore in rationing there is a certain amount of irrationality. It works on a certain basis and it does not work on any other basis.

I had complained at a meeting of Chief Ministers of Provinces and certain members of the Central Government that in this city there are 1,000 shops and each of them has got at least 500 bogus cards. Thus I venture to state five lakhs of bogus cards are being served in this city. Your very inspectors are the parties who are privy to the admission as well as sustenance of these cards. The Food Minister was good enough to go into the matter. He made an enquiry and now I am glad to find that he has detected one lakh of false ration cards in this city. In this connection, I also read—I don't remember exactly the context—that there were three lakhs of false ration cards discovered. Thus, it is not the deficiency of food but the surplusage of ration cards that is causing all our troubles. That is the whole point. It is the bogus cards that feed the black market with Government supplies. Apart from that, if you begin to cook in common for ten people seven-eighths of the food content would be sufficient, whereas if you were to distribute the food content in raw form to each of these people you will have to increase your supplies by at least one-fourteenth. To serve fourteen inmates in rationing you will have to have fourteen units whereas I say thirteen units would be quite sufficient if you had a joint kitchen. If this proposition is granted, then let us see what is the deficiency of food over all India. Seven per cent, that is one-fourteenth, which

[Dr. Pattabhi] :

is accounted for by rationing. It is rationing that causes this shortage. This is a mathematically proved proposition. Give up rationing and everything will be all right.

But you will argue that immediately rationing is given up prices will rise. They did rise in regard to cloth—and they did fall. You have to face the situation sooner or later ; if you wait for ten years even then you will have to face that situation. The moment rationing is given up prices rise—you will have to face it. A person is confined to bed for three months on account of typhoid. He is all right but he is not allowed to rise and make an attempt at walking because he is apt to falter. Keep him in bed for three months more, he will not even be able to rise in his bed. Therefore, this intermediate, transitory process of faltering or of prices rising is a transitional process, is a transient process and will have to be faced sooner or later, whenever it may be. This Government must make up their mind to give up this wretched survival of the war-period, namely rationing.

We are today on the 13th of March, 1950. In another six months we shall have completed five years after the close of the war which ended on the 15th August, 1945. How long then are you going to continue this rationing ? How long are you going to be nervous ? Have you not got the courage of a householder ? Have you not got the wisdom of a rural rustic ? It is not economists that are wanted. Economists never consider any practical proposition feasible ; they have always told us that on account of inflation you cannot abolish *zamindaris*, you cannot promote cottage industries, you cannot nationalize key industries—you cannot run river projects or do anything but you must only theorize ! Now, let us go into the subject as practical politicians. What is the result of all that you have done ? If Mr. Sidhva's figures are right—and I have great faith in Mr. Sidhva's figures—at least 30 lakh acres of land has gone out of cultivation during the last five years. Why ? Nobody explains, but I can explain. Every year in the Punjab 80,000 acres of wet land is going out of cultivation on account of the subsoil water rising to the surface and the land becoming saline. In 1836, it may be remembered, the Punjab lands became saline because Cheshire salt was imported into Calcutta. What an absurd thing ! If a man is hit on the legs the teeth drop ! Is that a conceivable proposition ? Yes, it is, for when a man falls from a palmyra tree on his hips it is the base of his skull that is fractured. The reactions must be understood. Formerly the Punjab people used to make salt out of the Punjab wells and thus deplete the earth of the saline content, so the earth became fresh and sweet and fit for cultivation. The moment Cheshire and Leicester salt came to Calcutta that moment Punjab's wells were no longer drawn upon and Punjab's lands became saline and went out of cultivation. So it is now: the greater the wet cultivation the higher the subsoil water and the higher the subsoil water, the saline content not being removed, the more the soil becomes saline. Eighty thousand acres of wet land is supposed to go out of cultivation every year in the Punjab and likewise two lakh acres of land is going out of wet cultivation in the U. P. Therefore, these three lakh acres here lost to wet cultivation cannot be made up for by cultivating the marginal lands on the railway, coming to some 10,000 acres, with an addition 1 acre or half acre here and there which has been saxed for wet cultivation. Huge vast areas of land are really going out of cultivation on account of reasons of nature. You have to take note of that point.

Well, whatever that may be, the fact remains that sooner or later we have to come to normal times and the longer we say that our times are abnormal the longer will they tend to become abnormal. It is just like a cholera or a plague staff ; the longer they are kept the more the cases they produce, and one or two surviving cases every week compel a theoretically sound establishment to maintain a complicated sanitary staff in being and thus cholera and plague, though they have disappeared, do not disappear in the registers. Even so, your dearth of food is

a theoretical idea, is a fantastic idea. It is not there. There is enough of food in the country. Leave the people alone. Do not try to organise the life of the people. Try to restore normal conditions. Don't perpetuate war conditions in the post-war era, and everything will be all right. You must take courage in both hands. Yes, but you will say a popular Government can't afford to take courage in both hands. Consult the rural people then. Consult your voters, take their opinion for guidance. Don't depend upon economists who have studied Marshall and Fawcett and want to transport conditions of the West into this country. There life is organised; there is discipline, everybody is under control. Here it is not so, nor are the conditions such as will require such discipline and control. Therefore, I say that it is not one hundred rupees' cut in this grant that I would recommend but a thirty crores' cut so that not a grain may be imported—and you will find that everything will be all right. It is only to mention this that I have taken up your time.

Of course, much can be said about distribution. I have got a favourite story to tell. Fortunately, the Railways' position has eased and therefore my story would not be to the point now. Still I want to tell you that. Rajendra Babu, when he met along with six other Ministers of the Centre before the Working Committee in order to render account of their charge, said that he had given order for a pump being transmitted from Bombay to Patna in the month of May, 1948. We were talking in August 1948, it never arrived there. I told Rajendra Babu, "When did you order this?" "In May, he said" I told him: "If you had put it in a double-bullock cart it would have come by the end of June, the cart travelling at 25 miles a day, and you would have had your cultivation all right by—July 1st in 1948. But now you have lost both the pump and the cultivation and you will not get it till next year." Next year, that is last year (1949)—July, when the Chief Ministers were gathered here, I repeated the same story and Rajendra Babu sitting opposite me said, "My dear Pattabhi, the pump has not yet arrived."

He said, "I have not got the wagon!" Therefore it is that, if you are not able to improvise materials and adjust our life to the conditions which are available to us round about but you are asking for a Hercules to raise the wheels that have stuck in the mire, you will never progress. I want the Government of India to become a little rural-minded and swayed by a little commonsense instead of becoming a prey to the nuisance (new sense) of economists.

**Dr. R. S. Singh (Bihar) :** My cut motions in regard to the Ministry of Food relate to the policy of Government concerning the food problem, the procurement programme and adulteration, of food while those regarding the Ministry of Agriculture concern the inefficiency of Agricultural Department's officials and the unsatisfactory approach of the Agricultural Department towards the development of the nation's agriculture. We all know that the food problem has been very acute for the last ten years or so. But it is a very complicated question as to how it arose and its solution demands that we must first diagnose the problem thoroughly, understand its complications and then take proper steps to eradicate them. In my opinion, we are experiencing trouble on our food front because of various difficulties.

Firstly, our farm size is very small. On an average it ranges from 2·8 acres in some of the most congested areas to 13·2 acres in some of the less densely populated ones. As such the average size of an Indian farm is somewhere between six and seven acres. This is very uneconomic. But then the Budget gives no clues as to how our brilliant Finance Minister is going to make the uneconomic farm size into an economic one.

Secondly, our farms are too much fragmented. It is a pity that our farm size is less than seven acres. Even this seven-acre farm is fragmented into several fields, located at distant places. The process of fragmentation has gone on continuously with the passing of every generation. Due to this, the farmers experience

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tremendous difficulty in looking after and operating even a seven-acre farm. Hence food production is hampered. Consolidation of holdings is, therefore, very necessary. But the Budget proposals give no encouragement in this regard too.

Thirdly, our methods of farming are very primitive. Because of this much of our farm labour is wasted. In a country like America the farmer produces from 20 to 50 times more rice than the Indian farmer. Our Government should give encouragement in this regard too. But the Budget proposals do not keep this in view and our Finance Minister has failed to make any provision for raising the productive capacity of Indian farmers.

Fourthly, the rapid rise in our population is another burden on our food production. The population of undivided India had increased 15 per cent. during the period from 1931 to 1941. It increased at the rate of 50 lakhs every year. Assuming that one ton of grain will feed four persons for a year at the rate of 1½ lbs. per person per day, we need 12½ lakhs of tons of foodgrains every year to cope with the increase in population. The hon. the Finance Minister is lagging behind in offering a solution for this problem too. By following the footsteps of the British Government, he did afford to lose Rs. 80 crores in a year by devaluing the rupee, and for pleasing the capital he made a slash of Rs. 15 crores from their burden of income-tax, etc., but he does not seem to afford Rs. 25 crores—only Rs. 25 crores—for introducing free and primary education in all the seven lakh villages of India, so that the villagers' standard of living may rise and it may ultimately result in preventing the increase in our population.

Now, let us see the actual food position of our country at the present time. In the year 1948 the food deficiency was 28 lakhs tons. In 1949, it increased to 37 lakhs tons. To meet the needs of the people, our Government had to import the needed quantity of foodgrains from foreign countries. The crop prospects for this year, according to the Food Ministry, are "on the whole fair" and production is expected to be better than in the last year. They expect an increase of 20 lakhs tons, leaving a margin of only 17 lakh tons to be imported from abroad. The brochure of the Food Ministry, however, omits to mention the addition of 12½ lakhs tons for our increased population. If you take this into account we shall have to import about 30 lakhs tons this year. Assuming that we do produce 20 lakhs tons more in 1951, according to Governmental data, the margin left for our foodgrain imports is ten lakhs plus 12½ lakhs i. e. 22½ lakhs tons. This calculation completely falsifies the Government's assurance that we would be self-sufficient in food by the end of 1951.

Now, let us see how this important food problem is being tackled by the Food Ministry. Obviously, the shortage of food can only be remedied by increasing our food production. But what the Agricultural Department does in this connection is a thing to reckon with. I am not very familiar with what is happening or what is being done throughout the length and breadth of India, but I do know what is being done in my district—Arrah of Bihar. Half the area of my district is served by a net-work of canals. Rice is grown in plenty in this area. In the other half of the district, there are vast tracts of land in which other crops are grown. I think that the production in 1950 and 1951 can be increased sufficiently—in fact, to such an extent that it may be sufficient not only for the population of my own district but for some other districts too. This can be done if the Agricultural Department as a body works intelligently and continuously. By doing so, they can create an atmosphere of peace and security for the farmers who are very much scared by the procurement personnel who have practically cordoned off my district for procurement purposes. They take bribes at every stage. Corruption is rampant like anything. We all know what the Police do wherever they go. In the circumstances, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this particular aspect.



of the problem in my district. The agricultural officials act contrary to the interests of the agriculturists. They always keep their own interests supreme over the interests of the farmers. The brochure of the Food Ministry practically approves what they do and the hon. Minister too presents to us a rosy picture of the situation, failing to point out what is happening in the villages and on the fields.

I see in the Food Ministry brochure that the Government spent Rs. 29.67 crores on procurement and allied schemes during 1949-50, and is going to spend Rs. 21 crores in the year 1950-51. This is a very huge amount, Sir. I admit that the Government have very definite purpose and honest intention in spending this amount, but I also dare say that the way in which this amount is actually spent just amounts to compulsion and harassment to farmers. Besides, much of this money is spent on unnecessary intermediaries of officials from place to place, making ostentatious show. Hence this creates neither the desired effect on procurement nor on increasing food production.

For increasing production and insuring procurement of grains I have a very simple suggestion to submit which may effectively be executed within the estimated amount of Rs. 21 crores.

I suggest that if out of this amount we spend Rs. 15 crores in a contiguous area of five crore acres of farm land (Rs. two per acre on fertilizer and Re. one per acre in giving rent relief to farmers) I believe that this will increase the yield of an acre at least by 125 per cent. And thus a minimum increase yield of five crore maunds of grain would be brought about.

The remaining Rs. 6 crores should be spent on procurement programme. In this connection I may say that any district or province may not be cordoned off. Rather agents should be sent to bazars to purchase grains there at the usual prevailing rate. I may add that out of this amount Rs. 1 crore be spent in giving incentives to farmers who bring their produces in local markets, and Rs. two crores in maintaining low price level of grains in ration shops. The rest of the amount should be spent on agents and maintaining necessary staff.

In this way the Government could easily increase production and procure the required quantity of grain. Besides, this process will give relief and satisfaction to both the farmers and consumers, and trouble to none.

When the farmers and consumers are satisfied and the undesirable intermediaries are eliminated persons who indulge in adulterating food materials would also be influenced. Besides, an effective check should be put on them to end adulteration forthwith.

Now, I wish to say something on my motions in connection with the Ministry of Agriculture. The first point of my motion relates to the inefficiency of the agricultural officials. I am not very enthusiastic about the work they perform. For the real development of our agriculture, agricultural officers should work like village school teachers. Just as the teacher moulds the lives of children within three years, similarly the agricultural officer should also bring about a total change among the farmers within a reasonable period of time. May I ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture the number of villages where total change has been brought about? If there are not even 1,000 such villages among 700,000 of our villages, I would say that the department is not working as it should. The budget should have done well had it made appropriate provisions in this regard.

The approach of the agricultural department towards farmers' problems should be human and penetrating. Human in the sense that the agricultural officials should make themselves the greatest friends of the farmers, and in friendly manners they should make the farmers apply all the improved methods of farming on their farms

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The agricultural publicity division could do a lot in this regard. But frankly speaking the work of this division is very disappointing. Most of the good journals and pamphlets issued from that division are not understandable to farmers. They are, therefore, of no worth to them. The hon. Finance Minister should have taken note of this unnecessary expenditure while preparing his budget plan.

These are my few submissions, and I hope that by giving due weight to these the Ministry concerned will render a great service to Indian peasantry.

*The House then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.*

*The House re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

**Prof. Ranga (Madras) :** I am glad that at long last we are getting this opportunity today of discussing the management of our national affairs so far as the Food and Agriculture Ministries are concerned. It has been held by many responsible people that really India is not deficient in food production and that all the foodgrains that are needed in India for the consumption of our people are really being produced but that there is something wrong in the calculations made in various provinces by the departmental officials as to the total production and also in the system of procurement adopted by our Government and the responsibility that they have taken upon themselves for distributing these foodgrains, with the result that Government think that they are face to face with a considerable deficit and so have been obliged to import foodgrains from abroad. For a long time, Sir, this contention has been made, but Government have only been trying to deny the accuracy of these assumptions and statements. I do think, Sir, that the time has come when Government should take this matter much more seriously into consideration and appoint a high power committee of one or two officers, not directly connected with their own Food Department, to go into this matter, study this whole question and assure the country whether really there is such a deficit as is being made out by the Ministry.

I have been pressing for some time upon the Government the need for no more extending their responsibilities for supplying food rations to the people in this country but on the other hand for stopping further extension and as far as is possible for progressively decreasing their responsibilities. I consequently suggested that the Food Ministry should content itself with supplying rations to large cities and to those towns which have a population of more than 50,000 and to only those towns with a population of more than 30,000 which are in deficit area, and that in regard to the rest of the population they should leave them to obtain their foodgrains from the open market. It is necessary also, I do admit, that Government may have to take up the responsibility of supplying foodgrains to those employed in essential services, such as those working in mines, iron and steel works, and so on, even though the people employed in those services do not happen to live in big cities. Apart from this, I do think that it is necessary for the Food Ministry as well as for our country to expect our people to depend upon their resources for obtaining foodgrains in the countryside as well as in their own small towns and so on. If we do this, it would be possible for our Government to abstain from having to import anything more than what they are obliged to import under the International Wheat Agreement, and to that extent they can help my hon. friend, the Finance Minister, in his task of balancing our export and import payments.

Thirdly, there are very serious defects in the procurement system that is being followed or pursued in different provinces. I have brought these things to the notice of the Ministry and of this House several times and yet with no effect. I do not propose to go into details but I wish to reiterate again my demand that all those

peasants who have less than five acres of wet land or those who have less than six or seven acres of dry land, who are able to produce only just enough for their own needs, ought to be exempted from this procurement policy. Our present system of asking our officers to go to the villages with a certain target which is for procurement from the whole village and then proceed to tell individual peasants as to how much they are to surrender to the Government leads to many evils, with the result that the rich people go scotfree more or less and the poor people are forced to surrender much more foodgrains than they possibly can spare. Most of these poor people are obliged to surrender their foodgrains without keeping anything at all for themselves except for the next one or two months, and afterwards to resort to the blackmarket in order to purchase foodgrains for their consumption during the rest of the year. This is causing a good deal of discontent in the countryside, and I think, therefore, that Government should put an end to this system.

Coming to agriculture, I am sorry to have to say that in spite of repeated suggestions made in this House that this Government should try to establish a direct link, a growing link, between its own research workers and institutes of research and the agricultural producers, they have not taken any effective steps in this direction. Only in one province, that is Bombay, the suggestion that we have made that prizes should be given to those who produce the largest crops has been instituted. In the other provinces no effective action has so far been taken.

They established a Central Agricultural College in the City, but unfortunately owing to the financial stringency and the failure of my hon. friend, the Finance Minister, to provide adequate funds, they have not been able to give us any more assurance that that college would be continued beyond the next three years to enable the present set of students who are studying there to complete their course there and afterwards go into the country. They have not given us an assurance whether that college would be continued.

There is the big Institute at the Centre and there is also the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun. There is great improvement possible in the administration of these two great Institutes. There is great discontent among the staff themselves owing to their unsatisfactory internal management, and I would like the hon. Minister to look into this matter. Even the number of students that they have been taking is not sufficiently large. There is great demand in the country and yet I do not know for what reasons these Professors or Directors prevent the Ministry from bringing more and more scholars from the different provinces and getting them trained.

For a very long time, the hope was held out that there was a sort of plant—cow-dung gas plant—which would revolutionise the social life of our country by helping our villages to be lighted by cow-dung gas, while at the same time retaining for agriculture all the manuring qualities of cow-dung, and yet till today nothing has been done in order to bring it into popular use. A scientist in Bombay took a patent for this, and Government for its own reasons have tried to come in the way of that patent being materialised. Sir, compare this policy of the Government on this side with the sort of thing that has been achieved by Dr. Kumarrappa and his associates in Wardha.

They have devised a similar plant which costs only Rs. 50 to Rs. 100. They are demonstrating it. We are now trying to copy it and introduce it in many places in the country. This is how the Government have failed.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar) :** What is that cow-dung gas plant ?

**Prof. Ranga :** It is this : All that you have to do is to add water to cow-dung, churn it and make a solution. You put this solution in a drum and cover it up so that it may ferment. When the fermentation takes place, it gives out a gas. This gas is taken to another drum and by means of a tap fitted into the drum, draw it out

[Prof. Ranga]

for use. You may cook or light with that gas. In the meantime the cow-dung that has been collected for this purpose becomes a hard cake quite suitable for manuring the field. The manurial elements in the dung are preserved from damage. In that way the present wasteful practice of using cow-dung as it is in the field can be stopped.

**Shri B. Das :** Why do you not recommend it to the Planning Commission from your Planning Committee of the Working Committee ?

**Prof. Ranga :** This Parliament has recommended it several times with little effect. I do not know what the Planning Commission can do in the matter.

May I know, Sir, how much time you are giving the Members ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Ten minutes, ordinarily, to be extended up to 15 minutes if necessary.

**Prof. Ranga :** We have been asking for producer goods to be made available to us. With what effect ? Has the hon. Minister been able to give us any account at all in the report as to the total quantities of iron that are supplied or iron tyres that the peasants need for their bullock-carts, etc. ? We have not had any satisfactory account.

We have the Grow More Food campaign. I am in favour of it. More and more money should be made available for this campaign. But at the same time this House is interested in seeing that every pie that is granted for this is put to the best possible use. What steps has the Ministry taken in order to see that this money is really used for the purpose for which it is granted ?

In this connection I have to voice also my dissatisfaction with Finance Ministry for somehow cutting down this grant also to the extent they have cut it. If they want to economise on any side at all, this certainly is not the one.

Then there is the question of agricultural prices. This cry is as old as the cry of the third class passengers. We have been knocking our heads against this Food Department with very little success. Let me say on this occasion that our peasants today are not really as prosperous or as rich as they are supposed to be by our urban-folk and by many of the officers of the Finance Ministry. There is no money with our peasants. Only the other day the Chief Minister of the United Provinces has had to confess that the so-called prosperity of the peasants was not there and that that belief had been proved to be wrong by their failure to collect funds required for the abolition of the *zamindaris*. That shows that in our countryside there is dearth of money. The rate of interest is as much as 18 per cent. and not lower than 12 per cent. although the statutory rate is only 6 per cent. You know how money-lenders are able to get this money.

Therefore, I shall conclude by saying that I am myself sorry to have to say again and again that I am not satisfied with the manner in which the Food and Agriculture Ministries are discharging their responsibilities, especially so far as the great peasant masses of this country are concerned. The position of the masses has not improved as much as they had hoped it would with the advent of Swaraj and with the advent of a Swaraj Minister in charge of this Ministry.

**1. Mukhtiar Singh (Uttar Pradesh) :** I would like to endorse the view expressed by the two previous speakers on the question of shortage of food. I am sorry that, in the two reports the Government have supplied us, they have not given details as to what the results of their efforts have been on the question of the Grow More food campaign. cursorily, I know, they have said that so much has been produced and so much money has been invested. They have not explained why the figures do not show any increase in production. This clearly shows that either

their figures are wrong or that there has been no effect produced by the Grow More Food campaign. I would come to that question later. In the first place I would like to say that the time has come when we should withdraw the controls and stop the import of food grains. I know that as far as the agricultural statistics are concerned, they are in a hopeless condition today. This has been the position for the last forty years since when I have taken interest in these matters. You can prove anything with your statistics. Whenever people complain that the Agricultural Department is doing nothing, the Department itself says that the statistics are wrong and that they are producing much more than shown by the figures. At another time, when the question of imports is dealt with, they say that the figures show more production than the actual produce. Simply to say that by 1951 we shall stop imports will not do. We should be given details as to why we should be in a position not to import. We should be told what our target figure is and at what stage we can stop imports. There is no mention of these figures anywhere in both the reports. This, to say the least, is not fair.

Total population of Indian Union is now admitted as 33,70,00,000 in 1949. Out of this, the non-farm people number 30 per cent and the farm people 70 per cent. The adult unit is 80 per cent. The requirements as regards food for these at the rate of 12 oz. and 16 oz. each adult respectively is 41,000,000 tons. Our total consumption being 41,000,000 tons. Add to this another five million tons which may be needed on account of wastage and seed. We therefore do not require more than 46,000,000 tons. We have to find out whether we are producing this quantity of cereals or whether we have to import, and if so, how much.

I know that there is a controversy about the question of adult unit. Since a few years the Government has been trying to prove that it ought to be taken at 86 per cent. It was the Government's own Committee—Sir Kharegat's Committee—which went into the question in more detail and came to the conclusion that the percentage should be 75 per cent. Not only that, after this, in the International Food Conference at Washington the Government admitted the figure of 80 per cent and all calculations were based on that. How all of a sudden the figure is raised to 86 per cent? Government has to justify this figure not only in the Parliament but also in the International World. So I cannot agree to take the figure as 86 per cent. Taking at 80 per cent, as I have tried to show, our total requirements are to be 46 million tons. I consider even this is not a correct figure. It ought to be much less for the simple reason that the *rahi* crop when it is harvested increases by at least six per cent in the monsoon and that is the amount that is always taken into consideration by merchants and if we do that, then it is clear that we require much less than this. Regarding seed we take always a figure of ten per cent. May I know if rice is used at ten per cent or is *jowar* and *bajra* used at ten per cent as seed? If these are not used to that extent, the Government has no right to take ten per cent as a general figure for seed. Besides we do not deduct meat and fish eaten as food by the people. So the figure of 46 million tons is the highest figure that we can conceive of, based on the population of 1949. We have now to find out if we are able to produce 46 million tons and if there is a deficit, how much we should import. Taking the figure given by Government statistics, we find the following productions in the various years :

1943-44 . . . . .	51.65 million tons.
1944-45 . . . . .	51.08     "
1945-46 . . . . .	45.736   "
1946-47 . . . . .	46.014   "

Perhaps 1945-46 is the year when the G.M.F. campaign started and then for the first time the production went down.

So you will see that it has never reached the previous figures of two years of 50 million tons. It can't be said that God Varun was specially favourable in 1944-45 and therefore we could get this high yield. If our yield depends on God then why

[Ch. Mukhtiar Singh]

waste money and time on G.M.F. campaign ? When God is kind, you will have bumper crop. If even in this Independent India our budget is to depend on monsoon, I don't know how we can say that we can produce more by science and research. After all the entire agriculture is nothing else but fighting against Nature and you have to find out all those means by which production must go up. In other countries there have been so many new methods adopted by which they can guarantee that production will not go below a certain figure. If we can't do that, I don't know where is the need for our researches. We are living in a very big country containing a variety of climates and soils and every year you will find famine or draught in one part or the other. You cannot say because there was a famine, there was this and that, therefore the figure of production has gone down. Is it not the duty of Government to say at once that there has been famine in a particular area and 2000 acres are affected and that the production will be less by .01 per cent ? Why don't they advertise at the time when the calamity occurs but only when they find less production, they give this as an explanation ? This is not a scientific method of approach and that is why every year we have to go on importing.

Our import policy seems to be very clumsy. Suppose we have two crores under ration and we are not importing, we try to make it three crores—our rationed population increases—and along with it the import increases. You will find that our imports are increasing every year. We started with imports of 650,000 tons only and now we imported as much as four million tons. How long we can go on like that ? Again we put a target for procurement and the targets are achieved and still there is a deficit. If you can procure as much as your target, then clearly you should not import. It may be said that we cannot procure more as there is nothing available and therefore we put the target at a lower figure but is that the proper way of tackling this question ? Is it not a subsidy of 60 crores to one part of the population ? I may agree if you ration the entire country, and take away the entire production and then ration. But I am sure in that case within a very short period your maladministration will starve many of the people and how much will it cost you ? In rationing we are supplying the worst type of food. Is the cultivator in India producing this rubbish which you supply in ration ? Though the cultivator does not and cannot do it but it is the manipulation of the contractor that is responsible for it. You have got the entire paraphernalia of your Government servants and still you require contractors both for delivery and storing. Distribution is done later. Contractors are not Government servants and they are not fools either. They know wheat becomes six per cent more after monsoon. So they put six per cent water and after weighing the whole thing, put it in the store. The whole thing deteriorates. When the consumer asks whether it is fit for consumption, Rationing officer says there seem to be some insects—not many. If the people are not willing to take wheat with insects in their ration, you turn it into flour as insects will then disappear. Most of your rationed food will not be allowed to be consumed by a Health Officer provided he is not under the Department of Agriculture. If such bad ration food is available for distribution I would like to ask as to how this bad type of wheat or rice is procured ? When cereals are offered, in case they contain dirt or any foreign material, deduction in price of cereals is made. Thus the producer supplies good wheat but it is damaged in storage. I submit that the whole thing is wrong and so long as rationing is done on this basis, it will not succeed. I am one of the those who believe that it is much better even if 100 or 3 P.M. 200 people die rather than demoralize the whole country by corruption, nepotism etc. by keeping controls.

Therefore, there is no way out but to decontrol the whole thing and let things have a natural course. It is said that if there is starvation, what will happen ? You have to take courage in both your hands. As soon as you remove these controls

there must be a shooting up of prices for some time. You have not to be panicky, but to wait for some time.

This is my definite proposal. Food control should go ; there should be no rationing ; there should be no imports. We must be convinced that really there is necessity for imports. There is one thing more on which I have got to say something, but my time is up.

**Mr. Speaker :** I have already given him fifteen minutes.

**Ch. Mukhtiar Singh :** Only one minute, Sir. A word about procurement. Procurement of what ? Wheat and rice and finer grains, the coarser grain perhaps the producer must consume. Your urban population must be fed with wheat and rice. Perhaps, I may be told that you are taking a small quantity of gram and a small quantity of barley. Are these coarser grain taken at the parity prices ? You have reduced the price of barley and gram by Rs. six and Rs. five a maund respectively from the price of wheat so that the poor producer may not give you barley or gram. But, what about pea, *kisari* and *mandwa* ? There may be 50 other varieties of cereals. Where do all these go ? You must procure all these grains which the farmer produces and should also take their yield into consideration and then decide as to how much you have to import. If you have to import even in that case, we can say nothing. If you are really sincere, I would request you to go into the yields of all the cereals the cultivator produces. Also take into account, meat, fish, milk, vegetables and other things that the man eats as food and then find out, the real deficit. If you go on the present basis things will never improve. I doubt, with these shilly-shallying methods if you will ever be able to stop imports. It may be 1961 and not 1951.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** I am sorry that in the beginning I have to differ from my hon. and esteemed friend Ch. Mukhtiar Singh. I have always been an advocate of control only wherever control was necessary. In the Food Grains Policy Committee, for the first time in my life, I sided with the officials against my own colleagues the non-officials, because it was on that occasion that I found that all the officials were of the opinion that control should continue. But, on political grounds, we gave up control with the bad result that we see today. Never before de-control had we to import so much grains from outside the country as we are importing today. Never before de-control had we had to pay so much price for foodgrains as we are doing today.

**Prof. Ranga :** Are we not having control to-day ?

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** It is because of de-control that prices went up and we have not been able to bring them down. If you want to have de-control again, we will be in such a muddle that the whole country will be crying. Who is after all the culprit ? Is it only the official whose inefficiency is brining about all this difficulty ?

**An Hon. Member :** Mostly.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** What about the traders who fatten on all the troubles of yours ?

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh :** They are agents of the officials.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** Yes, our own kith and kin, our own brothers about whom we are saying everything today.

**An Hon. Member :** So are the officials.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** They do not personally gain so much as the traders.

**Prof. Ranga :** Question.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** In my judgment, the only scientific method of finding whether a thing is necessary or not is to have yard-stick, on which I think there will be no difference of opinion. I refer to the economic price factor. Today, wheat is selling cheaper in the United States of America than in India. Is our economy so advanced that our wheat prices should be higher than in the United States of America, with their much higher standard of living? In the United States of America, they are trying to reduce the acreage under wheat because they are producing too much and too cheap.

**Shri Sidhva :** Their yield is greater.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** Their yield is greater because they have worked on economic principle. Here you wish to have fragmented holdings of half an acre and three-quarters of an acre. You do not wish to have big farms of 500 acres and more under collectivism or under Government agencies.

**An Hon. Member :** The Zamindars.....

**Mr. Speaker :** Order, order. I will request hon. Members not to put questions like that. He is getting only ten minutes and out of that eight minutes will go in answering questions and his points will be left out.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** I wish to stress this point that food is the basic article of human requirement. It is on this that the whole structure can be fabricated. In the Agricultural Prices Committee of the old Government of India, we had come to the conclusion that in order to bring down prices, it will be necessary to start with reducing the prices of foodgrains, before we can ask for the wages to come down; and that you cannot have industrial wages coming down first and foodgrains prices after that. I wish to see how that has progressed. It is a great consolation, and I think the hon. Dr. John Matthai, our Minister of Finance, rightly took pride in it, that after the de-valuation, there has not been an increase in the internal prices. But, that is not enough. Our prices are high enough and they must be brought down. No doubt, the agriculturists received a raw deal during the days of depression. But, they had got back more than that in the few years from 1943 onwards with the high prices.

**Prof. Ranga :** Question.

**Shri Hossain Imam :** I along with Prof. Ranga used to fight out in the old days when the price of wheat was fixed at Rs. five a maund. It is incredible that the uncontrolled price of wheat should be Rs. 20 a maund when we are importing foodgrains, according to the statement of the hon. Minister of Food, at Rs. 14-8-0 from foreign countries. May I say, Sir, that there is a great need to find out not only the requirements of the rationed population, but of the entire people of India. When there is no control, you cannot calculate consumption on the minimum figure on which you have based the rationing. The earning capacity of the people, in the country has increased, especially of the agriculturists. You are only deluding yourself by believing that they will consume the small quantity, of 12 oz. or 16 oz. which you have fixed in rationing calculations. Consumption in the country is going up. I am only wondering at the fact that people go on saying that we do not require to import food, and that import should be stopped. If we did not require imported foodstuffs, there would have been such a glut in the country and the prices would have tumbled down. Food is an article which cannot be preserved for long without deterioration. We have been importing continuously for the last six years in large quantities and not less than 12 million tons have been imported in these five or six years. What has happened to all that? If it was surplus, prices would have tumbled down just as you saw in the case of cloth prices which have fallen down and if you had stopped the exports, prices would have further fallen down.



I therefore, suggest that the policy of abundance should be embarked upon. We must start Government controlled big mechanised farms in areas where no irrigation is required. I refer particularly and I have referred many times to Assam. It is a province which lets land lie fallow and does not have it cultivated. There is abundant land for much of your production to be made there especially of rice.

Coming to sugar, I really feel that the Government has not been quite fair to this House. They have taken more than two months since the announcement was made at the end of the December session that the Committee will be appointed. In the recommendation of Tariff Board paragraphs 92 and 93 stress certain factors ; but these have not been heeded to by the Government. I would like to read them :

"If all the stocks with the factories and merchants had been frozen about 26th August, 1949, when the U.P. freezing orders were issued, the total available supply would have practically sufficed to meet the normal requirements of the country until the commencement of the new season."

We must find out who was responsible for this in co-ordination between the Centre and the Provinces. They have laid a further charge :

"It would appear that (i) owing to the unilateral action of the U.P. Government in freezing the stocks with the U.P. factories alone, an opportunity was given to the sugar mills outside U.P. as well as the Mills' selling agents and dealers and merchants all over the country to send large stocks of sugar underground ; and (ii) if co-ordinated and synchronous action had been taken by the Central and Provincial Governments, the crisis of sugar scarcity could have been largely held in check."

In the face of these decisions of the Tariff Board, the non-appointment of a Committee to find out the reasons and causes of this muddle is indefensible. I would rather wish to avoid the difficulties in future than lament the past and with this in view, I wish to lay before the House certain factors. The amount of sugar-cane production in the country is much larger than the foodgrains produced in the country and is on an area which is less than five per cent. of the area under foodgrains. Even raw sugar is produced about three times more on an acre of land than foodgrains and as such, it is of much greater advantage to us to produce sugar-cane than produce food on an economic basis.

I would suggest as a first method that in areas roundabout sugar mills within a radius of say four or five miles, we must make it compulsory to grow only that kind of sugar-cane which can be utilised for sugar making and not for *gur* making. Some Coimbatore varieties are unsuitable for *gur* and they are only suitable for sugar. Government must take power to lay down that within this area the sugar-cane that is to be grown must be of this one particular variety which will be used in sugar factories.

Secondly the decision of the Tariff Board is that we will require 13 lakh tons of sugar this year. I do not believe in preaching ; I believe in doing things, and if the sugar mills are unable to produce this quantity, the balance must be imported on Government account and sold on Government account, to the large cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. I would not include Delhi because it is quite near the sugar producing area. We must import because it is to our advantage that we must have the contentment of the masses and also avoid black-marketing. Black-marketeers must be punished and the best way to punish them is to bring about the policy of abundance. It is then that they will come out like rats out of their holes and try to sell and get out. I do not know what is the rationed quota which is fixed by the Food Ministry. But I know this much that sugar merchants are complaining of large stocks lying with them without any offtake. The wholesalers are complaining that the retailers are not taking and the retailers are not taking because the quota is so small and probably there is no offtake from them and the organization of rationing of sugar has not been perfected especially in the small towns and in

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villages practically there is no rationing. There is no arrangement there ; you fix a quota, but nothing is done and all that rural sugar comes to the towns to be sold in the black market. Because the Government fixed a small quota originally in the towns, the towns-people are habituated to use more sugar and they have no option but to buy from the black market, which in turn is supplied by the Government ; and customers are also forced to go to the black market because of Government's action.

Another suggestion I wish to make is that the price of molasses should be increased. There has been an infamous muddle in molasses in my Province and that was brought about purely on account of the fact that the price of molasses was unduly low. By increasing the price of molasses you can increase sugar mills intake and decrease the cost of sugar manufacture and, as such, it is very necessary that the price of molasses should be correlated to the prices now prevailing of other comparable articles.

In paragraph 103 of the Tariff Board's report they have said that sugar-cane prices must be progressively reduced for the next year ; they have recommended Rs. 1-7-0 per maund for the next year and for the future they envisage a further fall to Rs. 1-4-0 and then to Re. one per maund. In this connection, I would remind the House of the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Committee and the Agricultural Marketing Committee which were presided over by Mr. V. T. Krishnamachari and Mr. Vijaraghavachari. The recommendations that were made by these Committees are that the prices should be announced at the time of the sowing season so that the cultivator is not under a delusion of receiving higher prices when he starts his cultivation. It is a wrong policy of Government to fix the prices of sugar-cane at the tail end of the season. Prices are fixed sometime in September or October when there is no sowing to be made. If you fix high prices, it does not mean that a larger area will be cultivated; if you reduce the price, it does not mean that the area will be reduced. The best method is to fix the prices at a time when it will bring out the results which we want to achieve. To summarize, I would say that de-control is out of question, that control in order to be effective must try to create a condition of abundance and as soon as abundance is produced—acting not on conjecture, but on actual price factor—when prices start falling down, it will be time enough to remove controls and I will be the first person to ask for controls to be removed. When the prices are high, controls are a necessity ; it may be an evil, but it is a necessary evil and we must have it.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** Sir, if you will permit me,—I had forgotten in the morning my cut motion on food—I have another cut motion on food and in moving those two motions, I want to speak on the two subjects.

**Mr. Speaker :** He can address the House on both the cut motions, because all the demands are under discussion. At the same time, I may inform him that he will not get double the time.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** I quite realize that.

**Mr. Speaker :** I may say one thing ; if he wants his cut motions to be put to the vote, then only he should move them ; otherwise he need not move them.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** Of course, I move with that purpose only.

**Mr. Speaker :** What motion is that ?

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** I propose to move item No. 51, List No. 8.

**Mr. Speaker :** The Member wants to discuss the general policy by his cut motion ?

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker :** He may move that motion ; it is No. 6 in Consolidated List No. 2.

DEMAND No. 24—MINISTRY OF FOOD

*General Policy*

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** I beg to move :

“That the demand under the head ‘Ministry of Food’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

At the outset I wish to state that in the Food and agricultural Department there does not seem to be any plan according to which the various sections of the Departments could work, and that is what I want to point out here. I would also request the House to believe me when I say that it is not just opposing, that I am doing here, but I wish to point out certain constructive ways of rectifying the existing defects. That is my purpose now.

For instance, let us take this Grow More Food campaign. This has been going on for a number of years now. It was started during the British regime and during that regime, going about in the countryside, I have myself seen at many places potato seeds being cooked and eaten by the very agents who were to distribute the seeds to the farmers. And also seeds of various kinds, gram, paddy and so forth, would reach the growers after the sowing season was over; and I believe during that regime there was no benefit to the farmers of the country from these schemes and all the money was entirely wasted. But what is important now is, that the same machinery is being continued since August 1947 and consequently the same thing is being repeated; there may be a difference in degree, but the same mentality is behind all the work of the Department. Some five or six months ago it was stated here in Delhi, and the Prime Minister said it, that the food front would be carried on on a war basis. Several months after that, I have travelled in villages and I find the people there have never heard of such a thing as the food front being on a war basis. Nor have they heard anything about compost although compost manuring, I know, was developed here in India during the last forty years. India developed it at first. Other countries have derived much benefit out of it and we as a whole have not derived any benefit yet, all because the people do not know of its advantages. Sir, in their agricultural institutes, the State Governments are carrying on experiments, they have experimental farms and quite a lot of knowledge is obtained by these experiments and research, but it all remains in books written in English and they are all there in the archives of the Government. This knowledge never goes to the people and consequently there is nothing gained by the country. We only write in books and papers that we have done this work and that we have done that work; and consequently the yield instead of going up, according to the law of diminishing returns, in almost every crop it is going down from year to year in strict accordance with the law of diminishing returns. Therefore, I would press now, as I had done many years ago in the Sugar Committee about sugar research work, that the benefits should go to the people. The chairman of that committee said at that time that this was the work of the Provincial Governments. But I feel that if the State Governments are not doing this work, of giving all this knowledge to the people in their own language, the Union Government must do it, otherwise it is useless to spend all this money for research work out of which the benefits are derived by foreign countries instead of by our own country first.

With regard to the question of bringing under cultivation cultivable waste land, that is to say, reclamation and breaking up of new land, I do admit that this can be done quickly, that large number of acres can be reclaimed quickly by tractors, bulldozers, levellers and other mechanical appliances that have been developed mostly in America and partly in Great Britain also. But taking the country as a whole, we know that for the cultivators, especially the small cultivators, it is impossible to have tractors, and also, although you may establish cooperative farming and

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large-scale farming and consolidate small holdings into 600 acre plots, still in the terraced condition of most of our fields, it is not possible to use your tractors and so forth there, and I also don't think Government or the Department thinks of using them there. Consequently it is very necessary to improve the bullock-power. Bullock-power is necessary for a hundred and one purposes of the cultivator, for instance, to carry his wood from one place to another, to take his manure to the fields and for various other things, where it will not be possible to operate tractors. Therefore, I say bullocks will remain not only to-day but for ever, according to me as the main motive power in agriculture, and along with that we have, of course, the additional reasons such as the yield of milk and so forth. Therefore, I say the Government must spend more time and energy and more money on the improvement of cattle in general—and this improvement must be both intensive as well as extensive—than on this mechanisation which seems to be the hobby with everybody nowadays in all the cities and towns.

The next point I want to touch upon is this : The cultivator does not get any benefit out of all this work of the Department, and there is no attempt anywhere for the improvement of the indigenous and age-old tools and implements used by him. A good deal can be done towards their improvement ; but as our attention is more and more concentrated on mechanisation of agriculture, we do not pay enough attention to the improvement of the indigenous tools and implements. That is something which the Department should give particular attention to. I know in certain States, like Bombay, where I was about a quarter of a century ago, even then I had seen implements and tools which did not exist, for instance in Orissa. This was about 25 years ago, and I do not know what improvements have been effected now. But there are parts of the country where these improved implements have not gone.

Another thing that is required by and large all over the country is minor irrigation projects. I am glad Government has given some attention to it during the past one year. Prior to that we were talking of hydro-electric and multi-purpose projects. They may come into being in ten or fifteen years from now and even then water out of them cannot reach all parts of the country. There are parts where there are no rivers, but they are dry and mountainous. In such areas, facilities are available for making bunds and tanks, although the storage of water will be only for the benefit of the *Kharif* crop, because in summer they will dry up. If you want to increase your production or even the yield from the present cultivable land, minor irrigation projects all over are very necessary. I believe for a survey in this direction and for construction of bunds, Rs. 100 crores will be necessary to do the work. So far not very much attention has been given to this and cultivators and villagers want these first. We cannot enthuse them by telling them that the Hirakud and Damodar Valley Projects will make milk and honey flow all over the country. They want to see a tank or bund in their own village, so that they will be useful when there is scarcity of water for the paddy crop.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I wish to dwell on agricultural education. It is very unfortunate that in agricultural education our country started rather late. A few years ago the Central Government started the Central Agricultural College at Pusa, what is known as the Pusa Institute. I understand that it is to be closed down three years hence. I must say that it is a very suicidal policy, because this Central Agricultural College was planned to be and should be a model college for all-India. I know that there are agricultural colleges in various States such as Madras, Bombay, U.P. and Bihar. But a college maintained by the Central Government is likely to be a model, because money can be spent here to bring it up to American standard. With that standard before them the State agricultural colleges will gradually improve. So, instead of closing down this

Central Agricultural College I would suggest that it should be strengthened, so that we can gradually reach the American standard. I do not wish to go into details about American agricultural colleges.

**Dr. Deshmukh :** What about the cost ?

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** As regards cost I understand that to build a hostel, 23 lakhs will be required. (*Interruption*) Right here I want to say that if you are in financial stringency, if you want agricultural education to spread agricultural knowledge all over the country and thus increase your food.....

**Dr. Deshmukh :** Producing superfluous graduates !

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** They are not superfluous : you and I are superfluous graduates. If you are in a fix, why not have mud houses for hostels ? I advocate mud houses for every departmental living quarters, when it is said there are no materials nor personnel to put up the houses. Why not have mud houses for the hostels ? I will say that the dining halls and extension of laboratories must be pukka buildings.....

**Dr. Deshmukh :** That would not be on American model.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** American model does not mean bringing America here. Americans are white and you and I are black people. The American soil is white and you and I have black soil here. Consequently we must adjust things to American ideas. This is American idea. I have lived in America in places where there were no roads and there were only mud huts. The Americans while pioneering did these things and when they produced wealth they went in for bigger and more fashionable dwellings and amenities of life. I would say that this Agricultural College should be continued and strengthened and I believe it can easily be attached to the Pusa Research Institute which it will feed later on. The extension of a few laboratories and the building of mud hostels can be done at much less cost than Rs. 23 lakhs. Later on, when they have plenty of money they can give palaces to the students and professors, when they can afford it. Keep the College going and bide for a time when there will be more money to make it more elaborate.

Hon. Members have talked about control and decontrol. I do not want to go into that. I only want to touch on sugar. Every one knows about the sugar muddle. I did not want to talk about it but the muddle is not over. We had an assurance that there would be plenty of sugar. From the reports I see that there is more production this year than in the previous year but I notice that the two or three *chataks* per head per week is still continued. In Delhi I am living on two *chataks* a week.....

**An Hon. Member :** It is four *chataks*.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** I say again today, as Acharya Kripalani said during the sugar debate, that the bazaar is full of bags of black market sugar selling at Rs. 1-8 per seer.

**Shri Tyagi :** That is last year's.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** Let it be last year's or this year's. The hon. Minister said during the sugar debate that there was increased consumption and that was why there was more offtake of sugar from the factory during the months of 1949. I said at that time that if there was increased consumption whatever offtake there was in January should have been finished by the end of February. But where does the black market come from ? If sugar is being sold in black market now it is the job of the Government to stop it and increase the ration per head, wherever there is rationing and it is there all over the country.

Besides this I wish to speak about the rationalisation of the industry. The sugar industry was established on a large scale in 1931-32 when protection was given. Capital from Calcutta, Bombay and other big centres flowed to Bihar and U.P. because the owner of that capital saw hundreds and thousands of acres of sugarcane in

[Shri Sarangdhar Das]

those areas particularly. At that time neither the Government nor the capitalists thought of what would happen in the future. As a matter of fact North India does not have the full tropical climate. Sugarcane needs a tropical climate for its growth. Every one knows that the average yield of sugarcane per acre in North India is about 15 tons. It used to be about ten tons and now it is 15 tons. In the last few years, if anything, there is a downward trend. There may be other factors. But we know that in Maharashtra, in Deccan, in Mysore and in Madras—all over Madras excepting the Malabar coast—in these areas which are tropical, ordinary cultivators are getting a yield of from thirty to forty tons per acre. Here good farms have gone up to 50 tons per acre, for instance, in Walchandnagar and Rawalgaon. Not only that; there is an enterprising capitalist there who is experimenting on increasing the yield to 100 tons and he has reached the target of 100 tons.

**An Hon. Member :** Where ?

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** In Walchandnagar. After reaching that optimum he wants to cut down the cost in various ways. That shows that the sugarcane yield can be increased tremendously only in South India, Bengal and Orissa, that is in the tropical area. The sugarcane acreage which feeds the factories now all over India is about seven lakh acres. If you shift all your factories to the tropical belt, you will need only about 2, 33,000 acres to give you the same amount of sugar as you are producing now. I am taking 15 tons per acre in Northern India and 45 tons in Southern India. As I said, the entire quantity of sugar that you are getting from seven lakh acres now you can get out of a little over two lakhs in the South. That will relieve over 4½ lakhs of acres of good land in the Gangetic delta of Bihar and the U.P. for food grains. Of course, this is something that does not appeal to people because money has been sunk, but you have to do it one day or the other.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The hon. Member will note that ordinarily every Member has been allowed only fifteen minutes. He has already taken twenty minutes.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** All right.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** Cut motion moved :

“That the demand under the head ‘Ministry of Food’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

**Shri Jnani Ram (Bihar) :** Though I congratulate the hon. the Finance Minister for the provision which he has made for the Agricultural Department, I must say that that provision is very meagre. Though the Finance Minister has budgeted for an expenditure of Rs. 337 crores, the proposed expenditure for this department is hardly one per cent of the total expenditure. As such the Minister of Agriculture is in difficulty and if the Finance Minister does not look into his difficulties the country will have neither the pudding nor the pie nor peace nor salvation from pain and poverty. He speaks of inflation, but that is an unwelcome note to the Minister of Agriculture. So long as there is inflation there will be no big programme of grow-more-food which will be successful and so long as there is not enough food the prices will not come down and therefore the inflation will persist. The Government, therefore, is in a vicious circle.

I cannot challenge the experience and erudition of the hon. the Finance Minister but I must say he has given concessions to the businessmen so that they may invest capital in the industries including agriculture. But I must say that the hopes of the hon. the Finance Minister will remain shattered. The evidence of this is manifest from the proceedings of the meeting of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry which took place two days ago. The businessman had always been a paradox to me. At this meeting of the Federation, the businessmen have criticised one hon. Minister while they have praised another. In their meeting they have criticised the hon. Mr. Gadgil for his remarks that businessmen had not played the

game. I humbly beg to differ from the remarks of the hon. Mr. Gadgil. It is not a fact that they have not played the game. They have played the game but they have played it the other way round. Well, the Federation have praised the hon. Prime Minister, but they have not been able to construe his true qualities.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** This is not a general discussion on the Budget. We are addressing ourselves to food and agriculture.

**Shri Jnani Ram :** I may say the business people are not.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** They are not expected to grow food.

**Shri Jnani Ram :** They have not been able to construe his true qualities. The Prime Minister is not only bold in criticising one who is wrong but he is bold enough in admitting his mistakes whenever and wherever necessary. The Federation is quite strong, its members settle all the disputes amongst themselves, but have they ever disclosed the case of one black-marketeer and have they reported one man to the Supply Minister so that his permit may be cancelled? They do not come with clean hands. They have challenged the hon. Mr. Gadgil's speech saying that they have supplied all the needs of the country, but if they are generous enough to supply the needs of the people through the backdoor and by black methods, I am not going to give them any credit for it. The business people have always been unresponsive to the demands of the Government. The Government wants capital but the capitalists don't find any glamour in the Government which they used to find sometime ago. I was saying that the hon. the Finance Minister is reposing high hopes in the businessmen. His hopes will be shattered. The Finance Minister wants a capital pool but they will drive him into a mud pool from where he will have no way out.

Government should pay more attention to the villages, as Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya suggested. Government have been preaching sermons. The days of sermons are gone. We must look to the difficulties of agriculturists. Some people say that the Indian agriculturist is following indigenous and crude methods. I feel that even if he is given facilities for the indigenous methods, he will be able to meet the demands of the country. The country requires agricultural improvement. I want to ask : Is India poorer today than Russia was when she took to her National Programme? The ability of a Government lies in tapping the resources of the country and diverting them into proper channels. India has vast expanses of plains. It has vast manpower and enormous mineral wealth. If we can tap these resources, we can meet all the demands of the country. We can do this only by organising Village Panchayats. In U.P. this has proved fruitful. In Bihar they could not succeed; they are only experimenting in a few villages. We must set up a Central Panchayat Board having its branches in the *Thanas* and villages of the States and entrust the Village Panchayats with the responsibility of carrying on collective farming and cooperative enterprise. Cultivators mostly require irrigational facilities and these can be provided only by organising their resources. We cannot depend on a Budget modelled on British lines. We must find out some other means of tapping our resources. We should have a Central Irrigation Federation with branches all over the country. If we organise it in that way, there will be more income to the Government.

The agriculturists have other difficulties too. They do not get proper seeds. Government import seeds from abroad, while our cultivators have been accustomed to seeds produced in this country.

The other difficulty of the farmers is cattle. Government have not taken proper steps to look after cattle diseases. In diseases like Rinderpest the cultivators lose their cattle and their lands lie unploughed.

**Shri Ranga Reddi (Madras) :** At the outset, I would like to refer to the unfortunate statement made by my hon. friend Mr. Satis Chandra that the food subsidies granted by the Central Government to Madras State have been utilised for financing prohibition. I should like to say that he is not correct; he is misinformed. I do not

[Shri Ranga Reddi]

know whether he has seen the statement made by the Finance Minister of Madras in the Madras Legislative Council giving the correct facts and figures. I expected that the Finance Minister would correct my hon. friend in the course of his reply, but that was not done. I expect that at least the Food Minister will correct him and remove the wrong impression created on this House.

I am sorry I am unable to agree with senior hon. Members of this House like Mr. Sidhva and others. All is not well with this country for the controls to go away forthwith. We have had experience of de-control. I have my own misgivings about the removal of controls all of a sudden. I therefore fully support Prof. Ranga's suggestion that a High-Power Committee should be appointed to examine the case. As regards the facts and figures given by my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva, I have full confidence that the Agriculture Ministry will give him full opportunity to prove his case and then take a decision.

I now refer to the Grow More Food campaign. Irrespective of the fact that we should achieve self-sufficiency, it is always better to have more food in the country, especially when we see the abnormally rapid growth of population. There are hundreds and thousands of acres of land which can be brought under the plough. Although great efforts are being made, there is not, I am afraid, much enthusiasm in the minds of the cultivators. The reason is that the lands are given to them on a temporary basis. They should be assigned on *patta* once and for all to the landless cultivators. That would enthuse them and will goad them on to take more interest. That way, I am sure, they will produce more food.

Then, Sir, I would like to refer to the scanty supply of iron and steel to the agriculturists. In most of the villages the ryots are not getting their supply of iron and steel. No doubt the other day I think the hon. Minister said, and it is also in the 4 P.M. report, that 50 per cent. of the needs is being met. It may be true, but the fact remains that the supply does not reach the ryot in the village—I do not know where it is going. Most of the ryots are compelled to go into the black-market for their needs. I feel that there is something wrong somewhere and this must be set aright soon.

In regard to fertilisers and manures, though we are told that sufficient quantities of fertilisers are being made available, unfortunately the supplies don't reach the ryots. I particularly refer to the state of affairs in the Madras province. The Karnool district, is a large groundnut producing area; but the ryots there are not getting groundnut cake for their paddy fields. On the pretext that it is a surplus area, the groundnut cake is exported to deficit areas, with the result the tiller there has to go without the much-needed manure.

I then come to the various schemes of research that are conducted. I am really glad that much is being done. But, unfortunately the *ryot* is not in any way benefited by these researches. Adequate steps should therefore be taken to see that the results of these researches reach the agriculturists.

One of the greatest handicaps of Indian agriculture is fragmentation of holdings. On account of partition, land is fragmented and split up to pieces—in some cases one-fourth of an acre to one acre. The result is that the cost of cultivation is increased and the ryot is not able to meet the cost of cultivation. I would request the Government to prepare a scheme of co-operative farming for these fragmented holdings.

I have carefully read through the reports published by the Ministries of Agriculture and Food. I feel that they have done very well and I should like to take this opportunity of congratulating the Food Ministry. No doubt there are many things that have still to be done by them and I hope they will fare better in the future.



**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** Shri Zangre. I must say that I am making an exception in the case of the hon. Member. I called him once ; but he was not in his seat. Any hon. Member who is not in his seat when called will lose his chance, but inasmuch as he is a new Member and possibly not acquainted with the conventions of the House, I am giving him a chance.

**Ch. Ranbir Singh (Punjab) :** But he has already lost his chance.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The hon. Member need not be so harsh.

**श्री जांगरे :** सभापति महोदय, आपकी अनुमति से मैं यहां पर कृषि के बारे में बोलने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि इस संसद् सभा में सभी सदस्य कामन मैन (common man), आम जनता की भलाई के बारे में सोचने लगे हैं और उसी के बारे में तजवीजें करते हैं। परन्तु दुःख मुझे इस बात का होता है कि उनकी तजवीजें करते हुए भी हमारी आम जनता की भलाई नहीं होती। आम जनता से मेरा मतलब उन लोगों से है जो आज करोड़ों की संख्या में हैं, जो कि करीब ७५ प्रति शत की संख्या में देहातों में रहते हैं और देहात में ही कृषि करते हैं। हमारा देश ७५ प्रति शत कृषि प्रधान होते हुए भी मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि हम भूके मरते हैं, हमें खाने को नहीं मिलता। हमें अमेरिका और दूसरे देशों से अनाज मंगाना पड़ता है। इसका क्या कारण है? कहा यह जाता है कि हमारे देश में पैसे का अभाव है, बजट में पैसा नहीं है। एक तरफ़ तो यह कहा जाता है कि बजट में पैसा नहीं है और दूसरी तरफ़ इस बात की खुशी मनाई जाती है कि इस वर्ष हमारे सरप्लस बजट है। यह भी दुःख की बात है कि हम कहते हैं कि पैसा नहीं है और उधर हमारे हाथ में उचित रूप से जो करोड़ों रुपया आने वाला था उस रुपये को भी हम लेने से इनकार करते हैं। हम जो टैक्स लगाते हैं उसको भी हम कम करने की कोशिश करते हैं। एक आदमी भूके मरकर और अपनी निहायत जरूरी जरूरतों को कम करके यदि कुछ धन बचा ले, और अपने शरीर को दुर्बल बना ले और फिर भी यह खुशी मनावे कि मैंने पैसा बचा लिया, धन बचा लिया, तो उसे हम उचित नहीं समझ सकते। हम तो यह उचित समझते हैं कि इस देश में चाहे कुछ सरप्लस बजट के बजाय डेफिसिट बजट भी हो, पर आम जनता का कुछ फ़ायदा हो और फ़ायदे के बाद जनता यह महसूस करे कि हमारे हित के लिये सरकार कुछ कर रही है ! भले ही हमसे जो टैक्स लिया जा रहा है वह ज्यादा हो, इसकी हमें परवाह नहीं है, हम टैक्स को सहने को तैयार हैं। पर टैक्स को कम करके आम जनता का फ़ायदा नहीं करना, यह बात उचित नहीं है। यह कहा जाता है कि पैसा नहीं है। पर आप प्रीवेंटिव मेज़र्स (preventive measures) नहीं लेते, क्यूरेटिव मेज़र्स (curative measures) लेने की कोशिश करते हैं। प्रीवेंटिव मेज़र्स कहने का मतलब यह है कि जिस कारण से बीमारियां फैलती हैं, जिस कारण से

[श्री ज़ांगरे]

शरीर का स्वास्थ्य बिगड़ता है, उस कारण पर हम नहीं जाते। रोग आ जाने पर उसकी दवा का प्रबन्ध करते हैं। मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि हमारे देश के स्वास्थ्य की ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता। हमारा देश, हमारे गांव हरे भरे होते हैं, फिर भी लोगों को वहां खाने को नहीं मिलता। केवल नमक और चावल ही खाने को मिलता है। आबहवा वहां खुली होती है, फिर भी लोग वहां रोग से तड़पते हैं। इसका क्या कारण है? इसका असली कारण यह है केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कृषि विभाग को एक गण्य विषय बना रखा है, इसको महत्व का विषय नहीं बनाया है। कृषि विभाग पर अब जो जोर दिया जा रहा है वह इसलिये कि शहर में आबादी बढ़ गई है और लोग अनाज के लिये तरसते हैं और अनाज नहीं मिलता। इसीलिये कृषि विभाग पर अब जोर दिया जा रहा है। शायद दो चार साल बाद अनाज पैदा हो जायेगा तो कृषि विभाग तोड़ ही दिया जायगा, ऐसा दिखता है। मेरा तो कहना है कि अनाज सरप्लस पर सरप्लस हो फिर भी कृषि विभाग को जो प्रधानता दी जानी चाहिये वह दी जाय। लोग देहात में दिन भर कमाते हैं लेकिन फिर भी रात को घुटने पर माथा टेक कर उस पर हाथ रख कर रोने के सिवाय कुछ नहीं करते। यह देहातों की हालत है। हमारी सरकार का जो ध्यान है वह शहरों की ओर ज्यादा जाता है, उसमें अरबन मंटेलिटी आ गई है, रूरल मंटेलिटी नहीं है। इसी कारण हम कमजोर हो रहे हैं। इधर शहर बढ़ते जाते हैं जिनकी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति की तरफ हम चल रहे हैं। उधर दूसरी ओर गांव बिगड़ रहे हैं और जीर्णविस्था में हो रहे हैं, पर गांवों की तरफ ध्यान ही नहीं दिया जाता।

आज हमारे देश में अपनी हुकूमत आ गई है। इतने कायें हो रहे हैं मगर अभी तक गांव की तरफ तनिक भी ध्यान नहीं दिया गया। आज हम गांव से हर प्रकार का फायदा उठा सकते हैं। विज्ञान का भी हम गांव में उपयोग कर सकते हैं। हमको गांव में आबपाशी के साधन को बढ़ाना चाहिये। हमको जंगलों की तरफ भी वहां पर ध्यान देना चाहिये और गांव वालों में इस तरह की भावना पैदा करनी चाहिये कि उनको यह मालूम हो कि सरकार उनकी हर प्रकार से मदद करने को तैयार है।

अगर हम गांव में इस तरह का उत्साह उन लोगों में पैदा करें तो वह लोग बहुत तरक्की कर सकते हैं और हम लोगों को भी बहुत फायदा हो सकता है। उदाहरण के लिए अगर हम गांवों में नीम का पेड़ लगायें तो उससे एक तो खाद तैयार होगी और दूसरा उससे तेल निकाला जायेगा

इससे हम मलेरिया की बीमारी को दूर करने में भी काफी सफलता प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। अगर हम बबूल का पेड़ तैयार करें तो ५ साल के बाद वह एक बहुत बड़ा पेड़ तैयार हो जाता है। इससे हमको इमारती लकड़ी मिल जायगी और जलाने के लिए भी लकड़ी गांव वालों को मिल जायगी। हम लोग अक्सर गांव वालों को दोष देते हैं कि वह गोबर के कण्डे जलाते हैं और उससे भोजन तैयार करते हैं। मगर इसमें उन लोगों का दोष नहीं है। दोष तो हमारा है कि हम उन लोगों को यह नहीं बतलाते कि तुम अपने गांव में पेड़ लगाओ। अगर हम इस तरह की सलाह उन लोगों को दें तो जो बेकार जमीन पड़ी है उसमें अगर पेड़ लगाये जाय तो बाद में वह जमीन खेती करने के योग्य हो सकती है। इससे गांव वालों को लकड़ी भी मिल जायगी और हमारा अन्न उपजाओ का जो आन्दोलन है वह भी कामयाब होगा। मगर हम लोग इस ओर ध्यान नहीं देते हैं।

हमारे जो एग्रीकल्चर के रिसर्च हैं वह सब शहरों के लिए ही होते हैं। उनका प्रचार देहातों में नहीं होता है। जब उनके प्रचार के लिए कहा जाता है तो हमारे फ़ाइनेंस मिनिस्टर साहब कहते हैं कि हमारे पास बजट नहीं है। हमारी सरकार की ओर से बड़े २ शहरों में कैटल प्रदर्शनी होती है। उस में काफी रुपया व्यय किया जाता है मगर वह बड़े बड़े शहरों में जैसे कि लखनऊ, नागपुर, और दिल्ली आदि में ही होती है। मगर मैं आप से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि शहर वाले तो अन्न पैदा नहीं करते फिर मैं यह बात नहीं समझता कि क्यों इस तरह की प्रदर्शनी शहरों में की जाती है। क्यों नहीं ये प्रदर्शनियां गांव में की जाती हैं जो कि उस जगह पर अन्न पैदा करते हैं और जिनका उस चीज से सीधा सम्बन्ध होता है। हमारी सरकार को इस तरह की प्रदर्शनी बड़े तीर्थ स्थानों में करनी चाहिये जहां पर की लाखों लोग सारे देश के इकट्ठा होते हैं।

दूसरी बात जो मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ वह हमारा जो घन, पशुघन है उसकी नस्ल को बचाया जाय। वह घन हमारे देश में नष्ट होता जा रहा है। आज हमारे देहात में दूध और घी नहीं मिलता है। इसका खास कारण यही है कि हम अपने पशुघन की तरफ बिल्कुल भी ध्यान नहीं देते हैं। आज हम वनास्पति घी के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने की ओर लगे हुए हैं। अगर हमने शहर में एक करोड़ की जनता में एक गौशाला खोल भी लिया तो इससे हमारा फ़ायदा नहीं होता है। जब तक हम अपनी इस नस्ल की तरफ ध्यान नहीं देते और उस को नष्ट होने से नहीं बचाते तो हम बिल्कुल भी सुधार नहीं कर सकते हैं।

[श्री जांगरे]

अक्सर यह देखा गया है कि शहरों ही में वेटरनरी डिस्पेंसरी होती है और देहातों में नहीं होती है। इन डिस्पेंसरीज में कुत्तों और घोड़ों का इलाज होता है। तो भला बताइये इससे हमारे जानवरों का किस प्रकार से सुधार हो सकता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह की डिस्पेंसरीज हमारे हर गांव में खोली जायं जिससे हमारे जानवरों का सुधार हो सके। इस बारे में बहुत से रिसर्च होते हैं मगर हमारे किसान को बिल्कुल भी पता नहीं चलता है कि हमारे देश में क्या हो रहा है। हमारे लोगों ने अपनी सरकार से काफी आशा लगाई हुई थी मगर उनको यह भी मालूम नहीं हुआ है कि अंग्रेजों की जगह में हमारी सरकार आ गई है या नहीं। श्री जी का जो स्वप्न था कि गांव में सब तरह की सुविधा हमारी सरकार से मिलेगी वह मालूम होता है कि स्वप्न ही रह जायेगा। इसकी तरफ भी सरकार को अवश्य ध्यान देना चाहिये।

मैं मानता हूँ कि बहुत सी बातों में हमको पाश्चात्य की नकल करना चाहिये। मगर इसका मतलब यह नहीं है कि इस देश की सम्यता और संस्कृति को ही नष्ट कर दिया जाय। अगर हमने इस तरह से किया तो हमको अन्त में गुलाम होना पड़ेगा। तो मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि कृषि जो हमारा मौलिक मूल आधार है, कृषि जो देश का जीवन है। कृषिक लोगों ने ही इस देश की संस्कृति को हजारों वर्षों तक इस देश में कायम रखा, हमें उन कृषिकों को नजर से हटाकर नहीं ठुकराना चाहिये।

मैं चाहता हूँ कि देहात के छोटे २ नालों को एक में करके एक बान्ध जैसा तैयार किया जाय ताकि गांव वाले उसके पानी से फ़ायदा उठा सकें और अपने गांव में तरकारी, फल और फूल काफी मात्रा में तैयार कर सकें। सन्तरे और दूसरे फलों के पेड़ लगाये जायं ताकि उनको खाने को विटामिन मिल सके और वह अच्छी तरह से काम कर सकें।

देहात में चारे की इतनी खराब हालत है कि मैं उसका वर्णन नहीं कर सकता हूँ। मैंने अक्सर गांव के जानवरों को धूल चाटते हुए देखा है और अक्सर गरमियों के दिनों में जानवर धूल ज्यादा चाटते हैं। शहरों में मैंने जानवरों को कागज खाते हुए देखा। इस तरह की हालत हमारे जानवरों की है। जबतक हम जानवरों के लिए चारे का बन्दोबस्त नहीं करेंगे तबतक हम उन की उन्नति नहीं कर सकते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देहातों में कैंटल डिस्पेंसरी हों, वहां पर प्रदर्शनों की जायें और जो बातें रिसर्च करके मालूम हों वह देहात वालों को बतलाई जाएं।

(English translation of the above speech)

**Shri Zangre (Madhya Pradesh) :** Sir, with your permission I am going to speak on the subject of agriculture. I am glad to find that everybody in this Parliament has started thinking about the welfare of the common man and that all their proposals relate to him. What pains me, however, is that no good is accruing to the common people in spite of all these proposals. By common people I mean those teeming millions about 75 per cent. of whom are living in the villages and are engaged in cultivation. Even though our country is 75 per cent. an agricultural country I am grieved to say that we are starving and not getting enough to eat. We have to import food-grains from America and other countries. What is the reason for all this ? It is said our country is short of money, that there are no funds in the budget. On the one hand we say there are no funds in the budget while on the other hand we rejoice and say we have a surplus budget this year. It is a matter for regret that on the one hand we complain of lack of funds while on the other we decline to accept the anticipated surplus of crores of rupees which was our lawful acquisition. Efforts are made to reduce the taxes. If a man were to save some money by starving and reducing himself and by cutting down his most essential needs and then were to rejoice over his savings we cannot regard his behaviour as prudent. It would be more prudent if we could bestow some benefits on the common people, even at the cost of a deficit budget, so that the people might feel that the Government is doing something for their welfare. If in doing so we increase the incidence of taxation it does not matter ; we are ready to bear the burden. But reduction in taxes without any corresponding benefit to the people is not a proper course of action. It is said there is no money, but you do not take preventive measures. By not taking preventive measures I mean that we do not look to the cause of the spread of disease, the causes of ill-health. We arrange for treatment after the onset of a disease. I mean to say no attention is being paid to the health of our people. Our country, our villages are green and verdant, yet the people there do not have enough to eat. Rice and salt is all they get. There is abundance of open air and sunshine, yet the people are tormented by disease. What is the cause of this ? It is that the Central Government treats Agriculture as a trite affair and does not attach much importance to it. The reason why so much emphasis is being put on the Agriculture Department these days is that population in the cities has increased and people are not getting enough of foodgrains. That is why the Agriculture Department is receiving so much attention now. If there are enough of food-grains during the next two or three years the Agriculture Department, it appears, might even be wound up. I am of the opinion that even if we have a good surplus of food grains due importance must be given to the Agriculture Department. People in the villages work all day but in the evening there is nothing for them but to sob in despair. Such is the plight of people in the villages. Our Government is prone to pay greater attention to the villages. It has come to acquire an urban mentality as distinguished from a rural mentality. That is why we are growing weak. On one hand, towns are multiplying and we are out to satisfy their needs, while, on the other hand, villages are on the decline and are in a pitiable plight ; yet no attention is paid to them.

Ours is a free country now. So many things are being done but not the least attention has been paid to the village. Today we can derive every kind of benefit from the village. We can also apply scientific knowledge to the villages. We should develop the sources of irrigation. We should also devote our attention to the forests. We should create a feeling in the minds of the village people that the Government is prepared to render them every kind of help.

If we could create that kind of enthusiasm among the people in the villages they could make great progress and this should be beneficial to us too. For example, if we plant *neem* trees in the villages this would, in the first instance, help

[Shri Zangre]

in the production of manure and, secondly, oil would also be produced from it, which could greatly help in combating Malaria. Similarly, if we were to plant a *babul* tree it grows up into a very big tree in five years' time. It would not only yield us timber but also provide the village people with firewood. We often blame the village people for burning cow-dung cakes for doing their cooking, but they are hardly to blame for that. The fault is ours because we do not tell them to plant trees in the villages. If we could give them that advice and if trees were to be planted on unproductive strips of land the soil would in course of time become fit for cultivation. This would not only provide the villagers with firewood but also give a fillip to our grow-more-food campaign. But we are not paying any attention to that side.

All our agricultural research is meant for the towns. The results of that research are not propagated in the villages. When we suggest their propagation we are told by the hon. Finance Minister that we have no budget provision for it. Cattle shows are organised by our Government in big cities. A great deal of money is spent on them. These shows are, however, held in big cities, such as Lucknow, Nagpur, Delhi, etc. But, it is not people in the town who produce food. I, then, fail to understand why such shows be held in the cities. Why these shows are not held in the villages where food is produced and which are directly concerned with them? Our Government ought to organise shows of that kind in places of pilgrimage where lakhs of people from all over the country assemble.

Another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government relates to our cattle wealth. We must protect their breeds. Our cattle wealth is being destroyed. To-day milk and *ghee* are scarce in our villages. The main reason for this is that we are not paying any attention to our cattle wealth. We are now-a-days occupied with increasing the production of vegetable *ghee*. Even if we establish one *goshala* in a city to serve a population of one crore of people this is not going to do us any good. Until we pay attention to the breeding of our cattle and protect them against extinction we shall not be able to effect any reform.

It has often been seen that veterinary dispensaries are located in towns and not in villages. Dogs and horses are treated in these dispensaries. Now, how would that help in improving the lot of our cattle? I want that such dispensaries should be opened in all our villages so that our cattle might be benefited. A good deal of research is being carried on in that field but our peasant does not know in the least what is happening in our country. Our people had set very high hopes on our Government but some of them are not yet quite aware if the British Government has in fact been replaced by our own. It seems as if Gandhiji's dream that the villages would be provided all sorts of amenities by our Government is going to remain just a dream. The Government must also attend to that side.

I concede we have to follow the example of the West in several respects. This should not mean, however, that the very culture and civilization of this country should be destroyed. If we follow such a course we would ultimately be led into slavery. Thus, I should draw the attention of the Government to the fact that since agriculture forms our basic occupation, the mainstay and the very life of our country and since it is the agriculturists who have kept this country's culture alive for thousands of years we must not relegate them to a position of unimportance.

I want that the small streamlets in the countryside should be merged together and a sort of dam constructed so that the people in the villages might utilize their water for the production of fruit and vegetables in a sufficient quantity. This could enable them to plant orange and other fruit trees which would provide them with vitamin food and increase their capacity for work.

The fodder position in the villages is so bad that I am unable to describe it. I have often observed cattle in the villages licking earth. This is generally to be seen during the summer season. In cities I have seen them eating paper. To such straits have our cattle been reduced. We cannot improve our cattle stock until we make a better provision for their fodder. Hence, I want that cattle dispensaries should be opened in our villages, cattle shows should be held there and the conclusions drawn as a result of our researches should be made available to them.

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I do not know whether I will be able to cover all the matters, minor and major, which have been dealt with in the course of today's debate. I have heard with care and attention all the speakers, and I feel that the procedure which we adopt comes largely in the way of adequate satisfaction being given to the House in the matter of disposal of all the points which arise in the course of discussion. I tried yesterday to provide an opportunity by inviting all those friends who had moved out motions, whether they belonged to this or that Party, for an informal discussion which might have cleared the air with regard to many matters. I am thankful to those friends who responded to the invitation, and I can understand the difficulties of those who could not come. I propose with the co-operation of the House in the course of this session to provide further opportunities at a suitable time and on a suitable day when many of the matters which are in the minds of Members which had been only partially dealt with in the House and could not be fully gone into could be gone into, if necessary, in the presence of those officials who are concerned in various sections of my Ministries.

I feel, however, that there are a number of matters, largely of major importance to which I must make a reference even though very briefly in view of the limited time at my disposal. There is, however, one matter which I would not regard normally as suitable for the forum of the Parliament, but I feel compelled to have to use this forum for a brief reference to it and that matter relates to statistics about food production and food distribution. I had tried to see whether matters which require debating statistical calculations in the open House which I feel is neither fair to the House nor to Government, could be handled in another manner, and I was glad that I was able to succeed in securing a personal discussion with my hon. friend, Mr. Sidhva. He said that as a result of that personal discussion a deficit of 34 lakhs was in his opinion brought down to 14 lakhs, and he felt that I came nearer to him. That is his way of putting it. May I put it the other way and say that before the personal discussion, by handling some of the publications which we issued and studying the statistics contained therein, in my opinion, inadequately, he thought that the deficit was about four lakhs, and as a result of the personal discussion he moved up from four to 14 lakhs.

**Shri Sidhva :** Your letter is with me.

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** Yes, the letter contains what I say. Now what happens in dealing with our statistics? I am referring to this particular matter, to illustrate my point. There are a certain number of areas in the country, largely States, where the reporting administration is very inadequate. We do not get from them even such rough estimates as we are getting from elsewhere. These are called non-reporting areas. As a result of personal discussion with the officials of these areas our predecessor Government came to some rough estimate as to what the production in those non-reporting areas was. And they put down a certain figure as the yield of the non-reporting areas to make up the total for the whole country. Recently we have taken steps to see that the administrative machinery for reporting in those non-reporting areas is improved. From season to season that administrative machinery has been improving with the result that we began to get estimates from some of those areas also. We have been adding on the estimates of these previously non-reporting areas, but at present reporting areas, to our calculation. In handling our statistics, Mr. Sidhva made the unconscious mistake of not only calculating what we had already included in the non-reporting areas,

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but he also added up the original rough estimate for the entire reporting areas, whereas the non-reporting areas had shrunk in acreage. The result was that there was a cumulative or overlapping calculation. The discussion led to an increase of about ten lakhs. Now, I suggest to him and to the other friends that, in dealing with statistics, it is best to have a face to face discussion with those who are handling and relying upon those statistics. It was stated by my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva in the course of the discussion today that there are 44 million people under statutory rationing. At the rate of twelve ounces each, he said you require 4.6 million tons. For the remaining 392 million people who are not under statutory rationing, you require 38.2 million tons. On the basis of one pound, the total comes to 42.8 million tons. Our production is 45 million tons. And so he said that we have a saving of 3.2 million tons. Now, in the statistical calculation, nothing has been provided for the fact that some part of the production is kept for seed and also nothing is provided for the regrettable fact that a certain part of the production, until it is consumed, does get wasted from village to town, and from town to ration shop. For this a certain percentage is worked out. If we work out a percentage deduction, even on a conservative basis, for seed and wastage, all this apparent saving will be entirely wiped out.

**Shri Sidhva :** I have calculated 12½% for seed.

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** Look at your calculation. It does not provide for that. Then he says: "In 1948 our procurement was 28 lakhs tons in this country and in 1949 it was 44 lakhs tons." From this he inferred that in 1948, we did not procure as much as we ought to have procured and that the capacity of the country for local procurement was greater than we had prepared a plan for, worked for and actually implemented. Sir, if the matter were studied properly it will be discovered that 1948 was a year of de-control. It was a year of very diminished rationing. Much less number of people were under ration in that year than in 1949. In 1949 we reached the figure of nearly 110 million people who were under rationing. Therefore if a proper statistical study is made it will be found that things did not really read as they are put. I personally am prepared first to have a full discussion with all those friends who are interested in our statistics and who are dealing with and handling our statistics. If, after that, I am unable to give them full satisfaction, we can go more fully into the matter with abler hands to deal with it.

I may mention that a committee like the Food Grains Policy Committee on which were appointed people who were economists and people who had experience of administration and who had a strong business instinct and who were anxious to save money reported in 1948 that there would be a deficit and advised Government to go in for a big production programme. Some parts of their recommendations have been implemented. *(Interruption)* I will take only a few minutes more in dealing with the statistical point mentioned particularly by an eminent Member of this House, Shri Mukhtiar Singh. I find that, reference was made by him probably inadvertently to Kharegat Report. A memorandum was prepared by Mr. Kharegat who was Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture two or three years ago. My hon. friend referred to what is called the 'adult equivalent'. What is the adult equivalent? The word 'adult' has different connotations. The age for an adult for the purpose of franchise is one, and the age for an adult for exercising civil rights and obligations is another. Again, the age fixed for adults for the purpose of granting ration is different. This age is fixed on the advice of the Provincial Governments who have decided that all those under the age of ten should be given half the adult ration. 'Adult equivalent' means ration equivalent to an adult's. Full ration is adult ration. Half the adult ration is given to a person below ten years of age. This is an actual fact based upon the reports of the Provincial Governments. Children below ten are regarded as entitled to half the adult ration. *(Interruption)* It varies from State to State. But, on the whole, it is up to ten years. I am prepared to supply details of the age for different States.



In reply to one question I have given details of what is given to adults on a average. It comes to twelve ounces. In the course of correspondence with Shri Sidhva, I gave him full details on which Mr. Kharegat had based his calculations. He was not planning the rationing of the country. He was planning for full production for the country. He was preparing a maximum production programme for the whole country, not only of cereals but a variety of other agricultural Commodities.

Dealing with cereals this is what he said and this is what I wrote to Mr. Sidhva.

"Mr. Kharegat's figure had nothing to do with rationing of a certain number of people. His calculations were intended to work out the total requirements of the country on the basis of certain assumed figures of consumption. He has stated in his *Memorandum* thus :

'Unfortunately there are no reliable statistical data about either production or consumption. But such information as is available must be utilised to obtain a rough idea of what is needed'.

And he proceeds:

'The existing statistics are usually incomplete and therefore apt to mislead. In order to get a more correct picture of the actual position, it is necessary to resort to a certain amount of guess work for filling in blanks.'

Mr. Kharegat assumed that children between one and three would consume six ozs. and between three and ten would consume ten ozs.

An adult female would consume 14 ozs. and an adult male would consume 18 ozs. Then he worked out from this the total requirements at 18 oz. per adult per day which gives 300 million adult units for the population of India which he calculated at 400 millions. Therefore he works out the figure of adult equivalent at 75 per cent, the proportion between 300 adult units and 400 population. The Food Ministry is not dealing with all these calculations which were based on maximising production of cereals, oilseeds, vegetables, etc., and assumed consumption levels. Any body who goes through the record will find that the Ministry is dealing with actual facts. What do the provinces actually give to children under eight or ten years? Half the adult ration. It is on that calculation that we came to our conclusions about the commitments of the Food Ministry towards the rationing system in the various States. Therefore what I would suggest is that I am prepared to have further discussion with Mr. Sidhva and any friends who are interested in our statistics and if at the end of that discussion I am not able to give satisfaction, I am prepared to have any other further discussion, enquiry, or investigation, whatever may be decided.

Now I shall deal with two matters of comparative importance and then the main high-lights of the discussion.

**Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh) :** May I ask the Minister one question? Some light was thrown on the figures given by the Finance Minister in his budget speech. May I know whether those figures relate to the financial year, calendar year or agricultural year?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** I thought it was mentioned in the Finance Minister's speech.

**Pandit Kunzru :** That information was not given by him in his speech.

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** I do propose to give that information and circulate it later.

**Shri Sidhva :** In reply to a question by me some time back the hon. Minister of Food gave different figures.

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** As the House has just heard I have already requested Mr. Sidhva to come and discuss this matter of figures with me. There are two points to which I would like to refer. The first is with regard to the policy of mechanization of agriculture. I want to disabuse the mind of the

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House that Government has already adopted a policy of mechanizing the agriculture of the country—that policy has not yet been considered and decided. But we are carrying out a certain policy. So far as tractors are concerned, they are largely being used for the purpose of heavy reclamation work which is not susceptible of being handled by bullocks or mappower. Secondly, for areas where we have not got either bullocks or men available, the tractors are used for the purpose of preparing the land for further cultivation.

As a matter of fact in our programme for food production, mechanized reclamation counts for only seven per cent. of the total production that we expect. 93 per cent. of production that we are planning for is production based on improved methods of agriculture, on irrigation and on other methods which will enable us to increase production. It is only seven per cent. that is expected by reclamation of land by tractors.

**Shri Tyagi :** What is the percentage with regard to expenditure ?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** Regarding expenditure, the expense of reclaiming land is an expense which you incur for the first and last time. You plough up land which is exceedingly hard and which cannot be handled by a man or bullock. Having been ploughed up, that land becomes available for crops every year. Therefore it is an investment which is necessary only for the first year. Whatever is spent in reclaiming land is spent in that particular year. With regard to other improvements like sodd, manure, etc., they are recurring expenses. Irrigation is a non-recurring item because once you have a tank or a well, you get results for a number of years. Therefore in so far as tractor work is concerned, it is only investment in the first year and you continue to get results thereafter.

A reference was made to the sugar question. I think it is due to the House that I should give them the necessary information on that. Regarding the question of production it is not correct to say that this year we have produced less than last year. Up to the end of February the country had produced 7,27,000 tons as against 8,08,000 last year up to the end of February so that up to that period, we have gone up by 1,25,000 tons this year.

**Pandit Kunzru :** Is my hon. friend referring to the financial year or the calendar year ?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** This is the production year. The sugar production season usually begins between the end of November and beginning of December. What I have said does not mean that the production for the remaining part of the year will necessarily be larger than what was produced last year. It will be premature for me to make any statement on that point one way or the other. We have to see what is the further production in the course of the next few weeks when the factories will be working. Now that is the exact position.

With regard to offtakes not being sufficient from factories, I think we may examine that a little more fully. If we prematurely increase the offtakes from factories with a view to suit the factories which want that more sugar should be sold by them and their investment recovered, the result might be that we might not have left adequate supplies and we might come into difficulties later on. Therefore we do propose to proceed cautiously though in the case of some factories it may mean a temporary hardship to them. Then it was said that we should increase the quota. For the reason that I have just now indicated, I feel that it will be unwise to rapidly increase the quotas without being sure of the supplies in hand. The situation is being watched and we shall see how production progresses and what exactly we should do with regard to quotas for distribution.

**Prof. Ranga :** So there will not be any decontrol at all ?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** I cannot decontrol today without having an idea of the supplies available and without having an idea of the possibility of, and quantity available from, imports. I don't think we can merely as a matter of theory come to a decision on decontrol.

**Shri Sidhva :** When will that be done ?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** I cannot fix the date for the reason that till the position is clear as to our production and what are the chances of imports, it will be premature to commit ourselves. It may be that we may decontrol or we may not decontrol. All that is being considered.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das :** Is it true that many factories in U. P. have already closed down ?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** There is a small number of factories which have closed down because of not being able to get cane but many others are working. I shall now come to the two major high-lights of the discussion. It was suggested that we should decontrol food. I wish to plead with the House that a decision regarding control or decontrol cannot be taken by Government off-hand. The decision to re-impose control was a decision arrived at after weeks of discussion and the full Cabinet and most of the Provincial Governments had full discussions and consultations and then the decision to reimpose control was arrived at. We must be surplus in food, surplus not in the statistical sense. We have calculated that the villager takes one pound. Who has calculated what the village consumes ? As I said, it is a rough estimate. It is not a thing on which Government's decision of de-control can be really arrived at. On the contrary, the enquiries that we have made indicate that the rural population probably is consuming more than one pound because they have not got the other articles of diet which people in the cities have. Whatever that may be, if we study the conditions of things before control was imposed during war time, we will find that apart from actual production and actual consumption, there is always a certain amount of floating market surplus over and above what is produced in the field and consumed in the city. Apart from the statistical figures of assumed production and assumed consumption, unless we have a certain amount of floating surplus which enables prices to be controlled and maintained, it will be unwise for the Government on mere theoretical considerations to come to a decision on de-control.

**Prof. Ranga :** Have you not got any floating surplus in the black market, quite a lot, absorbing all money ?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** We are talking of statistical calculations ; we are not talking of the black market. If the surplus in the black market is sufficient, prices would be much lower and there would be competition in the black market. I really feel that, in the present condition of the country where you have got a number of forces working, where you have got regions of the country in serious difficulty with regard to food, and probably other parts of the country may have to face similar difficulties, it is unwise to come to a hasty decision and change the policy. The policy can only be changed with proper care with certain well planned steps and I do say that the Food Ministry, and the Government as a whole, are working towards the goal of gradual de-control.....

**Prof. Ranga :** Where are the signs ?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** I will give you plenty of signs of progress towards gradual decontrol, and less and less dependence on foreign countries. For that, the two instruments are gradually reduced imports and increased local procurement, and if the House is patient.....

**Ch. Mukhtiar Singh :** Is the rationed population increasing or decreasing ?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** Rationed population has been increasing because control involves an attempt to control prices and if there is an extension of rationing, it is purely in the interests of controlling prices for that part of the rationed population. Secondly, if you are going to have increased procurement, unless you ration a large section of the population with a certain quantity of food, you cannot procure adequately. If a large number of people are free to eat as much as they liked whereas some other parts of the country are starving, you cannot procure adequately. It is only when you ration that you reduce the requirements of each person, you reduce the demand of the rationed population, you reduce the demands of the urban population and make the balance available for procurement.

If you see the progressive steps taken with regard to reduction of imports, reduction of expenditure on dollar exchange, an increased local procurement, you will see that we are moving towards a certain objective with definite stages of progress. The total imports in 1949 were as many as 37 lakhs tons. Yet, with the same rationed population, we propose to decrease the imports to 15 lakh tons. I must frankly state that there is pressure by the Madras Government and one or two other parts of our country which are in serious difficulties that unless they get a little more than their present quota, probably forces of disorder would supervene and they may not be able to control the situation. These are factors which have to be taken into consideration by the Government. The Government are also asked to increase the production of cotton and jute. The provinces which have to hand over foodgrain area for cotton and jute are also the Provinces and States which request the Central Government to try to make up that deficit in some way which means that we must make this available either by importing more than 1.5 million tons or maximising procurement within the country. You may take it from me that the Provincial Governments are being put under the maximum pressure to increase local procurement. As a matter of fact, the target which had been fixed in 1949 at 39.92 lakh tons or nearly 40 lakh tons was exceeded and they were able to procure 44 lakhs tons. This time, they have put up proposals for 54 lakhs tons. But, the Central Government is trying to push them up to a figure nearly 60 lakh tons. It is impossible at this stage to commit oneself and say whether these figures would be realised. All that can be said is that with the co-operation of the Provincial Governments, we do propose to maximise our local procurement.

**Prof. Ranga :** The result will be suicide of the Government.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** Order, order.

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** One of the major complaints with regard to food administration was that a large portion of our dollar currency is being spent up on food imports. In 1947 we imported from the hard currency areas nearly as much as 45 per cent worth of our food grains. In 1948, we reduced this to 42 per cent. In 1949, we imported from hard currency areas only 29 per cent worth. This year, we have budgeted to import nothing from hard currency areas. It may be that by some barter arrangement we may get some wheat in return for jute.

I will now deal with the question of subsidy. We had to spend as much as Rs. 26 crores in 1948 in the shape of subsidies. In 1949 we brought it down to Rs. 22 crores. In this year 1950, we expect to cut it down to less than Rs. 13 crores. This is a subsidy for imported foodgrains. Hon. Members sometimes mix up subsidy for imported grains with the subsidy which is given to the State Governments for local procurement within the country.

**Shri Sidhva :** No ; no.

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** This subsidy for local procurement is about Rs. eight crores. Therefore, the total subsidy comes to about Rs. 21 crores.

I shall now deal with the question of food production. As hon. Members are aware, after all, the production of food, unlike production of cloth or steel or any other commodity produced in the factories, cannot be indicated concretely day by

day. The stages in increased production can only be assessed at the end of the harvest season. It is only a six-monthly audit that is possible. With regard to food production, as the House is aware, we took steps of a certain nature to increase administrative control over food production.

In accordance with the recommendations of Lord Boyd-Orr, we introduced both at the Centre and in the Provinces and at the District level a direct administrative link, through the Food Commissioner and Food Controllers right down to the Collectors. We took steps to see that things moved quickly and responsibility got fixed on some individual. All the State Governments, by the month of September or October, had set up their administrative machinery. We appointed the Food Commissioner here in the month of July. Naturally, it took a little time to size up the situation, contact Provincial Governments and set up the machinery. This machinery was set up by the month of October. The targets which had to be fixed for production were discussed in detail and steps were taken to see that the former bottlenecks were removed. One bottleneck which existed was that the raw materials needed for agricultural production could not be easily shifted from the Centre to the Provinces and from the Provinces to the fields.

Therefore there were great complaints that these raw materials of production were not moving fast enough and therefore production was hindered. We took special steps and set up special machinery here in the Centre and had a special officer appointed whose only function was to see to the requirements of the Provinces in the matter of raw materials and the requirements of the Provinces in the matter of quick movement of those materials and every Provincial Government is now satisfied that the movement of raw materials so far as the Provincial Governments are concerned is completely on a satisfactory level; so also with regard to the quantity, as you will find from the report which has been submitted on behalf of the Agriculture Ministry. While in the previous year we could only secure 33 per cent. requirements of the agriculturists in the matter of steel and iron, we have been able to move forward and go up to 50 per cent. of the requirements of the agriculturists. I am perfectly ready to admit that still a great deal has to be done before the requirements of the agriculturists are satisfied and it will not be possible to complete the target and feel that we have got over our major difficulty in regard to food unless the requirements of the agriculturists not only in the matter of raw materials, not only in the matter of iron and steel, but even more than that, in the matter of finance is overcome.

It is held by some that there is plenty of surplus money with the agriculturist. This may be true in the case of the larger holders. This may be true in the case of those who produce money crops, but this is not true in the case of the majority of the agriculturists, who, I know, have had to incur fresh obligations with a view to participate in the food production programme. Therefore, the one essential need of the situation which has got to be overcome in the course of the coming year is to make more finance available for the agriculturist so that he is able to participate properly in the programme of the Government. But we have now not only taken these steps but the link between the Centre and the Provinces has been strengthened and made more intimate. Not only is the personal contact more intimate but we have been able to secure practically from every State a more alert response in dealing with the requirements of the Centre for information. We have been receiving a fortnightly report, a demi-official report from the Food Controller, practically from every state concerned in the country. Besides that a monthly report of the progress made is being received and we expect to get the first six-monthly report, probably this month from all the States. The Food Commissioner and the other officials who have been touring have come back with the reports and almost everywhere with probably two exceptions, things are moving fairly rapidly and that is why in a way we can say that the food production programme is on the move.

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I do not want to use any further exaggerated language but the machinery is on the move and the people are being gradually quickened into action because even in the case of some Provinces and some States, the villagers have been mobilized—it may not be in most parts of the country. Wherever Members have expressed that they feel that the villagers have not been able to quicken into action, they are talking of the local conditions. Take for instance, Mysore State. All the information that we get shows that there the village committees appointed are being mobilized into action; from parts of U. P. also we get the same reports that there is a progressive awakening among the cultivators and they are being drawn into the programme. This may not be true for all the parts of the U. P.; I am prepared to concede that, but that the things are moving and we are progressing forward. Of that there can be no doubt. The two exceptions I had to refer to were North Bihar and Madras. For inherent difficulties things cannot move quickly to North Bihar because of certain bottle-necks, which at present are purely natural and may take a little time to be overcome. The Ganges flows between the two parts of Bihar and this accounts for a great many difficulties. So also in the case of Madras. There is not probably that quick movement within the Province which may give us all the results that we expect, but we do propose so far as Madras is concerned to overcome that difficulty also.

I would in the end make an appeal to the House. I am prepared to admit that all the steps that can be taken have not all been taken, that the progress is not as quick as the House would wish it should be, that there are certain difficulties and defects at the administrative level or elsewhere, I am prepared to admit all that, but we cannot mistake the fact that we are moving forward. In the matter of food production, it is so much the human will which accounts. It is not simply the materials. Materials have to be moved quickly. Who moves it? The human being moves it. Here is a farm to be cultivated. Who cultivates it? It is the farmer who cultivates it. The human will of the administrative machinery, the agriculturist community and of all the non-official elements who are supporting this move, has to be generated and I feel that the more often we begin to doubt ourselves, the more often we talk of present difficulties, the more often we feel as if we would not be able to move forward, we are, in my humble opinion, coming in the way of generating an atmosphere for the full achievement of the programme. In 1948 in this very House we had expressions of opinion that there will be famine in Madras and we felt as if the Bengal famine was going to be repeated. That year 1948 was seen through and there was no famine in Madras, there was no major calamity there and not a single human being died. In 1949 again there were talks of famine in Bombay, Cutch, Saurashtra, and there also a hopeful atmosphere was generated and the situation was overcome. I also believe that at the present moment both with regard to the food situation in Madras as well as in some other parts of the country which are highly deficit, Government will be able to overcome the present difficulty.

**Prof. Ranga :** Is it not a fact that during that year of decontrol not one died of hunger?

**Shri Jairamdas Doulatram :** I am not talking of de-control. It was about the rationing system I was referring to. We had to harness all our resources for Madras and last year we had to give one-third of the total imports of food for Bombay to see that nothing happened there. Therefore, I do believe that if we maintain the feeling that the difficulties will be overcome, that the administration and the people will rise to the occasion, I have no doubt that we shall be able to achieve the decision which we have made that after 1951 we shall not have to import food except in a very great emergency and that our food production programme would also be completed.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Food' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That the demand under the head 'Ministry of Agriculture' be reduced by Rs. 100."

*The motion was negatived.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** Now I shall put the Demands to the House. The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,23,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of Mar 1951, in respect of 'Ministry of Food'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,08,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Ministry of Agriculture'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,42,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Forest'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 75,99,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 92,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,93,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,30,97,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,52,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,11,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Indian Dairy Department'."

*The motion was adopted.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000 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, 1951, in respect of 'Capital outlay on Forests'."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 14th March, 1950.*