

Friday, 17th November, 1950

Par. S. II. V. 50 (1)

840



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT



THIRD SESSION (FIRST PART)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

(1950)

Price Rs. 2 or 3s.

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**THE**  
**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(Part I—Questions and Answers)**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**

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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

Friday, 17th November, 1950.

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**RECOGNITION OF DEGREES OF NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITIES**

\*92. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the degrees and certificates granted by National Universities and Colleges such as the Bihar *Bidyapith*, the Kashi *Bidyapith* and the Gouriya Sarva *Bidyatan* (Bengal) are recognised by Government for the purposes of service; and

(b) if so, whether any status has been assigned to each of such degrees and certificates *vis-a-vis* the degrees and certificates granted by Universities and Colleges recognised by the Government prior to the attainment of independence?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) and (b). The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the Press communique issued by this Ministry on 16th September, 1950. A copy of the Communique is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 22].

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether any appointments have been made to the Central Government on the basis of such qualifications?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** If the hon. Member would read the communique, he would find that the position is that a Committee has been appointed to examine the degrees given by these various institutions and on the basis of the report of that Committee it would be decided which degrees and

diplomas are to be equated with the existing ones given by the Universities.

**Shri B. K. Das:** When was the Committee appointed?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** On 16th September 1950, i.e. the date of the communique.

**Shri B. K. Das:** When is the report expected?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** The Committee is about to start its deliberations and it should not take the Committee very long to arrive at its conclusions.

**Shri Tyagi:** Are Government aware that some State Governments have recognised these *Vidya Piths* and their degrees are equivalent to those of the degrees given by the regular Universities?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** That is so. I understand that some State Governments have recognised them.

**Shri Tyagi:** Have any instructions been issued to the Union Public Service Commission here to recognise the graduates of these Universities as equivalent to graduates of the other Universities?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The hon. Minister has already stated that a Committee has been appointed and Government will act on the recommendations of that Committee.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know if the Universities and even the Inter-University Board have considered the cases of certain of these institutions, particularly of the Kashi *Vidya Pith*, and recognised the degrees of these Universities?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I require notice.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid that all these are suggestions which had better be made to the Committee.

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**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know the terms of reference of this Committee and the names of the institutions which are under its purview?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** The Committee has been appointed to consider the degrees and diplomas of all such institutions. The State Governments have been asked to inform the Government of India of the names of institutions which they think should be considered in this connection.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know if there is any *Vidya Pith* in existence which has been recognised by the Government of India?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Government of India will recognise after the receipt of the Committee's report.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Is it a fact that the Jamia Milla at Delhi has already been recognised?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I am not aware.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** Is it a fact that in our Constitution it is laid down that no such degrees or colleges imparting religious education will be recognised, and if so, may I know how far the recognition of these degrees is in conformity with our Constitution?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. That is a matter for the Committee.

**Shri Tyagi:** Has the Committee also considered the question of Gurukul Kangra?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** As I said, the State Governments have been asked to send in the names of all such institutions and I am sure the Uttar Pradesh Government will send in the name of Gurukul Kangra.

#### ADULT (SOCIAL) EDUCATION

\*93. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allotted by the Government of India for Adult (Social) Education for the year 1950-51; and

(b) the amounts so far given to different States?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) and (b). Owing to acute financial stringency it has not been possible to allot any funds to States (Parts A and B) for Adult (Social) Education during the year 1950-51.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Have the funds set apart in 1949-50 been exhausted?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Yes, the funds set apart in 1949-50 were distributed to various State Governments. I think the total comes to about Rs. 60 lakhs.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** Would the hon. Minister tell the House the total number of teachers so far trained under this Social Education scheme?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I require notice.

**Shri Dwivedi:** What steps do Government propose to take to introduce compulsory education according to the provisions of the Constitution?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It does not arise out of this.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I know what is the course taught under this Social Education scheme? Is it only the ordinary course of literary studies or some other kind of social education?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** In the last session, I gave a comprehensive answer to this question. If the hon. Member would refer to it, he will find all that has been done in this connection.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Are the States following any Central scheme of Social Education?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Yes. Last year when money was allotted to them, they were asked to follow a Central scheme. But this year we have not allotted any money.

**Shri R. L. Malviya:** May I know how much money has been spent this year on Social Education?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Nothing this year.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I believe the answer given by the hon. Minister refers to part (a). What is the answer to part (b)? Has any amount been given by the different States?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I have said that owing to acute financial stringency it has not been possible to allot any money.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Does this answer apply to the Centre or to the allotment of money by the States also?

**Mr. Speaker:** It applies to the States. If the hon. Member would refer to the question, he will find that it refers to the help given to the States, not by the States.

**Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:** May I know whether any special education grant for the Harijans was given in the year 1950-51?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is entirely a different subject.

**Shri Poonacha:** Arising out of the answers to parts (a) and (b), am I to presume that sufficient grants were made to part C States and if so, what are the grants made to each of them?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I will not be able to give the amounts at the present moment.

**Shri Tyagi:** Are Government making use of cinema films in their Social Education scheme?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I do not think it arises out of this question.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Was it not possible to allot any money to Centrally Administered Areas?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I am sorry I have not got the figures just now.

#### FOREIGN SCIENTISTS (VISIT)

\*94. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state how many foreign scientists and technicians have visited India under the agreement entered into between U. S. A. and India according to the terms of the Fulbright Act?

(b) What are the problems on which they will work in this country?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) So far one American lecturer and two research scholars have arrived under the Agreement.

(b) Their subjects are as follows:  
Visiting lecturer: 1. Political Science.  
Research Scholars: 2. Geography. 3. History of Education.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know where these scientists are working at present?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I am afraid I have not got that information.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know whether any other scientists are expected in due course?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Yes. If the hon. Member so likes, I can give the names of all the lecturers and research scholars who are expected.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know whether any of these scientists are expected to work in our National Research Laboratories?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** The scientists who are coming will be working in various places. They will, of course,

be working in scientific institutions where they could get the advantage of the best facilities for research.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** Will they be attached to the Laboratories or to the Universities?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** That will depend on the subject. If the National Laboratories offer better facilities for any particular subject, they will go there; if the Universities offer better facilities for any other particular subject, they will go to the Universities.

**Shri Jaipal Singh:** Of the eight who are expected to arrive in due course, how many are experts in science and how many in humanities?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Of those who are coming, one is for education; the second is for Indian history and history of European expansion in India; the third is for political science, who has already come; the fourth is for medicine; the fifth is for education; and the sixth is for chemical physics.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know how many of these scientists are likely to go to States where prohibition exists and whether certificates of exemption have been offered to them?

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

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Are these scientists likely to visit the Universities and lecture to the students also?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** They are coming as lecturers and naturally they will lecture at places where best advantage could be taken of their lectures.

**Shri N. Singh:** The hon. Minister stated just now in reply to another question that these people will be visiting the National Physical Laboratories and such other institutions. I therefore want to know whether they will be visiting the Universities also?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** There are two categories of people who have come: one are the lecturers and the other are research scholars. Research scholars will go to places where there are facilities for research. Lecturers will go to places where they are to deliver lectures.

**Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** What is the name of the Professor of Political Science and where is he going to work?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Dr. Merze Tate is the name of the professor. I do not know where he is working at present.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** What is the necessity to import an American gentleman to teach us Indian history?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** My hon. friend probably knows that under the Fulbright Agreement it is the American assets in India which is being utilised and the American Government send these lecturers. It is American money that is spent.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** As regards selection of subjects is it entirely left to the American Government?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** There is a Board in which there are Indian and American representatives.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** Is it at the instance of the Government of India that these American scholars are sent?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** The Americans come here for their own advantage spending their own money.

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** Are any Indians sent to America in exchange?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Yes; under this agreement Indians also go to America, but only their passage expenses are met from the Fulbright funds.

**Shri Tyagi:** To teach American history to them!

#### MINISTERS (PROTECTION)

\*95. **Shri Tyagi:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the amount of expenditure incurred on T. A., D. A. and pay of the Police and Intelligence staff employed for the protection of the Ministers of the Republic when they were at Nasik and Bombay in connection with the Session of the Indian National Congress?

(b) Is it a fact that police officers and men were posted all along the route from Nasik to Bombay while the Prime Minister's or the Deputy Prime Minister's Motors passed that road?

(c) How much money was spent on this?

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it a fact that policemen were made to stand on the road from Nasik to Bombay?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** The hon. Member will see that the Deputy

Prime Minister's and the Prime Minister's security is the concern of the whole House and the Government of Bombay must have made necessary arrangements. Further questions should be put to that Government.

**Shri Tyagi:** I want to know whether these so-called protective measures are taken only for the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, or for other Ministers as well?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** First of all, Sir, may I say—speaking from personal knowledge, not from any information received—that the road from Nasik to Bombay was not lined by police. Before going there I had specially requested the Bombay Government not to do so and I believe they carried out my instructions. Occasionally in the villages or other inhabited areas in between there were some police; otherwise the road was empty.

As regards the general question of security measures, may I say that I entirely agree with my hon. friend Mr. Tyagi that the whole thing is overdone very greatly and I have been protesting against that, rather helplessly. I am afraid, but nevertheless protesting against it. It is true, taking, shall I say, an objective and impersonal view that certain security measures are considered necessary and it is difficult for me or anyone to object to it. But that can be overdone and sometimes they are overdone.

As for the last question I believe at the present moment rather special measures are taken in my case and the Deputy Prime Minister's case; somewhat lesser measures are taken in regard to other Ministers.

**Shri Tyagi:** Has it been brought to the notice of the Prime Minister or any Minister of the Government that sometimes traffic on the roads is held up for about half an hour or so before the arrival of the Ministers who are given protection?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Is Mr. Tyagi referring to some incident that occurred last year or this year?

**Shri Tyagi:** Last year.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** We took steps after that; it has not happened since then.

**Shri Kamath:** Have instructions been issued, Sir, that traffic in New Delhi should not be held up on occasions when a Minister goes to his residence to see a cinema show?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I just said that an instance occurred about eighteen months ago and we took strong notice of that incident and said this should not be done. So far as I know it has not been done since then.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that railway saloons were placed at the disposal of some Ministers for their journey from Delhi to Nasik and if so for which Ministers?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think it arises.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I know whether some officials also, for instance the Commander-in-Chief, are afforded the same sort of protection. At a railway station I saw his saloon being thickly guarded and people were not allowed to go to the platform where he was to alight.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think this question does not extend to all security measures.

#### MAGISTRATES, SUB-JUDGES AND POLICE OFFICERS IN DELHI

\*96. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of Magistrates, Sub-Judges, and Police Officers, above the rank of Inspector, at present serving in the State of Delhi?

(b) How many of them come from the Punjab and the Uttar Pradesh respectively?

(c) Is it a fact that no officers in the above categories are recruited from Delhi and if so, what are the reasons for the same?

(d) Does any reciprocal arrangement exist between the State of Delhi on the one hand and the States of the Punjab and the Uttar Pradesh on the other, according to which they are required to take a certain number of officers in the above-mentioned categories from the State of Delhi and if not, why not?

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) As the hon. Member is aware Delhi has had a joint cadre with the Punjab ever since it was constituted into a Chief Commissioner's Province. Recently to provide a mixed cadre, a link has been established with the Uttar Pradesh also. Therefore, the officers required by the Delhi Administration are obtained from these States.

(d) An arrangement exists whereby candidates domiciled in Delhi are eligible for consideration for appointment to the Punjab Civil Service and the Punjab Police. Names of Delhi candidates for nomination to the Provincial Civil Service are also sent to the Punjab Government. No such arrangement, however, exists with the Uttar Pradesh Government.

#### STATEMENT

Number of Magistrates, Sub-Judges, and Police Officials above the rank of Inspectors at present serving in Delhi and the State to which they belong.

	Punjab	U.P.	N.W.F.P.	TOTAL
(1) Magistrates	8	4	2	14
(2) Sub-judges	16	..	..	16
(3) Police Officers above the rank of Inspectors.	23	2	..	25

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that people domiciled in Delhi do not get an opportunity of getting into the Provincial services either of Uttar Pradesh or of Punjab? Are there any figures to show as to during the last five or six years how many persons from Delhi were recruited for the services of either Punjab or U.P.?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** It is merit alone that decides the selection; they cannot go by regional preferences. I am afraid for more information I should have notice.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that the services of officers for Delhi Administration are secured on deputation basis from the U.P. and Punjab and that for sometime past a provincial feeling has been growing amongst some of these officers, which tendency is detrimental to the interests of the administration?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** It is a question of policy. I do not think I can give any information on that subject.

**Shri Sonavane:** How many of these posts are held by Scheduled Castes in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think that question arises

## FACILITIES FOR DELHI STUDENTS

\*97. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state what special facilities are provided for students belonging to the State of Delhi to join Medical and Engineering Colleges in other States?

(b) How many students from Delhi applied for admission during the last three years, in Medical and Engineering Colleges in other States and how many of them were admitted?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, *annexure No. 23*].

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** With regard to part (b) of the question only one figure is required to be given, namely, the number of students admitted. May I request the Deputy Minister to give this figure?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** It is not one figure. It is rather a long statement. The question is about Medical as well as Engineering Colleges. With regard to medical colleges, the Central Government have reserved 24 seats in various medical colleges in India for the admission of students from the Centrally Administered areas. Out of these, in 1948 three went to Delhi, in 1949 nineteen and in 1950 fifteen.

So far as engineering colleges are concerned, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has arrangements with the Roorkee University under which the candidate who obtained first rank amongst the Delhi candidates in the Entrance examination held by the University is admitted each year. The capitation fee is paid by the Delhi Administration. The second and third candidates from Delhi, if admitted, have to pay the capitation fee themselves. Apart from that, there were arrangements with the East Punjab Engineering College, Roorkee prior to 1950. Students from the Centrally Administered areas can also compete for admission into the engineering institutions under the Central Universities namely the Banaras University and the Aligarh University. So far as other Universities are concerned, provision has been made for admission of extra-provincial candidates in nine engineering colleges which receive grants under the I.C.A.T.C. scheme. One of the conditions of the grant is that the institutions have to reserve about 30 per cent. of the total seats for the

So far as Part C States are concerned, the seats are reserved for them jointly and not individually, and the admission is made on merits. The following allocation of seats has been made for all Part C States in the various engineering institutions.....

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** I only wanted to know how many students from Delhi applied for admission and how many were admitted.

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I have given the figure for medical colleges. In respect of engineering colleges I can give the figure for all the Centrally Administered Areas and not for Delhi separately.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** In view of the fact that the population of Delhi has increased by three to four times, has Government considered the desirability of reserving more seats in medical as well as engineering colleges?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I have given the number of seats which have already been reserved. Efforts will of course be made to increase them subject to financial considerations

## CENSUS

\*98. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrangements for the next census have been completed;

(b) whether any agreement has been reached between India and Pakistan to hold census simultaneously in the two countries; and

(c) what is the estimate of expenditure that will be incurred on the census?

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** (a) Arrangements for the Census are proceeding satisfactorily, though not completed yet.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

(c) The overall requirements of the 1951 Census are likely to be in the neighbourhood of 150 lakhs.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Is it not a fact that Pakistan and India are holding the census on the same day?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** Yes, Sir. The Pakistan Government made enquiries as to our methods and questionnaire etc., and we sent them the same. After we had settled our arrangements this request was received, and we supplied the information to them. By a coincidence or otherwise they have fixed the same dates, and I think it was very right

**Prof. Ranga:** By what date do Government expect to be able to complete the census and get information of the totals of population by States, districts and taluks?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** The preliminary arrangements have been almost completed and the census will begin this time on the 9th February, 1951 and will end on the 1st March, 1951. The final check of the enumeration will take place on the first three days of March.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know whether any effort will be made at the time of the census to collect figures of the unemployed as well?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** This time there will be a great deal more information collected in the census than on previous occasions, and I am sure this will also be included.

**Shri E. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know when the final Census figures are likely to be published?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** As I said, the final check will be over in the first week of March and the rest will depend on printing, collection and so on. It is difficult to give an estimate now.

**Shri Rathnaswamy:** What steps do Government propose to take to ensure a fair census of the scheduled castes?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** Every step will be taken to have a correct census.

**Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Do Government propose to take statistics of lepers, blind people and so on in the census?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** Notice, Sir.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** May I know whether it is a fact that in the Census published, the caste of a particular individual also is mentioned against that person and if so whether instructions have been given to remove that column?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** The object of a census is not to reform people but to get facts.

**Shri Kamath:** Which date will be the day of reckoning—the date for reference?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** The point is according to what scripture the question is to be answered.

**Mr. Speaker:** The matter is very clear. We will proceed to the next question.

#### MINISTRIES (ECONOMY)

\*99. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that each of the Ministries was recently asked to submit proposals for economy in expenditure;

(b) whether any such proposals have been received so far; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes; proposals in regard to reduction of expenditure on the Defence Services are, however, still awaited.

(c) The proposals received from the various Ministries, based on a preliminary exploration of the scope for economy, revealed that their total financial effect would be inconsiderable. The matter has, therefore, had to be re-examined, and the feasibility of adopting certain additional measures of economy is now under the active consideration of the Government.

**Shri Kamath:** Has the Minister been correctly reported as remarking that a recent Press Conference that his efforts at economy in the Departments of his colleagues have not met with much success?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** No. I said the results were not very encouraging.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that the Secretary of the Ministry has now been asked to take up this matter and submit his proposals to the Minister?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That is what part (c) of the answer amounts to.

**Shri Kamath:** Which of the Ministries have been most unresponsive or unwilling to effect economy?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I do not think it is in the public interest at the moment to give the information.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Sir, Question No. 107 may also be taken along with this.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the Finance Minister has no objection he may also give the answer to question No. 107. It deals with the same matter.

#### ECONOMY IN MINISTRIES

\*107. **Shri T. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state how many employees are likely to be thrown out of employment as a result of the economy proposals from Ministries?

(b) What is the total saving expected?

(c) What nation-building projects have been postponed as a result of the economy drive?

(d) What is the total saving expected from this?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** (a) to (d). The proposals received from the various Ministries, based on a preliminary exploration of the scope for economy, revealed that their total financial effort would be inconsiderable. The matter has therefore had to be re-examined, and the feasibility of adopting certain additional measures of economy is now under the active consideration of the Government. Information on the points mentioned by the hon. Member can only be furnished after Government have taken a decision in the matter.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** I only wanted to know as to the likelihood of people going out of employment. Some indication may be given; the actual figures may be supplied later.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I am not ready at the moment to give an indication of that matter.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it as a part of the economy drive that the Comptroller and Auditor-General was sent abroad recently to visit our various Embassies and put up proposals for economy in respect of expenditure thereon?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** No, Sir.

**Shri Kamath:** Was that a separate move?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Kamath:** Have any proposals been received from the Auditor-General?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** There is a separate question on this, later.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** We understand from reports in the newspapers that certain projects have already been abandoned. At least we could get an idea what projects have now been abandoned at this stage?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** No projects have been abandoned.

**Pandit Kunzru:** With regard to the answer given to part (b) of Question No. 99, may I know whether it is the intention of the Government in spite of the developments that have taken place in northern Asia to bring down the defence expenditure substantially?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Since proposals are awaited, I can make no statement in regard to the intentions of the Government.

**Pandit Kunzru:** Have any directive been issued to the Defence Department in this connection?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** The Defence Department are working out their own proposals with reference to the responsibility that rests on them for the security of the country.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** May I ask, Sir, whether there is any proposals to have the expenditure examined by the Estimates Committee and thereby reduce the expenditure?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** The Estimates Committee are already carrying out duties assigned to them.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** May I know whether the Estimates Committee have made recommendations regarding economy and whether they are under consideration? If so, what practical steps are the Ministry taking to effect the economy that is recommended by the Estimates Committee?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I understand, Sir, that only one report has been presented by the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Industry and supply and that is under examination in the Ministry itself.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** Has not the report of the Estimates Committee on Industry and Supply yet reached the Finance Ministry?

**Mr. Speaker:** He says that it is under examination.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** A copy of the report has, I believe, gone to the Ministry of Industry and Supply and the Ministry of Finance is awaiting the recommendations of the Ministry which is affected primarily by the report.

**Pandit Kunzru:** Will the hon. Minister kindly answer my question that I asked him? My question was, whether Government have issued any directive to the Defence Ministry in connection with the reduction of the Defence expenditure?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Yes, Sir. What we have told the Defence Ministry is that we want a highly efficient army, a highly mobile army, whose efficiency is not to be judged by numbers, but by other factors and so far as possible to reduce the expenditure of the army.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know whether the Ministry of Finance itself has exercised the economy which was expected of it?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Arising out of the hon. Minister's reply to part (c) of Question No. 107, what are the names of the projects which have been withheld or postponed?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** No project has been postponed.

**Shri P. Y. Deshpande:** May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of completely abolishing the Ministries of Health, Education and Food and Agriculture as an economy measure in view of the fact that most of the work necessary to be done in respect of these institutions.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. He is expressing an opinion and making a suggestion.

**Pandit Kunzru:** May I ask the Prime Minister whether Government have laid down any sum by which the defence expenditure is to be brought down or have they prescribed the size of the Army to be maintained in future?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The matter is under consideration. We will consider this question from the point of view of what is normally called the post-trouble period and whether the post-trouble period will come within our life-time or not is a different matter, that is, the normal requirements of the country apart from crisis and other things and we will try to build the balance of strength for that period. Having done that then we shall consider taking any other step for the trouble period separately.

**Pandit Kunzru:** What I wanted to know was whether the Defence Department had been asked to reduce its expenditure and the size of the forces at present?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri Kamath:** Along with the post-trouble period, are Government thinking of the pre-war period also?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Government thinks of the future and not of the past.

**Shri Kamath:** Coming war, not the last one!

**Mr. Speaker:** I will go to the next question.

#### NURSERY SCHOOLS

\*100 **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing:

(a) the total number, state-wise of nursery schools both Government and aided for children of both sexes up to the age of four or five in the whole country;

(b) the total number of children, state-wise at these schools;

(c) the annual expenditure incurred by the Central and States Governments on the maintenance (including grants of subsidies) of these schools; and

(d) whether there is any possibility of a reasonable increase in the number of these schools in the near future?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) to (d). A statement based on the replies so far received from the States is laid on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure 24].

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Are there any Nursery schools in the States of Delhi, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Obviously from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh we have not received answers so far.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** What is the position about Delhi?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** As I said we have given a statement based on the replies of the States which have been received so far. The States which are not mentioned there have not replied.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** May I assume that a reply has not been received from the Delhi Administration so far?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** If my hon. friend will see there is a note in the statement that no expenditure was incurred by the Central Government.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** What is the approximate number of children of both sexes residing in the cities of Delhi and New Delhi who are fit for admission to the nursery schools and has any proposal been made to open nursery schools for their benefit?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** So far as the number of children is concerned, I think it will be known after the census operations are over and so far as making provisions are concerned, that will be done subject to financial considerations.



**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Is there any proposal under the consideration of the Central Government for opening nursery schools in the next five years and if so, where?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** The Central Government can obviously undertake the opening of schools in the Centrally Administered areas and it will do so subject to financial considerations.

**Shri Rathnaswamy:** What is the extent to which these institutions are encouraged by the State?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** The State Governments give grants to private institutions.

#### "MOBILE" BANK

\*101. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state what success has been achieved as a result of the experiment of "Mobile" bank for rural population initiated by the Bank of Patiala in P.E.P.S.U.?

(b) What is the total monetary value of business transacted by this "Mobile" bank and the period covered by such business?

(c) What is the number of villages so far visited by this Bank and the number of Current, Savings Bank and Fixed Deposit Accounts newly opened by it in rural areas?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** The Government of India understand that the Bank of Patiala has not been able up to the 15th of November, 1950, to start its scheme of "Mobile" banks owing to delay in the completion of certain formalities and for lack of certain essential equipments.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Ma, I know when it is proposed to start this experiment?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** When the formalities have been completed. In the meanwhile, the Bank is carrying on propaganda in the villages explaining the scheme to the people.

**Prof. Raaga:** Are these experiments carried on in any other States?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That would depend on the initiative of the Banks.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Has Government succeeded in making at least the propaganda mobile, or is it stationary?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is the Bank that is carrying on propaganda. Next question.

#### PUNJAB AND KASHMIR BANK LTD.

\*102. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab and Kashmir Bank Ltd., is still doing banking business;

(b) if so, whether it has been inspected by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) what are its present assets and liabilities?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) The Government of India understand that the bank is not doing any banking business at present except collecting its outstanding payments for payment to its creditors under the scheme.

(b) As the bank is not doing any banking business at present, the question does not arise.

(c) It is understood that the bank's assets and liabilities in India on the 30th June 1950 were Rs. 19.76 lakhs and Rs. 52.50 lakhs respectively. The assets and liabilities in Pakistan on the 31st December 1949 were Rs. 96.34 lakhs and Rs. 6.52 lakhs respectively.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** What is the total number of creditors of this Bank and what is the aggregate amount of their claims?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I want notice of the question in regard to the number of creditors. The aggregate of the claim is the sum of the liabilities.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Is it a fact that even the first dividend under the scheme of the Bank is functioning or was functioning, has not been paid to many of the creditors although the date for such payment has long elapsed?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That is a fact. The Bank has not been able to implement the terms of the scheme. Out of the first instalment of 18.07 lakhs payable within three months of the sanction of the scheme, a sum of 11.89 lakhs only has been paid so far. This is due to the Bank's not realising its assets in Pakistan.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Is there any probability of the Bank's assets in Pakistan being recovered in the near future?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** There are various obstacles in the way, Sir, and the whole matter has been taken up with the Pakistan authorities by Government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

#### BILL 70 UNTOUCHABILITY

\*104. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether any Bill prescribing punishment for the offence of practising "untouchability" is going to be introduced by Government in the Parliament in pursuance of the provisions of

Articles 17 and 35(a) clause (ii) of the Constitution and if so, when?

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** We are consulting the State Governments and a Bill will be introduced as soon as these consultations are finished.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** May I know how soon these consultations will be finished?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** We have to receive replies from Hyderabad, Rajasthan, Travancore-Cochin. They have been reminded on the 13th October, 1950. When all the replies are received, we shall be in a position to clarify our own ideas and consult our legal Adviser. It is difficult to say at present when we would be able to finish.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** May I know what is the nature and character of the replies sent by the States which have been good enough to send their replies?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid he will have to refer to the record. It cannot be the subject of a supplementary question.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is Government aware that enactments have been passed by various States in their State legislatures already?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** Yes, Sir. Various enactments have been passed. I may add, whatever can be legally prevented effectively will be done by law; but, ultimately, it is a matter of good manners and this can be done only by example and not by legal sanctions.

**Prof. Ranga:** Is Government aware that in the State of Madras, although an Act has been passed some time ago, no effective steps are being taken by the District Magistrates to take cognisance of offences in this regard to help Harijans to get over this terrible disability?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order; I am afraid this question will have to be put in the Madras legislature.

**Prof. Ranga:** My point is, when they have consulted the State Governments, one would naturally expect the State Governments to say whether they have already passed legislation.....

**Mr. Speaker:** They must have done so.

**Shri Kamath:** Apart from legal action, what steps have been taken by

Government by propaganda or otherwise to mobilise public opinion against untouchability?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** Hon. Members are aware of the whole question and it is not a matter of expending money. It is a question of hard work, and individual work more than organisational.

**Shri Rathnaswamy:** Is it a fact that particularly after Temple Entry, offences of observing untouchability are on the increase?

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

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know whether Government have considered the desirability of extending some of the provisions of the Acts passed by the different State legislatures to the Centrally Administered Areas?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** A separate question may be put with regard to that.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** May I know whether Government is prepared to extend an assurance that such a measure would be enacted before the next elections?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** The assurance is already there in the Constitution itself. As for definite dates, as I have already stated, it is not worth while fixing dates.

#### ATTACKS BY MAN-EATERS IN LUCKNOW

\*105. **Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state what help was given by the Military to protect the citizens of Lucknow and its suburbs, from attacks by man-eaters, hyenas, wolves and mad jackals in the months of September and October 1950?

(b) How long was the military employed in this work and what was the strength of the military personnel actually engaged in the work?

(c) How many soldiers or military officers were injured or attacked by the above mentioned beasts and how many of the latter were killed or driven away by the military people?

(d) Was any enquiry made as to the cause of these animals assembling in the city?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major General Himatsinghji):** (a) and (b). Six piquets, each consisting of one officer and six men, were provided to guard the North and North-East approaches to Lucknow city during the

night with effect from 24th September, 1950. Troops were also used for combing out operations in conjunction with the civil authorities. The total number of military personnel provided was one Company. They assisted the civil authorities from 24th September to 6th October, 1950 when they were withdrawn at the request of the latter.

(c) No casualties were suffered by the troops. Six hyenas and 12 wolves were killed. It is not possible to say how many of these were killed by the military personnel.

(d) This is a matter for investigation by the U.P. Government.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know at whose request the troops were lent out?

**Major General Himatsinhji:** At the request of the civil authorities. There was a meeting on the 23rd of September between the civil and military authorities and it was decided that one Company of military should be loaned for this purpose.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Did Government in the Defence Department consider it absolutely necessary to lend out troops in such a case?

**Major General Himatsinhji:** Not on this occasion only; but on any occasion, the troops are always ready to assist the civil authorities, as they have readily done in the past.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Is it a fact that even for quelling civil disturbances, troops are not ordinarily lent out, and if so, why were the troops lent .....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. He is arguing.

**Shri Tyagi:** I only wanted to point out that I take objection to part (d) of the question which runs as follows:

"Was any enquiry made as to the cause of these animals assembling in the city?"

What does the hon. Member mean by "assembling in the city"?

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

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know the reason why.....

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

T. A. AND D. A. FOR MEMBERS OF  
GOVERNMENT COMMITTEES

\*106. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that members of Parliament, serving on different Governmental Committees, are paid travelling and daily allowances at varying rates; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not fixing uniform rates of T. A. and D. A. in such cases?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). Travelling allowance has generally been paid at uniform scales, but in the matter of daily allowance there have been variations in the rates. The question of daily allowance is under examination by the Government with a view to securing uniformity of rates in future.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** Will Government be pleased to state what is the highest rate and the lowest rate of daily allowance and which particular Committee or department gives the highest allowance?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Rates as high as Rs. 40 per day and even Rs. 50 have been paid. The lowest rate was Rs. 10. This does not vary according to the nature of the Committee; but it happens that for certain committees certain rates were fixed *ad hoc*.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** Are Government aware that even Rs. 75 a day is paid as daily allowance in certain committees?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I have no record of that rate having been paid.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** Will Government be pleased to state the rate paid in the Rehabilitation Committee?

**Several Hon. Members:** Rehabilitation Finance Administration.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. No intertable talk, please.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** Rehabilitation Finance Corporation.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I want notice of the question.

**Shri Kamath:** Will the decision in this matter, when taken, apply only to the future or will it have retrospective effect?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Only to the future.

**Shri Sondhi:** Did the hon. Minister say that there was no difference in the travelling allowance? Is it correct? I have personally suffered on this count. I think that information is not correct.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I said, Travelling allowance has generally been paid.

**Shri T. Husala:** Do Government propose to enquire into the question whether Rs. 75 per diem is paid as daily allowance in the Rehabilitation Finance Administration and if it is true, will Government take steps to recover the excess money from the Members?

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

**Shri Tyagi:** Sir, I want to know whether the Finance Minister knows it or not, that members of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Committee are paid at the rate of Rs. 75 per day over and above the Rs. 40 they receive here if they attend the meeting of the committee the same day as they attend the sitting of Parliament?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** It is not in the information now with me, but I shall enquire.

#### PREFABRICATED HOUSING FACTORY

\*108. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the enquiry regarding the prefabricated factory in Delhi has been completed?

(b) If so, what is the result of the enquiry?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) and (b). A Committee has been set up

(i) to examine the Organisation of the Government Housing Factory, New Delhi, and to make recommendations regarding its adequacy or otherwise for the manufacture of Alcrete house-building material;

(ii) to examine the material produced in the Factory and the design of the house and to pronounce on their suitability from a structural and qualitative point of view; and

(iii) to examine the operation of the Factory from the commercial (including financial) point of view and to advise on the fixation of the sale price of the houses in the initial period.

The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** How long will it take to publish the report? When can we expect it?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I am hoping that the Committee will report early in the next month.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** How many houses have so far been produced in this factory?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Over 120 have already been erected, and there are some lying in the factory area.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** What is the maximum capacity in these days of this factory?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** It is not so much a question of maximum capacity. Just now we are not producing more than six houses a day.

**Shri Kamath:** Having regard, Sir., to the terms of reference just read out by the hon. Minister, is it not a fact that this is a committee of enquiry though euphemistically called an advisory committee?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** The committee has been set up with certain terms of reference, to enquire and report.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it not a fact that the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Structural and Mechanical Development Engineers Ltd. in England, recently visited Delhi and had consultations with the Government on this subject?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Yes, he did visit Delhi recently and had talks with the Government, but not in regard to this committee.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that this Chairman of the Board of Directors was asked to give a guarantee as regards these houses?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Yes, it is so; he has been asked to give an assurance with regard to the durability of these structures.

**Shri Kamath:** Has he agreed to give a guarantee or not?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** He has agreed to give all assurances and we hope to have it fairly soon.

**Shri Kamath:** When the whole matter is under enquiry by this Committee, what are the reasons for advertising these houses in the papers?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** The assurance is only sought to make assurance doubly sure. There is no doubt in the mind of the Government that the houses will be stable.

**Shri Kamath:** May I know how much Government have spent on these advertisements in the papers?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I would require notice.

**Prof. Banga:** What is the percentage of the breakages among the houses produced?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** The breakage is very little comparatively; but for the exact percentage I would require notice.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Out of the 120 houses produced so far, how many have been bought by the people?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** None has been purchased by the public, they have all been taken by Government and some have been put up in areas where refugees are being rehabilitated.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Is it a fact that all these houses have been erected in the factory compound itself and they have not been inhabited?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Not all the houses, but a certain number of them has been put up in the factory compound, a certain number has been put at Najafgarh, and a certain number for refugees in New Delhi.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** How many of these houses are actually occupied and being used?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I cannot give the exact number; but the houses in the factory area are only waiting for the electrical wirings and other services to be put in, so as to be put into use immediately.

**Shri Tyagi:** As a result of these advertisements in the papers, may I know how many houses are in demand by the public?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** There has been a great deal of enquiry, and people have been coming round to see the houses; but in view of the fact that Government has not fixed the price, none has been sold so far.

**Shri Tyagi:** Sir, may I know if the Rehabilitation Ministry has placed an order for 100 houses and are these houses being built for this Ministry?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I cannot say how many are for the Rehabilitation Ministry; but some have been put up in areas where they are rehabilitating people.

**Shri T. Husain:** Does this factory produce the roofs for the houses also?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.** Yes.

**Shri Sondhi:** In view of the fact that the costing of the whole thing has not been settled up till now, what is the justification for Government to put out these advertisements?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Government would like people to have a look at the houses and see what demand there is for them.

**Shri Sondhi:** But unless the price is...

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

#### PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT (ARRESTS)

\*109. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested and detained under the Preventive Detention Act of the Centre;

(b) the number of detenus on whose behalf applications were filed in the Supreme Court; and

(c) the result of those applications?

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

**Shrimati Durgabai:** Sir, arising from part (a) of the answer, may I know what is the total number of detenus so far released as a result of the judicial pronouncements in the various High Courts?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** I would like the question to be repeated, Sir.

**Pandit Kunsra:** Will the Government place on the Table of the House when the information is received?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** The information will be laid on the Table of the House in due course, as I said.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Sir, we would like to have an opportunity to put supplementary questions, as this is an important matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** A separate question may be put.

**Shri Tyagi:** Sir, may I know the date on which the question was tabled?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** The question is about the number of persons arrested and detained under ...

**Mr. Speaker:** What is the date?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** Yes, I am saying that the question is so comprehensive that information has to be collected carefully and fully, and it will take some time. I am not able to fix a date just now.

**Mr. Speaker:** But what is the date of the question?

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** Oh I see. I am sorry, Sir. I am taking the place of the Home Minister and it is not fair to me to be put this question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The notice of the question was received on the 12th October. An advance copy of the question was given to the Ministry soon thereafter. The actual admission notice was given on the 11th of this month.

**Prof. Raaga:** So Government had more than one month notice.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is difficult to say whether they had, for it depends upon the notice of admission of the question.

**Shri Tyagi:** I could not follow the distinction. When was the notice of admission communicated? Was the delay in the Parliament office?

**Mr. Speaker:** There was no delay on the part of anyone. Each question has to be carefully examined. There are so many repetitions of questions, there are questions relating to State Governments and so on.

**Shri Rajagopalachari:** Sir, I would like to remove any misconception that there may be on this matter. There is no desire on the part of Government to delay or not give the information asked for. I find further down other questions put down, where a large number of figures have been collected in respect of detentions in Part C States and so on. I may assure the House that there is no desire to suppress any facts.

**Shri Tyagi:** That was not my point.

**Mr. Speaker:** The usual practice, as I said, is that the moment a question is received a copy is sent out immediately by the Parliament Secretariat to the Ministry or the department of Government concerned. But the Ministry will have to wait for the drafting of a formal reply till they get intimation from the Parliament Secretariat about the question having been admitted. The examination of the large number of questions that are received naturally takes time, because many of them are repeated ones. Every question has to be carefully gone into and has to be amended if necessary. Some questions relate to matters which do not concern the Central Government but concern the State Governments. All that examination proceeds from day to day and usually final orders about admission are sent about a week before.

**Shri Tyagi:** As you have yourself just now stated an advance copy of the question is sent to the Ministry

concerned the moment the notice of it is received in your office. It means that if the question was received a month earlier in your office the Ministry was always in a position to receive a copy of it as it was originally drafted by the Member a month earlier. So they had enough time to know what the question was.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a matter of opinion: If this were the only question then they have had enough time but they have to deal with 1200 questions and prepare answers and for all that some latitude has to be given.

**Shri Tyagi:** It is only a question of knowing the number of detenus, which is a matter of great importance from the point of view of the civil liberty of the people

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think I can explain more than that. The question hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT (RE-EMPLOYMENT)

\*103. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the principle followed by the Government in re-employing retired officers in the Income Tax Department; and

(b) the total number of retired officers re-employed as (i) Assistant Commissioners and (ii) Income Tax Officers during the years 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) The principle followed in re-employing retired officers in the Income-tax Department, as well as in other Departments of the Government of India, is that officers are re-employed only when due to the shortage of trained and experienced persons it is deemed essential in the public interest to retain the services of such officers. Such re-employment is also subject to the condition that the officer concerned continues to be physically fit and efficient.

(b) The numbers of retired and re-employed officers working as Assistant Commissioners during 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50 were nil, two, three and one respectively and as Income-tax Officers two, five, ten and sixteen respectively.

##### CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH BELGIUM

\*110. **Dr. R. S. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to

state whether any cultural agreement has been executed between India and Belgium?

(b) If so, what are the terms of the agreement?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) No. The question of executing cultural agreement between India and Belgium is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

**SOCIAL EDUCATION (EXPERTS)**

**\*111 Dr. R. S. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Government of India have invited any foreign experts on Social Education?

(b) If so, how many of them have so far been invited?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) and (b). The Government of India have invited only one foreign expert on Social Education. He is Dr. Spencer Hatch whose services have been secured from the UNESCO as Consultant on Rural Education. He took up his duties on October 12th, 1950.

**PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACTS**

**\*112. Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in detention without trial on 1st November, 1950, under Central Acts in each of the Part C States;

(b) how many of them are detained under the Preventive Detention Acts of the Centre, and how many under other Central laws, in each of these States;

(c) how many of these detenus belong to the Communist Party of India, how many to the Socialist Party, how many to the Hindu Mahasabha, and how many to the R.S.S.; and

(d) how many detenus were released in each of these States during the last six months under the orders of the Supreme Court and High Courts, and how many on the recommendation of the Advisory Boards constituted under the Preventive Detention Act of the Centre, and how many otherwise?

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** (a) to (d). A statement giving the information asked for by the hon. Member is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 25].

**HYDERABAD MINT**

**\*113. Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Hyderabad mint is still working and whether Siccra coins and Siccra notes are still being issued?

(b) Are these notes and coins still current in the Hyderabad State?

(c) What is the total amount of both these currencies?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) Yes, Sir, Siccra notes of one rupee denomination and two-pie copper coins, for which there is a fairly large demand, are still being issued.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) O.S. Rs. 36 crores approximately.

**BOMBAY ARMY DEPOT (FIRE)**

**\*114. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last week of April, 1950, there was a fire in the Bombay Army Depot;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the fire and what damage was caused;

(c) what were the articles stored in the Depot; and

(d) whether the goods and the building were insured and if so, for what amount?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major General Himatsinghji):** (a) Yes. A fire broke out in Ordnance Depot at Bombay on 23rd April, 1950.

(b) The cause was spontaneous combustion. The estimated damage to stores and buildings amounted to Rs. 95,985 and was as under:

(i) Films.....	Rs. 78,877/8/-
(ii) Other Ordnance Stores.....	Rs. 986/8/-
(iii) Building.....	Rs. 16,141/2/-
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>Rs. 95,985/-/-</b>

(c) Films which had only scrap value.

(d) No. Government stores/properties are not normally insured.

**CANTONMENT BOARDS**

**\*115. Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cantonment Boards in the Indian Union are under the Control of the Government of India

and their employees treated as Central Government servants and if not, the reason therefor; and

(b) whether the employees of Cantonment Boards are paid according to the Report of the Central Pay Commission or according to the scales of pay in force in the States in which the Cantonments are situated?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major General Himatsinhji):** (a) Cantonment Boards are self governing bodies and the control exercised by the Government of India is laid down in the Cantonments Act II of 1924. The employees of the Boards are not employees of the Central Government.

(b) The Cantonment Board employees are paid in accordance with such scales as may be approved for them by the Cantonment Board.

#### TEMPLES IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

**\*116. Shri R. Velayudhan:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether any memorial was received by Government regarding the desecration of temples in Travancore-Cochin State?

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

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** (a) The Government of India received a number of communications from private individuals and organisations regarding the desecration of certain temples in Travancore-Cochin.

(b) The Government of the State are investigating all such complaints.

#### DISLINKING OF DOLLARS BY CANADA

**\*117. Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Canada has dislinked its dollars from the U.S.A. dollars?

(b) What are the financial consequences of this step so far as India is concerned?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) The Canadian dollar was not linked with the U.S. dollar; but as required under the articles of agreement of the International Monetary Fund, it had a fixed par value expressed in terms of gold and U.S. dollar. On the 30th September, 1950, the Canadian Government decided to cancel the official par value and to allow the exchange rate to fluctuate, so as to find its own level.

(b) The volume of transaction between Canada and India being small, this step has no significant effect on Indian economy.

#### RETRENCHMENT AND RECRUITMENT SCHEME (CO-ORDINATION)

**\*118. Giani G. S. Musafir:** (a) Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether there is any department co-ordinating the retrenchment and recruitment scheme of Government employees?

(b) How many displaced persons are affected in the recent retrenchment in the cadre of Ordinance Officers (civilian) and what arrangements have Government made to rehabilitate them?

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** (a) There is no Department at present specifically co-ordinating retrenchment and recruitment of Government employees but such co-ordination is partially achieved through the Employment Exchanges which register retrenched and surplus employees of the Central Government and submit them on a high priority basis for appointment to vacancies notified to them.

(b) Nil.

#### LAKE MEDICAL COLLEGE, CALCUTTA

**\*119. Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government have refused to take over the Lake Medical College in Calcutta?

(b) If so, do Government propose to run the College themselves or do they want to close the institution?

(c) Has any new batch of students been admitted into this College during the current year?

(d) What is the total number of students at present studying in this College?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) Yes.

(b) The College will be closed in 1952 after all the batches of students admitted have finished their training.

(c) Yes in January, 1950.

(d) 485.

#### SMUGGLING OF GOLD

**\*120. Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that several cases of smuggling of gold from India to Pakistan have been detected recently?



(b) If so, what is the total number of cases detected since 1st April, 1950?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) There has been no major case of gold smuggling from India to Pakistan. There have, however, been many petty cases of such smuggling.

(b) Since 1st January 1950, 268 such cases have been detected.

#### RETRENCHMENT AND RECRUITMENT

\*121. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers retrenched in the various categories since 1st April, 1950;

(b) the saving effected thereby;

(c) the number of new gazetted officers recruited in the various categories since 1st April, 1950 and their scales of pay; and

(d) the number of those, retrenched in each category, who were re-employed during this period?

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

#### DISABILITY PENSION

\*122. **Babu Ramnarayan Stuch:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether disability pensions are assessed and expressed in terms of percentages by a Military Medical Board?

(b) If so, upto what percentage a minimum disability pension is allowed and according to what principle?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major General Himatsinghji):** (a) Disabling is expressed in terms of percentages by military medical boards and disability pensions are assessed on the basis of these percentages as determined by the pension sanctioning authorities on the advice of their medical experts.

(b) Minimum disability pension is, as a rule, allowed for 20 per cent. disablement. For certain categories, however, the same disability pension is allowed for 20 per cent., 30 per cent. and 40 per cent. disablement. This is because it has been thought desirable that in their case the amount of pension should not be below a certain fixed minimum.

When the percentage of disablement goes down below 20 per cent., the disability pension is stopped as that much functional loss is negligible and does not merit compensation from State.

#### B. C. G. VACCINATION

\*123. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students vaccinated by B. C. G. vaccination this year; and

(b) whether any cases of death have been reported as a result of this vaccination?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) 5,61,471 persons were vaccinated by B.C.G. vaccination from the 1st January to the 30th September, 1950. Separate figures regarding the number of students vaccinated are not available, but it is estimated that about 90 per cent. of the above figure represents vaccinations amongst school and college students below 20 years of age.

(b) No case of death as a result of B.C.G. vaccination has been reported by medical authorities in any area where this campaign is being conducted.

#### ABORIGINAL TRIBES (SCHOLARSHIPS)

\*124. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the number of Christian and non-Christian aboriginal Tribes students, separately who have obtained scholarships from the Centre?

(b) How does it compare with the number of applications by Christian and non-Christian aboriginal students?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) Christians 104, non-Christians 190.

(b) The number of applications from non-Christians were 280 and from non-Christians 312, i.e. 37 per cent. Christians and 61 per cent. non-Christians were awarded scholarships.

#### KHADAKVASLA SCHEME

\*125. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state at what stage the Khadakvasla scheme has reached?

(b) By what time will the building operations be completed and the scheme will start working?

(c) How much money is proposed to be spent in the current financial year?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major General Himatsinghji):** (a) The Scheme, which is estimated to cost roughly about Rs. 6 crores, was sanctioned in 1948-49 and by the end of the current financial year about Rs. 1 crore will have been spent.

I lay a statement on the Table indicating the various works which have been started and the progress so far made [See Appendix I, annexure No. 26].

(b) It is too early to say when the work will be completed because that will mainly depend on the availability of funds. It may, however, be possible for the Academy to start functioning when the main buildings have been completed.

(c) Rs. 50 lakhs.

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGES

\*126. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government have started any school for the study of foreign languages in Delhi?

(b) If so, what are the foreign languages which are being taught there?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Sari Khurshed Lal):** (a) The Ministry of Education have not started any such school in Delhi. There is however, a Russian Department in the University of Delhi which was started at their instance. There is also a school of Foreign languages run by the Ministry of Defence.

(b) Only Russian language is taught in the Russian Department of the Delhi University. As regards the school of Foreign languages, a separate question may be put to the hon. Minister for Defence.

#### NATIONAL INCOME OF INDIA (REPORT)

\*127. **Shri Bissant:** (a) Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the progress made by the three-man Committee which was set up by Government in August 1949 to prepare a report on the national income of India and its various components?

(b) Is some preliminary estimate available of the total national income of the Indian Union?

(c) If so, what is the estimate?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) to (c). The National Income Committee has considered a

large number of working papers and organized its lines of work. Considerable progress has been made on all sectors, and a provisional estimate of the national income for the Indian Union as a whole will be ready by the end of November 1950 for consideration of the members of the Committee and the foreign advisers who are coming by the middle of December, 1950. It is expected that an estimate for the year 1948-49 will be available early next year.

#### MERCY MISSION TO ASSAM

\*128. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the work done by the Indian Army in the Mercy Mission to the quake affected areas of Assam; and

(b) the number of these doing relief work there?

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Major General Himatsinghji):** (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No. 27].

(b) Approximately 1500.

#### हिन्दी लेखक (सम्मेलन)

\*१२९ की इन्द्र विद्यावाचस्पति: शिक्षा मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ए) क्या यह सत्य है कि सरकार ने इस वर्ष राजभाषा हिन्दी की उन्नति के लिये हिन्दी लेखकों तथा संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधियों का एक सम्मेलन बुलाने का विचार किया था;

(बी) यदि ऐसा है, तो यह सम्मेलन कब होगा ;

(सी) उसका कार्य क्षेत्र क्या होगा ; तथा

(डी) जिन व्यक्तियों को निमंत्रित किया गया है उनके नाम क्या हैं ?

#### HINDI WRITERS (CONFERENCE)

[\*129. **Shri Indra Vidyaavaspathi:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had proposed to convene a conference this year of Hindi writers and representatives of various organisations for the development of Hindi, the State Language;

(b) if so, when this conference will be convened;

(c) what will be its scope; and

(d) the names of persons who have been invited therein?]

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) to (d). It is proposed to hold on the 18th and 17th December 1950 a conference on Letters to which Hindi writers as well as writers of other recognised Indian languages will be invited. This conference will, *inter alia*, consider a common policy and measures for promoting the study and propagation of the federal language throughout the country. A copy of the provisional agenda is placed on the Table [See Appendix I, annexure No. 28].

Government have also under consideration a proposal to hold a conference of leading Hindi organisations and associations working in various States for the promotion of Hindi in non-Hindi speaking areas of the country. Details regarding its time, venue agenda and representation are still under consideration.

**CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND RUSSIA**

\*130. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state what steps, if any, the Government of India are taking to increase the cultural relation between India and Russia?

(b) Do Government propose to send any cultural Mission to Russia and the countries of the South-East-Europe?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) The Government have taken steps to arrange for distribution of suitable educational and cultural material.

(b) No, Sir.

**EMBASSIES (ECONOMY)**

4. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor-General recently visited our Embassies and Missions abroad with a view to effecting economy in expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) if so, whether he has completed his examination and completed his report;

(c) if so, what main recommendations are; and

(d) whether it is proposed to place a copy of the Report containing his recommendations on the Table of the House?

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General visited the Embassies at Washington and Paris, the Legation at Berne, the Offices of the High Commissioners in the United Kingdom and Canada, the Office of the Consul-General at New York, and the India Audit Office in London. His visit was primarily to assess for himself the adequacy or otherwise of the system of accounts overseas and the Audit of overseas expenditure.

(b) to (d). As the Comptroller and Auditor General's visit was in the discharge of his own responsibilities for the maintenance of a proper system of accounts and audit, no question of his making any report about his visit arises. Individual points noticed by him during the course of his visit which require further consideration or action are being taken up by him with the Ministries concerned. Any points arising out of the visit which he considers sufficiently important will be brought to notice by him in due course in the reports on the accounts submitted by him under Article 151 of the Constitution.

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सत्यमेव जयते

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

OFFICIAL REPORT

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Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Friday, 17th November, 1950.

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-48 A.M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE  
HOUSE

**Mr. Speaker:** Before the House proceeds with any other business, I would like to inform hon. Members that Shri P. M. Audikesavalu Naicker has requested for leave of absence from all meetings during this session under Article 101(4) of the Constitution on account of illness.

Is it the pleasure of the House to grant him leave?

The leave was granted.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the House that under sub-rule (1) of rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, I nominate Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka, Sardar Hukam Singh and Shri Manilal Chaturbhai Shah on the Panel of Chairmen.

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PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AMENDMENTS IN FEDERAL AND UNION  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION REGULA-  
TIONS.

REGULATIONS

**The Minister Without Portfolio (Shri Rajagopalachari):** Sir, I re-lay on the table a copy of each of the following papers:

- (i) Notification making certain amendments in the Schedule to the Federal Public Service Commission (Consultation by the Governor-General) Regulations in accordance with clause (5) of Article 320 of the Constitution;
- (ii) Notification making certain amendments in the Federal Public Service Commission (Consultation by the Governor-General) Regulations, in accordance with clause (5) of Article 320 of the Constitution; and
- (iii) Notification making certain amendments in the Union Public Service Commission (Consultation) Regulations, in accordance with clause (5) of Article 320 of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. P—102/50].

REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION.

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Report of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year ended 30th June, 1950, together with statements in the prescribed form showing the assets and liabilities of the Corporation as at the close of the year and the Profit and Loss Account

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

of the Corporation for the year in accordance with sub-section (3) of Section 35 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See IV. O. 4(29)].

**AMENDMENT IN SCHEDULE 'B' REFERRED TO IN REGULATION 50 OF THE GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION.**

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the amendment in Schedule 'B' referred to in Regulation 50 of the General Regulations of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India in accordance with sub-section (3) of Section 42 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. P-115/50].

**PART B STATES (LAWS) BILL**

**The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar):** Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of certain laws to Part B States.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the extension of certain laws to Part B States."

The motion was adopted.

**Dr. Ambedkar:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**MOTION ON ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT—concl'd.**

**Sardar B. S. Man (Punjab):** Sir, originally only one day was fixed for the food discussion. Now we have got yet another day. I would like to know whether there is any possibility of your relaxing the strict rule which you followed yesterday of not permitting movers of amendments, who had had a chance earlier, to have another chance now.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid I cannot change that decision, because it would be introducing a new principle of allowing Members to speak twice. It was settled on the first day that food will be discussed separately. Those who wanted to reserve their remarks on the food policy should have postponed their speeches. They had ample chance yesterday.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Madras):** Sir, there is absolutely no doubt that food must have top priority on the atten-

tion of Government both at the Centre and in the States. This involves a lot of foreign imports, unless we make ourselves self-sufficient. Food scarcity has been disturbing the economic life of the country. When the Prime Minister said that this country must make itself self-sufficient in food by a target date in 1951, he meant, I understand, that we must strain every nerve to get it done: not that he meant, in spite of changing conditions, to stick to the date and see that some people died in the country due to starvation. It is the primary duty of both the Central and Provincial Governments to see that not a single soul departed for want of food in the country. We may go without capital goods, we may go without even clothing if there is to be a choice between clothing and food. On account of extraordinary circumstances things have happened during recent years and this year there has been no rain in South of Madras City. North of Madras City in the Madras State whatever crops were raised have been washed away by floods. In Northern India floods have made devastation and in Bihar there has been a huge famine. All these circumstances have necessitated the importation of food. The Grow More Food Campaign has not been able to run the race with the growing population or the demands for food in the country. Therefore, it is rightly that the Government has said that we will have to import. Even at present we are not in a position to say when or for how long we will have to go on importing food. I do not envisage that in the near future we will be able to make ourselves self-sufficient. I have been hearing the statistics that have been placed before the House by my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva. These statistics are wrong, they are absolutely one-sided. I think one or two facts we must honestly address ourselves to. Prior to 1939, that is before the war broke out, we were importing into this country 1½ million tons of rice from Burma. That is an inescapable fact.

**Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh):** We were also exporting rice to Burma.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** It is a surprising fact that we were exporting rice to Burma.

**Shri Sidhva:** That is a fact.

**Prof. Ranga (Madras):** Even if it be only a few tons.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** As if those people who went there were not satisfied with Burma rice and wanted rice from North India and South India!

Excepting such people nobody else in Burma would have imported Indian rice. Anyway, for aught I know for a very long time we have been importing rice from Burma. Most of our States are rice-eating: Madras, Orissa, Bengal, Bihar and even Bombay. Therefore, it is wrong to believe that immediately, overnight, we will be able to make ourselves self-sufficient. We were also importing a large quantity from Nepal.

One other factor also has to be taken into consideration. By the partition of India we have lost a granary. Seven and a half lakh tons of wheat alone were being imported into this country from West Pakistan. The Sukkur Barrage produced large quantities of rice. Sind has gone away from us, but Sind has counter-balanced another area. Whatever is produced in Sind is now going to East Bengal.

So, after 1939 we are in deficit to the extent of 1.5 million tons from Burma and 7.5 lakh tons of wheat from Punjab, making a total deficit of 2.25 million tons. While so our population is rapidly increasing at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum. This increase in population has necessitated an additional food supply of 3 million tons a year. Thus we are in deficit to the tune of 5.25 million tons of rice or wheat or both. The Grow-More-Food campaign has been able to produce 1.5 million tons per year. Even then there is a deficit of about 4 million tons. I do not know how it is possible—except by jugglery—to meet this deficit except by importation.

It is true that we have been trying to reduce our imports because it disturbs our balance of trade, it eats away all our sterling and other balances and makes us poorer and poorer every year. It is to guard against this that the hon. Prime Minister has been asking this Government and the other State Governments also to take heed and see to it that we make ourselves self-sufficient as early as possible. If he was optimistic, he was not in the wrong. He was not a sinner. To the best of his judgment he wanted to avoid imports from other countries. We have been hard put to solving this problem. He has not been able to do so. Nobody can work a miracle on it. Therefore, my humble advice to the Government is that for a period of five or seven years we must enter into an agreement with our neighbouring countries which produce rice—Burma, Siam, and Indo-

China. If they can, under normal conditions, and without variations in price, give us so much rice over a particular period, say of five or seven years, we should enter into such an arrangement. I would also like to suggest another thing. Just as the Reserve Bank induces a large flow of money into the country and withdraws it whenever there is a surplus, likewise there must be a granary or a reserve or a food bank in this country. Unless that is done there is no chance of our reducing the food prices. Even at a great cost we must go in for the purchase of an additional 2 million tons of rice or wheat, keep it in store, whenever the prices go down purchase more, wherever the prices go up release some stocks from the granary at reduced prices. This was advised by the Food Grains Policy Committee long ago but unfortunately it was not implemented. I would urge upon the Government to carry out this scheme. First of all, we must enter into an agreement with our neighbouring countries like Indo-China, Burma and Siam for a period of five to seven years: let them get so much price and we purchase so much rice. We must build up reserve stocks.

My friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava said that there may be a deficit in rice but there is no deficit in wheat. But as far as I can see wheat also is being imported.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava** (Punjab): I never said there was no deficit in wheat. I said there might be deficit in rice and wheat, but so far as all the grains are concerned there is no overall deficit in the country.

12 NOON.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** I have no quarrel with *chena*, horsegram and blackgram. They will take care of themselves. It is wrong to put a ban upon them. I would urge upon the Government to withdraw the ban.

Then as regards subsidiary food, you say you will make all people eat sweet potatoes. Many people pose themselves as great men and try to beguile our Government into spending away moneys for various wrong enterprises. Even with respect to fruits alone or vegetables, nobody can live for eternity on them. Except for two days of Maha Ekadasi when people live on fruits, no one can live on fruits alone.

Let me now proceed to one or two other points. Mr. Sidhva's argument,

[Shri M. A. Ayyangar]

as I understood it, was this: 87 units of adults are equivalent to 100 of the population including children and others. Now he said that Government is wrong in thinking that 100 heads of the population are equal to 87 adult units. He said they are equal to 80, in which case, according to him, there will be a saving of 2 million tons. Even if we go by his optimistic figure, what is the guarantee that the 80 eat 12 oz. per day? So far as he is concerned, it may be twelve or thirteen ounces. If there were no rationing in this country persons of my stature would eat 17 ounces. Then what will happen to others? They will have to go down from 13 to 7 ounces. How can we get on? I would request Mr. Sidhva and persons of his ilk not to kill us with these statistics. They are wrong.

**Shri Sidhva:** What is the minimum you would suggest?

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** The minimum is 16 ounces, but there must be some difference between man and man, so it should be 16 ounces normal and 18 ounces abnormal.

**An Hon. Member:** Eighteen for you and sixteen for Mr. Sidhva?

**Mr. Speaker:** I would object to this cross-conversation. It takes unnecessary time. I would inform the hon. Member that the time taken by these interruptions would be taken from his time.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar:** I am sorry, Sir. I would avoid that.

As regards Pakistan, it is a vexed question. We have got a crore of refugees who have come from Pakistan. Humanity requires, whether we go to war with Pakistan or not, that when their population has been sent here they should send us food. They are a surplus country. If they want, let them send us some for money but not on the wrong exchange they are insisting upon.

With regard to the Grow-More-Food drive, there must be both extensive and intensive cultivation. So far as extensive cultivation is concerned, the Central Tractor Organisation has, according to the estimates, reclaimed about 3 lakh acres. When we asked the hon. Minister yesterday to give us figures as to how many of these acres have been really sown and as to what yield has been produced in these acres brought under cultivation, unfor-

tunately he had no figures. So far as I am aware, what the State Governments expect is that in addition to ploughing these acres they want us also to sow them from the Centre and then reap, and then put the grains in their mouth. That is how the State Governments are absolutely non-co-operating with the Centre. I would urge the Central Government to tell these State Governments which are not co-operating with them at all that they would enforce the provisions of the Constitution endowing power on the Central Government to take charge of the Food Departments in the whole country. The Centre must take charge of those projects. At present it is sheer neglect on the part of those States. Some time ago when it was reported in the Press that there were certain cases of 'starvation deaths' in Bihar, the hon. Minister went there and satisfied himself that there were really no cases of death due to starvation but that they were due to other causes. But within a fortnight or so he declared there was famine in Bihar. I believe both the statements were correct. There is no meaning in proclaiming, even if there is a single case of death, that there are hundreds of cases of death and there is starvation and there are famine conditions everywhere. He was right in avoiding that. But what he did not do was in not following up the examination that he made. He might have been satisfied that there were cases of death and he might not have been willing to proclaim it from house tops. That is the right procedure, but to deceive himself that there were no cases of death and that there was no famine and not to follow it up is a wrong thing. I do not know how far he followed it up—either he or the Provincial Government. When the procurement target was fixed at 2 lakh maunds, the Government of Bihar procured only 40,000 maunds of rice. Is it right? And then they threw the whole blame on the Central Government? The Central Government must therefore unhesitatingly impress upon that Government that they would make the procurement themselves through their own agency. That is what it ought to do. Therefore, so far as these two or three lakh acres of land which have been reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation are concerned, I would urge upon them to do one of three things. First of all, establish State farms. Let the Government itself establish State farms with respect to large tracts, say, of 10,000 acres size. Number two: if the lands are in



charge of agriculturists, let there be co-operative farming introduced. Number three: allow some people to establish joint stock companies and carry on cultivation in these areas. Allow them for a period of ten years or so to cultivate the land on a joint-stock basis. Just as we have got factories, so let there be these joint stock companies for cultivating lands. If the Government is not able to do it, what is the good of adopting a dog in the manger policy? Allow some other people to establish joint stock companies. Let them have their own ploughs and their own pumping sets, and let them mechanise and produce and throw more food into the country. That is my suggestion so far as this is concerned.

Secondly, I would urge upon the Central Government not to hold within its own hands all the tractors and try to cultivate from Cape Comorin to Himalayas. Let there be regionalisation. Let there be distribution of these tractors. Divide the country into four regions: the south, the north, the west and the east, and thus encourage intensive and extensive cultivation in these areas. They cannot be running up to the Centre from time to time.

As regards intensive cultivation, I would urge upon the Government to reverse its policy. There is a scramble in the various places for help. I come from an area consisting of five districts where there is no water. All the same, people there are clamouring for a proportionate quantity of the seeds and manure. Supposing all this is given, where are they going to throw them? There is no water there. Therefore, let there be no vacillation in this matter. Though I come from a district which is almost famine stricken, I am prepared to advise this Government to give all the seeds and much of the manure to the delta areas first. Let there be intensive cultivation of areas where there is plenty of water supply. There is no good throwing all the seeds and manure in districts which are more or less desert areas and looking forward to their being productive over a long period of time.

Then, as regards seeds, manure and implements of husbandry, I have been crying myself hoarse that for implements of husbandry at least 50 per cent. of the iron and steel that is produced must be allotted. There is a scramble between the Industries Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry. Very often, the Industries Minister on account of his bulk and size—I am referring both to the previous Minister and the present one—steals a march over the

Agriculture Minister—poor man. In my part of the country, I know that subsidies have been given for the digging of a thousand wells. But for digging these thousand wells, fifty crow bars were given. Is it possible to dig a thousand wells with fifty crow bars? If you go to the Collector, the Collector says, "Even these fifty crow bars have to be sanctioned by the Director of Agriculture from Madras. What am I to do?" Can't there be decentralisation? One other matter. We are giving subsidies to the various provinces for digging wells. A well costs Rs. 1500. We give Rs. 500. What about the other Rs. 1000? Provision is made that this Rs. 1000 may be granted to the agriculturist as a loan, but the loan Deputy Tahsildar is different from the subsidy Deputy Tahsildar. This man has to run up to the other man and then to the Registrar of Documents. Now, all this process takes a long time and by that time the winter comes in or the rainy season begins and it is impossible to dig a well. Therefore, my suggestion is that whoever sanctions the subsidy for these wells must be empowered to give the implements, pumping sets and all the other things. Personally, I am also a farmer. I had to run to the Director of Agriculture, Madras, to get a pumping set. I have about three hundreds of acres of land. Therefore, my suggestion is that the Centre must make arrangements to see that there are pumping sets readily available in various parts of the country. A pair of bullocks costs about Rs. 1000 and there is no guarantee given by God that they will last for more than two or three months. If the cattle die, the agriculturist becomes a pauper. Under these circumstances, in addition to giving subsidies, the other subsidiary things must also be attended to by the Government—such as seeds, manure, iron and steel for implements, and pumping sets.

Lastly, I would urge upon the Government that there is no good going on with expanding our cultivation in areas where there is no water. You can climb the Himalayas and plough from the top to the bottom of the slope, but where is the water? There are thirty-four millions of acres of land which are fit for cultivation but which are not being cultivated. What is the step that you are taking? Does the Collector go round and ask every man why he does not cultivate? There is no agency at all in any village to do this. Therefore, in each State the Government must be asked to legislate upon this and ensure that in each village there is established a Farmers' Association which must be able to take

[Shri M. A. Ayyangar]

charge of the lands which are not being cultivated. The head of a household may die, leaving a minor. He may not be able to cultivate. Thereby, the community suffers. Therefore, let there be Corporations or Associations of Farmers. Or *panchayats* which have the right to take charge of lands which are left fallow and which can be cultivated by proper irrigation. Number two: there is a craze for growing only commercial crops. In Coimbatore district in my province, every inch of land is being devoted to the growing of cotton, because they find it very paying. Cotton may be needed, but do you want me to go on clothing myself without food? They look to other districts for grain. That is wrong. I want legislation to be enacted in every State for crop planning. The Government must say that not more than so many acres of the holding shall be sown with either cotton or sugar cane or other commercial crops. Except in areas where no other crop could be grown, you should regulate the growing of the various crops. These are the small measures which have to be adopted and wherever a State Government is a little indifferent, let the Centre come to its rescue and take charge. If the State Government is still indifferent, let the Centre come forward and say, "God help you. Take care of yourself. I am not going to give you an ounce of grain." C.P. refused to co-operate with the Centre in procurement. Assam, from which my friend comes, unfortunately refused to co-operate. They have got such a large surplus of rice and yet they would not give even a single particle of the same away, with the result that we are going with outstretched hands to America begging for food. Is it right? This is a serious matter. This is one of the crisis years of our life. The Centre must take charge of the entire situation and it should, in co-operation with the State Governments, tide over the difficulties this year. I wish the Government godspeed.

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. Thirumala Rao):** Sir, I do not want to take much of the time of the House, because the main brunt of the reply falls on my chief, Mr. Munshi. But for the reference to the food situation in Madras Province, of which I have got some first-hand knowledge and information, I would not have stood up today. Recently, I have been in the South to Madras, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin and Hyderabad and I am very glad that my friend Mr. Ranga has shown so much solicitude for the Province of Madras

that he has complimented the Madras Government in one breath that they were able to tackle the cyclone relief in Andradesha and in the next one he could not resist the temptation of identifying himself with the *Madras Mail* that has been pouring the vials of vitriolic, unjustified criticism against the Madras Government. Sir, everybody can understand fair criticism and constructive suggestions. No doubt, the situation in Madras was so difficult that for the third time the north-east monsoon has failed in several districts and almost famine conditions were prevailing in those districts. The Centre was no less anxious than the Madras Government to help these districts as much as possible. The procurement that went on till the previous year to the tune of 13 lakhs of tons had fallen by 4 lakhs of tons. They could not procure more than nine lakh tons from the surplus areas and from other districts where grain was available. At such a critical time the Central Government had gone with all its resources, with all its sympathy, to the aid of the Madras Government and I may tell you—it is also on record—that the Madras Government have always expressed their sense of appreciation of the timely aid that has been given from the Centre. If my hon. friend Mr. Ranga relies on the uncharitable criticism of the *Madras Mail* I should like to rely on an understanding appreciation of the situation by the *Indian Express*.

It is said, Sir, that since my departure from Madras the tone of unhealthy and uncharitable criticism has gone down, because I invited the brunt of that abuse on my own head from that of the Madras Government. The paper was every day pouring out harrowing tales and when a contradiction was issued by the Madras Government that contradiction was not published by the *Madras Mail*. On the first day I reached Madras it made an attack personally on me; on the second day it made another attack and on the third day it made a third attack most unjustifiably, when I had to retort telling them that there were days till recently when people who were reading the *Madras Mail* were the real supporters of the British Government. Such a paper which had not a word of sympathy for the poor people or a word of condemnation for Lord Linlithgow's regime when the Bengal famine was raging, killing lakhs of people, that paper has suddenly turned to be a friend of the people today abusing most unjustifiably the Government of the people. I

had to give a bit of my mind to it and I may tell you that newspaper and public men testify to the fact that its conduct has changed a bit and it has been brought to its proper senses. Such a paper gains encomium from my friend Mr. Ranga.

Ask the Madras Government to what extent we have been able to help them. The allotted quota was nearly 3 lakh tons and we had to go up to 6 lakh tons. We have nearly supplied them 4,70,000 tons up to the end of October.

In the case of Travancore Cochin also there was a scare in August when their stocks fell to two or three days. Then there was a telegram from them and we have allotted more than 3 lakh tons of foodgrains to them.

The Chief Minister of Mysore was here yesterday and he met our Minister of Food. They have appreciated the very helpful way, the prompt way in which the Central Government have kept on meeting their demands, because they too had to face a difficult situation.

Hyderabad is a State that should not normally have become a surplus state. In 1946 its production figure showed that it had 3 lakh tons of surplus. Now it is deficit by one lakh tons. You know the extraordinary circumstances and conditions that prevailed in Hyderabad and the trials and tribulations through which that State had to pass during the Razaakar regime. Large tracts of land were left uncultivated by thousands of cultivators who had fled from the villages. Now they are coming back and are settled down. And if Hyderabad is to have its normal agricultural activities. I am sure it will not only feed itself, but will also be a sort of help to the deficit areas round about. And even in regard to Hyderabad you can ask that Government as to how careful and prompt we are from the Centre to rush help whenever they wanted it. Even today there is an allotment of foodgrains going to them as quickly as possible.

Therefore it is no use condemning everybody. All that is humanly possible, under the present set-up, under the present circumstances, with the administrative machinery under our control, is being done. Sir, but I want to say one thing to my hon. friend Prof. Ranga who has been teaching humility to me. I have not gone all the way to the United States of America and other places to negotiate deals with President Truman, ignoring our Prime Minister. I may tell him that I have been converted

from a traditional producer into a traditional consumer today because I had to listen to the call of Mahatma Gandhi thirty years ago and leave my ancestral property. I never sought to exploit the tradition of my ancestors which Mr. Ranga tries to do. His father may have been a producer; his grandfather may have been a producer; but he is not a producer. He is only trying to exploit fully his tradition in his favour. The day I left the portals of the University in 1921 I never thought that I should require the adventitious aid of a University degree to prove successful in my life. I have not clung on to any title of a 'professor' having been a teacher for hardly six months. I have got an open mind, but my mind is not blank. I consider myself as much a public man, with experience of public affairs, having been a journalist also. Not only that, I am more alive to the conditions of villages. I have been going to the villages; I have gone to thousands of villages on foot.

Therefore, let us not bring all these things on the floor of this House. Let us be good friends. I am always ready to acknowledge and accept his advice when it is offered in the proper spirit. I have no quarrel with him. This is the position with regard to the southern provinces of which I have got personal experience. With regard to others, I may very well leave the matter to my hon. friend Mr. Munshi who is not a novice either in the membership of the Parliament, or to the Ministership.

**The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil):** Sir, my justification for rising to participate in the discussion of the motion that is before this hon. House is that certain references were made by some hon. Members about wastage by the Government over various irrigation projects. Another line of criticism adopted was that nothing has been done so far by Government and nothing like tangible results are in evidence up till now. I have listened to the criticism. Sir, with my usual patience and although there has been a good deal of misunderstanding, what I propose to do is to throw a little light on the facts as they are today and I am sure they will afford some light to the unprejudiced critics and some food for thought to the prejudiced ones.

Sir, I am firmly of the view that land should be considered as a national asset and should be so controlled and managed, if not so owned in the immediate future. Sir, in this particular context of time, the discussion has

[Shri Gadgil]

undoubtedly created some heat probably with some justification. Sir, you are aware of the Sanskrit *shloka* which says:

अतिवृष्टिः अनावृष्टिः मूषकः बालश्वः शुक्रः ।

प्रत्यासन्नः स्मृच राजानः षड्भ्यो इतियः ताः ॥

All these six enemies of good harvest are present at the present moment. There is excess of rain; there is scarcity of rain; there are the locusts; there are rats and the birds and the war-scare. Therefore it is no wonder that the harvest is greatly affected. At the same time, Sir, I do not think that it is such a problem that we cannot solve it, given the necessary determination, given the necessary patience, given the necessary tolerance of accepting at least for a moment that the other point of view may be correct after all.

Now, Sir, I want to give the picture of the position as it was before some years, particularly before the war, during the war years, before partition and after partition.

Mr. Speaker, you will be pleased to know that this country was not self-sufficient in the matter of food even in the year 1936-37. Before that year Burma was included in India and we could then say that India was self-sufficient in the matter of food. But since the separation of Burma the figures show that from the year 1936-37 up to 1938-39 the average import was 1.3 million tons. The figures of imports in the succeeding years were:

1939-40	2 million tons.
1940-41	1 million tons.

Then there were no imports because of war till 1944. Afterwards the figures were:

1944 ...	0.6 million tons.
1945 ...	0.9 million tons.
1946 ...	2.3 million tons.
1947 ...	2.3 million tons.
1948 ...	2.8 million tons. and
1949 ...	3.7 million tons

The position before partition was that those areas which are now with Pakistan used to send round about 1 million tons to the area which is now India. Since partition, the position, so far as I am able to gauge, has worsened. What was the net effect as a result of the partition so far as food

problem was concerned? Partition in 1947 has led to a considerable worsening in this matter.

Of the total 400,000 cusecs of water carried by the canals of undivided India, nearly half is carried by canals now in Pakistan. And of the total of 33 million acres of land irrigated by State-controlled canals, a little more than half now lie in Pakistan. This has been a serious blow to the food situation in India. With 18 per cent. of the population of undivided India, Pakistan got 23 per cent. of the total area, 32 per cent. of the rice, 35 per cent. of the wheat and 25 per cent. of all foodgrains of undivided India.

It had been estimated, as I said, that this area used to supply round about 1 million tons of cereals to the area now known as India. That, Sir, will give some idea, as I said, to the complexity of the problem. And what have we done? Apart from the details that may be made available by subsequent speakers, I want to say that the area under irrigation in 1947 was 49 million acres. It rose to 49.5 million acres in 1948. In 1949 it has gone up to 50 million acres. Of course this is not very much, because out of 236 million acres of land cultivated 50 million acres is not much. It works out to 21 per cent. of the cultivated land and 13 per cent. of the total culturable land available in this country.

Undoubtedly it has been said so often that India is a rich country with a poor people and therefore it is a challenge to our engineering ability, our talent to plan and our will to execute what we ultimately desire. There are plenty of resources. In fact God has been so merciful not only in giving enough water for our rivers but he has so distributed them that even the most successful Planning Commission could not have done it better—right from the north to the south, from the east to the west. If you only plan well and execute it with determination I am sure there will not be any area, big or small, to which the facilities of irrigation cannot be carried. The quantity of water that flows annually through the rivers of India has been estimated at 1,356 million acre feet. Of this only 70 million acre feet, or a little less than 6 per cent., is at present being put to beneficial use for purposes of irrigation and the remaining 94 per cent. runs waste doing untold damage in its passage to the sea.

What have we done in the course of these three years? Our best engineers

were put on this problem. They surveyed most of the river valleys, collected data, they have been successful in drawing up some schemes and some of them are actually under construction. Only to let this hon. House know the extent to which things are at present going on I would like to give some figures. The present position is that after preliminary or detailed investigation a large number of schemes have been taken up for construction. At present there are 135 such schemes at a total cost of Rs. 590 crores which are at present under construction in different parts of the country. Twelve of these schemes may be called major projects costing over Rs. 10 crores each. There are twenty-four medium size projects costing between Rs. 2 and 10 crores each, totalling Rs. 103 crores. In addition there are 99 smaller schemes costing less than that.

The benefit which will start accruing from some of these projects from 1951-52 may be indicated. The additional irrigation in terms of million acres will be of the following order:

1951-52	...	0.6 million acres.
1952-53	...	1.1 million acres.
1953-54		2 million acres.
1954-55		4.3 million acres.
1955-56	...	5.5 million acres.

It goes on increasing till in the year 1960-61 it will be 12.9 million acres.

**Shri Bharati (Madras):** May I know what is the book from which the hon. Minister is reading?

**Shri Gadgil:** Well, it is only for official use.

**Prof. Ranga:** Sir, is it permissible for any Member of this House including a Minister to quote from a book even the title of which cannot be made available to the House?

**Shri Gadgil:** I said it is only for official use, but I may bring to the notice of the House that the whole thing has been published in one of the newspapers.

**Shrimati Durgabai (Madras):** Would the hon. Minister tell the House as to what is the total sum spent so far on preliminary investigations and the survey that has been made of the river valley projects?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is just giving figures of additional acreage that will accrue and which will result in more production of food.

**Shri Gadgil:** Sir, just as the river takes its own course let me take my own course.

In terms of food these schemes will give you:

In 1951-52	0.2 million tons,
in 1952-53	0.4 million tons,
in 1953-54	0.7 million tons,
in 1954-55	1.4 million tons,
in 1955-56	1.8 million tons,
in 1956-57	2.2 million tons,

and ultimately in 1960-61 4.3 million tons.

These schemes which are under construction and which are being pursued vigorously in spite of financial difficulty, and if Members of this hon. House want to say that nothing has been done I have nothing more to say. We all know that the radical problem is that of food and unless this is solved no other problem can be solved. That land remaining stationary and the population growing at a tremendous rate—for which I need not say who are responsible—the only way in which we can proceed is to follow a policy of intensive cultivation by providing irrigation facilities. This will provide what I may call proximate solution to an apparently insoluble problem. There is no other way and all the arguments, all the eloquence and all that happened since yesterday will be of no use. Every effort is being made by this Government so far as the short-term plan is concerned and I have not the slightest doubt that what happened in 1943, when lakhs of people died because of bad administration, nothing of that kind will happen now. I want to say that these schemes have started, but there must be some time-factor intervening between the commencement and the completion, just as no science has ever discovered the manner in which the time between conception and birth can be accelerated, no amount of ingenuity and no amount of engineering skill can advance the time-table which has been evolved after due consideration. Acharya Kripalani referred to shooting of birds; I am not in the habit of shooting birds and certainly I will not shoot birds of the same feather. These are facts and these facts will not be altered one way or the other by whatever eloquence that may be exhibited on the floor of this House. I therefore wish hon. Members to fully realize what is being done. We are like a garrison which has been surrounded on all sides, and as I said, both internally and externally and things are somewhat dark. Wisdom lies in going thoughtfully and

[Shri Gadgil]

methodically and above all, going in an atmosphere of understanding and mutual co-operation. If that is done, I have not the slightest doubt, as I said a few minutes before, we will overcome this great difficulty but if we demoralise the services on which for some time as they are constituted we have to depend, and also demoralise the people at large with the result that if there is a scarcity in Bihar, if it is so much exaggerated and if an atmosphere of panic is created, the panic will not limit itself within the territorial limits of Bihar; it goes all over the country and everybody will try to gather as much as he can, thinking that some great calamity is coming; that is not the way to be followed by a patriotic citizen. I would therefore urge let us think out calmly. Neither I, nor the Government of which I am a part claim infallibility; that is a virtue left for those who are the critics and who probably will never have any opportunity to govern. But those who have to administer things will have to work and they fully realize that there are limitations of action and whatever constructive suggestions may be made, I am sure they will be duly considered. But short of that, if this forum which ought to provide inspiration and guidance in a circumstance like this is to be used for demoralising the people, I feel the future of this country will be very dark. I feel there is something in the genius of our people which makes them rise to the occasion at the critical hour and I hope this will be the case at the present moment.

**Shri Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras):** Sir, this question consists of two parts. The one we are trying to meet by some shibboleths and sentiment, and the other we fight shy of facts. Now, what are the facts? The facts are, that the hon. Minister for Food makes an announcement here in Delhi that he is able to give 12 ounces of cereals to everybody in the country and that there is no starvation. But we go into the country and find that even the most populous towns have only 8 ounces—4 ounces of rice and 4 ounces of wheat, in places like Coimbatore and Madras. Similarly, if we go to the villages, we find that 3 ounces are given there sometimes; sometimes for weeks, there is no stock at all in the villages. That is the sorry tale that we find. But there is the other side of the picture, namely that in spite of the fact that there is under-supply and non-supply at times, people do not starve; they somehow live. It is said by the experts that 12 ounces are necessary for people like us, and at least 16

ounces for labourers.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

In Coimbatore, for instance, which is a labour centre, we find that only 8 ounces are supplied by the ration shops but nobody is weak enough to give up his work or stay away from his work. This fact has to be faced and not dealt with by saying that every black-marketeer should be hung on the tree and everything should be done to stop black marketing. If these people live and if we are able to live, I want every Member here to put his hand on his heart and say what he is doing. Everyone of us is living simply because of the black market. In the present state of affairs the black market really helps as a boon and not as a curse. This will have to be recognized before we decay the whole thing. What is it due to? The fact is that we have not got a proper system of management of this very difficult and big question. What we are doing is that we are only playing, with some sort of theoretical arrangement, we say we ought to control the whole supply and the whole production; everything we ought to control. Is it possible to control these is the question and that is not faced at all. Has anybody been able to control either the production or distribution? Not at all. Are they able to give sufficient to the agriculturist to make him produce the food and sell it at the price they want him to sell it? It is an impossibility. What is really happening is certain lands which are water-logged or those which require to be changed for rotation purposes produce food grains. In the rest of the country commercial crops are being grown on the land and they yield several-fold. There are two classes of cases, where a cereal crop is produced and they produce crop worth about Rs. 250 an acre. If the same land is put for cropping cotton, for instance, it gives you Rs. 1,000; if you put it for the production of sugarcane, it gives as much as 2,500 to Rs. 3,000 in some parts of my province. Can you really expect the cultivator, who can put his land under sugarcane or cotton, to grow paddy, which will give him only Rs. 250? That is the straight question that has to be answered. Paddy is grown because of the black market. What is happening is this. I made searching enquiries. There is a black market which is an open market. In the ration shops, you are supposed to sell at not more than Rs. 20 a maund. Where the ration shop is not properly supervised, the ration shop itself is a black market. Leaving these ration shops, whatever is required is avail-

able. It is not denied that there have been stories in the *Madras Mail*, as pointed out by Mr. Thirumala Rao, of starvation and all that. No doubt, there were some deaths. But, the deaths were not due to want of grain, but for want of power to purchase the grain. In the black market paddy is being sold openly at Rs. 100 a bag.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Rice; not paddy.

**Shri Ramalingam Chettiar:** I am sorry; rice is being sold at Rs. 100 a bag. It is openly sold and you can get any quantity you want. There is absolutely no difficulty in getting it. That is the position. But the people are so poor that they are not able to purchase rice at that price. I have heard even in Delhi several of the clerks, who were supposed to be well paid in the old days, say that the ration they are getting does not suffice even for five days in the week and if they have got children, they find it all the more difficult. In the houses of many of these clerks there is only one cooking in a day because of the high price of rice. This high price is the direct result of this inefficient control and the corrupt practices which it leads to. That is the difficulty which you are facing. Unless we are going to face that situation and bring about a change, it is not possible to do anything.

I am not a believer in absolutely giving up all controls at once. What I would suggest is this. So far as the villages are concerned, it is better you leave them alone to grow their own food. In cases where there is a failure of monsoon, or any flood or other extraordinary circumstances, you may supply them with something. Otherwise, the villagers can grow their own food and they can distribute it among themselves. In the towns and labour centres, it will be necessary to continue rationing for some time. The cereals necessary for this purpose can be got not from the deficit areas like our districts, but from surplus areas. Where the surplus areas also are not able to supply the necessary quantity, you may import. It will be necessary for this purpose to have, as a safeguard, a sort of a stock at the beginning. Government will have to spend as much as is necessary to have this stock in the Centre, rather of the Centre, distributed in the various places where it is badly required. You have to stock some quantity so that in cases of emergency, you may rush the supply whenever it is necessary. Otherwise, you can get supplies from the surplus areas for the towns and labour centres. Fix a

maximum price for some time, because, an immediate change may lead to a rise in the prices. What really happens is this. There is a black market price; there is a ration price. The ration price is an artificial one. It comes to Rs. 20 a bag. The black market price, as I said is Rs. 100 a bag. In my province it has now come down to Rs. 72. When we take away the control, what you will find is an approximation of the two. It would not be the ration price and we should not be surprised if there is a rise in the price of cereals. For the purpose of actual administration, it may be necessary to continue price fixation for some time. But, at the same time we must take the trouble to see that normalcy is restored as soon as possible, and that the price control is taken away later on.

Subject to this, I would suggest this arrangement. This arrangement of forcing the people to give up whatever they have got immediately after the harvest is over, and then not supplying them with their requirements should be given up. Yesterday, Mr. Ranga was complaining that in a place like his which is a surplus area, there is rationing. They want supplies from outside. The reason is this. At the time when the harvest is over, whatever is available is taken away to other areas where they are wanted. When these people in the surplus areas want paddy, they have to get it from outside. This system has done great havoc. In the case of prices, what happens is this. You procure in an area at the rate of Rs. 12 a bag and in the same area you are selling at Rs. 16. This is unconscionable. Nobody could put up with a thing like that. The villagers are surprised and they feel that they are being cheated every day by this sort of arrangement. Why should we procure from a village at the rate of Rs. 12 a bag and sell to the same people at the rate of Rs. 16 a bag later on? This is not a fair way of dealing with things. In the olden days, what we did was, whatever we produced, we kept in the village and only the surplus was sent out. That is not being done now. Everything that is grown is immediately procured and sent away, with the result that there is starvation in the place where there is surplus.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** If a village is deficit in its production, then Government has to send.

**Shri Ramalingam Chettiar:** They have got to be given. There is no difficulty with regard to them. I am sorry to take up more time. I want only a minute or two to explain the position.

[Shri Ramalingam Chettiar]

In 1942-43 when we had trouble in Madras, we actually worked the following system. We selected about 58 places, towns and labour centres. There, the co-operative societies undertook to get paddy from surplus areas, sufficient quantity to last for two months. They always kept two months' stock so that in case of any trouble, they may not be left in the lurch. So far as the villages were concerned, they were left to manage their own affairs and there was absolutely no difficulty.

What is now happening is this. At the time of harvest, the so-called general licensees, who are sometimes namelenders for the officials themselves, go and tell the villagers that they have not got storage facilities, that they have not got financial accommodation and so they would pay only Rs. 2 less. The unfortunate poor people at the time of harvest have to sell their produce at a price which is less than even the ceiling price. This is a very unfortunate state of affairs. From East Godavari District from which Mr. Thirumala Rao comes and from Nellore District also, I have heard stories about it. At the time of the harvest, the poor ryot has to sell his produce for two rupees less than the ceiling price to the licensee whereas the licensee can sell it at Rs. 100 a bag, as I said, in the black market. What I would request the hon. Mr. Munshi is this. Of course, he is trying to do his best with the cereals at his disposal. But, that is not enough. He will have to improve the system in such a way that Government takes responsibility for only what it can perform. But at the present moment they have taken the responsibility for everything and that is a very wrong thing. They should reduce their responsibility and take on only that responsibility they can perform. That is what I would request the hon. Minister Mr. Munshi to consider for the future.

**Shri Damodara Menon (Travancore-Cochin):** Sir, there are only five more minutes for the clock to strike "one" and .....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** You may finish in five minutes.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** I will try, but many people here would rather welcome a lunch now more than a speech.

**An Hon. Member:** Please speak in the mike.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member may use the mike.

**Shri Damodara Menon:** But I am not sure if the mike is working. Anyway I shall raise my voice.

I come from a deficit area—the State of Travancore-Cochin, and the adjoining district of Malabar. These areas have been suffering from food deficit for a long time. Even before the last war, we in these areas depended on imports from Coorg, from Burma and other places to make up our deficit. Today the situation, as all of us know, has become very bad indeed. Of course, ours is a statutorily rationed area. But in spite of that, very often we are going on with 6 oz. and occasionally 4 oz. of grains, and this is a very pitiable state of affairs. My friend Mr. Thirumala Rao said just now that he was able to give three lakh tons of rice to Travancore-Cochin at this time of crisis. We are thankful to him and to the Central Government for this help. But all the same, our situation there even today is far from satisfactory, and the people in the villages are suffering very much. They are, more or less, on semi-starvation diet.

It is all very well saying that the people of South India should consume more of wheat and less of rice and change their diet habits. But diet habits take a long time to change, especially in the villages, and if you ask the villager to live on 4 oz. and even 6 oz. of rice daily, I do not think he will be in a position to continue his existence in this world for long or sufficiently long even to change over to wheat. He cannot do it suddenly. Actually the other day a villager asked me whether our Government have developed a "diabetes complex" as otherwise he could not explain why the Government was putting such severe restraints on the consumption of rice and sugar.

This state of affairs has got to improve. Of course, I am not complaining against or blaming the Central Government, but I do hope it will be possible for the Food Minister to give us more rice and thus help us from starvation.

There is another point I want to dwell on and that is about the fixing of the date for food self-sufficiency. This date, as has been mentioned in the President's Address is fixed at March,



1952 That is the target date for self-sufficiency in food. It is well and good to fix a date like that, for that induces us to produce more, and if I may say so, helps us to put an all-out effort to attain the target within the time-limit. But if we are going to put a strict interpretation on it and stop all imports of food from March 1952, then that will work real hardship. I therefore, hope that the Government will continue to import more and more foodgrains into this country, for that has become necessary. That has become all the more necessary at the present day, because as the President has remarked we are probably on the verge of a war, and if our worst fears come true and war breaks out, then it may be on the food front that we shall first collapse. Therefore, as a precautionary measure it is necessary for our Government to import as much foodstuff as possible and accumulate a food store so that we may be able to weather the storm if it should ever come.

I am afraid I have almost reached the time limit, and I will only add a few words with regard to the controls. I do not want to continue the speech after lunch and I would crave indulgence of Members for one or two minutes more.

I am one of those who think that controls are necessary in the present context of things; but I have my quarrels about the way the controls are working. The administrative machinery that we have inherited from the past is not able to cope with the work of control and therefore, the people are suffering. The moment control comes it becomes almost a universal feature that the article under control disappears from the open market. We had sugar control and sugar became not available in the market. Now we have *gur* or jaggery control and the villager today finds that there is no jaggery in the market. Therefore, before we launch upon a control, will it not be possible for our Government to see that the existing stocks do not disappear the moment the control comes? Therefore I would request our energetic Food Minister to apply his mind to improve the machinery of control. That would remove much of the complaints that we have today.

Sir, at a time like this when we are faced with a grave international situation, I think all of us should help in producing more and more of food. Food production is our primary necessity now. But in our own State of Travancore-Cochin, and also in Malabar District, a lot of land has been reclaimed and there is a great deal of effort, heroic effort I must say, on the part of the people and the Government to produce more. In this con-

nection I want to sound a note of warning. Our own State of Travancore-Cochin is producing a lot of money crops like coconut, rubber, tea, coffee and cardamum. Much of this today is fetching a lot of dollar for the whole country. But this reclamation process, I find, is to some extent hampering the expansion of these money crops. I want the Food Minister to consider this problem whether in a State like Travancore-Cochin and also in Malabar, where climatic conditions are favourable for the expansion of such very important money crops like rubber, cardamum, tea and coffee, we should extend our food production in these areas at the expense of these money crops. I am sure we should not plan for self-sufficiency in any narrow sense, and it must be possible for the rest of India to support us when we are producing such valuable crops.

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

*The House reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

**Shri Karunakara Menon (Madras):** The Presidential Address made reference to the recent natural calamities and disasters which have taken place in our country but does not refer to the existing food situation in it. The situation continues to be very grave. There is great discontent and from the actual investigation conducted by me in my part of the country—I can speak with personal knowledge—there were several portions in my district itself where starvation prevailed for 10 or 12 days a couple of months ago. This fact has been admitted both by the Minister concerned of the Madras Province and also by the local Collector in their proceedings and statements. The situation was very grave for 10 or 12 days. People in the rural parts from whom every grain had been collected in the course of procurement, had no means of getting any food grains, and they had to starve. Now the situation has been aggravated by the events in the North.

What are the factors existing in the food situation of today? For the fourth time in the Madras Presidency the North East Monsoon has failed and the calamities referred to in the Presidential Address have occurred in the North. To add to these the border situation of our country has become very insecure. The Communist activities are not on the wane but are increasing. Today's papers say that the Communist ban is to be removed and that the detained Communists are to be released and so they are going to

[Shri Karunakara Menon]

have a free field. The situation therefore in the country is extremely explosive. Nobody can deny that it is the fundamental duty of the Government to see that no man dies of starvation. To add to all this if a world war breaks out we do not know where we all will be.

Much has been said about self-sufficiency but I have no faith that this will come about during the next ten years. Notwithstanding the very optimistic view expressed by the Minister for Works, Mines and Power in the course of his speech today I do not entertain that optimism. Even if all the irrigation schemes mentioned by him in his speech fructified it will take a long time before people are induced to occupy the tracts which are likely to be benefited by these schemes and it will also take a long time before the lands are made fit for cultivation. So we are not going to be self-sufficient by 1952 as regards food and what is the remedy to encounter this critical situation?

I believe the only two remedies are, first controls—which ought to be continued not in the present fashion, but by introducing modifications—a more strict and efficient control has to be adopted. Secondly, more imports of food grains have to be made. People have to be made enthusiasts in the Grow More Food Campaign. On account of the fault of the Government in the way in which the Grow More Food Campaign is being carried out lands which were for years under food are being diverted to growing commercial crops. In my own part of the country, Malabar, large acres which had been used for food grains are now being turned to coconut cultivation. The reason is partly because people find it very difficult to cultivate food grains on account of the procurement rules prevailing. Food grains are taken away by procurement officers and if the season fails for a second time the people have no grains with them for seed. Then there is corruption among the officers in charge of control. It is very difficult to satisfy them. Moreover the agriculturists think that the price offered for the grains is inadequate. Therefore, the cultivators think that if instead of rice they take to some other cultivation like ginger, coconut, arecanut, etc., the incursions of these officers could be avoided and they can peacefully get on. Besides these reasons, commercial crops fetch better prices than paddy if they were to grow them on those lands. Corruption and black-marketing accompany these controls. I know as a fact that on the road in front of my house boys with baskets of rice on their head

enter houses and ask whether people want rice. What is the use of control if such black-marketing can take place? I brought it to the notice of the Collector but he did not take serious notice of it. Perhaps he had secret instructions to allow black-marketing; otherwise I cannot explain how when there is control this sort of open black-marketing can go on. Therefore the remedy is to see that the defects of the control are removed. If control exists there is some guarantee that in times of trouble the Government will somehow feed the people, at least with three or four ounces of rice to enable them to linger on with their lives. But the evils of control have to be done away with. It should also be seen that the controls are not worked in such a way that they reduce the area of land used for cultivation of the food crops.

I am certainly of opinion that monopoly purchase ought to be introduced by the Government. No man ought to be allowed to sell paddy, wheat or other food grain to any person but the Government. The sale or purchase between citizens ought to be stopped.

The second suggestion that I have to make is this. After all, India is one country, it is our country. As such a uniform system of rationing should be introduced throughout the country from one end to the other. No distinction ought to be made between the food surplus areas and the deficit areas. If the people are made to understand that our country is one and this is a critical time, I am sure every State will be prepared to follow a uniform system of rationing.

So, my suggestions are that controls are necessary, State monopoly should be introduced with respect to purchase, and uniformity in rationing should also be introduced. But, only if along with these, imports of food grains in large quantities are allowed, we can have salvation from the critical situation in which we are placed. Before the war we know we used to import large quantities from abroad. Now we have to prepare ourselves by importing twice that quantity which we were importing before the war. We have to prepare ourselves because we are in a critical situation. The North-East monsoon has failed; conditions in the North also are very unfortunate as mentioned in the Presidential Address. The world situation is very bad. Our borders are in danger. We do not know what is going to happen tomorrow. At this time of crisis it is our duty to prepare ourselves. We should try to get twice the quantity that we were importing before the war and store rice, wheat and the other cereals that are used by the people. We should pre-

pare ourselves to meet any contingency. Unless these suggestions of the controls being continued, not only more rigorously but more wisely, increasing our imports to much more than what we are doing today, and not depending much upon our self-sufficiency scheme, are considered and acted upon, sure as anything we are going to encounter a disaster much more critical than what had taken place in China and other countries of the world. I am sure the Communists will make use of the least opportunity that we give them. We have to be very watchful. The Government will have to prepare themselves by importing more and administering the control in a very efficient and beneficent manner, not in any way hindering the grow-more-food campaign. At present the administration of controls has a good deal of deleterious effect on the grow-more-food campaign. No assistance is rendered by the Government to the cultivators, though the Government are making much of what they are doing. The cultivators are not getting manure and they have to go a distance of about ten or fifteen miles to get it. I suggest that in every village or in a group of four or five villages a depot should be opened where manure could be sold to the cultivators. And, as mentioned by an hon. friend who spoke before me, iron implements required for cultivation should also be made easily and cheaply available to these cultivators. Moreover, the rigorous way in which procurement has been going on should, in the case of actual cultivators, be made a bit more reasonable. In the case of large land-owners, *Jemnies* as they are called in our part of the country, though they have plenty in their granaries they are excused by the procurement officials. But the poor people are robbed of what little they have. They have not even got seeds to sow. Government should look into these things and see that the great disaster that is impending is avoided.

श्री राधेलाल व्यास : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे आपने जो बोलने का अवसर दिया है उस के लिए मैं आप का अत्यंत आभारी हूँ। माननीय राष्ट्रपति के भाषण के सम्बन्ध में जो आभार प्रदर्शन का प्रस्ताव हाउस (House) के सामने आया है उस का मैं हृदय से समर्थन करता हूँ।

राष्ट्रपति के भाषण में हमारी वर्तमान खाद्य परिस्थिति का दिग्दर्शन बहुत ही

सुन्दर ढंग से किया गया है। उन्होंने आज की विषम परिस्थिति के कारणों को बतलाते हुए चार बातों की ओर हमारा ध्यान दिलाया है, और वह हैं प्राकृतिक विपत्तियाँ और दुर्घटनायें, अतिवृष्टि और अनावृष्टि। यह भारतवर्ष हमारा इतना बड़ा देश है कि इस प्रकार की प्राकृतिक दुर्घटनायें और विपत्तियाँ तो प्रति वर्ष किसी न किसी रूप में इस देश के किसी न किसी प्रदेश में जरूर होती रहेंगी और होती रही हैं, बल्कि किसी एक स्टेट (State) के किसी एक भाग में भी यह दुर्घटनायें प्रति वर्ष होती रहती हैं। परन्तु हमें इन दुर्घटनाओं की सम्भावनाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए अपनी प्रगति को आगे बढ़ाना है और अपनी व्यवस्था को कायम रखना है और खाद्यान्न के मामले में आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करनी है। आत्मनिर्भरता तक पहुँचने के लिए जो व्यवस्था उन्होंने बतलाई है उस में अनाज के संग्रह और अनाज का जो कुछ भी भाग हमारे पास है उस का सदुपयोग करने की ओर उन्होंने ध्यान दिलाया है। लेकिन अब अनाज का जो दुरुपयोग होता है जो डिटरियोरेशन (Deterioration) होता है उस की कमी की ओर जन सरकार का ध्यान दिलाने का प्रयत्न नहीं किया है। लगभग दस प्रति शत खाद्यान्न हमारे देश में कम है और इतना ही खाद्यान्न वृहत् के खाने से और सड़ने गलने से खराब जाता है, उस के लिए क्या साधन जुटाये गये हैं, क्या प्रयत्न किया गया है, उस में कहाँ तक सफलता मिली है, कितनी अनाज की खराबी में कमी हुई है इस को ओर कोई संकेत नहीं किया गया है, न हमारे सामने आंकड़े हैं। मैं समझता हूँ हमारे खाद्य मंत्री जी जरूर इस पर कुछ प्रकाश डालेंगे। यह खाद्यान्न का जो विनाश हो रहा है

[श्री राधेलाल व्यास]

उस की रोक तुरन्त की जाये तो बहुत कुछ कमी जो आज देश में हो रही है उस की पूर्ति हो सकती है। इस प्रकार से एक ओर जहाँ हम राशनिंग (Rationing) इन्ट्रोड्यूस (Introduce) करते हैं, जहाँ अनाज सरकारी रूप से विनरित करते हैं वहाँ हम यह भी देखते हैं कि अनाज का दुरुपयोग दूसरी प्रकार से बहुत होता है। कितनी दावतों में हम देखते हैं कि लोग जितनी आवश्यकता होती है उस से अधिक खाते हैं और खाते समय जूटन भी छोड़ते हैं। इस के रोक के लिए देश में कौन सा प्रयत्न किया गया है ? यदि हम हिसाब लगायें तो ओवरफीडिंग (Over-feeding) के कारण देश के अनाज का बहुत बड़ा भाग नष्ट हो जाता है और उस का बहुत दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। इस की रोक के लिए अब तक कोई प्रयत्न नहीं किया गया है, कोई ऐसा क़ानून नहीं बनाया गया है जिस से इस की रोक हो। इस की रोक के लिए काफ़ी जनमत तैयार किया जाये और लोक शिक्षण की व्यवस्था की जाये। इस की ओर भी सरकार का ध्यान जाना आवश्यक है। आत्मनिर्भरता का प्रोग्राम भी एक मुख्य प्रोग्राम है और यह निश्चित है कि हम हमेशा के लिए खाद्यान्न पर नियंत्रण नहीं रख सकते हैं और यह हमारा लक्ष्य भी नहीं है। हम तो एक बिल्कुल आवश्यक अनिवार्यता के कारण ही खाद्यान्न पर नियंत्रण रखे हुए हैं। जितनी जल्द हमें इस से छूटकारा मिले वह मार्ग हमें प्राप्त करना है। परन्तु अब हम देखते हैं कि हमारे दो विभाग हैं। एक प्रो-क्यूरमेन्ट (Procurement) करने वाला और वितरण करने वाला है और बाहर से मंगाने वाला है और दूसरा कृषि विभाग है।

दोनों में जितना कोऑर्डिनेशन (Coordination) होना चाहिये उतना में समझता हूँ कि नहीं है। अधिक ध्यान फूड डिपार्टमेंट (Food Department) की तरफ, वितरण और संग्रह की ओर दिया जाता है। कृषि विभाग की ओर उतना ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है, उतना पैसा कृषि के ऊपर नहीं खर्च किया जाता है। एक तरफ़ हम देखते हैं कि करोड़ों अरबों रुपये बाहर से अनाज मंगाने में सबसिडी (Subsidy) आदि के रूप में दिये जाते हैं, परन्तु हमारे देश में जो साधन उपलब्ध हैं उन का उपयोग करने के लिए, उन को डेवेलप (Develop) करने के लिए, पैसे की कमी है। जहाँ बीज की आवश्यकता होती है वहाँ पर बीज नहीं मिल पाता है। अभी मुझे अपने राजस्थान के मित्रों से मालूम हुआ कि वहाँ पर चने के बीज की कमी है। उन्होंने यहाँ के फूड विभाग से चने की मांग की, लेकिन उन को केवल पांच सौ टन चना ही मिला जब कि उन की मांग दस हजार टन की है। मुझे मध्य भारत का अनुभव है कि जब हम न बीज के लिए अनाज की मांग की तो समय पर बीज नहीं मिला और जो कुछ मिलता भी है वह बड़ी कठिनाई से और काफ़ी समय बीत जाने पर ही मिलता है। इस की वजह से जितना अनाज ज्यादा पैदा किया जा सकता था, जितना लाभ हो सकता था वह नहीं हो सका और उत्पत्ति में कमी रही। तो इस के लिए जिन साधनों की हमें आवश्यकता है वह साधन हम को जुटाने चाहियें।

एक तरफ़ हम ट्रैक्टर (Tractors) की योजनाओं को लागू कर रहे हैं और

नई जमीन को आबाद कर रहे हैं, पर जो जमीनें आबाद हैं और जिन की उपज कम हो गई है उस उपज को बढ़ाने के लिए कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है। कोई कारण नहीं है कि जब अमरीका और रूस में प्रति एकड़ काफ़ी पैदावार होती है तो हमारे देश में क्यों कम पैदावार हो। किसानों को वह उपाय क्यों नहीं बतलाये जाते हैं कि जिन से प्रति एकड़ काफ़ी उपज बढ़ सकती है। अगर प्रति एकड़ उपज काफ़ी बढ़ाई जाये तो मैं समझता हूँ कि नई जमीन को आबाद करने की कोई आवश्यकता नहीं होगी, बल्कि उस जमीन का उपयोग दूसरी पैदावारों को पैदा करने में किया जा सकेगा, या जब कि हमारे देश की आबादी काफ़ी बढ़ जायेगी तो उस जमीन का सदुपयोग किया जा सकेगा। यदि हम ईल्ड (yield) को बढ़ाने में इतना अधिक ध्यान देते तो मेरा विश्वास है कि एक, दो या तीन साल में ही हम इतना अधिक उत्पन्न कर सकते थे कि खाद्यान्न के मामले में हम आत्मनिर्भर हो जाते।

हम कांस इरेडिकेशन (Eradication) के लिए और पड़ती जमीन को आबाद करने के लिए ट्रैक्टर्स का उपयोग कर रहे हैं। पर हमें यह सोचना चाहिये कि जो जमीन पहले आबाद थी उस में यह कांस क्यों पैदा हो गया। मैं समझता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश और मध्य भारत में जो कांस अधिक हुआ है उस की वजह यह है कि वहाँ पशु घन की कमी रही है। मध्य भारत का तो मुझे प्रत्यक्ष अनुभव है। वहाँ हमारे भेलसा जिले में काफ़ी कांस उग आया है क्योंकि वहाँ के किसानों के पास बैल नहीं हैं। आज हमारे देश में पशु घन की कमी की

एक विशेष समस्या है। इन ओर भी हमारा ध्यान जाना चाहिये क्योंकि बग़ैर सस्ते बैलों के अच्छी खेती नहीं हो सकती। आज भेलसा में यह हालत है कि वहाँ बैल तीन चार साल से अधिक ज़िन्दा नहीं रहते। हमें वह उपाय निकालने होंगे कि जिस से पशुओं की बीमारियाँ दूर हो जाये, उन को अच्छा फ़ाडर (Fodder) खाने को मिले, अच्छे नस्ल के बैल पैदा हों। आज मध्य प्रदेश और मध्य भारत में बैलों की कमी है। आज इस कमी को दूर करने के लिए और पशुओं की संख्या बढ़ाने के लिए जितना हमारा ध्यान होना चाहिये उतना नहीं है। इस कमी को दूर करने के लिए और पशुओं का सुधार करने के लिये हमें जगह जगह वेटेरिनरी (Veterinary) अस्पताल खोलने चाहिये और इस तरह से उन की बीमारियों को रोकना चाहिये क्योंकि बीमारियों से लाखों की तादाद में बैल प्रति वर्ष मर जाते हैं। इस को रोकने के लिए कोई साधन उपलब्ध नहीं किया जाता है और उस की ओर इतना ध्यान भी नहीं है। इस तरह से हमारे देश का धन नष्ट होता चला जा रहा है। इस को रोकने के अर्थ में जुटाने की भी ज़रूरत है।

इसी तरह से पैदावार बढ़ाने के उपाय हैं। उन में एक उपाय सिंचाई है। उस के लिए हमारे वर्क्स, माइन्स मिनिस्टर साहब (Minister for Works, Mines & Power) ने सुन्दर योजनाओं की ओर ध्यान दिलाया है लेकिन वह तो बड़ी बड़ी योजनायें हैं और उन के पूरा होने में कई साल भी लगेंगे। लेकिन बहुत सी ऐसी छोटी छोटी योजनायें हैं, जैसे गाँवों में कुएँ खुदवाना, नये

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तालाब बनाना, पुराने तालाबों की मरम्मत कराना और लोगों को कर्ज बगैरह दे कर उस साधन को बढ़ाना जिस से कि जल्दी से जल्दी अनाज की पैदावार उन सिंचाई वाले इलाकों में बढ़ सके। इस ओर अभी ध्यान नहीं है। इस की ओर ज्यादा ध्यान देने की जरूरत है। यह बड़े बड़े प्रोजेक्ट्स (Projects) हर जगह नहीं बन सकेंगे और हर जगह सफल भी नहीं होंगे, परन्तु हम को छोटी छोटी नदियों, खालों और नालों में बांध बना कर पानी की एक एक बूंद का सदुपयोग करना चाहिये जिस से हमारे देश में अनाज की पैदावार काफी बढ़ सके और साथ ही में जहां पर सिंचाई की कमी की वजह से कम पैदावार होती है, जैसे मालवे में, वहां पैदावार बढ़ाई जा सके और एक के बजाय दो फसलों की जा सकें। वहां की जमीन बहुत अच्छी है मगर सिंचाई के साधनों की कमी के कारण वहाँ केवल एक ही फसल होती है। उस जमीन में सिंचाई कर के हम एक फसल की बजाय दो फसल पैदा कर सकते हैं। इस से हमारे देश में जो खाद्यान्न की कमी है वह एक दम दूर हो सकती है। लेकिन इस के लिए हमें प्लानिंग (Planning) करना होगा, और देखना होगा कि किन किन रियासतों में कौन कौन साधन हैं जिन का कि उपयोग किया जा सकता है। उन साधनों का उपयोग कर के हमें वहां खाद्यान्न की कमी को दूर करना है और जहां कमी नहीं है व हम उपज और बढ़ाते हुए आगे चलें। १८ के लिए एक कमीशन (Commissio कायम होना चाहिये। वह कमीशन स्थायी रहे। वह सब रियासतों में जाये और प्रांतों में भी और वहां के लोगों से जो

इस में विकसत्की रखते हैं सलाह मसलवा करे और जो विशेषज्ञ हैं उन से मसलवा करे और हर जगह के लिए योजनायें बनाये। हर रियासत के पास इतने साधन नहीं हैं कि वह अपने लिए विशेषज्ञ रख सकें क्योंकि पैसे की इतनी कमी है। इस लिए रियासतें अपने लिए बलम अलग खर्च नहीं कर सकतीं। अगर ऐसा कमीशन नियुक्त किया गया तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह सब को मालूम हो सकेगा कि जो अलग अलग एक्सपेरिमेंट (Experiments) किये जाते हैं रियासतों में उन में कौन सफल हुआ और कौन सफल नहीं हुआ, और जो इस तरह पसा व्यर्थ जाता है उस की भी रोक होगी और उसमें देश का वास्तविक लाभ भी होगा।

इसी तरह अच्छे बीज और खाद की भी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये। गोबर जो कि एक बहुत अच्छी खाद है उस को यहां किसान लोग अक्सर जला देते हैं। अगर उन को जलाने के लिए लकड़ी मिले तो मैं नहीं समझता कि वह इस का इस तरह दुरुपयोग करेंगे। लेकिन इस के लिए आप को ट्रांसपोर्ट (transport) की व्यवस्था अच्छी करनी होगी। देहातों में बहुत जगह लकड़ी नहीं मिलती है, जैसे मालवे में लकड़ी की कमी है। अगर आप ट्रांसपोर्ट द्वारा दूसरे प्रांतों से वहां सस्ती लकड़ी पहुंचा सकें तो मैं नहीं समझता कि वहां के किसान उस गोबर को अपनी रोटी पकाने में खर्च कर डालेंगे और उस की राख बना देंगे जिस के अभाव में खाद की कमी रहती है और जिस का पैदावार पर काफी असर पड़ता है।

इसी तरह इस सब के मूल में जिस सुधार की आवश्यकता है और जिस के बगैर हम आत्मनिर्भर नहीं हो सकते वह है लैंड रिफॉर्म (Land Reforms)। इस

के लिए व्यवस्थित रूप में हमारे देश के लिए जो उपयुक्त रिफार्म हों वह जल्दी से जल्दी किये जाने चाहियें।

हमारे देश में सौइल इरोजन (Soil Erosion) का प्रश्न भी भयंकर रूप धारण कर रहा है। मध्यभारत और मध्य प्रदेश में लाखों बीघा जमीन कट कर बरबाद हो रही है और उस को रोकने की कोई योजना नहीं है। यह समस्या और भी प्रान्तों में है। यह समस्या महाराष्ट्र में है, दक्षिण में भी है, बम्बई में है। कुछ यू० पी० में भी है और और भी प्रान्तों में हो सकती है। इस को रोकने के लिए जल्दी ही उपाय किया जाना चाहिये। इतनी तेजी से जमीन कट रही है कि लाखों करोड़ों बीघा जमीन बेकार होती जा रही है और इस तरह हमारे देश की बहुत बड़ी सम्पत्ति पानी में बही जा रही है।

इसी तरह से जैसे जैसे हम सिंचाई को विकसित करें हम को यह भी नहीं भूलना चाहिये कि जहाँ सिंचाई के साधन उपलब्ध हैं वहाँ वाटर-लॉगिंग (Water-logging) से लाखों बीघा जमीन खराब हो रही है। अगर इस ओर हमारा ध्यान नहीं गया तो निश्चित तौर पर हम आगे जा कर काफ़ी नुकसान उठावेंगे। इस की ओर सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये कि इस वाटर-लॉगिंग को बढ़ने न दिया जाये और आगे जमीन नष्ट न होने पाये और जो नष्ट हो गई है उस को रिक्लेम (Reclaim) कर के जल्दी ही आबाद किया जाये।

अन्त में मुझे इतना ही निवेदन करना है कि इस कंट्रोल (Control) से हमारे अन्दर जो खराबियाँ पैदा हो गई हैं और

जो हमारे ऊपर बुरा असर डाल रही हैं उन को दूर करने का एक ही रास्ता हो सकता है कि हम स्कूल और कालिजों के बच्चों में यह भाव भरें कि हमें अन्न के एक एक दाने का सदुपयोग करना है, एक दाना भी बेकार नहीं होने देना है। यह उन को बताना चाहिये कि आज यह देश की एक विशेष समस्या है और इस की उन पर बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है। हम को उनका नैतिक स्तर ऊंचा करना चाहिये। बलैक मारकेटिंग (Black Marketing) को रोकने के लिए हम ने इतना प्रयत्न किया पर हम सफल नहीं हो रहे हैं। इस लिए लोगों के नैतिक स्तर को ऊंचा करने के लिए हमें शुक्रान्त बच्चों से करनी चाहियें। इसी तरह हम देश का नैतिक स्तर ऊंचा कर सकेंगे और हम इस तरह अपनी जिम्मेदारी को महसूस करते हुए आत्म-निर्भर हो सकेंगे और अपने देश को उसी स्थिति में ले जा सकेंगे जैसा कि वह अंग्रेजों के आने से पहले था जब कि दूसरे देश इस की तरफ़ देखते थे और इस से प्रेरणा लेते थे।

अन्त में जो आप ने मुझे समय दिया इस के लिए धन्यवाद देते हुए अपना कथन समाप्त करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

**Shri Radhelal Vyas** (Madhya Bharat): Sir, I am grateful to you for the opportunity you have given me to speak. I heartily support the motion of thanks which has been presented in the House for thanking the Honourable President for his speech.

A graphic picture has been drawn in the speech of the President regarding the present food condition. After stating the causes for the present grim situation, he has drawn our attention to four things, these are, natural calamities, disasters, excessive rainfall and drought. India is such a vast country that natural calamities and disasters

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are bound to occur in one shape or the other in one or more States and they have occurred, rather they had been occurring in some part of some State every year. But keeping an eye on the probability of these calamities we have to forge ahead and we have to be self-sufficient with regard to foodgrains. In his plan for making us self-sufficient, he has drawn our attention towards the stocking of foodgrains and making the best use of the stuff which we have got with us. But the attention of the people's Government has not been drawn to the misuse of foodgrains or to the deterioration to which they are put to. We are short by at least ten per cent. in foodgrains and an equal amount is consumed by rats or becomes rotten. What measures have been adopted to preserve them and how far have we succeeded in these efforts? No mention has been made of the amount that we have been able to preserve as a result of these measures and even the figures have not been placed before us. I think our Minister of Food will certainly throw some light on this point. If measures are adopted at once to stop this wastage of foodgrains, this shortage could be decreased to a greater extent. On the one side we introduce rationing, where foodgrains are distributed by the Government, while on the other we see so much misuse of foodgrains. We find people eating more than necessary when enjoying feasts and leaving behind something to waste. What steps have been taken in the country to stop this? If we calculate we will find that a large amount of foodgrains is wasted due to over-feeding and much of it is misused. Nothing has been done to check it, no law has been enacted to stop it. Public opinion should be mobilised in its favour and arrangements should be made for instructing the masses on this subject. The attention of the Government should be drawn to the fact. The programme of self-sufficiency is also a major programme and it is definite that we cannot permanently keep control on the foodgrains and this is also not our aim. We are keeping control on foodgrains only because there is extreme necessity for it. We have to adopt the shortest way to get rid of this. But we see that there are two departments, one is responsible for procurement, distribution and import from outside and the other is the Agriculture Department. I think there is not the desired amount of co-ordination between the two. Greater attention is paid towards Food Department, distribution and procurement. Same amount of attention is not paid to the Agriculture Department and the same amount of money is not spent over it. We find that on

one side millions of rupees are given as subsidy for importing foodgrains from outside but there is paucity of funds for developing those resources which are available in our country. We do not find seeds where we need them. I have just come to know through my Rajasthan friends that there is scarcity of gram seeds in that area. They placed their demand for grams before the Food Department but they could get only five hundred tons against the demand of ten thousand tons. Seeds are not available in time and if any thing is made available it is only after long efforts and even that after a long time. Therefore, the amount of grains, which could be produced, and the profit, that could be availed of, could not be had and the result is less production. Then we should muster up all those resources which are essential.

On the one side we are implementing the tractor plan and cultivating virgin soil, but we are paying no attention to the improvement of those cultivable lands whose production has gone down. There is no reason why there should be less production per acre in India in comparison to Russia and America. Why the cultivators are not informed of those methods by which they can increase the production per acre? I think, if production per acre is increased, there will be no need of cultivating virgin lands. They can be used for another type of crops or when our population sufficiently increases we can make better use of them. If we had paid attention towards increasing the yield, I am confident, we could have produced so much foodgrains within one, two or three years that we could have been self-sufficient by now as regards the foodgrains.

We are using tractors for eradicating weeds and ploughing virgin soil. But we should think why weeds have grown out in those lands which were cultivable before. I think the reason for over production of weeds in Madhya Pradesh and Madhya Bharat has been the scarcity of cattle wealth. I have my own experience of Madhya Pradesh. Weeds have overrun fields in our Bhilsa District, because cultivators possess no bullocks. Scarcity of cattle is also a special problem for our country. We should look into this as well, because we cannot have good crops without cheap bullocks. The present conditions are such that bullocks die within three or four years in Bhilsa. We will have to search out those medicines etc. by which we could prevent the spread of diseases among cattle. They should get good fodder to eat. We should have better breed of bullocks. At present, there is scarcity of bullocks in Madhya Pradesh and



Madhya Bharat. At present we are not paying the same amount of attention towards mitigating this scarcity and increasing the cattle wealth as we should have done. For overcoming this shortage and improving the cattle wealth we should establish Veterinary hospitals at different places. We should prevent the spread of diseases, because millions of bullocks die every year. No measures are being adopted to check the diseases and in fact we do not pay much attention to it. We are losing our cattle wealth like that. There is a crying need for husbanding our resources to put a stop to it.

There are methods of increasing the production as well. One of them is irrigation. In this connection our Minister of Works, Mines and Power has drawn our attention towards the magnificent projects, but they are big projects and it will take years for them to complete. But there are small plans like digging wells, constructing new tanks and repairing old ones, and by giving loans to the cultivators efforts should be made to increase the production in those irrigated areas in the shortest possible time. We have not paid any attention towards this. We should pay more attention towards it. These huge projects cannot be constructed at every place and they will not be a success everywhere. But by constructing dams on the small rivers and streams we should make the best use of every available drop of water so that we may be in a position to increase the production of foodgrains in our country, and at the same time where production is less due to scarcity of irrigation facilities, as in Malwa, we may be able to increase the production and have two crops instead of one. The land there is very fertile but due to scarcity of irrigation facilities only one crop is sown there. We can produce two crops instead of one by providing irrigation facilities. We can wipe out this scarcity of foodgrains in our country immediately by doing so. But we have to do planning for this. We will have to look into the resources which are available in different States and how best we can utilise them. By utilising the resources of those areas we have to do away with the scarcity of foodgrains in those areas, and where there is no scarcity we should continue to increase our production. A Commission should be appointed for this. It should be a permanent one. It should visit the different States and have consultations with those who are interested in this and are considered to be an authority on the subject. It should prepare plans for every State. Every State has not got the resources for employing experts due to paucity of funds. Thus the States are not in a position to spend separately on them. If such a com-

mission is appointed then, I am sure, everybody would be in a position to know whether the experiments that are being done separately in the States have been successful or not, and the money which is wasted like this would also be saved and would really prove beneficial to the country.

Arrangement for better seeds and manure should also be made. Cow-dung, which is a rich manure, is generally used as fuel by the cultivators. If they are provided with fuel I am sure they would not misuse it like that. But for this you will have to make better arrangements regarding transport. Wood is scarce in most of the villages, as is the case in Malwa. If you would transport cheaper wood from the other States then I do not understand why cultivators would use cow-dung as fuel for preparing their meals. The scarcity of dung is felt in manure and its absence considerably affects the production.

Land reforms are at the root of every improvement, which we want to make and without which we cannot become self-sufficient. Thus suitable reforms should be introduced in an organized way and at the earliest possible opportunity.

The question of soil erosion is also becoming serious in our country. Millions of bighas of land are being wasted due to soil erosion in the Madhya Bharat and Madhya Pradesh and no scheme has so far been chalked out to stop this. Other States also face this problem. Maharashtra, South India and Bombay are all affected by it. To some extent it prevails in U.P. also and can be in other States as well. We should immediately do something to stop this. The land is being eroded at such a high speed that millions of bighas have become useless. Thus we are losing our precious land.

Along with the development of our irrigation facilities we should not forget that where irrigation facilities are available land is being made useless due to water-logging. If we do not pay any attention to this, we are sure to suffer for it in the future. The Government should see that water-logging may not be allowed to spread over larger areas and the land is not made useless any further. The land which has become useless should be reclaimed and cultivated.

In the end I have to submit that evils which have crept up as a result of controls and are having bad effect on us can only be eradicated by one way. The students of colleges and schools should be made conscious of the fact they have to make the best use of the available food grains; not a single grain

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is to be wasted. They should be apprised of the fact that this is one of the main problems of the day and they are to a greater measure responsible for solving it. We should try to raise their morale. We have done so much to stop black marketing, but we have failed. Therefore in order to raise the morale of people we should make a start with the children. Thus we shall be able to raise the moral standard of our countrymen. We shall be becoming self-sufficient while remaining conscious of our responsibilities and shall be in a position to create in our country once more those conditions which were prevailing before the advent of Britishers, when other countries used to look towards India for inspiration.

In the end, I again express my deep thanks for the occasion you kindly gave me to speak.

3 P.M.

**Shri Chattopadhyay (West Bengal):** It is a matter of gratification that the President in the course of his address has referred in detail to the grave food situation in the country. At the same time he has held out a bright hope—to quote his own words: “there is no going back on our programme of self-sufficiency.” He has further said “that there is no reason to give up our objective of producing enough food for the normal consumption of our country by March 1952.”

It is a great satisfaction for the nation and it is a great satisfaction for this House that the President has held out this hope. The food situation has been exercising the mind and the attention of the Government and also of the country for a long time. Mr. Munshi on taking up the responsibility of office complained that he had the maximum of impotency to meet the situation. He came before Parliament to have more power and the Parliament did not grudge investing him with the power that he wanted to have. Mr. Thirumala Rao who presided over one of the two committees that enquired into the food situation has now been elevated to the position of a Minister. The difficulties in the matter of attainment of self-sufficiency are too well-known to both of them. Mr. Munshi is a clever, intelligent and hardworking person. Soon after assumption of responsibility he gave an assurance to the different States that all that lies in his power he will do to rush food wherever there is scarcity. He began his work all too well. But unfortunately ill luck followed his foot steps. Since his assumption of office natural

calamities have come in succession and now we do not know whether more calamities are there before the country. But anyway when the President of the Republic of India gives an assurance that self-sufficiency will be attained by the end of March, 1952, the nation need not be worried or over anxious. It is a solemn assurance that the nation has got from its President and the Ministers who are entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the President's assurance should not be lacking in necessary enthusiasm in the performance of their duties.

In spite of all manner of doubts that have been expressed by some of the members of this House I do not feel myself very sceptical. There is of course a food deficit. For the last two years we have been hearing that the deficit is of the order of about 6 per cent. Really, one fails to understand why inspite of the best efforts of the best people amongst us, we have not been able to make up the deficit of 6 per cent. How to meet the deficit, how to augment the food production and how to make a saving, how to avoid wastage are all too well known to all of us. But it is for the Government to demonstrate that knowing everything they are actually doing everything to assure a full meal to each and every man. Hunger and starvation have become the order of the day. Many of the representatives of States who are here have spoken at length of their difficulties and after listening to all that they have said I am led to believe that really the calamity and the gravity are so grave that if the Government does not take up the food question as an all-India programme for the next year it will be absolutely impossible to fulfil the assurance that the President has given in the course of his Address. Attainment of self-sufficiency in the matter of food should be the national programme for the next year. Not only the Food Ministry but all the other Ministries must co-operate wholeheartedly. If the Ministers feel that the Parliament is not very much co-operative in this matter, or if they feel that the nation has not been co-operating adequately, the Minister-in-charge should come to the Parliament with all his demands and it will be the duty of Parliament to see that the Ministers do not complain that because of lack of power they have not been able to fulfil the desire of the nation. A great challenge has been accepted by the Government. The challenge has not been given by the people to the Government. Rather, the Government has itself accepted a great

test for itself: whether the Government is competent to adequately feed the nation or not. What the nation wants above all other things is food and if in the matter of this primary need of the nation Government cannot satisfy the people I need not say what the Government should do. As honourable men they should no longer continue their responsibility—the responsibility must be laid down.

The people have much to complain against the Government but the Government must be able to tell where the people have not been supporting them or co-operating with them. I feel that the people are prepared to help the Government in overcoming the crisis in every possible way. But what is wanted is the determination, the will to make the country self-sufficient in the matter of food within the target date. Government on its part must make up its mind and see that the nation becomes self-sufficient in the matter of food. The other matters may wait. They must know that self-sufficiency cannot be attained in all matters all at a time. But a matter of primary and basic importance must be attended to first; others may follow later on.

In the matter of administration of controls there is difference of opinion as to whether controls are necessary or whether they should go. We have dealt with the matter of controls in detail every time we have met in the Parliament. But control or no control the people want food, and people want food at a reasonable price. These two things must be assured. If these two things cannot be assured under the system of control, then control must be done away with. But if the Government feel that these two things can be assured by following the method of control, though for the present administered very ineffectively and inefficiently, if administrative improvement can be brought about to assure adequate food at a reasonable price to the people, then control should be there by all means. We need not quarrel over the necessity or otherwise of control at the present moment.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** What is the view of the hon. Member about it?

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** The hon. Member's view is that there should be efficient control and not the inefficient control that you have been exhibiting all these years!

Hon. Mr. Gadgil has spoken about a very valuable thing which is irrigation. Land in this country is hungry, rather thirsty, for water. Put in more water in the lands and the lands will

give bumper crop. That is a simple thing readily understood by all people; it requires no cleverness or extra intelligence. But the difficulty has been that in spite of the demand for more water for the lands, the lands are not getting all the water that they require. Speaking for a particular project I would like to say that there is a project named the Mor Project which will help in the production of foodgrains in Bengal and Bihar. That project has been taken up by the Government since more than three years. I speak with some knowledge in this matter. Though the Government of Bengal has been imploring for more money which they can utilise to complete the project in the course of next three years, in spite of repeated demands and prayers, the Central Government has not been able to put more money in their hands to quicken the progress of work. Water and water alone can solve the food problem and increase production. Wherever water is necessary for the production of food, Government should not make any delay in putting more money at the disposal of the Provincial Governments if they can produce more food by that.

In the matter of control there is so much of inefficiency that I need not go into details. I do not blame control, but due to inefficient control the people have become absolutely exasperated. The control has been working more for the advantage of the urban areas. The Government has been devoting attention to the people living in the urban areas much more than the rural areas. In the urban areas the price of controlled commodities is less, but in the rural areas the prices of many food-stuffs are fantastic. People in Calcutta are getting rice at Rs. 16-12-0 a maund but the people who produce that rice in the rural areas have to purchase the same rice at Rs. 30!

**An Hon. Member:** Is that the control price?

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** There is no control in the rural areas. Those who produce the rice have to purchase it at Rs. 30. Those who do not produce but live in the city areas get it at Rs. 16-12-0. Look at the peculiar operation of control in some areas. I know of a place where the Government has been procuring rice at Rs. 12-12-0 and from the same godown in the same village the Government has been selling the very same rice at Rs. 16-12-0. Who is responsible for the high prices? Who is responsible for black-marketing? Those who are greedy are no doubt responsible, but the same charge can be levelled against

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other people also. The boot is very often on the other leg. I do not want to go very much into detail about these matters. I feel that the President has given a very bold assurance to the nation and it is up to the Ministers to show to the nation what they are capable of. It is really an acid test they have put themselves to. Parliament should put no difficulties in the way and the nation should co-operate with them in every possible manner. But they have got to show and demonstrate actually that the assurance which has been given—uncalled for so to say—has been fulfilled by the Government. I wish good luck to the Government and I wish that they will be able to satisfy the nation.

Shri Barrow (Madras): At this stage of the debate it is rather difficult to say very much more on this matter. Volumes of ideas and volumes of thought have already been expressed. I have, therefore, only four simple aspects of this food problem which I wish to place before you. Three of these are simple suggestions. The fourth is an added plea on this debatable question of self-sufficiency by March 1952.

We are aware, Sir, of multi-purpose schemes, we are aware of the Grow More Food drive, we are aware of land reclamation and clearance, but we are not informed of any well-planned and co-ordinated scheme for foodgrain storage. Thousands of maunds of foodgrains are rendered unfit for human consumption or are destroyed, due to faulty storage or are devoured by pests. I would urge the Government to take immediate and co-ordinated steps which they must implement—and I emphasize 'implement'—for the proper storage of foodgrains not only in the interests of true food economy but also in the interests of public hygiene.

I place also before the House, the problem of increasing herds and hordes of cattle, which must be tackled on a systematic basis. Inevitably, with the open field system of farming, destruction of crops goes on apace, by herds of unwanted and unfit cattle. Inevitably, the triangular struggle for existence between the peasant, the soil and cattle goes on unceasingly. Religious sentiment, rightly so, is against the destruction of cattle and I would ask the House to consider the mass sterilization of cattle as the only practical alternative to this great problem. The sterilization of cattle will leave us with a population of cattle which is healthy and which will be of immense use in our

villages. The House may make similar suggestions about men and monkeys, but that is another story. I believe, that India with her teeming, hungry millions can ill-afford the luxury of an enormous bovine population.

Reference has been made in the Presidential speech to certain natural calamities,—flood and drought, and one of the hon. Ministers referred to locusts. They have been referred to as almost mathematical unknown factors, but I maintain, Sir, that they are not unknown factors but are mathematically calculable variables and safeguards can be effected against these variable factors. We have the machinery for dealing with famine and drought, and I believe, that this machinery must be made as effective as possible to meet the situation, when it should arise.

Finally, Sir, I ask for a realistic approach to the sufficiency target. The target is unsound and psychologically dangerous. I would request the Government to fix a series of goals, each a little more ambitious than the preceding one and so restore, by success, confidence to the nation. If Government persists in this programme, i.e., this target of 1952, they must use all their energies to attain it. Failure will plunge the nation in the deepest depths of psychological and psychogenic misery. The writing on the wall is clear; not only will we have to face the dark spectre of starvation but we will also have to face the advancing scourge of Communism.

Shri V. J. Gupta (Madras): Much has already been said about this alarming position of food and much has still to be said by so many Members of this House. I am only pained to note that so far there is no praise for our Government. The reason is clear. The four years experience of controls of food and other essential articles reveals a gradual deterioration of the supply. In the matter of foodgrains we started with 16 ounces of ration and in these four years, it has gradually come down to 6 ounces and this year the unexpected havoc created by heavy rains and floods in some areas and severe drought in other areas and the great earthquake in Assam may even increase the crisis and may lead the Government to reduce the ration of staple food from 6 ounces still lower down. Even as it is the 6 ounces ration is considered to be miserable everywhere. To expect people to live on 6 ounces ration of staple foodgrains is really a sin. The argument that subsidiary foodgrains such as Semolina, milo and maize and

atta can make up the 12 ounces ration for everyone is incorrect. It is not true that these things are taken by the people; it is only a deception. I know that in the ration shops the people never go in for those things but in some ration shops unless the people take those things also, rice will not be given and in such cases people pay for these things and throw them away on the road. Therefore to have the satisfaction that we are making up a ration of 12 ounces is not at all correct and in the rural areas the plight is more miserable. There is no statutory ration; there is only an informal rationing. Informal rationing means the ration shops are allowed to issue 3 ounces ration per head and that too the people do not get all through the week. For one day or 2 days they get the rice and for weeks and months there will be no rice distribution. Why should there be informal rationing and why should there be no supply at all for weeks and months? Yesterday my friend, Mr. Satish Chandra said that he visited South India and there is no worry about informal rationing there as the rice has been sold openly in the rural areas. I am sorry he has not spoken the truth.

**Shri Satish Chandra** (Uttar Pradesh): In spite of 6 ounces of ration no friend from South India appears to have lost any weight.

**Shri V. J. Gupta**: I shall answer that also. I think that Mr. Satish Chandra does not seem to have travelled actually in the Andhra area or the Madras area. Even if he has visited those places, I do not think he has actually studied the position in the villages in the informal ration areas. I challenge him to show me any place in Madras province where this open trade is allowed in any village having informal rationing. Just a few days back I had the occasion of accompanying the Finance Minister, Madras Government when he visited so many villages in the Vizag District and the cry everywhere, in every village, in every nook and corner is only for de-control and nothing else. They do not want any big things; they do not want aeroplanes; they do not want trains; they do not want roads but only de-control and nothing else. Therefore to say that the position in villages under informal rationing is satisfactory is really wrong.

My hon. friend asks how are people living on six ounces of ration. I shall come to that. Really it is surprising that people are expected to live on a ration of six ounces. If really people are made to live on six ounces, there will be no people living

now. But, how are they living? They are securing their requirements in the black market, somehow or other, paying abnormal prices, even four or five times the controlled price. Those people are struggling to secure their bare necessities of life in the black-market. Black-marketing is really a sin; it is an evil. But, black-marketing is feeding us up till now. To suppress this black market our Government is enacting Ordinances, and Acts and impose heavy and drastic penalties. But, I am seeing in every day life, these penalties are touching only innocent, ignorant people, who happen to carry some rice from one place to another, without a permit, for their own food. These poor people are taken into custody and they are punished. But, the really rich, really great producers of paddy are not worried about them. They are not touched by these enactments. Therefore, we need not wonder that people are still living on six ounces. Even if it comes to three ounces, the same will be the condition. As the Government rules are made more stringent, the black market prices are rising higher. Before the recent Essential Supplies Commodities Act, in the last session, the blackmarket price of rice was about Rs. 60 a bag and now, as Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar pointed out, it is Rs. 100 or even more. Where the ration officers are more vigilant, the price still goes higher up. People want somehow rice to live; they want rice at least to save themselves. But, where is the rice? These six ounces are not rice; that is a mixture of stones, sand, dust and rice. Actually, you have only four ounces of rice in a ration of six ounces. This could be proved by facts and figures. Anybody can say, are not Government aware of these things? Yes; they are aware of. They know every bit of it. Whatever the Members may complain here, Government are in the know of all those complaints and difficulties. I am glad they are putting in every effort to increase the productivity of land and to increase the irrigational facilities. They have been spending crores and crores of rupees on new projects.

Then, there is another big defect. To purchase grain from abroad, people who have no experience in trade, people who have no experience in the qualities of grains, are sent. What is this milo? This milo is not touched by anybody in South India; it is being thrust into their gullets.

**Shri Thirumala Rao**: What is milo?

**Shri V. J. Gupta**: It is a red variety of *jowar*.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** If you know that others also know that.

**Shri V. J. Gupta:** This morning or yesterday, I heard a reference to the purchase of sugar abroad. A thing that could be done by a lawyer must be given to a lawyer and a thing that could be done by a merchant, should be given to a merchant. A lawyer should not be entrusted with the job of a businessman, nor should a businessman be entrusted with the work of a lawyer. The Chambers of Commerce are recognised responsible bodies. Entrust this purchase to them. They will do well. Chambers of Commerce are not individuals to swallow the money or pocket the money. But, Government would not do that. They send somebody; and we get all these things. Some time back we know toffee was imported and if we put it on the table, it moved on account of the worms inside.

**Shri Sondhi (Punjab):** Radio-active?

**Shri V. J. Gupta:** On account of these stringent measures to suppress black-marketing, and the enforcement of controls to the fullest possible extent, the farmers and cultivators are not tempted to cultivate foodgrains on the land. They are reducing the cultivation of paddy to a minimum. I have seen with my own eyes these things. In places where you used to see extensive paddy fields, now you see extensive cultivation of sugarcane, which is not controlled, or jute, which is foreign to our place, because it is not controlled. Finest paddy fields are now under tobacco, because it is not controlled. Therefore, by all our efforts at controlling production, distribution and procurement, we have reduced the extent under paddy cultivation. What is the use of our spending crores of rupees on agricultural projects? We are actually losing the existing agricultural land in favour of other products.

Let us, then examine how the controls are working. Different provinces are following different policies in the matter of procurement and distribution. In some provinces Government purchase from voluntary sellers; in some provinces, cultivators take the produce to the Government and offer for sale while in some other provinces, Government forcibly take away from the cultivators. Where the cultivators take the grains to the Government, for sale, the price paid by the Government is satisfactory or more than what they could get in the ordinary market. In Madras where the

market price is very high, and the Government offer very little, the Government take away forcibly. People are tempted to hide; Government forcibly seizes from the cultivator. I was informed by the hon. Minister Mr. Munshi that in Bihar landholders up to 25 acres are let free to have the grains with them, without offering to Government or without even informing anybody of the produce. In Madras even the holders of five acres or three acres are not left free, and as my friend reminds me, not even one acre. I know of one case. In a village there was a small cultivator who owned  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres only. Last year, he lost everything and he could not save even for his seed purposes. In order to carry on cultivation, with great difficulty, he got one bag of seeds from the District Agricultural Demonstrator. The price and every thing else is marked on the bag. Further, it is noted on it, "Not for consumption; mixed with agrosin a poison to protect the seeds". Our own officers, due to the intensive procurement policy went to the village and wanted to seize this paddy. The farmer remonstrated, "This is seed which I got from the District Agricultural Demonstrator with great difficulty; last time also I had nothing; please leave this". The officers said, "Whether it is seed or anything, we want the bag". The farmer pointed out that there was poison in it and that that paddy was not for consumption. The officers said, "We do not mind whether it is poison or meat; we want to take it". Such things are going on in Madras. Therefore, the crisis in Madras is most severe. What shall we do? The position of controls is such.

What is the effect of decontrol? Government fear that merchants and producers hoard up and inflate the prices. Can it be true? In my view, this view betrays ignorance of business psychology. No producer would like to hoard his products or to hide them away. He wants to convert his agricultural products immediately into money, and he will never be satisfied until he has done that. Where is the space for him to hoard his grains in his house? Where is the godown for him to do that? Even if he stores them for a few months, they get spoilt, or eaten away by rats or otherwise damaged, and he will ultimately be a loser and not a gainer. Therefore a businessman or a cultivator is always anxious to sell away his products as soon as he has got them into his hands. It is not correct to say that the merchants will hoard up and prices will go up. For instance, let us see what

[Shri V. J. Gupta]

happened in the case of petrol. In the . . . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member has already exceeded his time by one minute. I have been warning him for the last three minutes.

**Shri V. J. Gupta:** Then I shall read out my suggestions. If you are not prepared to decontrol, have your controls, have your procurements, your targets and your foreign purchases; but convert the ration shops in Madras into relief shops so that these shops could give the people whatever they have got in the shop and allow free trade by the people there as in other provinces.

Sir, I have done and I beg your pardon for exceeding the time limit.

**शरद मोहिउद्दीन :** माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज इस अवसर पर खाद्य समस्या के विषय में भाग लेने का जो अवसर मुझे मिला है उस में मैं भी अपने विचार प्रकट करता हूँ। मुझे यह कहना है कि हमारे देश में आज जो परिस्थिति है वह हम सभी को मालूम है। भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है और भारत में कृषि के लिये तीन तरह की जमीन है। पहली तो वह जमीन है जिस में वर्षा के पानी से कल्टीवेशन (cultivation) होती है। दूसरी वह जमीन है जिस में बाहर के पानी से खेती होती है। तीसरी वह है जहां सिंचाई का प्रबन्ध होता है। तो इस तरह हमारे देश में तीन तरह की खेती की जमीन है। मेरे देश में खास कर बिहार में सिंचाई वाली जमीन के अतिरिक्त बहुत सी जमीन ऐसी है जहां प्रकृति के ऊपर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है। इसलिये प्रकृति के नियम में परिवर्तन हो जाने पर हमारे यहां कृषि में इतनी उलझन हो जाती है कि देश की उपज बढ़ती नहीं है बल्कि देश की उपज घटती जाती है। यह हमें कई वर्षों से मालूम है कि हमारे देश में, खास कर बिहार, यू० पी० और उड़ीसा में, दो तरह का मानसून (monsoon) एक वर्ष में हुआ करता है। एक वेस्ट मानसून (West Monsoon)

कहा जाता है और दूसरा नार्थ ईस्ट मानसून (North East Monsoon) कहा जाता है। अब की साल वेस्ट मानसून अनटाइमली (untimely) हुआ और इतना ज्यादा हुआ कि इस के कारण कृषि सब बह गयी। इस तरह मानसून के असमय होने और बहुत पानी बरसने के कारण बहुत नुकसान हुआ। इसलिये हमारे यहां की मेन क्रॉप (main crop) धान का बहुत नुकसान हो गया।

दूसरी बात यह है कि हमारे यहां जो नार्थ ईस्ट मानसून वर्षा करता है उसे देहात में हतिया कहा जाता है। तो इस साल यह हतिया बरसा ही नहीं। धान के लिए हतिया के पानी के लिए यह कहा जाता है कि यह उस के लिए अमृत बरसता है और उसी से धान की खेती की उपज बढ़ती है। तो हमारे यहां इस साल यह हतिया बरसा नहीं। इस कारण हमारे यहां जो धान होता है उस का सोलह आना नुकसान हो गया। वहां बाढ़ के बाद यानी जुलाई के मानसून के बाद किसानों ने धान का ट्रांसप्लानटेशन (transplantation) किया था और लोगों को आशा थी कि गवर्नमेंट ने जो टारगेट (target) रखा था वह सन् ५१ की साल तक हम पूरा कर लेंगे। बहुत से आदमियों के दिल में यह ख्याल पैदा हो गया था कि समूचे देश में नहीं तो हमारे बिहार प्रान्त में तो वह टारगेट पूरा हो जायेगा। किन्तु कहना पड़ता है कि प्रकृति के क्रोध के कारण मेरे यहां की उपज घट गयी है और हमारे यहां जो खेत खड़े हैं वहां सारा धान पानी न बरसने के कारण सूख गया है और बिल्कुल इस तरह सूखा खड़ा है कि अगर एक दियासलाई लगा दी जाये तो सी सी एकड़ के खेत नष्ट हो जायें।

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

इस तरह हमारे देश में अकाल पड़ा हुआ है। अब अगर गवर्नमेंट बाहर से

अनाज इम्पोर्ट (import) कर के इस की पूर्ति नहीं करेगा तो हमारे यहां अगले वर्ष और इतना बड़ा अकाल हो जायेगा कि वह सारे भारत के लिए संभालना मुश्किल हो जायेगा।

इस के अलावा एक बात और यह है कि इस नार्थ ईस्ट मानसून के न होने से, सितम्बर और अक्टूबर में पानी न बरसने के कारण, आगे रबी को भी बहुत भारी नुकसान हुआ है। हम समझते हैं कि अगर इसी तरह रबी की फसल का भी नुकसान हुआ तो देश में रुपये की इतनी कमी हो जायेगी कि अगर बाहर से गेहूं और चावल मंगाया गया और बांटा गया तो बहुत से आदमियों के पास उस को खरीदने के लिये पैसा भी नहीं होगा। वह उसे खरीद भी नहीं सकेंगे। इस लिये मेरी फूड मिनिस्टर (Food Minister) और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट (Central Government) से यह अर्ज है कि वह आयन्दा साल के लिए कम से कम जो ऐसा चावल और गेहूं का इलाका है जहां इतना नुकसान हुआ है वहां के लिए वह जो पहले कोटा (quota) देते थे उस को दस गुना बढ़ा दें। कम से कम बिहार में जहां चावल की फसल नष्ट हो गयी और जहां आयन्दा रबी की फसल का भी नुकसान हो रहा है वहां पैसे की भी कमी होगी और उसको रोकने के लिए अभी से गवर्नमेंट को सतर्क रहना चाहिये। इस सरकार को बिहार सरकार की ऐसी मदद देनी चाहिये कि जिस से अभी जो अकाल पड़ रहा है और लोग आज भी भूखे मर रहे हैं वैसा अकाल आगे न हो और दुर्भाग्य से ऐसी ही परिस्थिति अगले साल हो तो लोग अकाल से भूखे न मरें।

फिर सिर्फ बिहार ही में नहीं बल्कि यू० पी० के पूर्वी हिस्से के आठ दस जिलों

में भी आज अकाल है। वहां खेती सब सूख गई है और कोई फसल नहीं हो सकती। तमाम फसल सूखी खड़ी है और किसी भी समय जल कर खत्म हो जायेगी। इसी तरह और और बहुत से प्रान्तों में जहां सिंचाई की सुविधायें नहीं हैं या कम हैं, जहां मानसून के कारण फसलें अच्छी नहीं हुईं और जहां अकाल हो रहा है वहां के लिए सरकार को होशियार हो जाना चाहिये। उन प्रान्तों के आदमियों को जहां उपज बढ़ नहीं रही है वल्कि उपज घट रही है वहां अकाल से बचाने के लिए उनको सतर्क अभी से हो जाना चाहिये।

मुझे सब से बड़ा अफसोस यह है कि हमारे यहां एग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट (Department of Agriculture) कुछ ऐसा प्रबन्ध नहीं कर रहा है कि जहां प्रकृति के नियम के अनुसार पानी नहीं बरसे या प्रकृति के कोप से पानी ज्यादा बरस कर सैलाब या बाढ़ आ जाय तो वहां से सैलाब से फसल को बचाने के लिए कोई इन्तजाम हो। इस तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है। जैसे कि बिहार में अगर कोसी डाम (Kosi Dam) बनाया जाये तो हम समझते हैं कि इस से बिहार के तीन जिले भूख से बच सकेंगे। आजकल बिहार में जो अकाल है वह सब से ज्यादा उत्तरी बिहार में है। अगर यह कोसी डाम बनाया जाये तो शहर मुंगेर, भागलपुर इस सैलाब से बच जायेंगे ही और त्वास कर पुर्णिया में भी खेती का अच्छा प्रबन्ध हो जायेगा। इस प्रकार पुर्णिया में हजारों एकड़ जमीन जो पड़ी है वहां सिंचाई के सहारे बहुत पैदावार हो जायेगी और बिहार में भी उपज बढ़ाने की हम पूरी कोशिश कर सकते हैं। मगर इस तरफ गवर्नमेंट का ध्यान नहीं है और बाक और और जगहों में 'भी ग्रो मोर फूड (Grow More Food) में वह 1955



[शेख मोहिउद्दीन]

नहीं हो रहे हैं। जो रूपया इस में खर्च किया जा रहा है वह 'ग्रो मोर फूड' में खर्च न हो कर 'सिफ़ ग्रो मोर लैंड' (Grow More Land) में हो रहा है।

क्योंकि हमने देखा है कि जिस एक बीघा खेत में दस मन धान होता था वहाँ पर पांच मन भी नहीं होता है। मैं बिहार का रहने वाला हूँ, खुद काश्तकार हूँ और खेती बाड़ी का काम करने वाला हूँ। मुझे पूरी तरह से मालूम है कि खेती की उपज अब पहले की अपेक्षा घट गई है। अब गवर्नमेंट को चाहिये कि उस की कोई तरकीब निकाले ताकि देश की खेती की उपज बढ़े और जो जमीन डेटोरियोरेट (deteriorate) हो रही है, उस की तरक्की के लिए काफ़ी उपाय करे। अगर गवर्नमेंट ऐसा करेगी, तो वह इस तरह देश की उपज को बढ़ा सकेगी और देश को भयंकर अकाल और दुर्भिक्ष से बचा सकेगी अन्यथा नहीं।

(English translation of the above speech)

Saikh Mohiuddin (Bihar): Sir, I take this opportunity to discuss the food problem and express my views. I have to say that we are all aware of the situation in our country. India is predominantly an agricultural country. There are three types of cultivable land in India. First is that which is cultivated with the help of rain water. The second one is that which is cultivated with water from outside and the third is that which has some means of irrigation. Thus there are three types of cultivable land in our country. In my country, especially in Bihar, we have mostly to depend on nature and very little land has the advantage of irrigation. Therefore, whenever there is a change in the laws of Nature, our agriculture is so much upset that instead of an increase, the produce of the land goes on decreasing. We all know it for many years that there are two kinds of monsoons every year in our country, particularly in Bihar, U. P. and Orissa. One is called West Monsoon and the other North East Monsoon.

This year the West Monsoon came most untimely so much so that it washed away all the crops. Thus there was a great loss on account of this untimely monsoon and excessive rains. Therefore, paddy which is our main crop, suffered a great loss.

The second point is that the North East Monsoon, which is known as "Hatia" in villages and which brings rain to our part of the country, failed this year. It is said the hatia rains are like nectar for paddy crop and are very useful for increasing its production. So these hatia rains failed this year. Therefore, our paddy crops were totally lost. After the floods, that is, after the July Monsoon, the farmers had transplanted paddy in that area and they expected to meet the Government target by the end of 1951. Many persons had thought that the target will at any rate be reached in Bihar if not in the country as a whole. But it has to be said that the production in my part of the country has gone down due to nature's wrath with the result that the crops are standing dry—so dry that one burning matchstick would destroy the whole of it.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Thus there is famine in our country. Now if the Government does not import foodgrains from abroad to make up the loss, we will face a greater famine next year which may not be easily controlled by the whole of India.

There is one thing more, that the failure of North East Monsoon or the failure of rains in September and October, has caused a great loss to Rabi crop. We feel that if there is any further loss to the Rabi crop, there may be such shortage of money in the country that when wheat and rice are imported and distributed, many will not have enough money even to purchase them. They will not be in a position even to purchase it. Therefore I request the Food Minister and the Central Government that for the next year they should increase the quota by ten times for this area, which used to produce wheat and rice and which has suffered so much loss. There will be a shortage of money in Bihar at least, where the rice crop has been destroyed and where the next Rabi crops are also undergoing a loss. The Government must be on its guard just now to prevent that. This Government should help the Bihar Government in such a way that the present famine, when people are dying of hunger, may not occur again and if unfortunately similar conditions arise

next year, the people may not die of starvation at least.

These days famine conditions exist not only in Bihar but in eight or ten eastern districts of U.P. also. There is a drought in that part and there can be no crops. All the crops have dried up and may get destroyed any moment. Similarly with regard to all those provinces where irrigation facilities do not exist or are less, where crops are not sound due to failure of monsoon and where famine conditions are prevailing, the Government should be on its guard. The people of those provinces, where production is not on the increase but is on the decline, should be on their guard from now to avoid famine.

I am really very sorry that our Agriculture Department is not doing anything regarding those places where there may not be any rain fall at all or to prevent the crops from destruction through excessive rains resulting in floods. No attention is being given in this direction. For instance, if Kosi Dam is constructed in Bihar, we feel that three Districts of Bihar can be saved from starvation. The worst famine affected area in Bihar is North Bihar. If this Kosi Dam is constructed, not only the cities of Monghyr and Bhagalpur will be safe from floods but there will be better agricultural facilities for Purnea also. Thus we can increase our agricultural produce to a large extent by providing irrigational facilities to thousands of acres of land lying waste in Purnea and can try our best to increase production in Bihar as well. But the Government is not paying any attention to this and they are not successful at many other places too in their "Grow More Food" campaign. Money, which should have been spent on 'Grow More Food', is being spent on 'Grow More Land', because we have seen that the land which gave us ten maunds of paddy is not yielding even five maunds. I belong to Bihar. I am myself an agriculturist and a tiller of the soil. I know it for definite that the agricultural yield is less than what it was before. Now the Government should devise means so that the agricultural production of the country may increase and should take all steps to improve the land that is deteriorating gradually. If the Government proceed in this way, it will be able to increase the output and save the country from severe famine. I have nothing more to say.

श्री श्रीराम : सभापति महोदय, मैं बिहार का छोटा नागपुर का रहने वाला

हूँ और एक किसान हूँ और अपने हाथों से खेती का काम करता हूँ और इस कारण मुझे खेती बाड़ी के काम का पूरा पूरा अनुभव है। गवर्नमेन्ट को जब किसी चीज की कमी होनी है, तो उस को उस के ऊपर कन्ट्रोल (control) करना पड़ता है, उस को अपने कब्जे में कर लेना पड़ता है और इस समय अनाज की कमी होने के कारण गवर्नमेन्ट को उस को अपने कब्जे में कर लेना पड़ता है, लेकिन कन्ट्रोल होने के बावजूद, वह सफल नहीं हो रहा है, सक्सेसफुल (successful) नहीं हो रहा है, इस का क्या कारण है, वह भी मैं आप को बतला देना चाहता हूँ। इस वक्त गवर्नमेन्ट मशीनरी (machinery) इतनी ढीली हो गई है कि वह ठीक से काम नहीं कर पाती और इसी कारण से गवर्नमेन्ट जो भी काम करती है, उस में उस को सफरता प्राप्त नहीं होती है। इस लिये गवर्नमेन्ट को जो सन् १९५१ में इस देश में महान् भयंकर अकाल आने वाला है, उस के लिये समय रहते पहले से अपनी मशीनरी को ठीक कर लेना चाहिये नहीं तो बहुतों को भूखों मरना पड़ेगा। इस लिये मेरा खासकर गवर्नमेन्ट से अनुरोध है कि गवर्नमेन्ट अपनी मशीनरी के कल पुर्जों को ठीक से कस दे, तभी गवर्नमेन्ट के कन्ट्रोल मेजर (measures) सफल हो सकते हैं। यह वाक्य है कि देहात के रहने वालों को जो चीज कन्ट्रोल पर दी जाती है, वह उन १ कन्ट्रोल रेट पर नहीं मिल पाती है। चीनी का ही उदाहरण ले लीजिये। चीनी देहातों में जाकर ब्लैक मार्केट (black market) से बिकती है और इस तरह से सरकार की लापरवाही के कारण देहात वालों को यह मुसीबतें उठानी पड़ती हैं। और वहां पर कोई ठीक से इन्तजाम नहीं होता है। इसलिये बार

[श्री बोरांब]

जार हम कहते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट अपनी मशीनरी को ठीक करे, नहीं तो आने वाले भयानक अकाल में लोगों के पास समय पर अन्न न पहुँचेगा और वह भूखों मरेंगे। हमारे छोटा नागपुर के अन्दर पलामू और हजारीबाग हैं जहाँ मकई और धान की फसल होती है। रांची में भी धान होता है। और मानभूमि और सिंघ भूमि में सिर्फ धान होता है। और उस की फसल की कटनी आखिरी नवम्बर से शुरू हो कर दिसम्बर तक होती है। रांची जिले में गोड़ा धान और मंडुआ की फसल काफी तादाद में होती है। उड़द की भी फसल वहाँ पर होती है।

मैंने अपनी ६५ वर्ष की जिन्दगी में कभी ऐसा नहीं देखा कि कहीं धान कटने के पहले यानी, बाली निकलने के पहले कटनी शुरू हो गई हों। लेकिन इस वर्ष अनेक जिलों में हम देख रहे हैं कि धान फूटने के पहले वे सूख गया है। लोग मवेशियों के चारे के लिए सूखी हुई धान की फसल को काट कर इकट्ठा कर रहे हैं। इसलिये गवर्नमेंट को इस साल बड़ी सावधानी के साथ इस महान् और भयंकर अकाल पड़ने का जो खतरा दिखाई दे रहा है, उस के लिए समय रहते इन्तजाम कर लेना चाहिये।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Oraon (Bihar): Mr. Speaker, I belong to Chhota Nagpur in Bihar I am a farmer and a tiller of the soil myself. Therefore I am well experienced in all agricultural matters. When Government feels that supply of a certain commodity is less, then it has to control that commodity, it has to seize its stocks. Owing to the present shortage of foodgrains Government have to take the stocks in its possession but in spite of this the control is not proving successful. I would like to tell you the reasons of its failure. The Government

machinery has become so weak that it is unable to work properly and that is the reason why it fails in everything. Therefore the Government must mend its machinery in order to meet the terrible famine expected in this country in 1951, otherwise thousands will die of starvation. Therefore, I appeal to this Government to improve its working. Then only the control measures can be successful. It is a fact that any article, that is given to the villages at the controlled rate, is not available to the villagers at controlled rates. Take the instance of sugar. Sugar is sold through blackmarket in villages and in this way the people are put to great hardships due to Government's carelessness and there is no proper arrangement. It is for this reason that we repeatedly say that the Government must improve its machinery, otherwise during the coming famine, foodgrains will not reach the people in time and they will die of starvation. In Palabhu and Hazaribagh of our Chhota Nagpur, maize and paddy are grown. Paddy is grown in Ranchi also. Manbhum and Singhbhum grow paddy alone where its harvest begins from the end of November and lasts till December. In the district of Ranchi, Goda type of paddy and mandua are grown in sufficient quantity. Urd is also grown there. During sixtyfive years of my life, I have never seen paddy being harvested before the ear of corn comes out. But we are seeing in many districts this year that paddy has dried up before the ear of the corn came out. People are harvesting and collecting this dry paddy crop to use it as fodder for the cattle. Therefore the Government must manage the affairs carefully this year to meet the coming danger of this great and terrible famine. I take my seat now.

Shri B. R. Bhagat (Bihar): Sir, I am very grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak, though at the fag end of the day. I am fortunate, however, in that my voice being last will be fresh in the mind of the hon. Minister and he will take notice of my remarks.

It is not out of a mere desire to speak that I have risen but I have to relate a very unpleasant story and I hope the Food Minister will bear with me. I come from Bihar, where, as the President himself said in his Address, a calamity of an unprecedented character has visited the State. I have nothing more to say except to relate certain facts.

The State of Bihar has been a deficit province and the Gregory Report

stated that the normal deficit of that State is to the extent of 3 and odd lakh tons. This year due to the failure of the maize crop there has been an extra deficit of 2 lakh tons bringing the total deficit to 5 lakh tons. This year the allotment to the State was 60,000 tons. During the last session there was some cry and an extra allotment was made and the total allotment promised to the State was to the extent of 1,50,000 tons. 1,16,000 tons have been promised to be supplied but I learnt only today that out of that 3,000 tons have not yet been sent to the State. This year the overall position in the State is that out of 5 lakh tons deficit we have got only 1,16,000 tons. A most calamitous situation has arisen and it will assume its full stature in two or three months. Due to unprecedented drought the paddy crop has failed. Bihar is mainly a rice-eating province. Out of a total cereal production in the State of 50 lakh tons, 34 lakh tons is rice production and in that it has been generously calculated that there is a deficit of 35 per cent or 18 to 22 lakh tons. This drought has affected not only paddy but the future wheat crop as well to the tune of 8 lakh tons. So the overall deficit in 1951 (January to December) will be 22 lakh tons plus 8 lakh tons. Hence the total deficit is 3 million tons, which is a very serious thing.

4 P.M.

Last year our imports were 3.9 million tons. Now if Bihar alone is to be saved we need 3 million tons of cereals. So you can realise the position in which my State is. I am sorry that in the two days' debate there has not been a fuller or better appreciation of the grave food position in the State of Bihar. Rice is selling there at between Rs. 40 and 50 a maund. In spite of the most stringent measures in the State we have not been able to procure much. In the last Session an impression was given to the country, both by the Members here and the Press outside, that Bihar has not been able to tighten up its food administration, and the Minister said clearly that he is not going to give any allotment to that State unless the food administration is tightened up. During these two months the food administration has been tightened up to an extent to which there is no parallel in any other State. The Preventive Detention Act and other measures have been enforced. People have been sent to jail and other stringent steps have been taken. Today it is appreciated all over the country—that Bihar has done its best, but even then Bihar has not been able

to procure more than 3,500 tons during September and October. It has been proved that there is absolutely no surplus in that State and we cannot save the situation there merely through procurement.

There is only one remedy. Food has got to be rushed to that place if a famine is to be averted. If Bihar lies low there is no safety for this country as a whole. Of an unprecedented nature, the calamity will overtake the whole country and will not be confined to the State of Bihar alone. There will be no politics left here, and I don't know what the situation in the whole country will be if famine overtakes Bihar in its grip. So, my appeal to the hon. Food Minister is that he should appreciate the position fully and take immediate and speedy measures and rush food to Bihar.

Another factor that has worsened the situation there is that there is acute unemployment among the agricultural labourers. Families which have lands below five acres constitute about 43 per cent of the population, and landless labourers constitute 29 per cent. Hence unemployment has caught in its grip well-nigh over 70 per cent of the population. Even if we rush food they will not have the necessary purchasing power to buy it. So, even if food is there we cannot save the situation. There is a parallel for this in the Bengal famine. Although rice was available there it was not at strategic points or was not visible and therefore in spite of food grains being there people died of starvation and scarcity. So, the first requirement is that work must be found for these people so that they may have purchasing power. I might add that in North Bihar which is the worst affected part of the State, the condition of roads is very bad. Roads must be constructed so that these people can find work.

Another thing which has not been well-appreciated is that construction of the Kosi Dam, which affects the four worst affected districts, must be taken up soon. I have learnt that after a recent assessment and estimate, the work has been divided in seven parts, and that the first part takes only Rs. 10 crores and the second stage also takes Rs. 10 crores. If these two stages are completed, I think the four districts which are worst affected will not only be saved from the annual visitation of floods and devastation but these districts may also find some work for the unemployed workers thus relieving the situation to a great extent.

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

In conclusion, I have only an appeal to make to the hon. Minister in particular and to the House in general that a very serious situation obtains in Bihar and we have to have a clearer and fuller appreciation of the facts. I hope my words will enter the heart of the hon. Food Minister and he will find speedy measures for meeting the situation.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** I am much obliged to my hon. friends who participated in the debate for the valuable suggestions that they have made. Many of my hon. friends have also made a realistic approach to the difficulties which are facing us. It is generally recognised—and I am glad that it is recognised in this House—that since the month of June last we have had a series of natural calamities against which no human effort can stand. It is also realised that in spite of all the efforts that are being made we have been having a terrible time in the last three or four months. Hon. Members may know the anxiety and the difficulties of the Government of India during the last three or four months. And I can assure you that during all this time all my colleagues from the Prime Minister downwards have been most anxious to deal with the situation which really has been almost beyond control. We expected at one time that by the first of November the new crop will begin to come in and our difficulties would be over. Unfortunately, on account of late rains in several parts of the country, the new crop has not begun to come even now. And on the top of it we had this great calamity, most unexpected calamity, that not merely in Bihar but in the whole of the rice bowl of India including Bihar and its surrounding parts, the *bathia* rains which were to ripen the *khari* crop between tenth October and twenty-fifth October, completely failed.

My hon. friend who spoke last, spoke about the situation in Bihar. I know something about it. For years and years there has not been such a drought in Bihar at this time of the year. Two inches of rain would have given bumper crops as were expected by the Bihar Government. But only 11 cents of rains came, in Bihar; and the result is that 75 per cent. of the food crops is wiped out in ten districts, 60 or 65 in another four, and about 40 in the remaining six. It has brought difficulties to the U.P.; it has brought difficulties to Madhya Pradesh, to Orissa, to the western part of West Bengal and also to Vindhya Pradesh. This is a calamity of very unusual character and

if we are to consider the food situation we can only do it against the background which this unfortunate situation has forced upon us.

Now, my hon. friend Acharya Kripalani who came, spoke and vanished, told us that these are normal calamities. I wish he had kept himself in touch with the daily newspapers; but for four months evidently he seems to have been too busy to attend to the daily occurrences which have overtaken almost all the States of this country. Let us remember this, that excepting the three States of P.E.P.S.U., Madhya Bharat and Rajasthan, there is not a single State which has not been afflicted by one or the other of the natural calamities which have befallen this country, and on a rough calculation 6 million tons of food grains have been either destroyed or lost to the country.

This is the position with which we are faced. Day after day, sometimes hour after hour, the Centre has to keep itself in touch with the States, which sometimes have rations for two days, sometimes rations for one day and sometimes no rations at all in some or the other part of their area. Sometimes it is difficult to get even 200 tons of foodgrains to be supplied to a needy State. I want the House to approach this question in a very realistic manner and realise that everything that human effort can do or human resources can permit has been done, and that we are passing through days of great strain.

Many things have been said about this question of imports. The position is that we originally planned to import 1½ million tons, but from July onwards this figure was raised and raised fast enough, so that it would reach the neighbourhood of 3.1 million tons by the end of the year. Attacks have been made on the Central Government that we are sticking fast to a pledge and refusing to be realistic and hence the calamities. Nothing of the kind. New contracts have been made. New foodgrains have been rushed in. Foodgrains have been borrowed. Every effort has been made to see that we get as much as possible. But when a calamity comes within a short space of three or four months, no amount of effort can cope with it. If we had 200,000 tons of foodgrains more today, there would have been not a single complaint from any part of the country. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that this year—I am speaking on a rough calculation—on account of these calamities we would have consumed, in addition to the strain, some-

thing like 13 lakhs of tons of food-grains extra. Therefore, the charges that have been levelled here that on account of the pledge of not importing we have not been able to do our bit requires to be revised and considered against the background of the successive calamities.

Hon. Members asked me several questions about Bihar. When I said in July that there were no starvation deaths, in Bihar it had reference to another calamity altogether. There were heavy rains about the 15th June in the Kosi and a part of the crop in four districts was wiped out. At that time, the allotment of Bihar was 40,000 tons. On account of the difficulty, 70,000 tons more foodgrains were rushed to Bihar in four months. Even the Bihar Government till the beginning of October was confident that the position was quite good and that the new crop was likely to be prosperous and that by 15th of October or the 1st of November they would be out of difficulties. Is it suggested that somebody should have anticipated that between the 15th and 25th of October the monsoon would fail? When hon. Members here and people outside criticise Government by connecting the two calamities, they fail to see that every effort was made to meet the difficulty. I still maintain that though some people who were on the marginal subsistence level may have died, on the whole there were no starvation deaths in June or July. But who would have known that in these ten or fifteen days of October this devastating drought would overtake Bihar? Therefore, we must look at the whole thing from a proper perspective and not mix up issues.

It is easy in a matter like food which affects everybody to go about criticising Government, "You have not done this; you have not done that; you have not grown food; you have not supplied water." But the question is what about our difficulties. The only test should be: Has the Government done its best to meet the situation with the resources it possesses?

Now, Sir, I would like to refer to one or two, what I may call, matters of departmental concern. My friend, Mr. B. Das, naturally was of the opinion that if all the officers and all the experts were discharged, the country will become completely free from any food scarcity. My friend, Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad, took exactly the opposite view that if all the Ministers discharged themselves, there would be no food scarcity. I leave it to them to decide as to what to do, but as I do not agree with both of them, I will keep the officers and the experts and I will

keep myself also, so long as you permit it.

Then, there are one or two other small points. Someone criticised the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and its scope. I do not want to go into details, but I want to say that there is no duplication. It is a platform on which the Directors and the Ministers of all the States meet together and forge an all-India agricultural policy.

**Shri B. Das (Orissa):** I referred to the experts in the I.C.A.R. and those in your Ministry and said there is duplication.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Even there I do not agree, because I.C.A.R. is the one platform where the research experts of the whole country meet together in order to forge a coordinated policy,— they not merely look at research from the all-India point of view but each research scholar brings his own problem from the State he comes from and then notes are exchanged so that research may be carried on at a place which is most convenient for it.

I am sorry that my friend, Mr. Tyagi, should have brought in by name an incident connected with one of the senior officers of my Ministry. I am sure he would agree with me that in a debate in Parliament, if there is any attack against the Ministry, I am the man who should be attacked.

**Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh):** On a point of personal explanation I only narrated that a party had seen such and such Secretary with an offer and it was rejected. It was neither an aspersion on the officer nor any criticism. I only mentioned the fact that a party saw on such and such a date, such and such a Secretary and the hon. Minister Mr. Munshi. In this manner, I referred to the names. I think it was a most innocent reference to the names.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am glad that Mr. Tyagi has made amends.

**Shri Tyagi:** There are no amends. My speech may be seen. I have not made any amends. You need make amends, not I.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I heard his speech and I have also read his speech carefully. He said that the officer who was guilty in this matter should be punished.

**Shri Tyagi:** There I did not name anybody. It is another sentence where I said that if there is any officer found guilty for having put the nation to a loss of Rs. 1 crore and 31 lakhs, that officer must be dismissed. The matter must be enquired into and if anybody

[Shri Tyagi]

is found guilty, that man must be dismissed. I did not name the officer. I do not know who is responsible.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am very sorry; my friend did mention Mr. Mone by name.

**Shri Tyagi:** No, no.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** He referred to this incident and mentioned his name.

**Shri Tyagi:** No, no. You are wrong.

**Some Hon. Members:** No name was mentioned.

**An Hon. Member:** Anyway, we have known the name now.

**Shri Tyagi:** I have been in the Parliament for a longer period than Mr. Munshi.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am not likely to be shouted down. I have read his speech and he has mentioned the name.

**Shri Tyagi:** I challenge the varacity of the hon. Minister's statement. Let him see the speech made on the floor of this House.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I cannot conduct the proceedings in this House if hon. Members would not resume their seats when I get up, nor is it possible or proper for the hon. Minister and the hon. Member to speak simultaneously. There ought to be some decorum observed on the floor of the House. I never knew that such things would happen in this House. What I submit to the House is that one at a time may speak. Now that Mr. Tyagi has explained his position and stated that he did not mean anything, I think the hon. Minister need not pursue this matter.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam):** What about the name?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Leave alone the name.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The incident was mentioned by my hon. friend and I am quite willing to satisfy him that there was no such beneficial offer. In the months of April and May nobody ever knew that the Korean war would come.

**Shri Tyagi:** Another information. One of the officers whom I had named in my speech saw me this morning and confessed to me that there was an offer but it was rejected because the Ministry thought that it was not the time to purchase and they felt that it would be had cheaper later on.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** If you want me to treat the incident as closed I will bow to your ruling. But all that I said was that there was no question of any loss, because in April-May nobody ever dreamt that North Korea would invade South Korea in July. Had anybody known it, certainly the transaction would have been clinched. At the same time the transaction itself was not of a tempting or cheap character; nor was the offer from a very reliable party.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I quote the bank authority; I have got a true copy of the cablegram.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am afraid I cannot allow any further discussion on this subject. The hon. Member has already brought it out in his speech and the hon. Minister is, to the best of what he knows, replying. Let there be no separate discussion.

**Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar):** Sir, may I suggest that a small committee of this House be appointed to enquire into this question?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is left to the hon. Minister to accept or reject that suggestion.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am not prepared to accept the suggestion of appointment of any committee.

**Shri Tyagi:** I claim an enquiry. I feel that there has been something hanky-panky with the result that the nation has been put to a loss of Rs. 1,33,00,000. This cannot go unnoticed. I want an enquiry into the matter.

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Sir, may I intervene for a minute? However important the subject in dispute might be, I do submit that the lack of decorum does not suit any hon. Member or this House. It is not necessary, to make oneself understood, to shout at the top of one's voice. There are loudspeakers and microphones and even a low voice is carried. Emotion does not make an argument stronger. If a point has been made—I do not know much about it—let it be considered, not by shouting, but quietly. For the moment the Food Minister is replying and I do submit that it is improper to interrupt him all the time.

**Shri Tyagi:** I hope everybody will follow the Prime Minister's advice.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is not proper on the part of the hon. Member to intervene like that. The hon. Member has been here sufficiently long and

he knows that there are other ways of ventilating his grievances or correcting any statement made by the hon. Minister.

I find from the proceedings of yesterday which is placed in the lobby of the House, that the hon. Member Mr. Tyagi said: "My information is that a party in April last, offered to the hon. Minister and his Secretary—his name is Mr. N. T. Mone—to supply sugar." This is the report of the official reporter and it is no use speaking across the table or contradicting statements. Whatever might be the impression of the hon. Member, it seems to be wrong in the face of this report which I have read out. The hon. Minister may now proceed.

**Shri Tyagi:** I own those remarks which I never contradicted. But I did not make any statement which the hon. Minister attributes to me. I heard the hon. Minister say.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am not going to allow any further discussion on this subject. The matter may be treated as closed now.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The other matter, which was referred to by my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva, was fertilisers. Well, that has been engaging my attention, I can assure him, from the time that I took office. The Director of Fertilisers in my Department, who was in charge, has been dismissed. It is being investigated whether more fertilisers than were actually necessary were ordered last year and what was the loss suffered by Government on account of it. It is also being investigated whether order for this quantity fertiliser was placed without the necessary sanction from the Finance Ministry. Investigations are also being made about the person with whom the valuable fertilisers were stocked. I can only say that I am extremely unhappy about the whole episode and when the investigations are over, if necessary, I shall place it before the House.

**Shri Sidhva:** What about the godown keeper?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** He is the person with whom a contract was made for storing fertilisers and which contract I find is not in writing. As I said, the whole matter is under investigation and for the moment my friend will hold his soul in patience. When the investigations are over I shall be prepared to place the whole matter before the House. I am very unhappy about it—that is all I can say.

The next question, Sir, is with regard to sugar and the sugar policy. The

position is this. When we settled this policy there were two factors which had to be taken into account. The first was that the *gur* prices were so high—Rs. 35 to 40 a maund—as would not attract sugarcane in the factories for the manufacture of sugar. Secondly, there was so much burden upon the sugar factories that they were finding it uneconomic to manufacture sugar under the conditions then existing. If we had continued with that state of affairs, instead of nine and a half lakh or 9·8 lakh tons which were manufactured last year, perhaps 6 lakhs would not have even been manufactured. That would have meant that we would have to import about Rs. 50 crores worth of sugar from foreign countries, which apart from the foreign exchanges was not even available; and the *gur* prices would have gone on soaring higher and higher. Therefore, there were only two alternatives left: either to decontrol sugar or adopt the policy we did. It is very easy to talk about decontrol of sugar. But if we had decontrolled sugar, sugar which was being sold at Rs. 34 per maund in retail would have gone up to Rs. 50 or 60. Along with it *gur* prices also would have moved up and both *gur* and sugar would not have been easily accessible to any section of the community except the very rich. Now, that could not be thought of for a moment. The only thing that could be done was, first to take steps to see that sugar cane was diverted to factories in the sugar cane areas. Now *kohlus* were directed to be licensed in the zonal areas, in order that sugar cane produced in that area could be diverted. If we do not produce 10 to 11 lakh maunds of sugar next year and we were not in a position to import foreign sugar we would have had to cut down the already meagre rations. Therefore, the only alternative left was the licensing of *kohlus*.

The other thing was to bring down the price of *gur*. An enquiry has shown that the manufacturing cost of *gur* all over the country is somewhere between Re. 1 to Rs. 1·3 a maund, which means Rs. 10 to 13 per maund of *gur*. As against this *gur* manufacturers were getting Rs. 35 to 40 a maund,—either the *gur* manufacturers or the middlemen. We cannot allow the price of *gur* to soar to about three times its cost. The *gur* prices therefore had to be brought down to Rs. 18 which leaves a margin of profit of Rs. 4 to 5 per maund of *gur*, which is not a small margin. Therefore what has been done is the soundest thing that could possibly be done under the circumstances. If it is the desire of the country as represented by this



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House that we should have decontrolled sugar and *gur* completely it should remember that it is the urban areas which attach great importance to sugar and they will be without it. There will be an uproar from one end of the country to the other, and people will come and abuse the Government for perpetrating a sugar muddle as sugar would have vanished from the market. Either you want sugar or you do not want it. If you want that the country's economy should depend on *gur*, say so. (*Interruption*). Even then I tell you you will have to control *gur* because there is a great demand for *gur* today. Tea drinking has added on to the demand for sugar and *gur*. Illicit distillation has added a considerable strain on the demand for *gur*. And if you must have all the luxury of prohibition, plus tea drinking, plus more sugar, plus more sweets, plus sweeter *Diwalis*, you must be prepared to control the production and distribution of *gur*. I cannot really understand—I really fail to understand—that there should be such a noise in this country over his sugar scarcity; newspaper after newspaper complain about the lack of sugar, not about the lack of *jowar* or *bajri*, that is subsidiary; sugar takes predominance. I found in England, where sugar was much scarcer than now, that the majority of people have given up sugar altogether for their tea; and even what you get is next to nothing. But I am yet to see anyone in this country who does not add more than two spoonfuls of sugar for his tea—unless he is a diabetic patient! If we are passing through difficulties and I do not want to mince matters—we are passing through very grave difficulties—as the President was pleased to say, we must be prepared to face privations and be prepared for a little less sugar here or a little less *gur* there.

Complaints were made on behalf of the *gur* manufacturers about the licensing of *kolhus*. The country must make up its mind. If control is to come it must come effectively. I know there is great uproar about the licensing of *kolhus*. I know that enforcement in some places is not as strict as before. But remember this that you cannot complain against controls by saying it is lax and at the same time say "give us sugar, give us *gur*" and weaken the controls by criticism of the methods that are adopted. If we decide, as we have decided, on controlled economy, we must be prepared to enforce it at all costs and cheerfully bear all the hardships. That is the only way. This

kind of criticism, I am afraid, only weakens the country in its resolve to pass through the difficulties facing it. I therefore appeal to the Members of the House that we must examine not only the sugar policy but the other policy in all its perspective. We are in difficult days. We are doing the best we can; at that time we should make a stern determination, a grim determination, to face all privations and not to go on complaining in any way we could think of.

The next thing that was dealt with was the question of decontrol. I regret that again and again Members have said something in favour of it. With regard to that the situation of gram was referred to particularly by my hon. friend Mr. Satish Chandra who stood for the woes of gramless Uttar Pradesh. With regard to gram, P.E.P.S.U., Punjab, U. P., C. P. and Rajasthan were the only surplus Provinces; the rest of the country was deficit. Whereas the control price of gram in the Northern areas was Rs. 9 to 11, in other parts of the country it went up to Rs. 35 and even to Rs. 60. In Madras the price was Rs. 60 and in Bombay Rs. 35. It was not merely a matter of human consumption but horses were denied the gram, and they cannot be made to eat milo or *jowar*. For two or three months I approached the Ministers of the surplus Provinces again and again and begged of them to give me some little quantity which I could make available for the horses in the rest of the country. I received no response. Is it suggested that in this country which we claim to be one, four Provinces should have gram at Rs. 9 and 10 and the other Provinces should have it at Rs. 35, 40, 50 or 60?

**An Hon. Member:** Make the movement of gram free.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** That is what was done. It was not a few *tongwallahs* which made Government take the decision. After due consideration the decision was taken. And what is the position today? Today in non-producing Provinces the price, even the black market price, goes round the control price of Rs. 16 i.e., 17, 19. In the producing Provinces gram is available to day at a little higher than the control price. And the price is higher not because there is great scarcity of it but because the administration of those Provinces have not taken the trouble to enforce the control price. I give you one single instance. The price of *gur* went up to about Rs. 35; when the Government of U. P. immediately put two merchants in jail. The Hapur price came down to Rs.

17-8-0, eight annas less than the control price. If you want control and if you have got a control price the Government must at any risk and at the cost of unpopularity enforce the control price of that commodity.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it not on account of your stopping export from Hapur?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Today there is no ban on the movement of *gwr*. It is said in the papers that there is a ban; but the ban is still to be placed. Up to this moment there is no ban. The arrest of the two merchants brought down the price next day from Rs. 32 to Rs. 18. This House has endorsed the policy again and again that we must take stringent action against those who defy control prices. If that policy is scrupulously followed by all the Governments in the country the prices will not rise.

**Shri Ghule (Madhya Bharat):** What was the necessity of controlling the price of gram? The movements could have been freed.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** If movements had been free and the price was not controlled, prices all over the country would have gone up to Rs. 30 or 35. Is it your desire that the price of gram should rise so absurdly?

**Shri Ghule:** Gram is not available at the control price even today.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is not correct, because the black market availability is the surest test of the supply. And today in any part of the country for Rs. 17, 18 or 19 one can get gram. (Interruption).

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister does not give way.

**Shri Tyagi:** Why was *dhal* not controlled?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The hon. Minister is trying to explain in reply to what all has been said from this side and by others. There is no use putting cross-questions.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** The hon. Minister is referring to me. My complaint was about the relaxation of control on movement and distribution of gram, and not about price control.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** There was no control over gram at any stage. There was control of movement imposed by the surplus States as against the deficit States. What was removed was not control; there was no control at all. What was removed was only the Ban on movement imposed by the surplus provinces for their own purposes in order that the deficit provinces may have an equality of opportunity so far as gram is concerned.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister take serious notice of Members who are breaking the discipline from time to time. If there is any personal reference to any hon. Member and if there is a personal explanation which he has to make with reference to a statement made earlier, then he will have an opportunity; otherwise no questions and cross questions will be allowed.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The same controversy has been raised in the course of, de-control versus control. I thought we had made up our mind to have controlled economy. For the moment there is no escape from controlled economy and if that is so, I cannot understand why we should again and again go back to the same thing. We have talked about frustration. We have been told that we do not approach the question in a proper way. Look at the position as it stands. How many contradictory matters do you want. I found from the debate that Members do not want control and yet, at the same time, they want the cost of living to be lowered. They suffer black-market; they do not want to be stringent in action; at the same time they want to protest against the black-marketeters in this House. Then, Sir, we are told to take stringent steps to save food. We will not kill monkeys. In two States people would not even report the fact that locusts have arrived in the fields lest the Government authorities may come and kill the locusts? And you say that you should save food.

**An Hon. Member:** What are the States, Sir?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The States are Saurashtra and Cutch. You must make up your mind whether you want to feed yourself or you want to feed the animal kingdom. If the latter is your wish, do not ask Government to give you food. Our people talk as if in 5 or 10 years the Government can change the agriculturists' lethargy, the law of inheritance; stop fragmentation, introduce collective farming. All this talk, I submit, is entirely unrealistic. We are facing great difficulties; we are in the days of scarcity. Our natural supply markets of Burma and Pakistan are now foreign countries. Our financial resources are limited. Under these conditions what can we do to ease the situation as much as possible? That is the real problem and any other problem, I submit, is really irrelevant; not only that but the consideration of any other problem will confound the real issue before us.

Again and again we have been discussing the evils of control. Why? It is common ground—nobody disputes it—that controls by their very nature may lead to black-marketing; that they

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lead to providing bad quality here or there; that they mean inefficiency sometimes, maladjustment of supplies; but these things are inevitable. I want you to realize that no Government of a vast country like this operating through so many agencies can enforce a perfect system of control, procurement and rationing and at the same time, within the limited means of foreign exchange, import all the food we want. It is all very well to talk about a theoretical pattern of control. We should however try to meet the difficulties as best as we could; their cure is not with Government but with the leaders of public opinion in this country. How far during the last few months, have they supported Government policy? In several States I have found—I do not want to mention names—leaders of public opinion, supporting the party in power, day in and day out through newspapers and on public platforms opposing their own State Governments and criticising policy and attributing to them all kinds of motives. How can a Government under these circumstances succeed in achieving the desired result? The remedy lies in your hands. Why is it that there has not been a response to Government appeals? I have been in touch with the Madras Ministers, at one time at least once in two days on an average; they have struggled for the last three months through most difficult times; and yet no public man has ever got on a platform or written in a newspaper saying that it is doing a heroic job; that it should be given every support. I should like to know the name of the person who did so.

**An Hon. Member:** Why is it so?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Because we are in a frustrated mood; we refuse to realize the difficulty; we want to criticize, and we are thinking of winning the elections one year hence. That is our idea.

**Shri Ramalingam Chettiar:** Does the hon. Minister know that we are all advising the Government to change their policy and they would not.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** If the Government did not change a policy, it is no business of my learned friend as a Member of the Party which supports it to criticize the Government.

**Shri Ramalingam Chettiar:** He cannot expect us to agree with the Government when they are pursuing a policy which we do not approve of.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** You may not approve our policy. It is the duty of

those people who have put that Government in power not to go and criticize the Government and then weaken it. That is at least due from a Congress man to a Congress Government.

**Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh):** Must not Government be responsive to public opinion?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Government is responsible to public opinion but those who are responsible for keeping the Government in power are equally responsible for supporting the policy with all that they are worth.

The question about imports have been referred to. I have already pointed out that in view of the extraordinary circumstances the limit on imports has been relaxed. This year we are likely to import something in the neighbourhood of 3 million tons; and so long as the present situation lasts and we are not able to bring up the food economy of the country to normal, Government will have no hesitation in importing as much foreign grain as their financial means permit; beyond that, nothing is possible. Some of the Members said that we must import at any cost, under all circumstances, everything that the country wants, but I am afraid there is the iron bar of Finance; within it, I am sure Government will have no hesitation in importing food-grains to tide over the present crisis.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** Did the hon. Minister refer to calendar year or the financial year?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Both. You must realize that there is not enough rice in the world, food-grains are not easily available, and foreign exchange is not easily available too. Within those limits, Government will do everything. Then I come to the question of Bihar. I fully realize that it is a very serious question. As I pointed out, something like 28 lakh tons of foodgrains have been lost or destroyed during the last fortnight of October. It is a very serious situation, not only affecting Bihar, but also the surrounding parts of the country. My friend Acharya Kriplani criticised me for not making a statement in Bihar; that I would consult the Prime Minister and my other colleagues before making any statement. I did it advisedly. It was not a situation which I alone can deal with. I cannot deal with a situation which requires the fullest concurrence of the Government as a whole. It was my duty to apprise the Prime Minister and my other colleagues, of the situation. The Bihar situation is not an ordinary situation. It is a most

extraordinary situation when you will have to look after something like one and a half crores of people for nine months. It involves a tremendous responsibility. It will involve a very heavy financial burden. He would be a foolish Minister indeed who in a situation of this gravity, without consulting his colleagues, would take upon himself the responsibility of saying that he will do this, that and the other thing.

I am free to tell you what Government propose to do now. I have had full consultation with the Government of Bihar, when I was there. I have had consultation with my Prime Minister and my other colleagues. I can assure you that neither Government will leave any stone unturned to see that every kind of relief is given to Bihar. Imports in a measure sufficient to go round have been provided for. A scheme for the relief of the landless poor, is being studied; and whatever is needed would be forthcoming between the Centre and the Government of Bihar.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar):**  
By way of funds?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Of course, by way of funds. What else could it be? At the same time, an organisation for the efficient administration of relief is also being examined and will soon be put into action. Let us not precipitate a crisis before it comes. The situation up to January will not be so difficult. Difficulties will begin from February and March. By that time, the whole machinery of Government, I think, will be in proper order and will be set in motion. I propose to go there myself to see that the machinery is set up. I hope that will satisfy the Members of this House. Everything that could be done will be done in order to see that Bihar and surrounding parts do not suffer.

Questions were asked about Grow More Food.

**Shri Sidhva:** And statistics also.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** And statistics. With my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva statistics is a kind of nightmare.

**Shri Sidhva:** You have admitted that your statistics are wrong.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I agreed with him that the statistics are hypothetical. That does not mean that there is enough food in the country. If that assumption were correct, State Minister would not have been driven to ask for 500 tons of foodgrains from the Centre to supply to the ration shops. Therefore, his logic is not correct; it is lame by the other leg.

Now, Sir, the position is this. I only apply the commonsense point of view. During the last two years, from the 1st April, 1949 to 31st March, 1951,—this year and last year—we would have put into the soil many things. The number of wells sunk would be 178,000; there would have been 42,000 minor irrigation works; 39,000 water lifting appliances, 1,300 tanks. The extent of lands reclaimed, brought under mechanical cultivation or improved would be 22,57,000 acres; 4,12,000 tons of fertilisers would have been put into the soil and also 2,36,000 tons of oil-cakes. 1,467,000 tons of manure and compost and other things would have been utilised. A part of this may not have been used for Grow More Food. Part of the money spent may have been wasted. But, it could not be suggested that all this went to waste and was not used in Grow More Food. At the same time, I want to apply another test. In the year 1949, a normal year, we consumed something like three million tons of foreign food grains. This year, eliminating the extra demand due to these calamities, we required only about 15 to 17 lakhs. Therefore, there has been an increase of 13 to 15 lakhs as against the scheduled increase which was 17 lakhs. In the very nature of things, you can never be mathematically accurate about it. Nor could procurement or diminishing of imports be a proper test, because that is entirely a different calculation. But there is no doubt that the efforts that are being made have gone to the extent of enriching our soil. Above everything else, it has awakened the Governments of the States as well as the rural classes to the advantage of making a greater effort for growing more food. That itself is a gain which should be taken into consideration when people talk light-heartedly about Grow More Food.

Then, a question was asked about the integrated programme of cotton and jute. So far as that is concerned, the position is very simple. In 1950-51 we wanted an increase of 17 lakh tons of foodgrains, and in 1951-52, an increase of 23 lakhs of foodgrains. We must remember why the date was shifted from 31st December 1951 to 31st March 1952. When people talk of 31st December, they include the *rabi* crop as well. The *rabi* crop of 1951 would not come in December; it would come in March. Therefore, the latest date of 31st of March 1952 is mentioned to make the period inclusive of the *rabi* season in 1951. That was why this change of date had to be made. There is no going back on it. We hope to produce, if proper finances are forthcoming and if any extraordinary difficulty does not come in the way, 23 additional lakhs of foodgrains to be

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produced by 31st March, 1952. At the time, the arrangements that are being made go to show that we would have reached a 100 per cent. target in our cotton requirements. Our annual requirement of cotton is 40 lakhs of bales; we hope to produce that by 31st March. Similarly, our annual requirement of jute is 72 lakhs of bales; out of this, we hope to produce 81 lakhs, not necessarily by entrenching upon the acreage under foodgrains. No doubt, a part of that acreage will have to be diverted. But, the net result of this programme will be that by the 31st of March 1952, we would have fulfilled the target of G.M.F. which was calculated by Lord Boyd Orr; built up a reserve of one million tons of foodgrains; achieved self-sufficiency in cotton and sugar; and achieved 82 per cent. self-sufficiency in jute. Rationing would only be necessary for the industrial areas with their demand of about 20 lakh tons of cereals, the rest of the country being comparatively free area and the demand of about 20 lakh tons will be met from the surplus States and the intensive cultivation areas.

By reason of this additional increase in output of cotton and jute, we would have earned something in the neighbourhood of 107 crores of rupees per year. This is the integrated programme which has been put forward. If time were not limited, I would give other figures. I am quite willing to make a statement about it any day the House wants. This is the programme to which we have pledged ourselves.

I ask the House to consider this. Is it necessary that we should every time attack the self-sufficiency programme? Why should we be such men lacking in faith that we cannot do even this little bit of thing. My friend Acharya Kripalani and several other hon. friends spoke about the self-sufficiency programme as if it was a sin. They criticised the Price Minister for having laid down the target of self-sufficiency. They mock of it. One thing, however, I want the House to consider, and I want them to be very clear about that. After 'Quit India', the biggest thing that this country has undertaken is to see that it becomes self-sufficient by 31st March, 1952. Imports have to be stopped by 31st March 1952, the target date, except for meeting any grave calamity, such as widespread failure of crops; for replacement due to diversion of crops in national interests; and for building up of a central reserve. If you go back upon the undertaking, I tell you, as a nation, you will never have any confidence in yourself and no foreign nation will have any confidence in you. I

say there is no going back, even if you want to. Newspaper after newspaper, congressman after congressman, public man after public man, has said that this self-sufficiency programme is going to be a failure; that it is merely a false promise; and that it is a pledge which we are not going to keep. It has crept into even the ranks of high officers, and even of some Ministers in the States. I tell you, if the whole country makes this effort, we can achieve it. I am sure about it. We know the difficulties; the difficulties are there. But if we cannot grow 23 lakh tons of foodgrains in one year's time, if we cannot bend all our resources, I tell you, all our talk of *Ram Rajya*, about 5 P.M. our being a heroic nation is absolutely non-sense. Therefore, I submit, this should be the last time that we hear at least in this House, this talk of going back on this self-sufficiency programme. Let us put our shoulders, all of us, to the wheel, every section of the House, and let us go to the people and tell them we are going to do it. It is our faith that will produce the result. To the man who lacks faith there is neither Heaven here nor Heaven in the other world. It is for us to produce that element of faith that will transmute our energy into self-sufficiency.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** How about work as opposed to faith?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Evidently the question itself shows that the hon. Member is lacking in faith; if he had that much of faith he would not have put the question. There is no revision of the programme so far as I am concerned; any revision would, to my mind, be a betrayal. It is only a question of bending of all the energies which the Centre and States possess to the accomplishment of our National objective. I know the difficulties in the way of our attaining the objective. Money is scarce; trained men scarcer. States have no faith and they look to the Centre. Change-over from traditional grooves is difficult, and the policy of price control kills the will to work. But all these difficulties we have to conquer; and conquer we shall.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Before proceeding to put the amendments to the House I would like to make an announcement to the House. Much has been expressed with respect to the question that was raised by Mr. Tyagi and the answer given by the hon. Minister. The hon. Prime Minister has just informed me that I should announce to the House that he is willing to go into this matter, and not only this matter but all other matters which

may be brought to his notice, if he is only informed in advance.

Now I will put the amendments. There are four of them.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The question is:

That at the end of the motion the following be added:

"but regret the inability of the Government to solve the food problem."

The motion was negatived.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad** (West Bengal): Sir, on a point of order. A large number of Members spoke in support of my amendment. Can they now go back on their words?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Their sympathies are with the hon. Member, but evidently their votes are against him.

Now, I put the amendment standing in the name of Prof. Shah. The question is:

That at the end of the motion the following be added:

"but regret that the continued insistence on the aim of national self-sufficiency in the matter of the country's food supply, to be attained by March, 1952, regardless of the prevailing conditions affecting food production and its distribution in the country, as also of the extraordinary natural calamities recently afflicting large areas of the land which intensify those adverse forces, is calculated to create a misleading and dangerous sense of security liable to

result in proportionate disappointment and demoralisation."

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then I come to Shri Syamanandan Sahaya's amendment.

**Shri Syamnanandan Sahaya:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then there is the amendment of Sardar Man.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw it.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then I put the motion to the House.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** Sir, there is one point in this connection. We have not yet discussed External Affairs, and so can we accept the proposal, I mean the motion, subject to further discussion of that?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No he need not add any such rider. It is understood that there will be a separate date for that subject.

The question is:

"That the Members of Parliament assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House."

The motion was adopted.

*The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Monday the 20th November, 1950.*