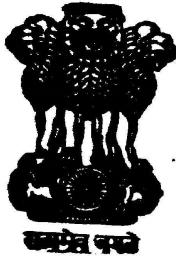


Thursday, 16th November, 1950

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# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT



THIRD SESSION (FIRST PART)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

(1950)

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

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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

*Thursday, 16th November, 1950.*

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**PRODUCTION OF JUTE AND Mesta**

\*51. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimated production of jute and *mesta* has reached the target fixed for this year; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):** (a) No.

(b) Border disturbances resulting in dislocation of jute cultivation; insufficient supply of jute seed; severe drought after the sowing period, followed by heavy rains and floods in the jute growing areas.

**Shri B. K. Das:** By how much is it short of the target fixed?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The target of jute production fixed for 1950-51 was 50 lakh bales, but it was reduced to 41.79 lakh bales. It was also expected that the production of *mesta* could be stepped up to 10 lakh bales. But this also had to be reduced and now the production of jute is set at 33.51 lakh bales and that of *mesta* at 5.25 lakh bales.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Is it a fact that six jute mills in the Calcutta area have remained closed from the 8th of November due to short supply of jute there, even though now there is enough jute in the market?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I want notice of that.

**Shri B. K. Das:** What is the plan of the Government to make up the deficit for the current year?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The hon. Member is aware that we could not reach our target on account of so many natural calamities like floods and drought and all that sort of thing. Now we shall try to make provision for having increased production if normal conditions prevail.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether **Shri K. M. Munshi:** There is no outside?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** There is no plan for the moment.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know what was the amount of production of jute and *mesta* in the same period in other States?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I would require notice.

**Shri A. C. Guba:** May I know by how much this year's production of both jute and *mesta* exceeds last year's production and what is the gap between this year's production and the required quantity?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I want notice of it—it is all in a big statement.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Has the Union Government received any complaint from the West Bengal Government that the jute seeds supplied to the West Bengal Government by the Centre had germination of only 38 per cent. because they were mixed with bad seeds?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** We have been experiencing some difficulty in procuring good seeds. We are aware of the defects in seeds.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** But because of the dearth of good seeds should bad seeds be mixed with good seeds?

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

**Shri Himatsingka:** Are Government aware that large quantities of jute are

lying at the producing centres and they cannot come to Calcutta for want of transport facilities?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** That may be addressed to the Transport Minister.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** What was the actual production of jute in the Republic of India last year and how much more is being produced this year—jute and mesta combined?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The estimated production of jute and mesta is 38.76 lakhs bales this year.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** What was the production last year?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I want notice.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I ask if the hon. the Minister for Agriculture or his colleague the Minister for Industry or for that matter his other colleague the Minister for Commerce will make a comprehensive statement about this question of jute and jute prices in view of the fact that a number of mills in Calcutta have closed down for the reason that they are not able to obtain jute at ceiling prices while on the other hand it seems that plenty of jute is available at fairly reasonable prices on the other side of Bengal, and there is also the fact that the industry has reacted not favourably to the increased export duties put on jute? Will somebody responsible make a comprehensive statement about it?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The statement will be made as the situation has developed only during the last few days.

**Shri B. K. Bhagat:** Are the Government aware that jute cultivation in the State of Bihar has been discouraged this year due to the fact that it could not be marketed and sent to Calcutta on account of transport difficulties, resulting in considerable losses to the *kisans*?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** We are not aware of it.

#### SUPPLY AND PRODUCTION OF FISH

\*52. **Shri B. K. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what steps have been taken during the current year to increase the supply and production of fish in the country either directly or in collaboration with the States Governments?

(b) What have been the results of such steps?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):** (a) Government have taken both short-

term and long-term measures to enable the State Governments to increase the supply of fish. Special arrangements have been made to supply fry and fingerlings for stocking purposes to the deficit States. Financial assistance in the shape of loans and grants has also been given to the State Governments to the extent of Rs. 30,25,084/- for increasing the production of fish. Most of the short-term schemes are for the immediate increase in the supply of fish by stocking suitable waters with fish-seed of fast growing varieties

As regards long-term measures the Central Inland and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Stations at Calcutta and Mandapam and their sub-stations at Cuttack, Calicut and Karwar have been carrying out fisheries research with the object of increasing fish production and conserving India's fishery resources.

The Central Government is also running a pilot Deep Sea Fishing Station at Bombay for charting fishing grounds of the Bombay coast and doing other essential exploratory work.

(b) (i) Nearly 41 lakhs of fish fry and fish spawn have been distributed to various deficit States.

(ii) In the course of charting operations the two fishing trawlers and two Reekie boats of the Central Government have raised nearly 1250 mds. of fish during the period April to June, 1950.

(iii) The Fisheries Schemes for which financial assistance has been granted to various States during the current year, are expected to yield substantial increase in the production of fish. Definite information in this connection will be available after the end of the current year.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Is there any scheme worked out by the Central Government directly?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Though the main responsibility in this matter rests with the State Governments, the Government of India have been affording financial and technical assistance for them for implementing their schemes to increase fish production. And the States Governments have got the initiative in the matter to evolve their own schemes.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Are the State Governments getting any subsidies from the Central Government for working out their schemes?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Yes, and I gave the figure also.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether the quantity has been increased by the new flotilla to which the hon. Minister made a reference in Bombay, and if so, what is the quantity that has been increased by this new flotilla that has been introduced last year as compared with the previous production and supply?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I have not got the information; I would require notice.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Was this question referred by the Ministry of Agriculture to the Planning Commission and have they received any advice from them for increasing the production of fish?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I think this will form one of the integral plans of development for agricultural production.

**Shri Hathl:** May I know, Sir, if any subsidy is given to 'B' States?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** Yes. Subsidies have been given.

**Shri Kamath:** Along with the larger production and supply of fish has there been any propaganda campaign to make the people eat more fish and make them more fish-minded?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. I do not allow the question.

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** May I know whether any financial assistance has been given to the Travancore-Cochin State for their scheme of deep sea fishing?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Travancore-Cochin has not been given any special grants; they have not yet started any specific scheme so far as I am aware.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** May I know why the Government confined deep sea fishing to Bombay only knowing that the Bengalees love fish?

**Shri Sondhi:** Is it not a fact that the Government have already lost about 4 or 5 lakhs in their deep sea fishing experiment in Bombay and the whole experiment has been a failure?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is not correct to say that the scheme has been a failure. It was an experimental scheme and the next experimental scheme is going to be in Calcutta.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. We will go to the next question.

#### KEROSENE

\*53. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power

be pleased to state what is the quantity of kerosene so far imported into the country during the current year?

(b) What was the quantity imported during the years 1948-49 and 1949-50?

(c) What steps have been taken to reduce the prevailing prices of kerosene?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Buragohain):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 12].

(c) The middleman's margin has been reduced by annas -/11/- to Rs. 1-4-6 per unit of 8 gallons, and a revised price structure has been adopted from the 1st April 1950 which has resulted in a reduction of the Companies price by annas 0-12-0 per unit. Further, an increased quantity of kerosene has been made available for civil consumption, and the State Governments have been asked to abolish quantitative restrictions on distribution and to liberalise licensing of retail dealers.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know when this price of kerosene was last fixed?

**Shri Buragohain:** It was fixed in April 1950.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know whether these prices are periodically reviewed?

**Shri Buragohain:** Yes, Sir. Every six months.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether there is any restriction in the quantity of supply to consumers and whether it is freely available in any quantity required by them?

**Shri Buragohain:** As I have already stated State Governments have been asked to abolish quantitative restrictions on distribution.

**Shri Sidhva:** What is the result? I want to know whether any State Government has actually carried out the instructions of the Central Government.

**The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil):** The result is that there will be a net increase in supply by about 1 lakh of tons.

#### AVOCADO PEAR PLANTS

\*54. **Shri Tyagi:** (r) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government had ordered and received by air from America a number of Avocado Pear plants?

(b) When were they received and at what cost?

(c) Is it also a fact that one of the officers from the Ministry of Agriculture was sent by air to receive those plants at Bombay?

(d) Where have those plants been planted?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):** (a) Yes.

(b) In July, 1950 at a cost of Rs. 9,134/-.

(c) No.

(d) The plants from California, one hundred in number, were planted at the State Government Fruit Gardens at Saharanpur, Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur. All the plants are reported to have withered away within a period of two months probably as a result of change of environment. Three hundred plants from Florida were also imported but as these were found infested with scale insects, their fumigation became necessary to prevent introduction of a new plant disease in this country. Being, however, very tender and bare-root they did not withstand even a mild fumigation dose and died. Our Embassy in Washington, through whom the plants were purchased, have been instructed to withhold payment for these 300 plants to the firm concerned as they were not accompanied by a Health Certificate which had to be furnished by it and were too tender and bare-root for plantation in foreign soil. It has been suggested to our Embassy to ask the suppliers to replace these 300 plants free of cost. The final outcome of the Embassy's correspondence with the suppliers is awaited.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it a fact that these plants were imported by air into India in contravention of the destruction of insects and pests Act?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** It was in compliance with it.

**Shri Tyagi:** I remember, Sir, there is an Act called the Destruction of insects and pests Act in India according to which no plants could be imported into the country, unless they have undergone regular health examination in the foreign country and fumigated beforehand.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I gave in reply to part (d) that they were not accompanied by a proper health certificate.

**Shri Tyagi:** I want to know whether Government has actually contravened the provisions of the law.

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

**Shri Tyagi:** Were they fumigated here in Bombay?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The plants could not stand our fumigation and they died.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I know if the 300 Florida plants were planted in some of the nurseries here in North India?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Before they could be planted, they died.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das:** May I know if the Government is aware that Avocado Pear plant is not a native of California or Florida but it is of Portugal and the plants should have been brought from Portugal itself?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The Government have not known the original home of this plant but it is available from Florida and California also.

**Shri Karunakara Menon:** May I know how these plants are useful and so important as to be carried by air?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The fruits of this plant have got a rich protein content and in Mexico and in other countries it is used as substantial food by the people and the Government of India thought it would be worthwhile to transplant them and carry out experiments to see if this plant could be multiplied in this country. The necessity for bringing them by air was that they should be transported as quickly as possible and a long sea voyage was avoided.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it a fact that the scale insects, mealy bugs and mites which were found to be on a big scale on the leaves of the plants were very dangerous for other crops here in India?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** That is the opinion of experts.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that these plants were ordered without consulting the Plant Protection Directorate of the Ministry?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** All the concerned Ministries were consulted before these plants were ordered.

**Shri Kamath:** With reference to part (c) of the question, is it a fact that an officer though not sent by air was sent by rail to Bombay, and the officer had no experience in fruit farming, but was only a cotton Physiologist and has since been taken up in the Ministry

only to do the work of sugar allotment and fruit preservation? He had no experience of fruit farming at all?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The officer was sent to receive the plants and about the qualifications of the officer, I want notice.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. We will proceed to the next question.

#### SUGAR

\*55. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how much sugar and from which countries and at what prices has been imported into India during the last three months;

(b) how much more is proposed to be imported in the near future; and

(c) the present position with regard to the manufacture and supply of sugar in our country?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) A statement giving the information required, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 13].

(b) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

(c) The new crushing season is about to start. At present the stocks in hand together with likely imports are sufficient to meet the demands of the country for sugar at the existing ration scales.

In order to stimulate production of sugar during the 1950-51 season, the Government of India have taken action:—

(i) to fix statutory ceiling prices of gur and khandsari;

(ii) to licence *kolhus* (cane crushers) and khandsari plants;

(iii) to authorise the State Governments to take over stocks of gur and khandsari at appropriate prices subject to ceilings fixed;

(iv) to ban movement of gur and khandsari from producing areas except on permits; and

(v) to give a subsidy of Rs. 2/6/- per maund on all sugar produced by factories in Western districts of Uttar Pradesh and in East Punjab upto the 15th December, 1950 on a quantity not more than 1 lakh tons, provided they start regular crushing by 15th November 1950 at the latest and the sugar produced is more than that produced

during the corresponding period of the last year.

It is yet too early to make any estimate of the production during the ensuing crushing season. The minimum requirement of sugar on the present rations is 10.5 lakh tons.

**Shri Kamath:** With reference to the answer to part (a) of the question, how do the import prices of sugar compare with the sale price of sugar in those countries from which sugar has been imported?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The import price of sugar is rather higher than the price here.

**Shri Kamath:** In those countries.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It was at the same price as in those countries; not higher.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether the Pakistan Government has purchased sugar from the places where we have purchased, at a lower price than ourselves?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have no information about it.

**Shri Sidhva:** The hon. Minister stated in the last session that in June orders were placed in certain countries. May I know whether orders were placed in Cuba and with what result?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Orders were placed not in June, but later. I mentioned to the House that orders were placed. After the orders were accepted, they were cancelled on account of the Korean War.

**Shri Sidhva:** Cancelled by whom?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I do not want to give that information in the public interests.

**Shri Tyagi:** May I know the name of the agency which is used to import sugar?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** They are all Government to Government transactions.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it a fact that in April 1950, a firm from Formosa, through their local agent, offered to supply 20,000 tons of sugar at the rate of Rs. 652 per ton and again in May, from Cuba, 50,000 tons of sugar were offered at Rs. 578 per ton and that these offers were rejected?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I do not know of anything that happened before the month of May 1950. But, in April and

May, we could not get a complete idea as to how much stock we would have.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it a fact that sugar is now being imported . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order; Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena.

**Prof. S. L. Saksena:** Is Government aware that the sucrose content is very low if cane is crushed in November?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Government is aware that the sugar content of sugarcane is low in November. But, whether we produce sugar or gur—gur is being produced even from the middle of October.—it is all sugar and we have to get the factories going by the middle of November.

**Prof. S. L. Saksena:** In view of the fact that you have restricted the production of gur in the factory areas, would it not be better to crush the cane when it is mature and produce more sugar?

**Mr. Speaker:** That would be a matter of argument.

گھائی جی - ایس - مسافر - کیا

یہ تھیک ہے کہ دیہاتی راشن بلدی کے

علاقے میں صرف ایک چھٹانک ماحول

فی آدمی کھانڈ کا راشن دیا جاتا ہے ؟

[**Giani G. S. Musafir:** Is it a fact that only one *chhatak* of sugar per head per month is given in the rural rationed areas?]

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** We agree that quantity is less. Whatever we have, we are trying to distribute as equitably as we can.

**Shri Tyagi:** I wanted to invite your attention to the reply given by the hon. Minister, not giving this House the figures of the rate at which sugar was being purchased. As it pertains to the purse of the nation, I demand that this must be given. Unless there is something fishy about it, I want the House should be informed . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** You need not immediately run to inferences.

**Shri Tyagi:** How is it then that figures are not given in the interest of . . .

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The rates are all given in the statement placed on the Table of the House.

**Shri Tyagi:** I want to know the rates.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we cannot pursue this question, if there is heat over it.

**Shri Tyagi:** My suspicion is that it is being purchased at a higher rate.

**Mr. Speaker:** He may refer to the statement. I am calling the next question.

#### TOOFAN EXPRESS ACCIDENT

\*56. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the inquiry into the accident that overtook the Toofan Express on the 14th August, 1950 has been received;

(b) if so, the findings and conclusions contained in the report; and

(c) whether Government propose to order a judicial inquiry into the matter?

**The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):** (a) Yes; the report of the Government Inspector of Railways has been received, but the accident to the Toofan Express occurred on 13-8-50 and not 14-8-50 as stated in the question.

(b) The finding of the Government Inspector of Railways is that the Up Toofan Express running on the Up line collided with derailed wagons of a down goods train on the down line which fouled the up line, the derailment of the wagons having been the result of the track having been tampered with by some person or persons unknown.

(c) Yes.

**Shri Kamath:** What is the composition or the personnel of the Judicial Tribunal to be appointed?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** There will be a Judge of a High Court who will hold the inquiry.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that a gang of saboteurs has since been arrested, who have been operating on this line?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** Yes; some of them have been arrested.

**Shri Kamath:** How many have been arrested?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** That is a matter which is not within my knowledge. Some have been arrested.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact, as quoted in some newspapers that some of the saboteurs are Pakistanis?



**Shri Gopaldaswami:** That has reference to a previous accident: the Jasidih disaster about which it was so said in a newspaper.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** May I know whether the people have confessed to have been participants in this derailment?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I think one of them has given a statement to a Magistrate in the United Provinces. That will also be enquired into in connection with the judicial inquiry.

**Prof. S. L. Saksena:** What steps have Government taken to stop the recurrence of these disasters and railway accidents?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** We are praying to God that saboteurs may not go on doing this sort of thing in the future.

**Shri S. N. Sinha:** Is there a difference of opinion between the Bihar police and the Railway authorities as to the causes of this accident?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** In this connection, the inquiry was held by the Government Inspector of Railways who is under the Communications Ministry. His opinion as to this accident is not exactly the same as the opinion held by the Bihar police.

**Prof. Ranga:** Are we to understand that we have left ourselves completely at the mercy of God and that we are not taking any steps at all to prevent a recurrence of accidents?

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether the judicial inquiry will be held in public or private?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I think it will be a public one unless in regard to certain issues—because there are certain peculiar features about this case—the Judge himself wants to hold a private inquiry.

**Mr. Speaker:** We are going to the next question.

#### PATHANKOT AIR CRASH (ENQUIRY)

\*57. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the inquiry into the Pathankot air crash has been received; and

(b) if so, its findings and conclusions?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) and (b). No, Sir, the investigation has not been completed.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that a specialist was imported from the United Kingdom to investigate the cause of the accident or to make inquiry on the spot?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** A specialist came to help in the inquiry.

**Shri Kamath:** How long will it take for the report to be received?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** The position is that some parts required an expert examination which could not be done in India. They have been sent to the United Kingdom. As soon as they come back after examination, the inquiry would be completed.

**Shri Kamath:** Have any Indian experts been associated with the inquiry?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Oh yes.

**Shri Kamath:** What are their names?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I think I gave the names when I announced the Committee of inquiry.

**Shri Kamath:** Only Mr. K. P. Lakshmana Rao was mentioned last time; no other name was mentioned.

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Whatever I mentioned on the last occasion is perfectly correct.

**Shri Kamath:** Mr. Lakshmana Rao is not an expert at all.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order; it is a matter of opinion.

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** He is a court of inquiry, not an expert.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** In the case of future accidents, does not the Ministry intend to have experts on the spot instead of having to import from outside?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** As far as possible it is the intention not to have any accidents.

#### MONKEYS

\*58. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of monkeys exported to foreign countries during the last five years;

(b) the approximate number of monkeys destroyed for bacteriological and pathological purposes in India during the same period; and

(c) the extent of damage caused by monkeys to crops in the country during a normal year?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 14].

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 15].

(c) The information has already been given by me in this House in reply to Starred Question No. 88 on 2nd August, 1950.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Sir, may I know what practical steps have been taken by Government to meet the monkey menace to food crops, and in which States or localities particularly are their ravages the greatest?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The Government of India has circularised to every State a Communication suggesting stringent measures. Some of the States are taking stringent measures, but in other States attempts are being thwarted by public opinion which does not want monkeys to be deprived of their food. As regards the extent of the ravages, I want notice.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Have Government any information as to whether the monkey population in the country is on the increase or whether it is decreasing or is it stationary?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am afraid it is increasing, perhaps faster than one would like.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Is there any useful propaganda done in places where the monkeys create the greatest nuisance to crops, to induce the people to destroy them and thus save valuable food-grains from wanton destruction?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is unfortunate that in this country, in spite of propaganda people do not want the monkeys to be killed. Those who are interested in killing them do not want to kill them themselves and those who kill them are subjected to public criticism. Unless, therefore, the public mind undergoes a complete change the monkeys are having the food which ought to go to human beings.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Have any experiments been carried out anywhere for utilising monkeys in manual labour for the benefit of mankind?

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

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** What is the number of monkeys alive in India?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I think I gave the figure. The estimate was about five crores; some two and a half crores

are in villages and towns and the remaining two and a half crores in forests.

#### POSTAL SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT

**\*59. Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that interest for the year 1949-1950 has not yet been recorded in a large number of Savings Bank Account Pass Books, although under the rules, this should have been done by 15th June, 1950; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for the same and the probable date by which this omission is likely to be rectified?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) Under the Post Office Savings Bank Rules, the entry of interest is required to be made in the pass-book as soon as possible after the 15th June of each year and not before the 15th June. Out of a total of about 38,27,000 accounts, interest has not yet been calculated in 53,350 accounts. The actual recording of the interest in the pass-book is done when the pass-book is presented and we have no information as to the number of pass-books actually presented for entry of interest.

(b) In about 40,000 accounts, the inability to work out interest is due to the want of ledger cards from the Audit Offices in Pakistan. Steps have been taken to calculate interest in these accounts on the basis of information available in pass-books. In the remaining 13,350 accounts, the delay is due to the delay in the transfer of ledger cards from one audit office to another consequent on the transfer of the account from one post office to another and also to discrepancies in the accounts.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** May I know when are the remaining entries in the pass-books likely to be completed?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** They are being completed as soon as possible.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** How long will it take to complete them?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** As I said, in a number of cases we have difficulties on account of the fact that the ledger cards have not been received from Pakistan. We are trying to get the information from the pass-books and as soon as this is obtained, the process will be completed.

**Prof. S. L. Sakseena:** Are Government aware that in a large number of pass-books in which accounts of sugar-cane deductions were kept the interest has not been filled in though the pass-books have been presented?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** I am not aware. If any case is brought to notice, I shall certainly see that action is taken on it.

**Prof. S. L. Sakseena:** Is Government aware that there are a large number of such cases in the Saharanpur and Gorakhpur districts?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** The total number of cases on which interest has not been calculated is 53,000 and odd, and whether these include some of the sugar-cane cases I do not know.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is the hon. Minister aware that in many of the post offices the rules for the savings bank accounts and the deposit forms are not available?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** We have had considerable difficulty in the matter of stationery not only in the case of savings bank accounts but practically as regards all kinds of forms.

#### SOIL-EROSION IN DIBRUGARH

\*60. **Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state what assistance, if any, Government are going to give to the State of Assam to prevent the threatened erosion of the soil in the town of Dibrugarh by Brahmaputra river?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Buragohain):** Expert Engineers from the Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission were sent to Dibrugarh and they suggested emergency measures which proved fairly successful in checking further erosion of the town. Tentative proposals for permanent protection of the town have also been intimated to the Chief Engineer Assam who has been asked to arrange for funds and start collection of materials. A senior officer of Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission is now in Assam to direct further surveys and collection of materials for an Advisory Committee which is proposed to be set up for devising permanent protection measures. The Government of India will continue to render any further help required by the Government of Assam in the matter of engineering personnel and expert advice.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Do I understand then, that no monetary assistance will be given by the Government of India?

**Shri Buragohain:** No formal request from the Government of Assam has so far been received.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Is it a fact that the Government of India can consider the position independent of the recommendations of the Government of Assam?

**Shri Buragohain:** The primary responsibility for finding funds is that of the Government of Assam and if and when a formal request is received, it may be sympathetically considered.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Has the Government made an estimate of the expenditure involved?

**Shri Buragohain:** According to tentative estimates it will be in the neighbourhood of forty lakhs.

**Maulvi Wajed Ali:** May I know if a representation has been received from an hon. Member that the Central Government should contribute something to the provincial funds? Will it be duly considered?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The question is problematic.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Is it a fact that since after the visit of the hon. Minister to Dibrugarh a considerable portion of the town has been eroded?

**Shri Buragohain:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Is the hon. Minister not aware that the Assam Government is not in a position to find the entire amount for this work?

**Shri Buragohain:** Yes, Sir.

#### PETROL RATIONING

\*61. **Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state in what parts of India petrol rationing is still in force and when the rationing is likely to be completely discontinued?

(b) Is it a fact that a large quantity of petrol is held up in Digboi in Assam for want of transport?

**The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):** (a) Petrol rationing is still in force in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. Rationing has been retained in U.P. in order to ensure increased utilisation of power alcohol mixed with petrol as motor fuel. It will be

abolished as soon as arrangements for mixing the two fuels have been completed in all the districts of that State. In Jammu and Kashmir, the State Government is desirous of retaining rationing for some months more in view of the dislocation in communications caused by the recent floods and the necessity of stocking supplies for the winter months.

(b) No. There was some accumulation of petrol stocks in storage tanks at Digboi immediately after the earthquake, but with the resumption of rail transport, the position has almost been restored to normal.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Do I understand then that rationing has been kept in force by the Government of U.P. not owing to shortage of petrol but for the production of power alcohol?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** That is correct.

**Prof. S. L. Saksena:** Is not the mixing of power alcohol with petrol done on an all-India basis?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** No, not at present.

**Prof. S. L. Saksena:** What time will the Government of U.P. take for making arrangements in the districts for mixing petrol with power alcohol? What time will they take to do this and stop rationing?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** The Government of India expect that would be done in the course of the next three or four months; but the question as to how long the U.P. Government will themselves take over this matter is one in respect of which I cannot conjecture.

**Shri Tyagi:** With the lifting of petrol rationing, has there been any reduction in expenditure on that account and, if so, to what extent?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** There is a certain amount of economy in discharging certain of the establishments which had been engaged for the purpose of rationing.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is still some part of the establishment being maintained or the whole of it is being abolished?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Not in the places where rationing has not been taken off.

**Prof. S. L. Saksena:** Will Government consider the desirability of mixing power alcohol with petrol on an all-India basis at the very sources?

**An Hon. Member:** Which source—power alcohol source or petrol source?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Where the mixture is now being made that arrangement is provided for but manufacture of power alcohol must increase very much more than it has done before we can think of extending it over a wide area in the country.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** What is the increase in the quantity of consumption of petrol since the lifting of rationing in States other than the U.P. and Jammu and Kashmir?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I should like to have notice of that.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** Is it a fact that the production of power alcohol in U.P. is not very high and that the difficulty in consumption is due to the inability of Government in supplying power alcohol?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** There is a certain amount of power alcohol which is consumed neat in U.P. That indicates that not all the power alcohol that is manufactured there is mixed with petrol for motor fuel purposes.

**Shri Kamath:** Have reports been received by the hon. Minister that this petrol power alcohol mixture is highly deleterious to automobile engines?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** There was some complaint at the beginning, I think, but that has disappeared since.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** By what time approximately will petrol rationing in the U.P. and other places be withdrawn?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** As soon as the U.P. Government have made the necessary arrangements we shall withdraw it. We hope to do so in the course of a few months, if we can get the co-operation of the U.P. Government.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** What is the total production of power alcohol and petrol consumption in U.P.?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** About two lakh gallons of power alcohol per month are being consumed for mixing with petrol leaving a surplus of 1.5 lakh gallons. This surplus of neat power alcohol is being at present used in U.P. by heavy vehicles for which coupons for power alcohol instead of petrol are being issued.

#### PURCHASE OF RICE FROM BURMA

\*62. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Burma had offered to sell to India a large quantity of rice during the early part of 1950 and that this offer was rejected by the Government of India?

(b) What were the reasons for refusing this offer?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India bought this rice later at a much higher price than that at which it had been originally offered?

(d) Has any action been taken against the officials responsible for this?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** Has any rice been purchased from Burma?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Certainly rice has been purchased during the year from the Government of Burma.

**Shri Bharati:** What was the quantity of rice purchased from Burma?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I should like to have notice.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that Burma has rice to offer but no approach was made by the Government of India to the Government of Burma?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The Government of India has again and again approached the Burma Government but we have not been able to obtain any rice from the Burma Government.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I again ask the hon. Minister if he would verify the facts, because I have been reliably informed that an approach was made to a big bank in India for accommodation by the Burma Government but that arrangement fell through because of want of co-operation from the Government of India authorities in Burma?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** May I say something about this? Because of our repeated declarations earlier in the year about self-sufficiency and our desire not to import food from outside and specially to limit our consumption of rice, the Government of Burma felt, without our telling them anything—that perhaps they might not be able to sell their rice to India. They were naturally concerned about finding a market for their rice and the Burmese Prime Minister wrote to me and I assured him that we would continue to get rice from them. I think we gave an order very soon afterwards and later we wanted more rice which they themselves could not

supply. Even now we are in correspondence with them not only about this year but also about next year's supply of rice.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know whether it is a fact that most of the rice purchased from Burma was broken rice?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** As regards broken rice, the Burma Government did not want to deal with us as Government to Government and they invited tenders.

**Shri Kamath:** From which other countries have we imported rice this year?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I know of Egypt. I am not sure about other countries. I would like to have notice.

**Shri Kamath:** What about Siam.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Siam also.

#### LAND UNDER CULTIVATION

\*63. **Shri T. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to give latest figures relating to the acreage of culturable land brought under cultivation in the various States?

(b) On what basis has allotment of holdings been made in those areas and what proportion has gone to the displaced persons and what to others?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):** (a) and (b). A statement giving information received from State Governments regarding acreage of culturable land brought under cultivation by them during the last three years by mechanical means, and allotment of holdings in those areas, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 16]. No uniform policy is being followed in the various States in regard to allotment of holdings in the areas brought under cultivation.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** How much land has actually been brought under cultivation through the Central Tractor Organisation?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The total acreage is 2,92,759.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** What is the policy adopted by the Government for the allotment of land which had been brought under cultivation through the Central Tractor Organisation?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The State Governments have got generally the

initiative in the matter and there are different ways in which this is being done.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** I am referring to the Centrally Administered Areas.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** As a matter of fact so far the lands reclaimed belonged to private owners. The Government of India have written to the States concerned that they should also try to reclaim the land owned by Government, so that displaced persons can be settled on it.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** I have not learnt yet from the hon. Minister how much of land has actually been brought under cultivation through the Central Tractor Organisation during the year.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I would like to have notice.

**Shri Jaimarain Vyas:** Is the Government aware that a vast acreage of land in Rajasthan allotted to displaced persons and others could not be brought under the plough on account of paucity of gram seeds?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I don't know about it. The gram seeds have been made available.

**Shri Tyagi:** The same gram which is eaten is used as seed.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I don't think that is correct because whenever the Government of Rajasthan have asked for gram seeds Government of India was prepared to give facilities.

**Shri Dwivedi:** May I know what acreage of land has been tractorised in Vindhya Pradesh?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** The statement gives 608 acres.

**Shri B. K. P. Sinha:** Are Government aware that thousands of acres of reclaimed waste jungle and marshy lands are reverting to their original state because of non-user?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am not aware of it.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know what is the experience or the idea of the Government in regard to the average yield in such reclaimed land?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I would like to have notice of that.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** May I know whether after land reclamation by the Central Tractor Organisation or by heavy tractors, any portion of the land has relapsed back because it was not brought under cultivation?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The follow-up cultivation is left to the States themselves and they have again and again been told that after land has been reclaimed it is for them to have it followed-up either by tractors or by bullocks.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** I want to know whether it is a fact that certain State Governments have not brought that reclaimed land under cultivation.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I should like to have notice of that question.

#### CHITTARANJAN FACTORY AND WORKSHOP

\*64. **Shri T. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any railway engines have so far been manufactured at the Chittaranjan Factory and Workshop and, if not, what further delay is anticipated in the production of engines at the workshop.

**The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):** No complete Railway Engines have so far been manufactured at Chittaranjan, nor are any scheduled to be completely manufactured in this factory until 1954. Chittaranjan has, however, been manufacturing certain components and spare parts for the last 6 months. It has already assembled its first Locomotive, from components mostly imported from the U. K., and this engine was given a start by the President on the 1st of this month.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** During the last Budget Session we were told that at least three engines would be completely manufactured by the end of this financial year and a hundred and odd more in the next. What has been the reason for this breakdown in the manufacture?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** There is no breakdown. I am afraid the hon. Member's premises are inaccurate. I don't think any statement was made that three engines would be completely manufactured in this factory. What must have been said, because I am speaking from memory, perhaps was that three engines would be produced during this year, and that is still what is expected to be done before the year is over.

As regards complete manufacture, we are progressing by stages. This year we cannot even manufacture any substantial percentage of components, so the engines that will be produced will be engines formed of components most of which are imported from abroad. Next year the importation percentage will be less than it is this year and the following year a further

reduction will be made in such imports. It is only in 1954 that we expect completely to manufacture the whole of a locomotive barring such parts as are never produced in any locomotive factory in the world.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know if any boilers are being manufactured at the Chittaranjan factory?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Not at present.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** What are the most important vital parts which were a year before considered inevitable for import from abroad but which are now being manufactured at this factory?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I can give a list of the components which are now manufactured in the Chittaranjan factory, but I should like to have notice before I give the hon. Member the list.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Any way, could the hon. Minister give us an idea of the saving resulting from this type of manufacture, in foreign exchange?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I think when we have reached the stage of complete manufacture we shall be saving foreign exchange to the tune, I think, of about seven to nine crores per annum.

**Pandit Kunzru:** When will the manufacture of boilers commence in the Chittaranjan workshop?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I believe it is during 1951-52.

**Pandit Kunzru:** Are boilers being manufactured at Jamshedpur now? If not, why not?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** They are.

**Pandit Kunzru:** How many have been manufactured last year?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Well, I should like to have notice of that.

**Prof. S. L. Saksema:** Is not four years too long a period, and will the Government not consider some method of making these engines earlier than four years?

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

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** Is it a fact that only one-tenth of the total requirements of parts have been manufactured in Chittaranjan so far, and at this rate it will not be possible to manufacture a full engine within 1954?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I am afraid the hon. Member is quite wrong in his expectations.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** I am asking whether it is a fact that only one-tenth of the parts required have been manufactured in the last two years.

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I am afraid I have not worked out the fraction.

**Prof. S. L. Saksema:** What are the difficulties why it cannot be done earlier?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Well, a factory of those dimensions takes some time to be worked to capacity for manufacturing all the components that are required for assembling an engine, and I think from all accounts that I have received from experts, the programme of production and manufacture that we have set before ourselves is as quick as could be expected in any factory of that kind.

**Shri Sonavane:** What parts would be required to be imported, even after 1954, for the complete manufacture of locomotives?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Not all parts but a few parts which have got to be imported because they could not be produced in this country on account, for example, of the particular type of steel that may be required for those purposes. There are also other parts which even in other advanced countries have to be imported from other countries in order to make up a full engine.

**Shri Sonavane:** What are they?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Well, that is a matter of technical detail. If the hon. Member wishes to have information about it, he will please put down a question.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know if Government have employed any foreign technicians or experts at this factory?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** We have entered into an arrangement with the Locomotive Manufacturers' Association in England, and we get technical help, both advice and in the shape of personnel, from that Association. There is an agreement between that Association and the Government.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### SELF-LOCKING BOLTS

\*65. **Dr. R. S. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Professor Ganesh Singh of the Engineering College of Banaras Hindu University

had submitted a proposal to the Railway Board in 1935 concerning self-locking bolts?

(b) If so, did the Government examine his proposal and if not, why not?

**The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):** (a) and (b). Professor Ganesh Singh did not submit his proposals to the Railway Board in 1935, but sent actual samples of his self-locking bolts to the then Chief Engineers of the East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways. The matter however was not pursued. Recently on a request from the Vice-Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, facilities have been provided to Professor Ganesh Singh for making actual experiments on track for evolving a suitable device to prevent railway accidents. The designs evolved by him are being examined and tested by the East Indian Railway.

#### ARRAH-SASARAM LIGHT RAILWAY

**\*66. Dr. E. S. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether there has been any change in the management of Arrah-Sasaram Light Railway?

(b) If so, how is the management of that Railway being run these days?

**The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### SUGAR

**\*67. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of sugar at present in hand; and

(b) the total rationed quantity sanctioned for each state?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Physical stock available with the sugar factories on 1st November 1950, amounted 88,985 tons. In addition about 10,000 tons would be in transit and another 25,000 tons with the wholesalers and retailers approximately.

(b) A statement showing the total quantity of crystal sugar allotted to each state for consumption therein, during the year 1949-50 (from 15th December 1949 to 30th November 1950) is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, *annexure No. 17*].

#### DETERMINATION OF GRAVITY OF AIRCRAFT

**\*68. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a portable electric instrument for quick determination of the position of the gravity of aircraft has been developed by the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of India; and

(b) whether any experiment has been carried out with the instrument and if so, with what result?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All experiments necessary for establishing the efficacy of the instrument have already been satisfactorily carried out.

#### REQUISITIONED HOUSES IN DELHI

**\*69. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the number of houses requisitioned in Delhi from 1st April, 1950 up to date and the number of houses derequisitioned during the same period?

**The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil):** The number of houses requisitioned in Delhi and New Delhi between the 1st April 1950 and 15th October 1950, is 37.

The number of houses derequisitioned during the same period is 28.

#### Janata EXPRESS (RESERVATION)

**\*70. Shri D. S. Seth:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the system of the reservation of seats in the Janata Express running between Ahmedabad and Bombay has recently been introduced?

(b) Do Government propose to introduce this reservation of seats in other Janata Expresses running on other lines and if not, why not?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing reservation of sleeping berths in the Inter and Third class compartments in various railways, for long distance passengers?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** (a) Yes.

(b) Arrangements exist for the reservation of seats in all Janata Express trains except those run by the O. T. and S. I. Railways and in two of the six such trains on the G. I. P. Railway. This facility is to be introduced by the O.T. Railway with effect from 1st December, 1950. Reservations in the Janata Expresses of the S. I. Railway are not arranged as there is a sufficiency of accommodation and



no demand for reservation of seats. The position is the same in respect of the two G. I. P. trains in which reservations are not made.

(c) The policy recommended by the Central Advisory Council for Railways and accepted by the Government of India is to provide reservable sleeping accommodation only in first and second class compartments and seating accommodation in inter and third class compartments.

#### FOOD GRAINS FOR TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

\*71. **Shri R. Velayudhan:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the Centre supplied the allotted quota of food grains to the Travancore-Cochin State during the months of July, August and September, 1950, in time?

(b) If so, what was the reason for the starvation in Trivandrum District in the month of August, 1950?

(c) Have Government seen any report in the Press from the State Food Minister and the Chief Minister to the effect that the Centre did not send the allotted quota in time?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Against Central allocations, actual receipts in Travancore-Cochin during July, August and September, 1950, were 41,597 tons, 21,002 tons and 28,257 tons respectively.

(b) There was no starvation in Trivandrum District during the month of August, 1950 (or in any other month).

(c) Yes, Sir.

#### POST OFFICES (LONGER WORKING HOURS)

\*72. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) What is the additional expenditure incurred on each of the post offices working for longer hours in the various cities in India?

(b) Do Government propose to open any more of them and if so, how many, at what places and from when?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) G.P.O. Madras, Rs. 15,780 p.a.

Mount Road, Madras, Rs. 10,680 p.a.

G.P.O. Bombay, Rs. 14,160 p.a.

Dadar, Bombay, Rs. 4,020 p.a.

Esplanade, Calcutta, Rs. 3,260 p.a.

Bara Bazar, Calcutta, Rs. 5,520 p.a.

Eastern Court, New Delhi, Rs. 5,240 p.a.

Chandni Chowk, Delhi, Rs. 13,380 p.a.

Hyderabad H.O. Rs. 12,308 p.a.

Ahmedabad-Railwayapura, Rs. 3,780 p.a.

Kanpur H.O. Rs. 21,600 p.a.

Benaras H.O. Rs. 10,348 p.a.

(b) The working hours in these offices have been extended as an experiment. The result of the experiment will be watched before it is extended to other places.

#### IMPORT OF FOOD GRAINS

\*73. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the previous estimate regarding the import of food grains has been now altered, and if so, what is the quantity now proposed to be imported and at what rates?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** Yes. It has been necessary to alter the previous estimates regarding the import of foodgrains in 1950 from 1.5 million tons to 2.2 million tons.

The Cost and Freight prices of the different types of grain imported are as under:—

Wheat.—Rs. 13/8/- per maund in bulk.

Rice.—Rs. 19 to Rs. 23 per maund according to quality.

Milo.—Rs. 7/8/- to Rs. 10 per maund in bulk.

Barley.—Rs. 13 per maund bagged.

#### COW TREES AND VEGETABLE MILK

\*74. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the experiment for growing cow trees in Bombay has begun?

(b) If so, how many cow trees have been implanted and is their growth on Indian soil satisfactory?

(c) Has the vegetable milk been subjected to chemical and nutritional tests in any country of the world?

(d) If so, what is the result?

(e) Is it conducive to human health?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c), (d) and (e). A statement showing the chemical composition of cow tree milk as analysed by a few foreign scientists is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 18]. There is however no definite

scientific evidence of its food and nutritive value; but it is understood that in Venezuela it is used as a substitute for cow's milk by some of the local population. With a view to test its possibilities in India, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have sanctioned a scheme for the import and planting of milk trees in Bombay.

#### ANTI-TELESCOPING DEVICE IN RAILWAY COACHES

\*75. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 150 third class railway coaches fitted with anti-telescoping device are being built in the Hindustan Aircraft factory?

(b) If so, is the anti-telescoping device a new invention or one already in use in other countries?

(c) Has the efficacy and practicability of the device been proved by demonstration?

(d) What will be the additional increase in the cost of a coach for the addition of this device?

**The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):** (a) Yes. Anti-telescoping features have been designed by the Railway Board and incorporated in the body and structure of the 150 III class Railway coaches now being built by the Hindustan Aircraft Limited, Bangalore.

(b) These anti-telescoping devices are not an entirely new invention and somewhat similar devices have been in use in other countries, particularly America.

(c) Yes; in countries where they have been used.

(d) The increase in price per coach due to these anti-telescopic features is not expected to exceed one per cent of its total cost.

#### Kharif Crop

\*76. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** (a) Will the minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the estimated quantity and value of food grains harvested or expected to be harvested during the kharif crop this year?

(b) How does this quantity compare with the target fixed?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) The information is not available yet because quantitative estimates of food grains harvested during the Kharif year 1950-51 will not be available till February. A statement showing the condition of the crops as reported by the State Governments is however

placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 19].

(b) The target of additional production for Kharif of about 10 lakh tons has received a set-back due to abnormal weather conditions.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS

\*77. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of (i) double-storied houses; (ii) 3 roomed houses; (iii) two roomed houses; (iv) single roomed tenements and (v) shops, constructed by the Government of India between first of April 1949 up to date in Delhi;

(b) the total number of all types and categories of tenements and buildings constructed during the same period; and

(c) the total number of tenements and buildings constructed for gazetted officers of the Central Government and of those constructed for Ministerial staff during the said period?

**The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil):** (a) The figures are:

- (i) 4,686.
- (ii) 230.
- (iii) 2,995.
- (iv) 7,219.
- (v) 232.

(b) 10,676.

(c) (i) For Gazetted Officers four room flats—115.

(ii) For Ministerial staff two room flats—2,612.

#### FOOD CONDITION IN BIHAR

\*78. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any note from the Bihar State Government regarding the food condition in that State?

(b) If so, what measures have been adopted to help that State?

(c) What is the average consumption of cereals of Bihar State, per year?

(d) What is the expected production during the current year and how is the deficit to be met?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) The Government of India have received from time to time appreciations of the developments in the food situation in

Bihar from the State Government. I also personally went to Patna and had a detailed information from Ministers of the Bihar Government about it.

(b) Steps have been taken to allot more food-grains to Bihar, to provide occupation for landless labourers who require employment, and also expedite minor irrigation works for helping increase in production. Further steps are under discussion.

(c) No reliable data about actual consumption in the whole of the State are available. The quantity of grains distributed through Government Agency averaged 193,000 tons per annum during the last 3 years.

(d) No forecast of the crop is yet available, but the damage to the autumn and winter rice crop as a result of floods and the failure of Hathiya rains is estimated to vary between 35 to 50 per cent. As against 34 lakh tons of rice produced last year, the crop in the current year is not expected to exceed 15 to 16 lakh tons. Precise information in this regard will, however, be available only when the crop forecast becomes available. To cover this large deficit arising out of this latest calamity in Bihar, the availabilities are being arranged so as to ensure larger allotments required for Bihar.

#### CIVIL AVIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

\*79. Prof. K. T. Shah: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what action Government propose to take on the Report of the Civil Aviation (Rajadhyaksha) Committee?

(b) What will be the estimated cost of the subsidies, direct or indirect, recommended by that Committee to be paid by Government for the encouragement of the carriage of goods and passengers by air?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) The Report is under examination by the Government.

(b) The Committee has recommended that the companies operating scheduled air transport services should be paid subsidy at the rate of nine annas per gallon of petrol used by aircraft engaged in such services during the period 1st October 1950 to the 31st December, 1951. This is estimated to cost Government Rs. 56.1 lakhs.

The Committee has also recommended similar payment but at the rate of only six annas per gallon during the calendar year 1952. The cost to Government is estimated to be Rs. 31 lakhs.

Further, the Committee has suggested that, in order to encourage companies to develop feeder air services, Government should give some assistance. No estimate can be formed of the assistance which might have to be paid for such purpose.

No indirect subsidy has been recommended by the Committee.

#### मध्य प्रदेश में फसलों का विनाश,

\*80 श्री जंगड़े : साह मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को विदित है कि मध्य प्रदेश के पूर्वीय आठ जिलों (छत्तीसगढ़) में घान की फसल लगातार दो माह से वर्षान होने के कारण नष्ट प्रायः हो चुकी है, तथा

(ख) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने इन दुर्मिल पीड़ित लोगों की सहायता करने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार से कोई प्रार्थना की है ?

#### DESTRUCTION OF CROPS IN MADHYA PRADESH

\*80. Shri Jangde: Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the paddy crops of eight eastern districts of Madhya Pradesh (Chhattisgarh) have been practically destroyed on account of failure of rains for the last two months; and

(b) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh have made a request to the Government of India to give some relief to these famine-stricken people?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Government are aware that on account of the failure of rains, paddy crop has suffered severe damage in the Chhattisgarh area of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The Madhya Pradesh Government have made a request for supply of 5,000 tons of grain for the present. They received 800 tons of wheat recently and an allotment of 3,000 tons of jowar has now been made.

#### DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

\*81. Prof. S. N. Mishra: Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Board of Consultants has been appointed for the Damodar Valley Corporation; and

(b) if so, the exact nature of functions of the Board and terms of emoluments of the members.

**The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil):** (a) Yes, by the Damodar Valley Corporation.

(b) The information has been called for from the Damodar Valley Corporation and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

#### AIR ACCIDENTS

**\*82. Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of plane accidents and forced landings that have occurred in India in 1950; and

(b) the reasons therefor?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** (a) Apart from 23 minor incidents, which called for no investigation, there have been, upto now, 55 notifiable accidents, that is those involving human injury or any material damage to aircraft. There have been 28 forced landings.

(b) Of the 55 notifiable accidents, 12 are under investigation. In the remaining 43, the causes of the accidents were as follows:

(i) Fault of personnel, e.g. error of pilot, in 27 cases.

(ii) Material, e.g. engines or other defect of aircraft, in 9 cases.

(iii) Miscellaneous, such as weather or poor visibility, in 7 cases.

#### PRODUCTION OF COTTON

**\*83. Shri Balmiki:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is decline in statewide production of cotton?

(b) If so, what are the reasons?

(c) What steps Government are going to take to encourage the production of the new varieties of cotton?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) There has been an increase in production in 1950-51 in the cotton growing States except Madhya Pradesh and Madras.

(b) The decline in production in Madhya Pradesh and Madras was due to late sowing.

(c) Special schemes have been sanctioned for multiplication of improved varieties of cotton seeds and their distribution in the important cotton growing States.

#### DACOITIES ON THE RAILWAYS

**\*84. Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway dacoities which have taken place on the Railways since January, 1950;

(b) the number of casualties involved therein; and

(c) how much compensation has been given for the victims?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** (a) 45.

(b) 53.

(c) Railways are not liable to pay compensation to the victims of unlawful acts committed by dacoits even on railway premises and no payment has, therefore, been made.

#### HIRAKUD DAM

**\*85. Shri Jagannath Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the total estimated amount that would be required for the completion of Hirakud Dam?

(b) What is the stage at which the work stands?

(c) What is the amount of expenditure incurred so far?

(d) Is it a fact that reports have been received by Government about the uneconomic and extravagant expenditure in the construction?

(e) What is the agency Government have employed for examination of detailed accounts and expenditure?

**The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil):** (a) Rs. 47.81 crores as estimated in 1947.

(b) A report showing the progress made on the project upto the end of September 1950 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 20].

(c) Rs. 4,13,18,605 upto the end of September 1950.

(d) No.

(e) A Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer who is a representative of the Ministry of Finance is stationed at the Dam Site. He is in charge of the accounts of the project and is its principal disbursing officer.

#### RICE DEFICIT IN MADRAS

**\*86. Shri Jagannath Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the Government of Madras calculated the rice deficit of

the State for the year 1950-51 and if so, what was the reported total amount of such deficit?

(b) What was the amount of rice that the Government of India have supplied during the year?

(c) What was the estimated rice-yield of the State of Madras for 1950-51?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Estimates for 1950-51 crop year are awaited.

(b) Will be determined in the light of the estimates for 1950-51 and availabilities and supplies for the year will commence from January 1951.

(c) Estimates are awaited.

#### FOOD SUBSIDY

**\*87. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:**

(a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state why Bombay, Delhi, Ajmer, Ahmedabad, Poona and Sholapur are specially selected for payment of subsidy in respect of price of food stuffs?

(b) What is the amount of subsidy which has so far been paid to these areas?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Under the existing scheme of subsidy all the States in the country are entitled to subsidy on imported food-grains and no special distinction has been made in favour of any particular State or town.

(b) As stated in reply to part (a) of the question, the subsidy is calculated on the total quantity of imported foodgrains supplied to the State as a whole and not on the quantity consumed in particular town or towns within the State. The total amount of subsidy paid by the Government of India from 1946-47 to 1950-51 is as follows:

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| 1946-47             | 22.55 crores. |
| 1947-48             | 23.98 crores. |
| 1948-49             | 26.93 crores. |
| 1949-50             | 21.19 crores. |
| 1950-51 (Estimated) | 12.84 crores. |

#### GRAM

**\*88. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:**

(a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether sufficient amount of gram has come forth in the markets after its decontrol?

(b) What is the present price of gram in Delhi, U.P. and Punjab?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Reports received from State Governments and private bodies showed that sufficient supplies of gram were not forthcoming in the markets for sale at the ceiling prices fixed.

(b) The ceiling price of gram fixed for Delhi, U.P. and Punjab is Rs. 13 per maund.

#### BHAKRA AND NANGAL PROJECTS

**\*89. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:**

(a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether there was any damage done to tunnel or other building at Nangal recently?

(b) What was the extent of damage and why was it caused?

(c) How far has the construction of Nangal Dam progressed?

(d) By what time will the Nangal Dam begin to supply water to the areas of Hissar district?

(e) By what time will the Electric Plant be completed at Nangal and when will it begin to supply electricity to Delhi and the rural areas of Punjab?

(f) How much money has been spent so far on Bhakra and Nangal dams?

(g) How much is it proposed to spend during the remaining part of the year?

(h) Is it a fact that there was no slackness in the execution owing to paucity of funds?

(i) In what year is it expected that the whole scheme of both the dams will be completely executed?

**The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil):** (a) to (i). The information has been called for from the Government of Punjab who are concerned with the construction of the Project and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

Meanwhile, a copy of the latest progress report received from the Punjab Government is placed on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 21].

#### SUGARCANE AND TOBACCO

**\*90. Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government propose to take any steps to reduce the acreage of sugar cane and tobacco in Bihar and U.P.?

(b) What is the acreage of land under these money-crops?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Of the total cropped area of 2780 lakh acres in 1949-50, 36.4 lakh acres forming 1.31 per cent of the total cropped area were under sugarcane. 7.7 lakh acres forming .28 per cent of the total cropped area were under tobacco.

**FOOD GRAIN ENQUIRY COMMITTEE  
(RECOMMENDATIONS)**

\*91. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state what are the main recommendations of the Foodgrain Enquiry Committee?

(b) Is it a fact that this report has been treated as confidential?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to my reply to part (b) of question No. 88 by Shri R. K. Sidhva on 10th August, 1950.

(b) No.

**PRODUCTION OF JUTE AND COTTON**

**3. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the acreage under cultivation of cotton and jute this year compared to the acreage under cultivation last year?

(b) What is the forecast of production in the present year as regards jute and cotton?

(c) How does it compare with the actual production of last year?

(d) By what time is India likely to attain self-sufficiency in cotton and jute?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Final figures of area under cotton and jute during 1950-51 are not yet available. The first forecast of cotton, 1950-51, which generally covers nearly two-thirds of the total crop, puts the area at 7.12 million acres as compared with the corresponding figure of 6.45 million acres last year. With regard to jute, no forecasts have been released for 1950-51, but the available information indicates that the area in 1950-51 will be about 1.47 million acres as compared with 1.16 million acres in 1949-50.

(b) No official forecasts of either cotton or jute production for 1950-51 are yet available, but the present indications are that the production of cotton and jute in 1950-51 will be 35.65 lakh bales and 33.51 lakh bales respectively.

(c) There has been an increase in the production of cotton and jute in 1950-51 over the previous year by 5.94 lakh bales and 2.34 bales respectively.

(d) India is expected to become self-sufficient in the production of East Indian varieties of cotton by 1951-52. The plans for the production of jute and jute substitutes in 1951-52 have not been finalised.

Thursday, 16th November, 1950

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# 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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President's Address to Parliament [Cols. 1—16]

*Price Five Annas*

**THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.)  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**

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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

Thursday, 16th November, 1950.

—

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven  
of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
(See Part I)

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11-45 A.M.

**MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM THE  
SPEAKER OF THE BRITISH HOUSE  
OF COMMONS**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to convey to the House a message of thanks received from the Speaker of the British House of Commons for the doorway presented by India to the new Chamber of the House of Commons. Here is the message:

“Upon the occasion of the opening of the New House of Commons, it is the unanimous wish of all Members that I should convey to the Government and People of India, an expression of deep and sincere thanks for the Entrance Door to Chamber, in Oak, which, so generously presented to the House, will be a constant reminder of the close and abiding link between this country and India. No Speaker could have had a more pleasant duty to perform and I am particularly happy that it should have fallen to me to carry out the wishes of the House.”

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** On a point of information, may I ask if there was a suitable inscription on the door? I am asking you, Sir, because you were there.

**Mr. Speaker:** But I did not examine the door from that point of view.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh):** I want to know when actually the foreign affairs debate will take place. If it is going to be tomorrow, the announcement may be made now, so that it would be possible for hon. Members to prepare themselves. If it is going to be after a longer period, that also should be placed before the House. In the papers it has been announced that it will be tomorrow. If it is going to be tomorrow, well and good; otherwise, we should know.

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** As I stated yesterday, hon. Members should not put too much faith in the newspapers. Sufficient notice will be given to the House about the date to be fixed.

**Shri Sonavane (Bombay):** Great difficulty is felt in following the answers given to questions. In order to facilitate supplementary questions, I would suggest that the answers to questions may also be printed and circulated.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member is making a suggestion which has been made here many times. It has been considered and rejected.

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**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

**DELHI ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY  
(MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE FUND)  
RULES, 1950.**

**The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):** I beg to relay on the table a copy of the Delhi Road Transport Authority (Motor Vehicles Insurance Fund) Rules, 1950. [Placed in Library. See No. P-97/50.]



**DELHI ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY  
(MEMBERS ALLOWANCES AND FEES)  
RULES, 1950.)**

**Shri Gopalaswami:** I beg to relay on the table, in accordance with sub-section (3) of Section 52 of the Delhi Road Transport Authority Act, 1950, a copy of the Delhi Road Transport Authority (Members Allowances and Fees) Rules, 1950, published in the Ministry of Transport Notification No. S.R.O. 210 dated the 1st July, 1950. [Placed in Library. See No. P-98/50.]

**AJMER REVENUE COURT RULES, 1950.**

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Ajmer Revenue Court Rules, 1950, framed under Section 203 of the Ajmer Tenancy and Land Records Act, 1950. [Placed in Library. See No. P-111/50.]

**NOTIFICATION re. FURTHER AMENDMENTS  
TO INDIAN AIRCRAFT RULES, 1920.**

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):** I beg to lay on the table a copy of the Ministry of Communications Notification No. 10-A/17-50 dated the 19th September, 1950, making certain further amendments to the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1920 under sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934. [Placed in Library. See No. P-112/50.]

**ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON AS-  
SURANCES ETC. GIVEN DURING FIRST  
SESSION OF PARLIAMENT, 1950.**

**The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** I beg to lay on the table a statement showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the First Session of Parliament, 1950. [See Appendix II.]

**MOTION ON ADDRESS BY THE  
PRESIDENT—contd.**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed with further consideration of the motion:

"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."

In pursuance of the agreement reached yesterday, the discussion will now be restricted only to the question of food.

**Shri B. Das (Orissa):** I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the matter will be clarified if the hon. Shri Munshi first sums up the position on behalf of his two Ministries

and then we discuss the proposition instead of our going over the field and asking questions and more questions when the Minister answers to the debate at the end of the day.

**Mr. Speaker:** Whatever Government have to say in relation to the policies about food is already contained in the President's address. It is better that hon. Members give their own reactions to Government, so that they may consider the same and see if there is need for reviewing their policies or not. To my mind, it is better that hon. Members address first.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** I respectfully agree that the President's Address gives the policy of Government and I would like to know from hon. Members on what other points they want clarification.

**Shri B. Das:** In that case, I would like to speak.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal):** The amendments have to be moved.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes. Some amendments have been disposed of yesterday. The others may be moved now.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

"but regret the inability of the Government to solve the food problem."

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar):** I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion the following be added:

"but regret that the Address does not disclose any firm policy in international affairs nor even in the affairs concerning such close neighbouring States as Tibet and Nepal and does not lay down any definite plan for either meeting the present food crisis in the country, particularly the draught stricken State of Bihar or for making the country self-sufficient in food by March 1952."

**Sardar B. S. Man (Punjab):** I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion the following be added:

"but regret to note that Government have not handled the food problem in a well planned and co-ordinated way and that no steps have been taken to stop the wastage of food in various ways."

**Mr. Speaker:** We shall now take up List No. 2.

**Shri B. Das:** May I point out that List No. 2 is out of order, because it was not submitted in time.

**Mr. Speaker:** But I should not like to debar an opportunity of discussion. After all, they will not necessarily get a chance of speaking because they move an amendment.

So, the position boils down to this that amendments Nos. 1, 47 and 49 are being moved.

**Prof. K. T. Shah:** Sir, No. 12 was held over to be moved today.

**Mr. Speaker:** Anyway the hon. Member is not going to get a chance of speaking over that amendment, as he has already spoken yesterday. If he is not going to get a chance, who is going to move it? Anyway it falls through practically. I have, of course, no objection to take it as moved.

The position is that amendments Nos. 1, 12, 47 and 79 in List No. 1 have been moved.

**Amendments moved:**

That at the end of the motion the following be added:

"but regret the inability of the Government to solve the food problem."

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."

That at the end of the motion the following be added:

"but regret that the Address does not disclose any firm policy in international affairs nor even in the affairs concerning such close neighbouring States as Tibet and Nepal and does not lay down any definite plan for either meeting the present food crisis in the country particularly the draught

stricken State of Bihar or for making the country self-sufficient in food by March, 1952."

That at the end of the motion the following be added:

"but regret to note that Government have not handled the food problem in a well planned and co-ordinated way and that no steps have been taken to stop the wastage of food in various ways."

**Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal):** Is salt included in Food?

**Mr. Speaker:** It is a matter of interpretation.

**Shri B. Das:** I felt very happy that the President has been pleased to refer to the "living peace" for which India stands today. I maintained that attitude when I spoke on the last occasion and I am gratified to find today that India is in the forefront of the advocates of living peace. There are doubting Thomases on the floor of this House as well as outside who advocate other attitudes of life. But India stands for living peace of the world and in India. But if we analyse the achievements of my hon. friend Shri Munshi's Ministries we are somewhat disturbed and perturbed in mind because we are all starving, barring perhaps my hon. friend Shri Munshi.

India desires to be self-sufficient in food, but to achieve it by 1952 is an impossibility. The President has already mentioned that the Government of India have accepted the three multi-purpose projects, the Bhakra, the Hirakud and the Damodar Valley. It would have been fair on the part of the Government of India to have dropped the idea of achieving self-sufficiency by 1951 or 1952. It is for them to take us into confidence and declare that self-sufficiency in food will be achieved by 1956, at the latest. That is my reading of the situation in India.

12 Noon

This morning I was very much disappointed at the replies to the questions on agriculture given by my hon. friend the Minister himself and his Deputy Minister. It is no use saying that we are only a superintending Government and that it is for the State Governments to do everything. If that be so why do the over-staffed Agriculture Ministry and Food Ministry exist today? When my hon. friend became the Minister of Agriculture, I had suggested to him, not on the floor of the House, but outside, to read carefully the recommendations of the Economy Committee. That Committee which, as the House knows, sat and

[Shri B. Das]

reported in 1948 almost condemning the activities of the Ministries of Agriculture and Food. It is a poor consolation to me that the 'Grow More Food' campaign on which his predecessors spent about Rs. 33 crores, resulted in a .5 per cent. increment of our food-supplies. Of course government statisticians did compute the increment as 5 per cent. thereafter. My hon. friend will find that there is hardly any increase in food in any of the States in India in spite of long Communiqués from the Government of India. It is a sad tale, because those very officers and officials in the Secretariat, who mismanage and made the Food and Agriculture Ministries bloated departments of the independent Government of India, still continue. They have no imagination for tackling the problems that face us. Now they have the audacity to advise it is for the States to grow more food. If Rs. 35 crores spent up to 1948-49 vanished and there was no increment of food what are the policies and plans that my hon. friend has designed, so that India may be self-sufficient and he will have three to four million tons of additional food-grains produced by March 1952? It is impossible. I like fixation of a target, but it is impossible to achieve it, if the same policies are continued and the same type of officials remain at the control.

I had a glance at the note on the 'Integrated Production Programme, 1950-51', which I received last night from the *ad hoc* Devaluation Committee. A summary of it appeared in the press as well sometime ago. If that be the recommendation of the Planning Commission and of the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture, I am sorry for them. I read a statement which the hon. Prime Minister laid on the Table of the House about the Planning Commission. It does not give any hope, because I have been accustomed to seeing reports of Planning Committees and Policy Committees from 1943 onwards. But I do not find anywhere any definite action contemplated. I only find pious hopes and dreams. If my hon. friend the Minister of Food wants to make India self-sufficient in food by 1952, then he will have to devise other programmes.

The sorry replies that I listened to this morning about fisheries show that the Agriculture Ministry and the Food Ministry have no programme. What are the achievements of the Fisheries Department over which we spend a good bit of money. In the Economy Committee I went into the activities of that Department. My friend Mr. Thirumala Rao is not a fish-eater.

He does not know what amount of fish we can consume. We can consume more fish than rice.

**An Hon. Member:** How much can you consume?

**Shri B. Das:** I have consumed a quarter seer each meal, in my youth.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** And four times a day at that!

**Shri B. Das:** For having an active fish production programme what is stated on page 4 of this pious Note (Integrated Production Programme) on fisheries will not do. Something more active is necessary. I may tell my hon. friend that Bengal has been experimenting on greater fish production, because they are fish-eaters, from 1897 onwards when the late Sir K. G. Gupta was the head of the Fisheries Department. But Bengal has not produced any additional fish. We Oriyas are stinting ourselves and supplying Bengal the quantum of fish that my friends in Calcutta eat every day. The problem has to be examined not in the old stereotyped way. But my friend's advisers are the decrepit and old persons who have lived under the British rule and who want to continue to be our advisers without understanding the problem that we are here to solve. I do hope my hon. friend the Minister of Agriculture will be more active.

Thanks to my hon. friend Mr. Mahatab we gave away a nice well developed farm to the Rice Research Institute at Cuttack. But what money are you spending on rice research? Very little. You are not thinking on the lines that India must be fully productive in the matter of rice so that we don't have to import rice from Burma, Australia, U.S.A. or even Siam. If my hon. friend will have the leisure to look into the budgeted figures he will find that he has provided for very little rice research. The 400 acres which my friend handed over from Orissa to the Central Government has been expanded by 150 or 200 acres. That shows that the Government of India has no plan or appreciation of the difficulty of the situation.

Too much fuss was made of agriculture statistics. I know of this Agriculture Department Statisticians for the last four or five years, particularly as I examined their doings in the Economy Committee. The Agriculture Department will furnish statistics—and my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva will confirm me—which will turn any figures into surplus figures. But will the statistics produce sufficient quantity of food that will bring me a little extra food? I read with great sorrow that the people

of Travancore get three ounces of rice per day. It is most distressing that while we call ourselves a welfare State and say that we are going to bring *Ram Rajya* to the door of everybody, the citizens of Travancore should get one ounce and a half of rice per day. The people in Bengal and Bihar are starving. I do not know of Assam. It was a surplus Province, but I do not know whether Assam today has got sufficient rice. I read of press agitation and I laughed at that fuss that was made about statistics, as if statistics will cure all our ills. If my hon. friend had read the Report of the Economy Committee he would have found that Statisticians do not solve problems; they create problems. Let not my hon. friend fall into the trap of the Agriculture Statisticians and their figures—figures that will never come true. I do not believe that these statistics will solve our self-sufficiency problem.

Why I particularly wanted my friend to read the Report of the Economy Committee was this. There was a department called the I.C.A.R.—the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which of course became *Indian* in 1948. But what is the necessity for the existence of that department? It does no research. It distributes the money collected in the shape of cesses on the various commodities and only holds *Juntas* every year to which Ministers come from the Provinces and also experts come from the Provinces. But the experts are never allowed to discuss. My hon. friend Shri Munshi called a meeting two months ago. All the Agricultural Experts were there. But who talked there? My hon. friend himself and the various Ministers that came from the Provinces. Is that the way to solve our engineering problems and agricultural development problems? That is not the right way. These conferences, to me, are absolutely useless unless they are aimed at a certain planned programme. I am sorry to say my observation shows that there is no planned programme in the Ministry of Agriculture, because the old employees are still continuing and they won't change. They are sheltered under the I.C.S. and the various services regulations and so they feel they need not work for us.

I must recognize that my friend has done a bit of good work. He is trying to retrench. I heard that the Central Tractor organisation is not a huge department any more and that it is being placed on a sound economic basis. If that be so, let my friend, without being prejudiced by the voices of his advisers, read the Report (the

Economy Committee Report) which is three years old. It does not matter that it is three years old. It contains a complete analysis of his two Ministries and let him follow that. The work done in the I.C.A.R. can be done by a Deputy Secretary or an Under Secretary of the hon. Minister. In regard to animal husbandry and cattle breeding, we found a scheme for Rs. 50 lakhs at Jubbulpore for the insemination of cattle and cattle production. It was a shameful and disgusting project. Of course the Government abandoned it on our recommendation. It is no use talking of animal husbandry, fisheries and rice research farms if you have no definite plans about them. I would again insist that the I.C.A.R. should be abolished. The work can be safely done by a Deputy Secretary in the Ministry.

I further wish to ask whether the hon. Minister has analysed the position that there is a set of specialised experts in the Ministry of Agriculture and a similar set of specialised experts in the I.C.A.R. What is the necessity for the duplication of staff? Can experts sitting in Parliament House or outside solve the problem of grow more food and self-sufficiency? No. Then abolish your Department. Send all your experts to the villages in the Provinces. If you now feel you are helpless to grow more food and the States must do it, your experts may be paid by the Centre and sent to the Provinces for producing results. My friend who comes from Bombay and who understands cost accounting should ask every expert to cost his salary, cost the money we are spending on him and see if he is producing any results. He is doing no work; he has done nothing for India during all these years. I suggest you dismiss him. It is good that we sack these experts and build anew. The problem of self-sufficiency is not going to be solved by the experts or by the huge Ministries of Agriculture and Food.

**Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh):** Sir, you know that I have always held the view that the country is self-sufficient in food production. I have said that not at random, but I have quoted the statistics compiled from the Government agricultural publications. I have also shown by way of correspondence with the predecessor of my hon. friend, Mr. Munshi, as to the quantity that is available in the country and there was no justification for import of foreign food. I was not convinced with the replies given by him. In the last session the hon. Mr. Munshi categorically admitted that the statistics were most inaccurate and they are not reliable.

[Shri Sidhva]

So after a prolonged discussion and argument with the Agricultural Ministry, it has been stated.....

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** You have won after all.

**Shri Sidhva:** I won't say that I have won but shall say that I have proved that what I have been clamouring all along has been correct and it was not on the part of Government to have been gracious enough to come and say: Yes. The statistics were not correct. After this announcement by Government that statistics are unreliable I do not know where I stand at the present moment. If the statistics are not reliable then what is the position of the food production today? The statistics are the basis for any kind of production and if the statistics have been held by the Department itself as inaccurate, I want to know what steps they are taking to have reliable and accurate statistics. I understand that a five year programme has now been laid down for collecting statistics. In the meantime what are we to understand? What is the position? To what extent the figures were un-reliable and inaccurate? Some sort of statement has to be made to this House, so that we may know to what extent we were wrong and what is the position of the country as far as the food production is concerned.

Our President, while inaugurating the Society of Agricultural statistics only the day before yesterday had to make a statement that Government has been misled all along by these figures and he laid great emphasis on the statistics. I say, it must be for all kinds of food and even cash crops. You should not have a sample survey and come again and say: These are our figures. We must have definite and accurate statistics and unless definite statistics are available, I can assure you that any campaign for Grow More Food is not going to solve our problem. If the Government are not themselves aware as to what is the quantity that is now produced, how can they say that the country is deficit. I want to know what is their basis. My friend, Mr. Das, said that he does not lay stress on statistics. If you do not lay stress on statistics how are you to know what is our production and how one can argue as to who is right and who is wrong. I do not think we can wait for five long years. Some sort of assurance has to be given to the House and the Ministry should also assure themselves as to what is the real position in the country. When we are concentrating our attention on the Grow More Food campaign then in the following year we are told: We are short of cotton

and jute. The land is transferred from food to cotton and jute, i.e., cash crops and in this way the country is put in this awkward position. Is that the right way of planning, I ask the hon. Minister? Planning should be complete of all agricultural articles, cash crops as well as food. You cannot do one thing today and have some other thing tomorrow. Cotton is also very necessary in the interests of the country and then you go on importing cotton and say that we should divert our attention to cotton. That is not going to solve our problem, if that is the attitude of Government. I feel that we must have a definite plan for all agricultural commodities to go upon. The President, the other day in a Press statement, stated that in the year 1950 the country will be self-sufficient in cotton and jute. Such a kind of statement from the highest officers is not going to help the situation; on the contrary they put the whole country into a very awkward position. What is the position in 1950 even with regard to cash crops. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister in his reply as to what real steps he is taking in the direction of statistics to satisfy himself about the country's deficit, if his own figures are not accurate. He must have some basis to go upon. We have spent crores of rupees on Grow More Food campaign; we have sunk so many wells and fertilizers have been supplied, with what result? The result is bad instead of good.

Some of the States have been demanding from the Centre more than their actual requirements, just to satisfy their own people in the State, and really ignoring the condition of India as a whole. I can cite from figures even today that Bombay had a shortage of 1,20,000 tons; it demands 7.5 lakh tons whereas the Centre has provided five lakh tons according to the figures at the present moment; they are demanding 2.5 lakhs more and what for? I have instances to prove that the Centre has given 50 per cent. less to the States than what was demanded and nothing catastrophic has happened and they were ultimately satisfied. That has to be looked into. The States say that they have a shortage and they want more and the Government have no data and against the pressure that they bring in and the agitation they create, they have to supply more. Today India has been affected by natural calamities. There are famines in certain parts of the country; there is flood in certain parts of the country and earth-quake in other parts. These are unfortunate and I am not discussing that. If natural calamities occur, we shall have

to consider them from that point of view but I am referring to normal conditions. During normal conditions also, since the last three years, we have been making efforts to produce more and we have produced more according to figures, but I do not know where the production and the food crop go. If this is the way, I am doubtful whether in 1952 we shall be able really to stop foreign imports. I have given credit to the Government for taking a firm stand all along that they shall have no import after December 1951. Of course the natural calamities are there and if they do come, they will be considered on their own merits but in the ordinary circumstances, I want to know whether the Government will maintain that position. Of course, the President has stated that there shall be no import but if this kind of attitude is adopted, I can assure you that Government will again be compelled to import from foreign countries with the result that our economy, which has already been spoiled, will be spoiled much more.

As far as the fertilizers are concerned, I am told it is a great scandal; for these orders have been placed without any authority by the officers; the bogus godown keepers have been paid and I do not know where those fertilizers have gone. I would like the hon. Minister to make a statement whether he has enquired into this matter and whether bogus orders have been placed and bogus payments made and what action he has taken against the officers concerned. I would like to have a categorical statement from the hon. Minister on this matter which is certainly very serious.

Coming to sugar, the hon. Minister stated in the month of June in Bombay that he is going to make Diwali very sweet this year. That is to say, he was going to supply more sugar than the usual quantity.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** Sweet words.

**Shri Sidhva:** I want to know, when he made that statement, from where he thought he was going to give more sugar to Bombay, and why only to Bombay people?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is given to the whole of the country.

**Shri Sidhva:** I would like to know when he issued the orders and when actually the supply was made to the ration shops. Is it not a fact that his orders went to Bombay only a week before Diwali and by the time the ration shop owners went to fetch sugar

from the godowns, Diwali was over. That is the position. You could not have had the sugar. The first shipment came only last week, about 6,000 tons. When, in the last session, he stated that orders had been placed in June, I asked him what the result was and whether the orders had been accepted. He was not prepared to give an answer in public interests. I can understand that because, probably, public interest meant that if those things were disclosed, there may be speculation by merchants. Shipments have been made on forward contracts. When I asked him about this this morning, he could not give the answer in the public interest. It is most surprising. What public interest is involved here? In the months of May and June, in Cuba, sugar was available in any quantity. When the Korean war broke out, America cornered all the sugar. Prior to that, sugar was available and it was purchased by various countries. I fail to understand why our hon. Minister failed to secure sugar from Cuba.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Today, America, having realised that sugar is surplus and a large quantity is available, is offering the same cornered sugar to various countries at cheaper prices. I want to know whether our Government is aware of this and whether it is taking advantage of the American idea of giving sugar at a lesser price; not by way of any favour, but because they know that they have cornered all the sugar by purchasing at a higher price and they do not want the surplus sugar. I want to know whether Government has taken any steps in that direction. The hon. Minister was hoping to get ready shipments and he made forward contracts. There were merchants all along in this country who were prepared to supply sugar at cheaper rates if forward contracts could be made. Today, in November and December, shipments are coming for the contracts that were made.

During the question hour this morning I stated in this House that Pakistan Government have purchased sugar from the British Refineries, from where we have also purchased, at a lesser price. The hon. Minister said that he had no knowledge. I have knowledge of it. They have purchased at about £60 per ton which comes to about ten per cent. less than what we have paid. Either our bargaining agency is defective or I do not know what is the other reason that we have paid high price. It is certain that your officers are not as competent probably

as Pakistan officers. I do not know what it is; we have always to pay more. In some other instance also.....

**Shri Chattopadhyay (West Bengal):** Constant reference is being made by Mr. Sidhva about the price of sugar in Pakistan. From personal experience I can say that in Pakistan the price of sugar is higher than in India.

**Shri Sidhva:** The price may be higher; I am speaking of the purchase by Pakistan from foreign countries. Today you can raise the ceiling price as you like. I do not know what efforts have been made by Government to procure more sugar. A large quantity is really needed in this country. Today the consumption of sugar is greatly restricted in this country. Even with that restriction, I understand, there are a number of aerated-water factories in the country that are suffering for want of sugar. Many such industries are today suffering for want of sugar supplies. On the top of it, we find that a big foreign firm has come in in the name of Coca-Cola. I want to know from where you are going to supply sugar to this firm. After all, this is not an industry which is going to benefit the country. There are already many aerated-water companies which are not getting sugar. You will have to give sugar to this foreign firm because in Bombay, in Delhi, and various other places they have sunk a capital which nearly comes to crores of rupees. They are very rich persons; this has originated from America. Throughout the country our own people who have these aerated-water factories are suffering from want of sugar supplies; trade has fallen and they are not able to earn a living. You will now supply large quantity of sugar to a new industry. I want an explanation from the hon. Minister as to how he is going to supply sugar to this big foreign firm,—may be possibly Indian firm—at the expense of these small industries which are suffering.

These are the points that I wanted to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister and I hope, in his reply, he will give a satisfactory answer to them. As far as the food position is concerned, I cannot say today boldly because of the calamities that the country is self-sufficient. At the same time, I want to know from the hon. Minister, under normal conditions what the position is. I won't be carried away if my hon. friend Mr. Thirumala Rao merely says that he is not prepared to accept my figures. I won't be satisfied with a mere negative reply. I want an affirmative reply as to what the correct figures are so that the people and House

may understand as to who is correct. One correction has, after all, come out now, after a number of months. This is a very important matter and unless you have correct statistics, your desire—and I have a keener desire than the Government—to stop foreign imports, will never be fulfilled.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Prof. Ranga.

**Shri T. Husain (Bihar):** May I know if all the names are down there and you call out according to that list?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Again and again, the list is in my mind.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam):** I did not get a chance even yesterday.

**Prof. Ranga (Madras):** I am glad that we have an opportunity of discussing this question once again; but I am not happy that this occasion should have arisen just at this juncture when a number of our provinces are in the grip of serious food shortage. No one can blame my hon. friend Mr. Munshi for having brought about the present unfavourable situation in India; because, he has been in office for a few months and during this period, most unfortunately for him, for us in the country, and outside, natural calamities have overtaken us in such a quick succession. He has not even had the time enough to come to grips with the food situation in this country and naturally we cannot lay much blame at his door.

At the same time, I wish to warn the Government that it is high time that they should begin to think whether they should hang on to their three year old policy of attaining self-sufficiency in food. Would it be possible for them to attain this self-sufficiency within even the next three years? Some time ago, it could be urged on their behalf as it was urged, that we should smother our doubts with regard to the wisdom of their policy, accept their policy and make it more and more popular in the country, in the hope that both the producer and the consumer might take it for granted that Government was going to achieve food self-sufficiency, and also in the hope that the producer would try his best to place more and more of his land and other resources and press them all into this process of greater and bigger food production. But to-day there cannot be any excuse at all for anyone to make a similar plea. This country is asked to achieve self-sufficiency not only in food but also in jute, in cotton, oil-seeds and in sugarcane, and sugar and gur. Is this possible? Has the Agriculture Ministry and the Food Ministry tried to get all their

experts interested in the production of these crops to sit together and then work out a plan to see whether it would be possible for this country to achieve all these very desirable objectives, and that too simultaneously and in a short time, and also working in the manner in which they have been carrying on their work? Is it not now time for them to take the country into their confidence and tell them, "Now, look here, in regard to food self-sufficiency, it would not be possible for us to achieve it." On the other hand they have come forward through the speech from the President that they still stick to this policy of food self-sufficiency. In spite of the fact that my friend Mr. Sidhva has always been saying that this country has been producing enough and more for all the people that we have in our country, I do maintain that we are not in a position to produce all that we need to feed our own people, with our growing population, as long as we want to achieve the other things also, that is to say, self-sufficiency in the other crops, especially jute, cotton, oil-seeds and sugarcane.

Secondly, I wish to warn the Government that the slow pace at which they are going ahead with their Grow More Food Campaign, especially on the front of irrigation and flood control projects, is not likely to take them anywhere near food self-sufficiency, and indeed, it is not likely to save this country from the recurrence of calamities similar to those that we have been suffering from. It may be urged by them that they certainly are very keen on developing all these dams and other projects, but that they do not have the money needed. But I ask them, are they pursuing such a foreign policy, such an industrial policy, such an overall economic policy in this country as would induce other countries to come to our rescue, and as to win the co-operation of various other countries and their "know-how" experts also in order that they may help us to develop all these projects within the next ten or fifteen years, which, I understand, is about the outside mark within which we should achieve all these things? Otherwise, God alone can look after this country.

Then, I do maintain in spite of several criticisms made by several of our own friends that the Grow More Food Campaign has not been a complete failure. On the other hand I say it has been a somewhat qualified success, and that it can be made a greater success indeed, if only more money and more manure could be pushed into this campaign. Money is not available at all for the develop-

ment of rural banking facilities. And manure is not being produced at Sindri or other places. Although we have today a number of manure production plants in this country, they are not operated to their maximum capacity. Sindri is still going the scandalous way that it has been going during the last five years. And we are required to sink more and more money into it, and I do not know when it is really going to go into full production and when it is going to make the proper contribution, as it was expected to, to our manurial front.

Then, what are we going to do in order to induce our own *kisan* to produce more and more grains within his existing resources? I have again and again warned Government that their present food control policy is not the correct one, that their present price fixation policy is not correct, and that the present system of rationing more and more people in the country and taking all the burden on themselves is not the correct one. What has been the result? The result is that not only deficit areas continue to be deficit, but the so-called traditionally surplus areas are being turned into deficit areas. Towns in surplus areas which have never known any rationing, which had never suffered from any difficulty in regard to food supplies are today asking for rations and are not getting them at all. They have included large numbers of people—nearly one hundred million—in the rural areas into the list or the quantum of the total number of people to whom they are to supply rations, and yet this is only what is called "informal" ration, and the people are to be supplied only partial rations. What is the position? Even over the whole week, these people are not being supplied with any rations at all. The ration shops themselves say that they do not have the rations with them. And the licencees, the people who have been favoured by the Government with the authority to procure foodgrains and then supply the rice to the consumers, they themselves say that they do not have it. And yet, in the black-market you have plenty and more. How does this happen?

I have to say that this Government and some State Governments have not taken these things, I mean the calamities and the existing difficulties into full account. More than three months ago one of the political leaders with whom I do not see eye to eye, warned us that in Bihar things were going very bad and that there were already signs of famine. But when my friend Mr. Munshi happened to go there, he said there is no fear of famine at all, and some of the Bihar Ministers also



[Prof. Ranga]

were hard put to it to say there are no signs of famine. Yet, soon after, the crops failed and my friends were glad to take advantage of it and say, "Yes, it is true there is a famine to-day". If only they had taken sufficient care, some four months ago, and rushed food-grains to Bihar and built up a reserve of stock, this would have helped the people and even with the failure of the monsoon crop, I am sure, the position would not have been half as serious as it is to-day. What happened in Andhra? Some two years ago we had a terrific cyclone there and people suffered great losses, and the damage caused was estimated at some forty crores. Yet there was no famine. Why? That was because there the Provincial Government behaved better than the Central Union Ministry or the Provincial Ministry in Bihar seem to have done. I do not wish to castigate them too much, but at the same time I cannot say to myself that they have played fair with the people in Bihar in this regard. Similarly in Madras also, in Salem, even in Coimbatore District and in Trichi and some other districts there is great scarcity in foodgrains. My hon. friend Mr. Munshi went there and as one of the important papers put it, he sung a lullaby to the people, asking them to sleep peacefully in the hope that by the morning there will be sufficient food for them. But there when even the six oz. ration is not available, how can they manage?

**An Hon. Member:** Not six oz. but two or three oz.

**Prof. Ranga:** When not even two oz. or three oz. are available, how can they manage? The hon. Minister and the Deputy Minister also went there to give them heart, but have they been able to pour into those regions more food? With two or three oz. how can anyone feel complacent or even with six or eight ounces? They do not expect us to feel complacent; but they do not feel as if the position is under control, and at the same time, what is it that they have been doing in order to help our people at least to maintain themselves as human beings? My friend had one short-term solution. I cannot say that he was entirely wrong in this. He said that people should take to subsidiary foods. As a piece of advice it is good but as a piece of directive—"If you do not do it, you are not worth looking after: there is no other way and how can you expect a Government to do anything more"—a directive uttered in a filibustering manner it comes very ill indeed. That was why one of the important papers in Madras had taken, and taken rightly, to task both the hon. Minister and

his Deputy. I tried my best to find answers to meet all those criticisms by that paper but ultimately I came back to the conclusion that after all our Ministers were not justified in the high-faluting manner that they had adopted in dealing with a famished people. To conclude.....

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):** Strange friends, *Madras Mail* and Mr. Ranga.

**Prof. Ranga:** Strange friends indeed that two traditional consumers should today be in charge of food production—people who never had anything to do with food production—and yet they have come to save us. I wish them well indeed.....

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I am glad criticism has come from the same quarter where an Oxford graduate has anything to do with land.

**Prof. Ranga:** I do not wish to say anything at all about our Ministers, because I wanted to save them at least on the first occasion when they made their debut here. But they do not seem to be anxious to take advantage of that and I can assure my friend that he can go to Oxford, he can go to Chicago or California to be better able to look after his own people. There is no harm if you do not know at all anything in regard to the manner in which your own people are living in the villages, producing their food and going through all sorts of trouble to feed your people. If you come today with a fresh mind to bear on the problem, all credit to you. But unfortunately you do not realise that you are only novices at the job and, on the other hand, when you begin to flaunt your own ignorance for wisdom merely because on one fine morning one was appointed Minister and the other a Deputy Minister and therefore you think that other people cannot possibly make any criticism, not of you personally but of the consequences of your policies, I can only tell my hon. friends that they had better be a little more humble than what they seem to be.

**Shri Satish Chandra (Uttar Pradesh):** I wish to associate myself with all the sentiments of greatfulness, expressed on the floor of this House by previous speakers, to the President for the address that he was pleased to deliver to this House the other day.

When control of foodgrains was reimposed in September 1948, after partial decontrol for some months, a definite policy was laid down by the Central Government, after protracted consul-

tations and deliberations with all the State Governments. It was decided among other things by mutual agreement that the following foodgrains shall be controlled and that there shall be no departure from that agreed basic policy till all the States were consulted. The grains were rice, wheat, gram, maize, jowar, bajra, barley and ragi in South India. I do not wish to indulge in strong language as has been used by two hon. friends who preceded me, namely Mr. Sidhva and Prof. Ranga, but I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that a tonga strike in Delhi was sufficient enough to move the Government of India to make a change in the policy which was decided upon after consultation with the State Governments and reaffirmed at Successive Conferences of State Food Ministers. In spite of the protests of U. P. Government gram was decontrolled recently. There was a tonga strike in the capital over non-availability of gram for feeding horses, and it was thought that there was a great crisis all over the country. This strike by tonga-wallahs was not considered to be of sufficient importance by the Speaker who refused to admit an adjournment motion on the subject during the last session. But somehow the Food Minister took it to be an all-India crisis, and consequently, gram was decontrolled.

I would like to examine how this step has affected the food economy in my State. In Uttar Pradesh, a few lakh tons of wheat had been procured before monsoon by State Government and then there was a lull during the rainy season due to floods and bad communications. As they were going to restart the procurement of wheat, the decontrol of gram was suddenly announced, as a result of which gram today is selling at a higher price than the procurement price for wheat. All the surplus wheat is now being withheld by the cultivator, and gram of which there was not much of surplus is coming out in small quantity, because it is being sold at a higher price than wheat. This has affected the procurement of at least one lakh tons of wheat in U. P. I might inform the House that gram was decontrolled in spite of the warnings and protests of U. P. Government, without any heed being paid to their view-point. The settled policy had been revised only due to a strike by tongawallas in the capital, in spite of future complications in the State.

Uttar Pradesh is experiencing tremendous difficulty due to flood and draught. When we are faced with greater calamities in Assam and Bihar, it is possible that the case of U.P. may be over-

looked. But may I inform the House that eleven eastern districts in the State bordering Bihar are experiencing as much scarcity conditions as Bihar itself. These eleven districts, put together, in area and population will be as big as many of the States in the Union. How is the State Government to feed that enormous population? What help and remedy is the Centre going to offer? The Centre has not kept up its previous commitments in regard to supplies, with the result that wheat and rice ration in my State has been reduced recently from ten to eight oz. But still, the food position continues to be far from satisfactory.

Here I would like to compare the figures. In almost all the States except Travancore-Cochin Union and Mysore, an overall ration of twelve oz. is assured.

**Shri Bharati (Madras):** Not in Madras.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I am speaking of the position as it existed on the 31st March, 1950. I have no later figures with me, and I stand to correction if any changes have taken place since then. I can however say that on 31st March, 1950, the overall ration in most of the States was twelve ounces. Out of these, the States of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Coorg, Jammu and Kashmir, and the desert land of Jaisalmer distributed a cereal ration in rice and wheat of twelve oz. per day, while the rationed population in Greater Bombay was supplied 10.86 oz. and Delhi ten oz. I think that state of affairs still continues. The same amount of wheat and rice ration is still allowed in most of the States.

**Shri B. Das:** Except Madras.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I have not mentioned Madras. But the cereal ration in the fertile Gangetic valley is now eight oz. Leave alone any changes that may have taken place in the quantum of ration, but the very fact that Greater Bombay should draw more cereal ration in wheat and rice than the people in the heart of Gangetic valley is simply surprising.

**Shri Bharati:** What is the total rationed population in U. P.?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I think it is about 67 lakhs. But I am not going to enter into any controversy with Shri Bharati. If I do so, I will be able to tell hon. Members, how, some States south of the Vindhyas inflate their figures of rationed population through an unnecessary system of informal rationing in rural areas. I don't think

[Shri Satish Chandra]

any rationing is at all necessary in many parts of those States in the rural area. It is a system of controlled distribution which Mr. Bharati appears to have in mind. Let not hon. Members please confuse statutory rationing with controlled distribution. Any way, I will take more time if I go into that question now.

I had been last year into the interior of Madras. I had the privilege of going right down to Cape Comorin and studying food-problem on the basis of factual data. When the hon. Member refers to the lower quantum of ration of two or three oz., he is presumably referring to areas where there is a system of controlled distribution, just a sprinkling of relief quota shops for partial producers in the rural areas. He is not referring to statutorily rationed areas. Any way, my grievance is that in the statutorily rationed areas, while the quantity of rice and wheat ration is eight oz. in U. P. it is ten oz. in Delhi 10.86 oz. in Greater Bombay, which does not produce anything, and twelve oz. at some other places. It is simply ridiculous. I hope that the Government will look into this matter and try to enforce more uniform standards in the matter of the quantum of ration in surplus and deficit States respectively. Similarly, an uniformity is essential in awarding subsidy and procurement bonus to different States. Some of them have been given a generous treatment and others have been treated in a step-motherly way.

Another thing to which I would like to refer is the recent Gur Control Order of the Government, according to which every cattle-driven *kolhu* in a village falling in factory zones has to be operated after obtaining a licence. I wonder if the Government have full appreciation of the magnitude of this step which they have taken probably without reference to the State Governments.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The U. P. Government agreed.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** What about Bihar?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** No question arises in the case of Bihar because there production of *gur* is not more than that required for sugar.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** And Punjab?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Punjab has nothing to do with it.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** If the hon. Minister enquires he will discover that there are *kolhus* in every village

of North Bihar and Punjab, and the new Order has been enforced there too. There were already two licences which a *kolhu*-operator had to take in my district in Uttar Pradesh. The *Panchayat* of the village gives a licence for operating a *kolhu* and charges a tax. The District Board levies another tax on the same *kolhu* which has to be deposited at the Board's office, the cultivator having to go from his village to the District headquarters.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The Centre has nothing to do with it.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** But these two licences existed there for several years—they cannot be ignored. Now, on top of that comes this third licence. What is the object of this Order? If the object is only to give sufficient cane to the sugar factories and keep them in full production for a maximum period, I have no quarrel. But I may submit that the zones that have been reserved for the factories and where *kolhu* licence has to be taken are much bigger than the requirements of the sugar factories, and the cultivators are being unnecessarily harassed. If the only object is to provide sugarcane to these factories, then what is the point in licensing the *khandsari* sugar centrifugals wherever they exist? These are concentrated in urban areas of Rohilkhand and the owners hardly grow cane themselves. The manufacturers of *khandsari* sugar who own the centrifugals get supply of juice from the cane-growers' *kolhus*. *Kolhus* having been licensed, there was absolutely no need for licensing the sugar centrifugals. A central excise duty is levied on *khandsari* sugar produced by these centrifugals. The Government of India's Excise Department has got all the information in its possession by which the quantity of *khandsari* sugar produced in the country can be found out. The Central Government directly levy a duty upon *khandsari* sugar, and on top of that comes a second licence and a second licence fee.

The overall effect of this order may ultimately be evident at the end of the crushing season in the shape of greater scarcity of sugar. I am afraid that increased production of crystal by factories may be more than balanced off by reduced output of *gur* and indigenous sugar, deteriorating sugar supply position as a whole. Moreover, this Order affecting a cottage industry has created difficulties in the way of small producers resulting in dissatisfaction and disaffection to a degree which only those who come from the areas which are directly affected by these steps can fully realise. I wish the Government

could review the whole matter, appreciate the difficulties of persons from that locality, give due consideration to the representations that might have been received on the subject, and then readjust their policy if necessary, to meet the requirements of the situation.

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

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair.]

**Mr. Speaker:** I find that a large number of hon. Members are anxious to speak. There are various ways of meeting their desire. One of them—and to my mind, the best—is for as few hon. Members as possible to speak. The second alternative is that we must curtail the time-limit from fifteen to ten minutes. I have often said that I do not desire speeches for the sake of speeches and would prefer speeches of proper duration and good points. But then it is left to hon. Members. The third alternative is to sit half an hour more today, although personally I am against that idea, because everyone is exhausted and the debate loses its quality. The fourth alternative would be that this debate may be carried on, at the most, up to lunch hour tomorrow.....

**Shri Sondhi (Punjab):** That is the best, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** ...and the hon. Minister will reply after the recess.

**The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha):** Government is prepared to allot tomorrow till four o'clock for this debate. Let the discussion go on until lunch hour and the hon. Minister will reply after lunch. I would request the House to sit half an hour late this evening, because that will enable a large number of hon. Members to speak. Let them speak for ten minutes each.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am quite agreeable, Sir.

**Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh):** I have to make one proposal. It always so happens that those who are left for the fag end of the debate get sometimes three minutes only. Therefore, my submission is that since there is a non-official resolution in the name of Prof. Shah about the control of food-grains and there would be a full fledged debate when it is taken up, only such persons, as do not take part in this debate, may be permitted to take part in the debate on that non-official reso-

lution. If we adopt this course, we shall be able to reduce the number of speakers because the subject is the same

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** On behalf of those who have sent in amendments, I would bring it to your notice that they have not had even a chance to support their amendments. If the time is reduced, they will be in difficulty. Of course, we shall carry out your direction with great pleasure, but I just pointed out our difficulty.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have expressed my views, but I do not propose to enforce them as a matter of a strict ruling of the Chair. I am leaving it to the hon. Members themselves to adjust as far as possible and I trust that they will do so.

**Shri Sondhi:** May I know what is the idea of having the debate till four o'clock tomorrow and till 5-30 today? Why not sit up to five o'clock tomorrow and dispense with the half an hour extension today?

**Shri Satya Narayan Sinha:** In that case, it would be unnecessary to sit late this evening.

**Mr. Speaker:** So, the revised arrangement is that we stick to the usual timing today and tomorrow this debate will be carried on till four o'clock and at four o'clock I shall call upon the hon. the Food Minister to reply.

**Prof. S. L. Saksena (Uttar Pradesh):** Yesterday the hon. Minister of Food promised to discuss the question of *gur* and *kolhu* also during this debate.

**Mr. Speaker:** Did he specifically refer to *gur* and *kolhu*?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The whole thing might be included in this debate and I shall make the entire position clear tomorrow.

श्री त्यागी : स्पीकर महोदय: मैं खास तौर से सुबह से इस लिए चिन्तित था कि खाद्य सामग्री के सिलसिले में मैं अपने ब्याकात प्रकट करना चाहता था, । बात दर असल यह है कि मैं गाँवों के हालात से बाकिक हूँ।

[**Shri Tyagi:** Sir, since morning I was particularly anxious to express my ideas on this problem of food. The fact is that I know the conditions in the countryside well.]

**Shri E. Velayudhan** (Travancore-Cochin): Speak in English please, so that we might also understand.

**Shri Tyagi:** I was anxious to speak on the subject because I felt that as a representative of the rural classes I must let the hon. Minister know as to how we are reacting to his latest laws and regulations with regard to food. I need not say much about famine conditions, because the President himself has taken note of them in his address and I am sure the hon. Minister himself is more than conscious about them. I only want to point out a few matters which, in my opinion, are important and if the hon. Minister would take note of them, perhaps he might be able to improve the administrative arrangements with some advantage.

First of all, I would like to take objection to his officers going abroad for making purchases of foodgrains. Once and for all, I want to make it clear that the practice of sending Secretaries abroad to make purchases direct means that they become too acquainted with the market there and the persons who deal in that market become their friends and there is consequently a danger of their exercising favouritism and thereby inviting a lot of unpleasant criticism about the Government. It is not for the Secretaries to go about making purchases. Secretaries are supposed to be here and if they go about in foreign countries making purchases, it only means that they have no work to do in the Secretariat here and they are surplus and either they should be retrenched or if they are necessary, then they must remain in the Secretariat. It is not for them to go abroad and make purchases there and exercise their discretion to decide upon which party to purchase from and which party not to purchase from. I do not want to dilate on this point. Everybody appreciates that this work is not for the Secretaries to do. Tenders must be invited or some other means adopted. There are also our Purchase Missions and Embassies whose help may be enlisted. When we are spending so much on our representatives abroad, it is an unnecessary and wasteful item of expenditure to send our Secretaries there. I think this practice is undesirable and should be stopped. I therefore submit that the vote of the House may be taken on this question. The House does not want these Secretaries to go and make purchases independently in foreign countries.

Secondly, I want to take up directly the transaction with regard to sugar. Only this morning the hon. Minister

has replied to a question and has supplied the rate at which sugar has been purchased. I have some information which I would like to lay before the House, and I want the hon. Minister's comments on it. 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. He saw the Minister and this officer personally and told them that he was prepared to supply sugar at the rate of Rs. 652 per metric ton at Bombay. This sugar was to come from Formosa. This offer was discussed and afterwards the party was asked to get some bank guarantee which was also duly obtained from the other place. This party was also prepared to arrange for the supply, not in terms of dollars, but in rupees. The order was practically given to him. (An Hon. Member: When?). It was in the month of April—on the 20th I believe. He saw the hon. Minister and his Secretary. The order was practically given to him and he was asked to get the date of supply extended from April to some later month for which he got a cable the next day extending the date of delivery. But the next day, when the transaction was to be finalised he was given a 'No'. Then again in the month of June that very party made another effort and this time he made an offer to supply 50,000 tons of sugar from Cuba. The second offer was also rejected.

**Shri Hussain Imam** (Bihar): What was the price?

**Shri Tyagi:** The price was Rs. 578 per ton.

Now, after rejecting all these offers, as the hon. Minister told us in reply to Mr. Kamath's question this morning, his Ministry purchased over 40,000 tons of sugar from the United Kingdom at £61/10 per ton and about 50,000 tons at £56 per ton. Now, it comes to this. Taking that April price as the basic price the loss comes to Rs. 98 lakhs in one transaction of 40 thousand tons, Rs. 12,90,000 in the second transaction and Rs. 22,50,000 in the third transaction, which means that if the sugar had been purchased from the party which I mentioned, on good guarantee, we could have had sugar at a profit of Rs. 1,33,40,000. This is my information. If I am wrong I would like to be corrected. If, on the other hand, I am right, I demand that the man who is responsible for this colossal loss for us, either deliberately or by negligence, must be sacked. Unless Ministers, their Secretaries and other high officials agree to resign when they have

committed a wrong, there can be no honesty in the country. If you want to build up healthy traditions like the one set up by Mr. Chetty—he committed a mistake, he confessed and he immediately placed his resignation before the House. We should also set an example. I do not want to cast any aspersions on Mr. Munshi, because I am sure he is not responsible for this. But there is somebody in his Ministry who is definitely at fault. If the facts are true, then that gentleman should be taken to task. Nobody can be permitted to put the country to a loss of a crore and a half of rupees, either by neglect or by ignorance. I, therefore, want a proper enquiry to be instituted into the conduct of those persons who were dealing in this trade. I also want a definite reply as to whether this new supply of sugar is being had directly by the Government themselves. The hon. Minister said today in reply to a question that the Government was having a Government to Government transaction. Is there any agency employed for the purchase and supply of sugar, or is it the Government of the foreign country which really packs this sugar for them and takes the whole responsibility of supplying it here? If any agency is being employed I want to know the name of that agency. The name is in the market already, but I don't want to mention it, because I am not sure whether that is correct. I want the hon. Minister to give out the name, if there is a party which has been favoured in this transaction.

Now, about *gur* I must submit that *gur* is not at all a luxury—everybody knows it. *Gur* is manufactured in the countryside in *kolhus*. I happen to come from an area where *gur* manufacture is one of the main cottage industries of the people. I lived in a village in my boyhood and until I was 12 years I did not see sugar. Sugar had not by that time reached my village and I used to live on *gur*. But now the children of that locality are looking forward to the day when they would get a bit of it, because *gur* is not manufactured there now. The Government introduced a licensing system with the result that anybody having a *kolhu* should take a licence. It is very difficult to get a licence, because one has to go from pillar to post. If at all a licence is issued, there is a condition that the licensee could manufacture only a particular quantity just enough for his own domestic need. Now, to put up a *kolhu* one has to invest at least about Rs. 500. *Gur* is not only consumed by human beings but also by cattle. A peasant's requirements both for his domestic use as

well as for his bullocks come to about Rs. 100 worth of *gur*. Suppose he is given a licence for the manufacture of Rs. 100 worth of *gur*. How can he invest a sum of Rs. 500 for the manufacture of such a small quantity? It is impossible; it is preposterous and it is high time the hon. Minister took notice as to how his rules are being enforced and how they are reacting on the people.

Then again, there are certain areas ear-marked as 'sugar factory areas' where the manufacture of *gur* is controlled. Now, I want to give a timely warning to the hon. Minister and his Ministry that there may come a time—I say this after having observed the impossible conditions in those areas where manufacture of *gur* is restricted—when things may get out of control. I assure you that the sugar-cane produced in some of these areas is so much that the factories will not be able to crush the whole of it. But you are not allowing the people to utilise the surplus for the manufacture of *gur*. Has anybody calculated the surplus sugar-cane available in such areas which can profitably be used for manufacture of *gur*? Then at the fag-end of the season you will come across news items that so much of sugar cane had to be burnt as the mills could not really crush it. If things come to that pass the hon. Minister will have to reply to the House even for this. So, he must please take notice of this fact as well.

Now I come to the other organisations under the hon. Minister. I am afraid the time at my disposal is so short that I will take only one or two of them. Take for instance the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Some of the best talents in the country are employed in the Pusa Institute. I had an occasion of visiting this Institute and speaking to the research students there. They told me that some of the people employed by Government there were geniuses. But about 75 per cent. of their time is taken away in file work with the result that they have hardly any time left to attend to the research students working under them. It is nothing but a sheer waste of national talents. I challenge the hon. Minister to appoint a committee to enquire into this matter.

I wish to make a general remark about controls and it has been repeated many times. I submit that controls are really eating into the vitals of our nation and the nation is getting demoralised. If today we do away with all controls and leave things to the free play of supply and demand I am

[Shri Tyagi]

sure things will return to normal. Even if there is a famine the whole country will with one determination face that situation. Today the position is this. Those who have got the means to purchase at a higher rate purchase their commodities all right; the poor who cannot pay are in trouble. So, I submit that if these controls are lifted altogether, if the fullest facilities are given for transport of commodities from one place to another, and if there is one rule that whosoever does not sell his grain or whatever he is hoarding will have it forfeited to the State, there will be no black-marketing and I am sure the forces of competition will bring down the prices also.

A word about the manner of your fixing prices. I fail to understand with what imagination you expect the U.P. man to carry *gur* to Calcutta and sell it at the very same price of Rs. 18 per maund. In U.P. near my very *kolhu* area it is sold at Rs. 18 per maund and in Calcutta and Bombay also it is Rs. 18 per maund. I do not really understand the imagination behind this.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is not so. It is Rs. 21 in the non-producing areas.

**Shri Tyagi:** Even so it is the same Rs. 21 in all the non-producing areas, irrespective of whether they are distant or near.

Again, in the matter of control of gram, the price was controlled. Crushed gram you can sell at any price, but whole gram you cannot. This did not require much of thinking. Whole gram could not be sold for more than Rs 13 or so per maund, but if you crush it you can send it anywhere at any price. Gram is always eaten crushed and not whole. It is eaten in whole only by horses, even they half crush it. But human beings always eat gram crushed. If gram crushed can be free why not the whole gram? The Ministry is not taking full possession of the matter in their mind when they pass such sort of rules or enactments.

One little thing more. I am sorry I have no time. I want the hon. Minister to inform the House as to how many persons his Ministry have been able to send to jail. At the last time they claimed that for hoarding seven years' punishment will be given. I would like to know whether anybody has been punished under this provision during the course of the past months. The Minister was very anxious that this deterrent law must be passed and

the House gave the Minister the deterrent law as he demanded. I want to know whether it has produced any results.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** Before I commence my remarks I should like to request, through you, Sir, the Government for reconsideration of a subject on which our Prime Minister indicted us yesterday. He said the address of the President was not like the address of the U.S. President before Congress in which an exhaustive survey is made. I wish to submit that ours is a new Constitution and we are not bound by any conventions. Whatever is good in the world should be copied by us, and the fact that they have not done it so far—and that "so far" means only this very year, as this convention of the address of the President has been started only under the new Constitution—should not stand in the way of improving.

It would also be better if we have a convention whereby the President should address us only in Hindi and a copy of his address in English should be distributed to us for the benefit of those who cannot understand or read Hindi.

The President in paragraph 5 of his address dealt with the food situation. No exception can be taken to his dictum that "it helps still less to exaggerate" the food situation. But we would be failing in our duty if we do not point out to the Government the fundamental mistakes it has committed in the past, and is still committing today, in connection with its responsibilities and duties towards the supply of foodgrains to the citizens of India.

First of all we must realize that the numbers under ration is less than ten per cent. of the population of India. All your paraphernalia of food controls is exercised in the interests of that percentage, out of which a very big proportion is your own servants—government servants, servants of public bodies and servants of semi-government organisations. These are the people who get preferential treatment. But the citizen of India as such is not entitled under your rules to have any benefit of your price control of foodgrains except in such exceptional cases as is cited by Mr. Tyagi where you have a control on gram, to allow the crushed gram to be sold at any price one likes. That too is a makeshift, make-believe and put-up show. To human beings there can be nothing of greater importance than foodgrain and I would only ask the Government to consider whether it has discharged its

duty to the citizens of Free India or not. You have got hundred and one controls. Cement is controlled, steel is controlled, brick is controlled, but there is no control on food prices in the countryside. Rice can sell at Rs. 40 a maund in Bihar, but it does not move the Government to any action. No action has been taken under the Food-grains Control Orders to check the rise in the price of foodgrains in Bihar as it prevailed two months before and as it is prevailing today. Is this the way in which the Government should discharge its functions? The Government came into power because it was serving the people and if it fails to serve the people, people know what to do.

I would suggest to the Government the necessity, and urgent necessity, of introducing the monopoly procurement system which prevailed during the British times. I find that my State of Bihar, while producing something like 48 lakh tons of foodgrains in 1949, procured in that year only 41 thousand tons—I have the official figure which I will give you: it is 41,494 tons. The magnificent procurement of Bihar State was less than one per cent. of the production of Bihar. And why was it? Because the control price is less and they do not want to lose the votes of the surplus producers. But they fail to realize that they are losing the votes of ten times more of the public who are not surplus producers. Surplus producers in the country would be found to be less than ten per cent. of the population of India. It is they who benefit by these high prices. At least the twelve per cent. living in the urban areas are not producers. The landless labourer is not a producer. And we had figures from the Bengal Famine Inquiry Commission of 1944 that a vast majority of the cultivators cultivated less than five acres. In this condition of things whose interests are you safeguarding by not enforcing price control on all foodgrains, on all persons, whether he is a producer, wholesaler, retailer or anybody? That is the first essential which Government should have before them.

I should like to say a few words about the special condition of Bihar. Coming from Bihar I realize, and I hope the House will realize, the great calamity that has befallen us. During the last fourteen years Bihar used to produce between 36 and 52 lakh tons of foodgrains per year, and the average comes to about 48 lakh tons. Out of this about 36 lakhs is *kharif* crop and twelve lakhs is *rabi*. According to Government figures we have lost two lakh tons of the autumn crop and it is estimated that in the winter rice we

are going to have a deficit, at a conservative estimate, of 18 lakh tons. That makes it 20 lakh tons of deficit. Added to this, because of the inclemencies of the weather, the *rabi* crop is expected to be about 50 to 60 per cent. and not more than that. So we will have a loss of five lakh tons more. Out of the 48 lakh tons that we used normally to produce, we are likely to be short of 25 lakhs, a 50 per cent. reduction. Add to this a further factor that in the North Bihar are the areas devastated by Kosi, that is a cursed river of ours that we have to face, and we find that all the old stock of the cultivators has been lost. The Bihar Government under the Essential Supplies Act tried to get hold of all surplus production available with the producers and from the figures, we find that the stocks available in the South Bihar is infinitesimal except that it will help them to carry on till the time of the next harvest and no surplus is left with the producers. These are factors which are before your eyes and it is not like what we used to have formerly. Bihar in its living memory had never to face a situation of this nature. The Bihar Government has been trying to give some sort of food and as was pointed out earlier, it is not rationing, but controlled distribution; rationing cum control distribution comes to the total of 28,68,788 persons. These are the people who are getting the benefit of controlled prices. In a country of 3,90 lakhs—I do not know the new figure, but it will be nearer four crores than 3½—the only number which is being supplied food at controlled prices is 28 lakhs and this figure is as on the 10th November 1950. This is the figure that we have received from our own Government.

3 P.M.

**Shri Tyagi:** They are also cities:

**Shri Hussain Imam:** Cities mostly and a bit of towns and rural areas and the amount of ration or subsidy given is as low as five ounces per day. In my own particular town our poor people are getting five seers of rice and wheat, per month, per family. You can well imagine how far five seers, not even per person but per family, how far it can go. As long as the supply was available even in black market people could eke out an existence but in the present condition of things, it will not be possible to get rice and wheat even at black market prices because there is no production.

Here I should like to use, if you will excuse me, rather strong language. Our index number of wholesale prices and cost of living index are manipulated



[Shri Hussain Imam]

and do not give the true state of affairs, because they are based on controlled prices of the rationed articles. They may serve the purpose of keeping down the wages in the industries, but they do not give you the correct picture of the country's condition, because the high prices that are prevailing for 88 per cent. of the public is not portrayed in your cost of living index or index Number of whole-sale and retail prices. If we have to have a special set for urban areas, at least for rural areas we should be given a true portrayal of what is the cost of living, taking the food-grain prices as they prevail in the different States, and not the overall control prices, which is more a story than a reality for the vast majority of citizens.

I should not like to take the time of the House and I would therefore summarize what I wish the Government to do.

Firstly, I want the Government to assume full responsibility for feeding the people of Bihar from wheresoever they can manage to do it. I do not claim that we should have 16 ounces per person, per day, but the subsistence for every one should not be confined to the urban area but for the rural areas also it must be the responsibility primarily of the Centre. It must see that the States work out its policy and carry out the commands to the best of their ability.

Secondly, the price control of food-grains must be enforced throughout the whole of India. We want that price control should not only be for a few things and for a minority only, but it must be a control of the supply for everybody.

Thirdly, an overall estimate of our current needs must be made by the Centre in consultation with the Provincial Governments as well as the representatives of public opinion. Unfortunately the same system which prevailed in the times of the British is now prevailing in this Government and those who are out of office are not thought to be worth considering and they cannot be consulted on any matter. The whole of the wisdom has descended on the Treasury Benches whether it be of the Centre or of the States; no one else can be called and in this manner the Government go on committing one folly after another, because they do not come in contact with the people and they do not know where the shoe pinches.

Fourthly, I should like that a consistent and overall effort should be made

to purchase as much foodgrains as our resources will allow and from all sources that we can tap, irrespective of the fact that we may have to curtail some of the luxury imports like motor cars and others. Even dollar areas must not be left out; if anything has got to be stopped, it is not foodgrains which should be stopped but other luxuries like the lipsticks and other things of the nature. I hope that the Government will exert its full effort to help the rural areas. (Interruption) I was saying in conclusion that we have every confidence that if the Government desire to do the thing, it can do it, and if it wants to shirk the responsibility and throw it on the shoulders of the States, it can do so; the States have not got broad shoulders and have not the resources which the Centre commands and it is the Centre alone which can solve the food problems of today.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** I will, before I speak on the food position, associate myself wholeheartedly with the motion before the House and congratulate the mover of the motion on his manuscript eloquence and the seconder on the excellent Hindi extempore speech which she delivered. It has been indeed an encouragement to most people here and I hope before long, many others will follow her footsteps in speaking in the House.

شری - تی حسین : آپ کب سے شروع ہوئے

[Shri T. Husain: When will you start?]

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** I will consult an astrologer to decide the date.

The question that we are discussing here today, the question of food, is undoubtedly the most important question, facing this country. The efficiency and the administrative capacity of a Government is known by the food and cloth that the people living under that Government can get for themselves. Whether on account of reasons within their control or on account of reasons beyond their control, the fact remains that if the present Government is tested by this measuring rod, they will be found severely wanting and sorely lacking.

It is not my purpose here to blame the Government for their acts of commission and omission, because, that, in my opinion, will serve no useful purpose. The fact of the matter is that

conditions in this country today are such that until the attention of all the States and the Centre is focussed on this great problem which faces this country, we do not know where we shall be and what will be the future of the newly won independence of this country. I am not fully aware of the conditions prevailing in other parts of the country, but, knowing as I do the conditions prevailing in the State of Bihar, I hope, you, Sir, and the House will give me the indulgence for a few minutes to state before you the conditions obtaining in that province.

The State of Bihar, according to the Gregory Report, has had a deficit of about three lakh tons of cereals. It made up this deficit from assistance from the Centre and also to the extent of about three-fourths of a lakh ton purchased from Nepal. The last maize crop in the province was almost wholly destroyed on account of heavy rains. Even the *rabi* crop, which was very nice and very good, suffered terribly again on account of heavy rains at the time of harvesting and thrashing. On top of that comes this terrible drought with the result that we hardly would have anything as our rice crop on which Bihar depended mostly. Actually, the total loss is difficult to be estimated; but, it appears to us from the figures that have been so far prepared that the loss will be, as suggested by my hon. friend Mr. Hussain Imam, to the tune of about two million tons.

I am quite aware of the fact that the Central Government have from time to time given the assistance which it was possible for them to give. But, I desire to plead with the Government of India that the present situation in Bihar is not an ordinary situation and the normal usual type of quota allotment will not do. In fact, in the present conditions, it would be necessary for the Centre to lose no time in securing figures from the Government of Bihar, about the requirements of the State and to sit down with the State Ministers and find out how the deficit could be met. A friend remarked in the morning session that the hon. Minister of Agriculture was rather light-hearted in his announcement when he came back from Bihar last time, that there was not that amount of food difficulty as was given out in the Press. The hon. Minister may remember the feeling of this House even at the time he made that statement. He very kindly discussed this matter with a few of us coming from Bihar and we pointed out to him at that time also that the conditions were such that if proper arrangements were not made

from now, the difficulties of Bihar will be enormous. I am not suggesting that the hon. Minister has not been helpful. But, if we take into consideration the figures of allotments so far made to Bihar, it will be agreed even by the hon. Minister that he is still basing his distribution so far as Bihar is concerned on the normal quota allotments. In the year 1949, the Government of India gave to Bihar about 1.5 lakh tons of food grains. But, in January 1950, it was reduced to 40,000 tons only. In spite of all that has happened and the representations that have been made by the Government of Bihar, the total allotment so far is to the tune of 113,000 tons, out of which 30,000 tons have still to reach Bihar. What I desire to emphasise is that the present condition of the province demands a much more generous treatment and a more immediate solution of the difficulties with which we are faced. As you are aware, there is no hope at least at this time, of anything being purchased from Nepal either. In fact, even in the last few years, purchases from Nepal had gone down. The Nepal Government had itself started purchasing at high prices. The tea gardens had purchased quite a lot of rice and paddy from Nepal, which used to come to Bihar. At present, of course, there is hardly any possibility of any commercial relations between India and Nepal.

My hon. friend Mr. Hussain Imam has laid great stress on the policy of procurement followed by the Government of Bihar. If he had studied carefully a few figures, I am sure, he would have been convinced that the problem of deficiency of foodgrains in Bihar is not to be solved by the remedy of procurement. In fact, the remedy of procurement in Bihar, even of the few thousand maunds of rice to which he has referred, has become worse than the disease itself. From the statistics gathered in Bihar, it will be found that 29 per cent. of the population of the province have no lands at all; 49 per cent. have less than five acres; 16 per cent. have lands averaging between five and ten acres; it is only the other five per cent. which have more than ten acres in the way of lands in their possession from whom you can expect any procurement. It will thus be seen that it is very difficult for the Government of Bihar to be able to secure anything very substantial or appreciable by procurement. The hon. Minister for Agriculture and Food when he went to Bihar carried back the impression that enough had not been done by way of procurement. The State Government were in difficulties. They had in this

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matter to suspend their own decisions and naturally had to carry out the directions of the Centre. Therefore, they started very vigorously this procurement drive and the effect is that even those of the farmers who had something in store to carry them through these difficult times have been deprived of that. A drive for the procurement of paddy in the month of September and October is an unheard of thing and to say the least discloses complete ignorance of local conditions. This is the time of the year when there is hardly any paddy or rice left. But the decision had to be carried out. The State Government however in doing so, did not do one thing, they should have informed the Government of India that this was not the right time for procurement and they should have suspended the process till the rice season started. However, when I was last in Patna, I had occasion to enquire as to how the raids were carried out, which the House may know and Mr. Hussain Imam I hope, will agree with me when I give him the figures which I am now quoting that the State Government were not remiss in their duty. Over 1,300 premises were searched and some 13,000 maunds of paddy was procured. One hundred eighty-five persons were arrested and although a much greater number of enquiries and investigations into the available stocks with the farmers in the entire province were carried out, actually there was hardly anything to be procured. In doing so, however, I must say that a great deal of hardship was caused to those whose stocks were very little, but who under this particular drive had to yield to the pressure brought upon them and give away even what little was with them. This is the position so far as the procurement policy in Bihar is concerned, and in Bihar particularly, in my opinion, for several years to come it will be difficult to solve the problem of deficit by the mere policy of procurement.

This is a subject of importance and particularly as I come from Bihar I would have liked to take a little more time. But we know that there is a time limit and we must accommodate the House and so, Sir, I shall carry out your orders in this behalf.

The position with regard to sugar has been very vehemently brought before this House by Mr. Tyagi but I am afraid the position has been slightly misunderstood. I think this control about licensing *kolhus* is not extended to the whole of the Province either in Bihar or in U.P. It is extended

to the reserved area for sugar mills. Let us remember that you cannot have the cake and eat it too. If you want more sugar, you have to restrict the production of *gur* in the reserved area, of mills. It is quite another matter for this House to decide otherwise. If we decide to have no sugar, then the country should be prepared to live on *gur*. But if you want sugar, and complain that there is shortage of sugar and that you get only an ounce of sugar in a month, then you will have to do something about it. You cannot have jute, cotton, sugarcane, and still have a lot of food. The only way to do this is to localise the areas and intensify the production, that is the way to meet the needs of the country. But . . .

Shri Tyagi: In Bihar the . . . .

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: I have no time now, we shall talk it over later.

There is another thing. The President in his speech extended the target date fixed for our being self-sufficient in the matter of food, by three months. In this matter Government have made, if I may use an old term, a "Himalayan" blunder. There was no use fixing the 31st December 1951 as the date for attaining food self-sufficiency. But having fixed that date, I say no useful purpose will be served by extending the period by another three months. If India is not self-sufficient by 31st December, how is she going to become self-sufficient in another three months? You lay down a policy, but you do not follow it up by action. After all, if you lay down a policy which is to materialise by a certain date, it is necessary to lay down also how you are going to reach that target. It is not like saying, let there be light, and there was light. You must be able to show to the House how you are going to do it. Let the House be taken into confidence and let us know exactly how in another three months, or twelve months, the country is going to be self-sufficient, when today the deficits are not decreasing but increasing.

Acharya Kripalani (Uttar Pradesh): I am afraid we rouse ourselves to a situation only when it becomes critical. Even so the reference in the President's address about the food situation throws little light on it. Of course he talked of unparalleled natural calamities, flood, earthquakes and drought, but these are with us always. On previous occasions too, when the food situation was discussed in this House, the then Minister talked about natural calamities. When he was asked why the target fixed had not been reached, he

again gave natural calamities as the reason. These natural calamities are with us always. We know that our agriculture depends upon weather and upon rains. I say he would be a poor marksman who while he is shooting makes no provision for the wind, no provision for the natural movement of birds and of beasts. Therefore, I think that all these things must be taken into consideration when responsible Ministers make statements about the food situation. Then, what do you think of a Government that fifteen days before they declared that there was acute crisis in a particular Province, said that they knew nothing about it? And not only that, they minimised any information that appeared in the Press. They said that people were panicky, that the deaths that were reported were not due to starvation but to some other causes. They roused themselves only when a Provincial Minister considered the situation serious and as a consequence threatened to resign if he could not tackle the situation satisfactorily. It is then that the Minister at the Centre goes to Bihar and he sees that the situation is so serious that he refuses to make a statement there, saying that he would consult his colleagues in Delhi and then make a statement; and that statement is yet to come. I am afraid that the authorities are not able to see beyond their noses.

We have been spending for the last three years and we are still spending huge sums of money on what is called grow-more-food. On a previous occasion I talked of this and I said that it was admitted that much of the money spent was being wasted, that the good seed that was given to the cultivator found its way to the black market. Not only the seed, but the manure too; and that the money that was given for wells was not utilised for digging wells, and no wells were being dug. Yet, time and again we give a definite date when we will be able to reach the target of self-sufficiency. It seems that natural calamities are not so disastrous as our incapacity to learn from past experience. We made extravagant promises to people before independence. Independence has come and we have not been able to fulfil any of those promises. We made these promises in our election manifestos: we made them in our resolutions: we made them in our public speeches, but they remain unfulfilled. Yet we do not hesitate—I think we are very bold—to make more promises. The old promises not being fulfilled have disappointed the people. This has caused frustration but even that is not enough for us. We want

greater frustration to be caused to the people. We thought at least this time no date will be given but in the Presidential speech a definite date of March 1952 has been given. How did the authorities arrive at this date? The Food Minister himself said that their statistics were not reliable and yet on a previous occasion he said that they had reached almost 95 per cent. of their target. If your statistics are not correct—and it is notorious that the statistics of the Government of India are not correct in many vital matters, more specially so in food—may I take it that you discovered a definite date out of your intuition or inspiration? It is good for the Food Minister to use his inspiration for his love lyrics and drama but for scientific things scientific data must be given. Or was the date found from the new science of astrology that has been recently re-discovered in high places?

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** It is a very old science.

**Acharya Kripalani:** Yes, it is a very old science but it has been resuscitated in modern days in high quarters.

**An Hon. Member:** It has been re-discovered.

**Acharya Kripalani:** Call it rediscovered if you like. Is it by this astrology that they are able to give this definite date of March 1952, as the date when their programme of self-sufficiency will be fulfilled? It is good to consult astrology about your declining age to bolster up your followers but it will not do to bring in this astrology in such serious matters as the food situation.

I hold that the Grow More Food Campaign will never succeed, so far as India is concerned. It would appear that in the days when we were fighting the British Government we went to the villages and saw the condition of the villages but after that we seem to have forgotten them. We seem to have forgotten the fact that our land is miserably subdivided, that the holdings are not consolidated, that there is no classification of land, that some of the best land is used for crops that are worthless and some of the worthless land is used for crops that could be grown with benefit elsewhere. I say that unless we are willing to take revolutionary steps in these directions we will not be able to solve the food problem. The only way to solve the food problem is to scrap this village. If it exists, whatever amount of money we spend will be misspent. Our agriculture can improve only on co-operative basis. It cannot improve on the basis of private property in

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half or quarter *bigha* of land. It is unprofitable to cultivate it either by bullocks or by more mechanical methods. If we mean business then we must take courage in both hands and do whatever is necessary in that direction.

Then, again, even if conservative policies are to succeed there must be co-operation and co-ordination between the Centre and the Provinces. The previous Food Minister complained that he did not get the necessary co-operation from the provinces, and the present Food Minister has complained in this House that he does not get the co-operation necessary for his work.

**Shri Tyagi:** Provincial Ministers complain likewise.

**Acharya Kripalani:** Well, I have met Provincial Ministers who say that their efforts are being hampered by the Centre. We do not know who is correct. When two people abuse each other it is my custom always to believe both sides. Strangely enough we see different prices of food are prevalent in different provinces. If I am not wrong, in Bengal the price fixed for rice is about Rs. 16, in U.P. the price ranges from Rs. 20 to about Rs. 35 and.....

**Shri Bharati:** In Madras it is rupees ten.

**Acharya Kripalani:** While every province is being helped by the Centre, the Centre has not the wisdom to dictate the price to the provinces. It is an absurd position. Take sugar. Sugar is a standard article of every day consumption and its price changes from place to place. The ration also changes from place to place. In U.P., in some places persons whose income is below a certain monthly level get only half a seer and in other places more than a seer. In U.P. which is the centre for the production of sugar these vagaries exist and no effort is made to improve that situation.

How is it that when there is so much control there is also so much black-marketing? Sometimes my *sidha-walla* (provision seller) tells me that such and such commodity is not available but I have never yet heard that any food commodity or sugar is not available in the black market.

Talking of sugar, when we had a debate on sugar last year, we were told that the crisis would last only for a couple of months, till the new season came. The second season has come and yet there is no improvement in the situation. Rather we are told

today that the situation has deteriorated. Sugar has been coming in the black market for more than one year and a half and yet we do not know where from it comes. If you want to eat five maunds of *laddus* you can get them at once. Where does this sugar come from day after day? Not a grain of sugar can leave the mill, even to the millowner's house, unless it is recorded in Government books and yet for eighteen months this sugar has been coming in the black market. Is it a black market? It is not even a black market. They tell us that they have frozen sugar: they tell us that they have rationed sugar: they say that they have fixed prices but they bring about a curious legal distinction and tell us that they have not controlled sugar, so that every body is free to buy and sell. I say our people will be prepared to make sacrifices but let at least the sacrifices be equalised. Our people used to poverty will be prepared to suffer even more if we put on the rich and the poor like burdens as they do in England. While here the poor man gets only about two tolas of sugar and some fixed quantity of provisions the rich man can get whatever he wants and in whatever quantities. We have got to go into the causes of these things.

I am afraid I will have to conclude, as the bell has rung. But before I conclude I must say that we must find out where our fault lies. When we opposed the British Government we said that we were not against the Britisher but we were against the system. We said we wanted to destroy that system. We have driven away the British but we have not destroyed the system of administration that the British introduced and followed in India. We act as if a bush of thorns, which, when watered by white Englishmen yielded thorns, will, because it is watered by our own brown leaders, will yield us luscious mangoes. It is an absurdity.

One word more and I have done. There was a critical situation in Nepal and the House just gave way to the sweet words of the Prime Minister. Before the Prime Minister is able to give us a date many things will have taken place. I am afraid in high quarters conflicting policies are being followed in this respect. Moreover, I am afraid of the words that have been used in the Presidential Speech, "economic and political progress". These are very old words with which we were familiar in the days of the British. If Nepal has to be stabilised it can only be stabilised on the basis of a democratic government, and if we don't do it the Reds will do it in their own fashion.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : माननीय डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, मैंने बहुत सी तकरीर बिहार के मुताल्लिक प्रौर यू० पी० के गुड के मुताल्लिक सुनी हैं। मैं एक ऐसे इलाके से आता हूं जहां पर कि बहुत सफ़े कहत होता है। मैं अच्छी तरह से महसूस करता हूं कि बिहार की आज कल क्या हालत होगी। मुझे उस से हर तरह की हमदर्दी है। मैं चाहता हूं कि जो कुछ हमारी गवर्नमेंट कर सके वह बिहार के लोगों के लिये करे, और आज तक इस गवर्नमेंट का जो तरीका अमल रहा है कि एक शरूस को भी हिन्दुस्तान में भूख से उन्होंने नहीं मरने दिया। मैं समझता हूं कि गवर्नमेंट का जो गुड फेदर (good feather) है उसके क्रौन (crown) में यह कायम रहेगा। और बिहार में ऐसा न होने दिया जायेगा कि एक भी आदमी भूख से मर जाये। आज की गुड की हालत को देखते हुए मि० त्यागी ने जो तकरीर फरमाई मुझे उस के साथ पूरी हमदर्दी होती है लेकिन मैं इस को नजरअन्दाज नहीं कर सकता कि या तो आप शुगर (sugar) का जिक्र करना छोड़ दीजिये कि शुगर की यहां कमी है और शुगर का यहां पर पूरी तरह प्रोडक्शन (production) हो। अगर आप यह चाहते हैं कि प्रोडक्शन ही तो वह उसी तरह से हो सकता है कि काफी तादाद में गन्ना फैक्ट्रियों को मिले ताकि फैक्ट्री वाले शुगर ज्यादा तादाद में पैदा कर सकें। मैं समझता हूं कि आप फैक्टरीज को बन्द कर दीजिये अगर नेशनल इन्टरेस्ट (national interest) में ऐसा करना जरूरी हो। मुझे कोई ताम्मुल नहीं होगा अगर यह हमारे इन्टरेस्ट में है। लेकिन जब तक आपका ध्येय यह है, आप जब शुगर पर बहस करते हैं तो कहते हैं कि यहां शुगर पूरी नहीं है, गवर्नमेंट को रोज

लानत-मलामत करते हैं कि यहां शुगर नहीं है, मगर मैं नहीं समझ सकता कि शुगर कैसे पैदा हो जब तक गुड कंट्रोल न किया जाये। मैं तो यह चाहता था कि जनरल फूड डिबेट (general food debate) यहां पर होती और सिर्फ यू० पी० और बिहार का ही मामला न लिया जाता। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि मेरा ख्याल है कि यह फूड सिचुएशन (food situation) जिस की बाबत बहुत जोर शोर से तकरीरों की गई हैं कि सन् १९५१ के दिसम्बर तक सेल्फ सफिशिएंट (self sufficient) हो जायेगा या सन् १९५२ के मार्च तक हो जायेगा, यह सब का सब एक तरह से ऐसा सवाल है जो निहायत पेचीदा है और जिस की तह में दरअसल वह उसूल काम कर रहे हैं जिन्हें देख कच हमें उन तरीकों पर फंसला करना चाहिए कि हमें क्या करना है। दरअसल मेरा यह मत है और मैं यहां खड़े होकर बड़े जोर से अर्ज कर सकता हूं कि इस देश में थोड़ी सी भी अनाज की कमी नहीं है। हो सकता है कि इस देश के अन्दर गेहूं और चावल की कुछ कमी हो लेकिन मैं यह हरगिज मानने को तैयार नहीं हूं कि गवर्नमेंट फिगर्स (Government figures) से कि इस देश में ओवरऑल (overall) कमी फूडग्रेन्स (foodgrains) की है। गवर्नमेंट जो हिसाब चलाती है वह खुद कहती है कि उस के फिगर्स (figures) गलत हैं। मैं फिगर्स में नहीं जाना चाहता लेकिन मैं जानता हूं, मेरे पास ऐसे फिगर्स मौजूद हैं गवर्नमेंट के, जिन की रू से यहां जितनी जरूरत है उस के हिसाब से ज्यादा फूडग्रेन्स यहां पैदा होते हैं और मौजूद हैं। अगर गवर्नमेंट के फिगर्स दुस्त नहीं हैं तो मैं अबब से पूछना चाहता हूं, जैसा रूपलानी साहब ने पूछा, कि आप बतलाइये कि आप

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

के पास क्या बेसिस (basis) है जिस के मुताबिक आप कहते हैं कि इस देश में फूड की कमी है। अगर आप के फिगर्स दुरुस्त नहीं हैं तो आपका यह कहना दुरुस्त नहीं है। लेकिन मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जो फिगर्स आप के पास हैं उन से देखिये तो आप को मालूम होगा कि यहां फूड शार्टेज (food shortage) नहीं है। सारे देश में जा कर यह बतलाइये कि हमारे पास फूड की जरा भी कमी नहीं है। हमारे यहां यह मेन्टैलिटी (mentality) पैदा कर दी गई है कि हमारे यहां गल्ला काफी नहीं है और हर आदमी यकीन करने लगा है कि इस देश में गल्ले की कमी है। इसीलिए वह गल्ला बेचना नहीं चाहता और इकट्ठा करना चाहता है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर कोई गवर्नमेन्ट हुसेन इमाम साहब के तरीके पर अमल करे और सारे देश में फूड कंट्रोल (food control) कर दे अगर सारे देश के वास्ते राशनिंग कर दे, मैं नहीं जानता कि यह गवर्नमेन्ट इस को कैसे कर सकेगी, ऐसा करना असम्भव है। सही इलाज डीकंट्रोल है। आप इस के लिए कदम नहीं उठाते क्योंकि आप डरते हैं सन् ४३ और ४४ के वाक्यात से। अगर आप को वाक्यात यह बतलाते हैं कि दरअसल यहां काफी अनाज नहीं है तो आप क्यों डरते हैं? दरअसल आप बहुत बुरी मेन्टैलिटी पैदा करते हैं। खुद ही आप कहना चाहते हैं कि हमारे पास अनाज नहीं है और फिर प्रोक्योरमेन्ट (procurement) करते हैं और कहते हैं कि प्रोक्योरमेन्ट काफी नहीं है। न प्रोक्योरमेन्ट इस का हल है न राशनिंग इस का हल है। इस का हल यह है कि आप सच्चे मानों में यह कह दें कि इस देश में खाने की कमी नहीं है, आप के फिगर्स के

मुताबिक दरअसल इस देश के अन्दर अनाज काफी है और काफी से किसी कदर फ़ादा है। मैं इस वक्त फिगर्स में नहीं जाना चाहता क्योंकि वक्त कम है। मैं इन फिगर्स को हाउस (House) के सामने एक पैम्फलेट (pamphlet) के जरिये रखूंगा। मुझे याद है मि० मुन्शी ने कौंसिल आफ स्टेट (Council of State) के कमरे में कबूल कर लिया था कि इस देश में फूडग्रेन्स की कमी नहीं है। आपके यहां पचासों तरह के फूडग्रेन्स होते हैं लेकिन आप समझते हैं सिर्फ़ आठ ग्रेन्स हैं राशनिंग में जो काम आते हैं। यू० पी० के अन्दर हजारों बीघे ऐसी जमीन है जिस के अन्दर ऐसे अनाज होते हैं जो आप के शुमार राशनिंग में नहीं आते। आप के देश में सात फी सदी ऐसी एरियाज (areas) हैं जिन की पैदावार की रिपोर्ट (report) आप के पास मौजूद नहीं है। मैं नहीं समझता कि आप कैसे १.१६ मिलियन टन (million tons) स्माल मिलेट (small millet) की कायम करते हैं। मैं कहता हूँ कि स्माल मिलेट की पैदावार ३ मिलियन टन से कतई कम नहीं है।

लेकिन आप इसको १.१६ मिलियन टन रखते हैं। यह आरबिट्रेरी फिगर (arbitrary figure) है। जहां आप के ये आठ अनाज नहीं पहुंचते, मसलन आप पहाड़ों में जा कर देखिये कि जो चीज वह पैदा करते हैं वह आप के अनाजों में शुमार नहीं है। मद्रास के अन्दर और कोचीन-ट्रावनकोर के अन्दर जब आपने फूड राशन तीन औंस कर दिया था तो भला वहां के लोग किस तरह जिन्दा रहे? क्या वहां कोई स्टारवेशन डैथ्स (starvation deaths) हुई या वहां के लोग कमजोर हो गये? हरगिज नहीं। बजह यह है कि वहां ऐसे अनाज मौजूद हैं जिन को आप शुमार नहीं करते। उन को

वह लोग खाते हैं। असल चीज यह है कि इस देश के अन्दर अनाज की कमी नहीं है, यहां तो मालडिस्ट्रीब्यूशन (maldistribution) है। और हम ने इस कंट्रोल व राशन को अंग्रेजों से लिगेसी (legacy) में पाया है। उन का अपना एक छोटा सा मुल्क है। वहां इतनी पैदावार नहीं होती जितनी कि उन को चाहिये। इस वास्ते उन्होंने ऐसे क्रायदे अपनाये जिन से वह अपना इन्तजाम करते थे। हमारे मुल्क में जहां काफ़ी अनाज पैदा होता है, जहां लोगों की आदतें बहुत मुस्तलिफ़ हैं, जहां एक स्टेपिल फूड (staple food) नहीं है वहां आप गेहूं खाने वाले को चावल खाने पर मजबूर करते हैं और जो चावल (rice) खाने वाला है उसे गेहूं खाने को मजबूर करते हैं। आप इस तरह से यहां इन्तिजाम नहीं कर सकेंगे। आप के डिप्टी मिनिस्टर (Deputy Minister) की रिपोर्ट से मालूम होता है और मित्रा रिपोर्ट (Mitra Report) से मालूम होता है कि सात करोड़ रुपये का अनाज ट्रांजिट (transit) में चोरी हो जाता है। यह कहा जाता है और फिर आप पूछते हैं कि राशन का क्या बना? आप एक जगह १२ या १३ रुपया मन अनाज प्रोक्योर करते हैं और उसी जगह १५ रुपये और १४ रुपया मन देते हैं। यह कहा तक ठीक है? इस के अलावा कितना अनाज स्टोरेज (storage) में आप वेस्ट (waste) कर देते हैं? कल्टीवेटर (cultivator) जिस हिफाजत से अपने अनाज को रखता है यह मुमकिन ही है कि यह अफसरान की सरकार उस को उसी हिफाजत के साथ रख सके। इस तरह जो अनाज आप खराब करते हैं उस का आप अन्दाज़ा नहीं लगा सकते। मैं अदब से अर्ज करता हूं कि आज इस मुल्क का रहने वाला यह नहीं समझ सकता कि वह इस मुल्क का

रहने वाला है क्योंकि आज बिहार में एक भाव है, यू० पी० में एक भाव है और पंजाब में एक भाव है। हमारे यहां हिसार में चना पांच रुपये या ६ रुपये मन था, उसी ज़माने में दिल्ली में दस रुपये मन था और कलकत्ते में उसी ज़माने में २० रुपये मन था। मैं साफ़ तौर पर अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इस देश के अन्दर पहली चीज जो हमें कायम करनी चाहिये वह यह है कि कोई प्राविशियल इकानामिक बैरियर (Provincial economic barriers) न रहें। मैं चाहता हूं कि जो खर्चा ट्रांसपोर्ट (transport) में हो उस के अलावा और किसी तरीके से हम एक प्राविस (Province) को दूसरे प्राविस से अलग न करें। इस का क्या मतलब है कि बिहार में कहत पड़ रहा है और दूसरे प्राविसेज में आप सस्ते भाव पर अनाज दे रहे हैं। यह सब हमारी इनएफ़ीसैन्सी (inefficiency) है। और जब हमारी यह इनएफ़ीसैन्सी (inefficiency) है तो मैं हुसैन इमाम साहब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि अगर यह जिम्मेदारी दस गुनी बढ़ा दी जायेगी तो यह इनएफ़ीसैन्सी कितनी होगी।

श्री हुसैन इमाम : मैं ने राशन के लिए नहीं कहा था, मैं ने कंट्रोल आफ प्राइस (control of price) के लिए कहा था।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : मैं आप से पूछता हूं कि आप कैसे कंट्रोल करेंगे? अगर आपने १६ रुपये का भाव कर रखा है और चारों तरफ से आदमी सवारी व रुपया ले कर आते हैं और लोग उन से कहते हैं कि बीस रुपये के हिसाब से दे दो तो ऐसी हालत में कल्टीवेटर के लिए इस टेम्पटेशन (temptation) को रीजिस्ट (resist) करना मुश्किल हो जाता है। इस



[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

का असल इलाज यही है कि आप डिक्ट्रोल (decontrol) कर दें और लोगों को फ्रीडम आफ ट्रांसपोर्ट (freedom of transport) दें। अभी आपने दिल्ली में चना डिक्ट्रोल किया। दिल्ली में चना चालीस रुपये मन था, उसका भाव बीस रुपये मन हो गया। इस में कोई शक नहीं कि हमारे यहां जो चना आठ और नौ रुपये मन था वह १५ रुपये मन हो गया, लेकिन अपने देश के लिए हम को इस तरह की सेक्रीफाइस (sacrifice) तो करनी ही पड़ेगी। जो सरप्लस एरिया (surplus area) है वहां आप मोनोपली (monopoly) प्रोक्वोरमेंट कीजिये। मैं यह नहीं चाहता कि आप आज ही सारा राशन हटा दें। आप वक्त की जरूरत को पहचानिये और होर्डिंग (hoarding) और प्राफ़ीटियरिंग (Profiteering) को दूर कीजिये। जो लोग ऐसा करते हैं उनको यह मालूम हो जाना चाहिये कि ऐसा करने से उनको फायदा नहीं होगा। इस वास्ते जरूरी है कि आप ग्रेजुअल डिक्ट्रोल (gradual decontrol) की पालिसी (policy) पर अमल करें। जो सरप्लस एरिया (surplus area) है वहां आप मोनोपली प्रोक्वोरमेंट कीजिये और जो डैफिसिट एरियाज (deficit areas) हैं वहां मुकरर कीमत (fixed price) पर कंट्रोल व प्रोक्वोरमेंट कर दीजिये। जब तक आप सरप्लस एरियाज से कंट्रोल नहीं हटायेंगे तब तक यह कंट्रोल का मसलत नहीं होगा। मुझे इस में शक नहीं है कि हम दिसम्बर सन् ५१ तक सेल्फ सफीसैंसी (self-sufficiency) हासिल कर लेंगे इस देश में तो सेल्फ सफीसैंसी पहिले से ही है लेकिन अफसोस यह है कि जितना आप 'ग्रो मोर फूड कैंपेन' (Grow more food campaign) करते हैं उतनी ही

डिफीसैंसी (deficiency) होती जाती है। अगर आप सन् ४२-४३ के फिगरस देखें और हाल के फिगरस देखें तो आपको मालूम होगा कि ज्यों-ज्यों आप का 'ग्रो मोर फूड' का काम बढ़ता जाता है वैसे ही वैसे डिफीसैंसी बढ़ती जाती है। मुझे एक पुराना मसला याद आता है :

कदम बढ़ता है जरमन का,  
फतह होती है इंगलिश की।

सन् ४२-४३ की एवरेज पैदावार ४८ मिलियन टन थी,  
४३-४४ की पैदावार ५१ मिलियन टन थी,  
४४-४५ की ५१ मिलियन टन थी,  
४५-४६ की ४५ मिलियन टन थी,  
४६-४७ की ४६ मिलियन टन थी,  
४७-४८ की ४८ मिलियन टन थी,  
४८-४९ की ४५ मिलियन टन और बाद को रिवाइज्ड फिगर (revised figures) ४७ मिलियन टन हो गया। मैं अब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इस से यह मालूम होता है कि 'ग्रो मोर फूड कैंपेन' कामयाब नहीं हुआ। या अगर वह कामयाब हुआ तो और वजूहात से पैदावार में कमी हो गई और 'ग्रो मोर फूड कैंपेन' की वजह से वह कमी जो और वाक्यात की वजह से होने वाली थी वह पूर्ण रूप से नहीं हो सकी।

मैं अर्ज करता हूं कि अगर हिसाब से देखा जाये तो आपको मालूम होगा कि यहां फूड की कमी नहीं है। अगर यहां ३५ करोड़ आदमी हों और गांवों की आबादी ७० परसेंट हो और शहरों की ३० परसेंट और आप अगर १६ औंस और १२ औंस के हिसाब से दें तो मेरे हिसाब से २२ मिलियन टन सब के लिए काफ़ी होगा और चन्द सालों में आप इस से कहीं ज्यादा पैदा करने लगेंगे। आप बीज

ब वेस्टेज 'को साढ़े बारह परसेंट रखते हैं। यह क्यादा है। पर अगर आप साढ़े बारह परसेंट भी रखें तो भी आपकी पैदावार ४७.५ से कहीं ज्यादा है। दर असल बात क्या है? बात यह है कि हमारी मॉटेल्डिटी कुछ ऐसी हो गई है कि हम इस के बाहर नहीं जा सकते। सन् ४२ से राशन यहां जारी है। हमारी गवर्नमेंट जब पावर (Power) में आई तो उसको गल्ला बाहर से मजबूर होकर मंगाना पड़ा। हमारी गवर्नमेंट भी उसी रट (rut) में चलने लगी। स्टेट्स मिनिस्टर्स (State Ministers) ने अपनी जिम्मेदारी को नहीं पहिचाना और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट (Central Govt.) को मजबूर कर दिया और इम्पोर्ट्स (Imports) बराबर होते रहे। बात वैसी थी जैसी कि आनरेबिल मिस्टर मुंशी ने बतलाई कि देअर इज मैक्सिमम आफ रेसपांसिबिलिटी एंड मैक्सिमम आफ इम्पोटेन्सी (There is maximum of responsibility and maximum of impotency) में समझता हूं कि यह स्टेट्स की जिम्मेदारी है कि वह अपने यहां के आदमियों के खाने का इन्तिजाम करें। सेन्टर (Centre) की जिम्मेदारी तो सिर्फ यह होनी चाहिये कि वह ऐसे इलाकों को फूड मुहय्या करे जैसे कि आजकल बिहार है। यह हर्गिज सेन्टर की जिम्मेदारी नहीं है कि वह अच्छा अच्छा चावल और गेहूं दूसरे लोगों को दे और जो प्रोड्यूस करते हैं उन को मजबूर करे कि वह कोर्स फूड (coarse food) खायें। पंजाब से प्रोक्वोर करके दिल्ली में बाहर तो गेहूं १३ रुपया मन दिया जाता है और पंजाब ही में १६ रुपया मन दिया जा रहा है। अब्बल से आखिर तक इस सारे कंट्रोल की बुनियाद में सिर्फ करप्शन (corruption) और इनएफीसेंसी है और इस का एक ही इलाज है कि इस को आहिस्ता आहिस्ता डिक्ट्रोल

कर के इसको खत्म कर दिया जाये ताकि यह सन् ५१ के दिसम्बर से ६ महीने पहले ही खत्म हो जाये। सिर्फ उन इलाकों में जहां अनाज काफी नहीं हो रहा है वहां बाहर से सरप्लस प्रोड्यूस लाकर आप सस्ता दे सकते हैं, और बड़े शहरों के अन्दर जिन लोगों की आमदनी १५० रुपया से कम है उन को फिग्नड प्राइस पर दे सकते हैं। जब आप काफी प्रोक्वोर नहीं कर पा रहे हैं तो आप राशनड एरिया क्यों बढ़ाते चले जाते हैं। आप को इस एरिया को आहिस्ता आहिस्ता घटाना चाहिये। आप शहरों में अमीर आदमियों को सस्ता अनाज दे रहे हैं और उन लाखों गरीब आदमियों की तरफ आंख उठा कर भी नहीं देखते जो अपनी रोजी पैदा करने पर भी अपना गुजारा नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। इसी नुकते ब्याल से मैं अर्ज करता हूं कि दीज कंट्रोलस मस्ट गो एंड दे मस्ट गो ग्रेजुएली (These controls must go and they must go gradually)

*English translation of the above speech*

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab):** Sir, I have heard several speeches regarding Bihar and the position of 'Gur' in U.P. I belong to a place that is frequently visited by famines and I fully appreciate the present situation in Bihar. I have every sympathy with them. I want our Government to do everything they can for the people of Bihar and, I believe, the lines the Government have so far followed which did not allow a single starvation death in India shall maintain the good feather in their crown, and not a single person will be allowed to die of hunger in Bihar. I fully sympathise with what Shri Tyagi has said about the present-day position of 'Gur', but I cannot help saying that either you must stop talking about sugar deficit or produce it upto full requirement. If you want more production, it is possible only when sufficient quantity of 'Gur' is available to the factories so that they may give a greater output. You may close the factories if it is necessary in the national interest. I

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should have no hesitation if it is in our interest. But while discussing sugar problem you complain about the scarcity of sugar and accuse the Government for this scarcity. I do not understand how sugar can be produced until 'Gur' is not controlled. I feel that there ought to have been a general Food Debate and that we should not have confined ourselves to the U. P. and Bihar only. There have been vigorous speeches about food situation. In my opinion the question of achieving food self-sufficiency by December 1951 or March 1952 is a very complicated one. Indeed, some factors have been working at the bottom and we should make decisions as to what we have to do only after giving them proper thought. It is my belief, and I reiterate it with all the emphasis at my command, that there is no food shortage at all in this country. There may be some shortage of wheat and rice in the country but I am not prepared to accept, from the Government figures, that there is an overall deficit of foodgrains. The Government themselves say that their figures are not correct. I do not want to go into figures but I know and have got the official figures to show that the country produces and possesses more foodgrains than we require. If the Government figures are not correct, I beg to enquire, as Kriplaniji just now did, the basis on which you pronounce a shortage of food in the country. If your figures are not correct, your statement is also not correct. I want to submit that if you only look into the figures which you have, you will find that there is no food shortage here. Tell the whole country that there is no shortage of food whatsoever. A mentality has been created here that we do not have sufficient foodgrains and everybody has begun to believe that it was so. This is the reason that has induced people to hoard and hold back the foodgrains. Let the Government work out the suggestion of Shri Hussain Imam and introduce food control and rationing all over the country. I doubt whether the Government can work it out for it is impracticable. The real solution is decontrol. You do not take steps in this direction because you are afraid of the happenings of 1943 and 1944. If facts tell you that there is really a food deficit, why should you fear? In fact, you create a very bad mentality. You yourself say that we do not have sufficient food and then go in for procurement and say that procurement has not been enough. Neither procurement nor rationing is a solution. The solution is that you clearly tell the people that according to your

figures there is no shortage of food. As a matter of fact the country has enough and more food. I shall not go into figures, for the time is short. I would put these figures before the House through a pamphlet. I remember that Mr. Munshi had accepted in the Council of State Chamber that the country is not short of foodgrains. The country produces scores of varieties of foodgrains while you think there are only eight varieties, the ones that are included in rationing. There are thousands of acres of land in U.P. on which such varieties of foodgrains are produced as are not provided for in the rationing. Moreover, you have no reports about the produce of seven per cent. areas in the country. I am unable to understand how you have fixed the figure of 1.16 million tons for small millet. I assert that the production of small millet is in no case less than 3 million tons per year. But you put in at 1.16 million tons. This is an arbitrary figure. At many places where your eight varieties of grains do not reach, for example in the hill sides, they grow produces that are not included in your foodgrains. When the ration was reduced to 3 oz., in Madras and Cochin-Travancore, how did the people survive? Were there any starvation deaths? Or, did the people become fragile? Certainly not. The reason is that there are a number of such foodgrains that you do not include into your estimation. They eat them. The reality is that there is not the dearth but maldistribution of foodgrains; and we have got the control and rationing as a legacy from the English. There is a small country and the production there is not sufficient for their requirement. So they adopted such measures and made arrangement that suited them. In our country where there is sufficient production of food, where people's habits differ widely, where there is no one staple food, you compel the wheat-eating people to take rice and the rice-eating people to take wheat. Such arrangement cannot work here. It appears from the report of the Deputy Minister and from the Mitra Report that foodgrains worth Rs. 7 crores are stolen away in the transit. Where does this go? And it is asked what happened to the ration. You procure foodgrains at the rate of Rs. 12/- or 13/- per maund and distribute at the rate of Rs. 14/- or 15/- at the same place. How far is it proper? Besides, how much food do you waste in storage? It is not possible for a bureaucratic Government to preserve foodgrains with the same care as that of a cultivator. It is difficult to estimate the quantity of foodgrains thus wasted. In all humility, I want to say that at present no inhabitant of this country thinks himself to be an inhabitant of

this country because of the different rates prevailing in Bihar and U.P. and the Punjab. At the time when the price of gram was Rs. 5/- or 6/- per maund in Hissar, it was Rs. 10/- per maund in Delhi and Rs. 20/- per maund in Calcutta. I would like to make it clear that the first step we should take should be the removal of all the provincial economic barriers in the country. I want that no province should be separated from another in any respect excepting the transport cost. Why it should be that while Bihar is facing a famine you are distributing foodgrains at a cheap rate in other provinces? All this is our inefficiency. And when such is our inefficiency, I should like to ask Shri Hussain Imam as to how far would it go up when this responsibility is increased tenfold.

**Shri Hussain Imam:** I did not say about ration; I said about the control of price.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I ask as to how would you make the control effective? If you have fixed a price of Rs. 16/- per maund and people come from all parts with money and offer the cultivators Rs. 20/- for a maund, it becomes difficult for the cultivator to resist this temptation. The only solution of this is to decontrol the foodgrains and provide freedom of transport to the people. Recently, gram was decontrolled in Delhi. Formerly, it was Rs. 40/- per maund, now it has come down to Rs. 20/- per maund. It cannot be disputed that the gram which once was Rs. 8/- or 9/- per maund has now become Rs. 15/- per maund. But we shall have to make such sacrifice for our country. You should introduce monopoly procurement in the surplus areas. I do not mean to say that you should remove all the rationing from today. You must realize the need of the time and put an end to hoarding and profiteering. Those who indulge in these vices should be made to realize that they would not be benefited by such methods. For this, it is necessary to follow a policy of gradual decontrol. In the surplus areas you should resort to monopoly procurement and introduce control and procurement at a fixed price in the deficit areas also. The problem of control would not be solved until you remove the control from the surplus areas. I have no doubt that we would achieve self-sufficiency in food by December, 1951. In fact self-sufficiency already exists in the country; the pity is that the more you intensify the Grow More Food Campaign, the more the deficiency increases. If you look into the

figures of 1942-43 and compare them with the recent figures you will find that with the intensification of Grow More Food Campaign, deficiency has also been increasing. I recollect an old maxim: Heads you loose, tail we win.

The average production for 1942-43 was 48 million tons, the average production for 1943-44 was 51 million tons, the average production for 1944-45 was 51 million tons, the average production for 1945-46 was 45 million tons, the average production for 1946-47 was 46 million tons, the average production for 1947-48 was 48 million tons, the average production for 1948-49 was 45 million tons, and thereafter the figures were revised to 45 million tons. This shows that the Grow More Food Campaign has not been successful. Or, if it has been successful, the production decreased due to other causes and the Grow More Food Campaign helped to keep up the deficiency which was to occur due to these causes.

I beg to submit that if you only calculate, you would find that there is no shortage of food. If the population of the country be 35 crores and 70 per cent. of the people live in the villages and 30 per cent. in the cities, and, if you distribute foodgrains between them at the rate of 16 oz. and 12 oz. per head respectively, then, according to my calculation, 22 million tons would be sufficient and in a few years you will be producing much more than that you have put the seed and wastage at 12½ per cent. This is too much. But even if it is accepted as such, the production is much more than 47.5 million tons. What is the reality? It is that our mentality has become such that we cannot come out this. The country is under rationing since 1942. When our own Government came into power, they had to procure grain from outside under compulsion. Our Government also began to follow their footsteps. Ministers of the States did not realize their responsibility which compelled the Central Government to import grain from outside. All this shows, as Honourable Mr. Munshi had said, that there is maximum of responsibility and maximum of impotency. I believe that it is the responsibility of the State to provide food to the people. The responsibility of the Centre in this regard should be limited to supplying food to such areas as Bihar at present. It is not in any way a responsibility of the Centre to compel the cultivators to consume coarse foodgrains while distribute better varieties of rice and wheat to the other people. Wheat procured in the Punjab is distributed outside, in Delhi,

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

at the rate of Rs. 13/- per maund while it is supplied in the Punjab at Rs. 16/- per maund. There exist from the beginning to the end corruption and inefficiency in the very root of the system of control. There is only one remedy, namely, gradual decontrol in such a manner as to bring about an end of control six months earlier than December, 1951. The surplus produce from other places may be distributed in the deficit areas only. In bigger cities foodgrains may be given at a fixed rate to those having their income less than Rs. 150/- p.m. Why the area under rationing is being extended when you are not able to procure sufficient foodgrains? The area under rationing must be reduced gradually. Well-to-do people of cities are being supplied foodgrains at a low price while millions of those poor men go unheeded who toil hard to earn their living and yet cannot pull on. With this point of view I submit that these controls must go, and they must go gradually.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray** (West Bengal): The President's address has rightly emphasised the grave food situation in the country. Many hon. Members have already spoken about it and more particularly about the precarious conditions prevailing in South India and in Bihar. The conditions in these areas, which are worst affected, may not be as bad but are almost as bad in some of the neighbouring areas. Perhaps it is due to the great dexterity and ability with which food administration is being carried on in some neighbouring areas that conditions have not been as bad there as in these worst affected areas. Before I go in for suggestions which we have all given many times before in this House, I would like to refer to a report of the Constituent Assembly debates dated Thursday the 3rd February 1949, which I have before me. In this report I find many suggestions—concrete suggestions. I am one of those who do not believe in carping destructive criticism of the frustrated type. But I do suggest that these concrete suggestions that were made on the floor of this House by so many hon. Members might at least have been put into operation or tried out to some extent by this time. But I am constrained to say that even now most of these suggestions remain as paper suggestions. I do feel that a little more, not just lip courtesy, but real courtesy, might be paid to Members of this House who make such suggestions. I hope that with a new approach the hon. Minister and his Deputy Minister will at least go through some of these debates and see what these suggestions are. It may be

that wisdom is on the Treasury Benches, but perhaps even humble people who go round the countryside may have some suggestions which might be profitably implemented.

4 P.M.

Now, it is absolutely true to say that we have inherited the position that we are in today from long years of foreign domination. It is equally true to say that it is not possible in three years of a transitional period to bring about vast and great changes. But at the same time we must take stock and see how far we are moving in the right direction. Perhaps with the great enthusiasm to go ahead at the beginning we started with an initial outlay on too many large-scale projects—river valley and irrigation projects—which will one day bring smiling plenty to this land. But while we were doing so we forgot that our resources were after all limited. We also forgot that we have to cope with the present even while we build for the future. And perhaps on this account a good deal of money has been wasted which could have been avoided. Initial outlay on plans alone which we cannot implement today has been quite considerable and in regard to some of the schemes that are under way, those who are members of the Estimates Committee here will bear me out when I say that much waste and delay could have been avoided.

I would like to point out that we have more than once said that the machinery of implementation should be changed, before we go in for vast projects of this type. But I do not think, apart from a very few exceptions, that in regard to a majority of these projects there is no change from the old red tape system. We have heard a great deal about the Fertiliser Factory at Sindri. It is going to be the greatest thing in Asia. Well, we will have to wait for a long time for that. I have just returned from a visit to Sindri which was started in 1946. I have gone into the avoidable delay and the consequent money that has been wasted on that project which this country can ill-afford. It is true that the project will come into fruition perhaps by the end of next year or perhaps later. But in the meantime a great deal of money has been wasted on this project, which was envisaged as a scheme costing nine crores and is now going to cost 23 crores or more.

The suggestion made by Members of this House was that while we may think in terms of these big river valley projects and put one or two of them into operation, it is necessary to

focus attention on small irrigation projects, such as digging up of wells or tanks, so that you can have quick returns. We have been told that such schemes are being implemented. Any-one of those who go round the countryside today will see that it is not done on that countrywise scale that it should have been done. Other Members have spoken about the 'Grow More Food' campaign and I do not want to dwell on that again, but I am constrained to remark that even up to now it has not been such a practical success.

In the meantime we have stopped large scale importation of food from outside. It is no doubt a good thing, because it has impaired our economy very badly. It is largely responsible for the adverse foreign exchange position for us. I am glad to note that in the Presidential address there is a specific assurance that we shall not import large quantities of food-grains from outside. But I wonder if it will be possible for Government to keep to that assurance unless drastic measures are taken. If it is possible this House will welcome it. But it does seem difficult at the present moment to predict that it will be possible to do so. I will not go more into it. My hon. friend Acharya Kripalani has spoken on this point with great ability and I would merely like to say this that there is a lot of truth in what he has said, of which I hope the hon. Minister will take note.

**Shri Sidhva:** If you co-operate there is possibility of no importation.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** I want to say a few words on the subject on which my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava dealt with,—the question of control or decontrol. I should like to congratulate the hon. Minister for the firm attitude he has taken in regard to keeping controls on these essential foodstuffs. Pandit Bhargava said that controls have not worked efficiently: I entirely agree with him. There is black-marketing and hoarding in this country to an extent which can be avoided; I entirely agree with him. But does he then advocate a counsel of despair? Does he not realise that the Bengal famine of 1943 was largely due to the fact that the Muslim League Government in Bengal refused to bring in controls of any kind and it was only after the famine that these had to be introduced. Do we want to see in this land country-wide famine come in? The method by which controls are implemented are bad. It is for us to improve upon them and not to

abandon the only method whereby the State can help to equal distribution and control of prices.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** What about Bihar where famine conditions are prevailing, in spite of your controls?

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** Conditions in Bihar would have been very much worse. They would have been exactly the conditions that obtained in Bengal in 1943 had there not been controls.

**Some Hon. Members:** No, no.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray:** I am sorry I differ from some of my hon. friends. The Report of the Famine Enquiry Commission showed quite clearly that had there been some kind of control, had it been possible for the poor man to get something to eat at least, when so much exploitation was taking place and prices became impossible, conditions would not have been so bad. Therefore, I say that it is not a defeatist attitude that we can afford to adopt. It is better that the Government abdicate than give up controls at this juncture which would mean that the Government is prepared to see a countrywide famine without trying to avoid it. I do not believe that we should go in for panicky statements. I do feel that even now it is possible for us to avert a disaster. I hope the hon. Minister and the Deputy Minister will give concrete shape to many of the practical suggestions that have been put forward.

A good deal has been talked about co-operation between the public and the Government in bringing about the success and fruition of the 'Grow More Food' campaign. I think it has mostly been a case of talk, because exhibitions in Delhi, Madras, Calcutta or Bombay, or Committees and Councils held in this capital city and other cities of this country are not going to bring about co-operation between the cultivator and the Government. Therefore it is fruitless for us to talk of greater co-operation or to say that the public is frustrated. No doubt there is frustration in the land, and no doubt frustration is a bad thing. But what are we really doing to overcome it? What are we doing to get the co-operation of the people or to invoke their enthusiasm? I would ask the hon. Minister to get the cultivator in the rural areas enthused through ways which are realistic.

[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

I would also like to say one word in regard to the tree planting ceremonies that we have been having recently in the country. This is a very artistic and very beautiful move which was started by Guru Rabindranath in Shantiniketan, and no doubt it did enthuse the people and the villagers of that area. But while congratulating the Minister on bringing a beautiful thing back into our lives, I would also very humbly point out to him that in a big country like India tree plantation cannot take place on the same date throughout the country. When in an area where the plantation season is not on, we plant trees, what does the cultivator think of us? I would ask the Minister, in case he wishes to go on with it next year or any other time, that he has at least different dates for tree plantation in different areas. In many Provinces it was not the season for tree plantation when the all-India date came. But they said, "It is all right, we will plant the tree, but the trees will have to be replanted of course", and the cultivator said it is all hypocrisy. Let us think these things out and do them in a practical way.

Before I conclude I would only like to say this. If it is the fault of the people to some extent in not coming forward, and if Government feel so, let them pause and consider. Is it only the people who don't come forward? What real effort has the Government gone in for recently to mobilise the people and to enthuse them to come forward and co-operate in solving this great problem that lies before us and which we must solve before we can go ahead and ensure conditions in this country where not only famine but semi-starvation and malnutrition too will be eradicated so that the physical fibre of the race can improve.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri.

**Shri D. D. Pant (Uttar Pradesh):** Sir, I have stood up eight times.

**Shri R. K. Chaudhuri:** I should be beating in history the record of King Robert Bruce himself because I have succeeded in getting permission to speak this afternoon after having stood for the twentieth time. Yet I do not know to whom I should express my gratitude, whether to you or to some other friend in this House. In any case I am grateful for this opportunity being given to me to speak on behalf of the unfortunate State of Assam.

Before I proceed further I wish to pay my tribute of gratitude to the

people of India for their wide-felt sympathy and for their gifts in kind and cash to that unfortunate Province in the time of great distress due to earthquake and floods. I wish I were able to speak as enthusiastically about the Government of India, because, notwithstanding the fact that there have been great expressions of sympathy by the personal visit of the Prime Minister and other Ministers, till today we do not know what monetary assistance we are going to get to remove the want of food, clothing and housing in that area. And if the answer which was given by the Deputy Minister from Assam was an indication of the policy which is going to be followed by the Government of India, then it would disappoint the Province. If they are only waiting for the application of the Government of Assam for the assistance which would be available from the Government of India, I think that does not speak very much of their own sympathy which is much less than what we have been receiving from the public of India.

I am to speak today on the food policy, and I would respectfully submit that the present food policy which has been adopted by the Government of India and which has also been thrust on Assam has been responsible for much of the mischief which we see there. Assam was a surplus Province so far as rice was concerned. Eight years ago rice was selling at three to five rupees per maund, and today rice is selling on an average at forty rupees per maund. (*An Hon. Member:* Shame.) In one district, namely, Goulpara rice was selling last month at sixty rupees per maund and it was through the great efforts of the district officer that the price was brought down from sixty rupees to thirty-two rupees. That is the price in that district even now. On the other hand the control price is Rs. 16-10-0 per maund, but nobody gets the rice at that price at all. It is not due to flood or earthquake that this result has been brought about. It has been due to the erratic and fitful policy of the Government of India that this condition has been arrived at. I will explain how.

Rice for some years has been procured by a department called the Procurement Department. They are taking away whatever paddy is available in the remote villages. Now they take away paddy and leave about twenty maunds in a granery. They seize it and take it away. Where does it go? Where does this rice and paddy taken away by Government from the people in the villages and other growers go? Is it really distributed amongst the rationed areas? In our State there is

rationing only in the towns. Even in the rationed areas in the first week of the month nobody gets any ration rice. When the poor clerks who draw a salary of fifty to hundred rupees per month go to the ration shop to get their rice, they are told that the ration rice has not yet come. That week the government servants are compelled to utilise their salary for purchase in the black market. And when the ration rice comes after all, the money in the hands of the employees is entirely exhausted. This is how the black market is going on. If the hon. Minister were to make an enquiry as to where the rice which has been procured by the Procurement Department has gone, he will find that this rice has gone to quarters which are not known or can be disclosed to the public. I should have understood if this rice was actually taken from the poor people of our State and if it had been distributed amongst the poor people of other States. This year no rice has been procured by the Government of India from the Province of Assam. Last year the Province of Assam gave a generous supply of rice to other parts. Why has not this taken place this time? It is because of the house to house seizure of rice from the different villages but where they have gone, nobody knows. There was last year an instance of starvation from death even in the capital of the Province and at that time Government had to declare that the whole procurement policy has broken down and they suspended the control at the same time. Immediately the supply was rationed in rice and the price was brought down to the normal condition. I would respectfully submit that if rice at least is decontrolled in the State and as a matter of fact if it is decontrolled in those places where rice is actually grown, the whole thing will come to normalcy and there would be no difficulty in the supply of rice at all. I cannot understand why the State of Assam which used to supply generously to other States and particularly to Eastern Bengal in the old days is not able to do so now and now the Eastern Pakistan has to give us a donation of 10,000 maunds of rice and we are unable to feed ourselves from the produce of our own country.

There is another reason why there has been scarcity of rice in the State of Assam. As will be remembered by this House there was a large exodus of the Muslim population from Assam to Eastern Pakistan, and in those places some refugees were installed. They were asked to carry on the cultivation which had been abandoned by the Muslim inhabitants who had migrated to Pakistan, but as soon as they began to cultivate, it was

announced that they will have to give their cultivation up as soon as the Muslim migrants returned. The result was that they did not pursue their cultivation very much. The Muslim migrants returned and they also could not immediately be restored to their possessions and therefore the difficulty has been that while there has been a large influx of new and old Muslim population from Eastern Pakistan to the corresponding extent the East Bengal Hindu refugees have not gone to East Bengal. The result is that while we have a large number of mouths to feed, we have not the same quantity of produce in our land because of the fact, for one thing, the East Bengal refugees have been prevented from cultivating the land which they possessed because they had to give delivery of the possession and on the other hand the Muslim migrants who had returned have not the opportunity of cultivating. That is the direct effect of the policy which has been followed by Government. If Government had followed a consistent policy, I think much of the trouble would have been saved. I can assure the Government of India on behalf of the State of Assam that if they only say that rice can be decontrolled in the State of Assam and that they would be required to supply the stated quantity, I believe the State of Assam will be able to supply to other Provinces that stated quantity and still find sufficient food for themselves. This is as far as I understand, the recommendation of the Government of Assam but this recommendation has not been accepted by the Government of India in the fond hope that they would be able to take from that province as much as they like and as much as they want at any time in future but now as they have no possibility of getting any supply from them, let them follow at least for some time this sane policy of removing control of rice in that State and only take what they previously took from them. If they do so they will find that not only there will be sufficient rice in that Province to feed the people but they would also be able to give some specified quantities to other Provinces.

**Prof. S. L. Saksena:** Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to speak on this debate. I have listened carefully to the discussion since yesterday. I have heard about famine in Bihar and the vehement representations made from there to the Food Minister to come to their rescue, but probably he is not aware of the condition that exists in the Eastern U.P. There the crops have failed as completely as they have done in Bihar. In the dry belt from Dehra



[Prof. S. L. Saksena]

Dun to Darjeeling rice cultivation is the main-stay of the people. In this belt there has been complete drought after heavy floods for the past two months with the result that the entire fields have become parched and there is not even one per cent. of the production and on account of this seeds will not come from this area. In my own district of Gorakhpur which is in this belt there was about five lakh acres of area under this cane crop and I have roamed the entire district and I find that probably this area would be completely parched, there will not be a single amount of grain in this huge area. I am surprised that this has not been brought to the notice of the Government here and if it has been done, I am surprised no mention has been made so far of that calamity here. In fact in the Uttar Pradesh the Food Minister there has reduced the ration of the whole population from six to five *chattaks* which is already a very low ration and there is a hue and cry that this is what he has done on the belief that he will save some 50,000 tons of grains to go to the rescue of this famine area. There will not be sufficient because as I told you five lakh acres of land under this rice crop in my area would have produced at least 1½ crore maunds of rice and this amount of rice cannot be supplied by cutting from the ration of that area. I therefore think that there is a very great necessity for the Government coming to the help of this area; otherwise there will be a great famine. In fact I find that even now a large number of people are going without food. There was the first heavy floods which destroyed the crop and then came the drought. Now the ground is so dry that they cannot sow for *rabi* crop with the result for the whole year practically you will have to nourish these people. Fourteen districts in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh will be practically starving and they are most of them rice eating areas and rice crop has been completely destroyed. So I intended to bring this matter to the notice of the Government and I also want to bring to their notice that the reduction from six to five *chattaks* in the whole province has also hit the people very hard. I therefore think that the Government of India must give concessions to my province and for this purpose make provision in their budget.

**Dr. Pattabhi (Madras):** Why cannot you grow rice in place of sugar-cane?

**Prof. S. L. Saksena:** Areas where sugar-cane is grown cannot grow rice because rice requires water and unless there is enough water it will not grow rice but sugar-cane does not require

water to that extent and if sugar-cane is water-logged it is spoiled. It will not be fit for anything. So the areas where cane is grown are different from the areas which grow rice. Besides that, there is another thing. You are short of sugar; you are trying to have more and more sugar. In fact, the hon. Minister of Food has gone to the extent of prohibiting the use of *kolhus* in the factory areas. I wish to bring to his notice the havoc that this order has created. What is the purpose of this order? You want that the sugarcane in the factory areas should not be diverted to *gur*. If you take an over-all view of the picture, you will find that the position is this. In our country we produce four million tons of *gur* and one million ton of sugar. That is the rough average annual production so that out of the total sugar cane grown in this country, four parts go to the manufacture of *gur* and one part to the manufacture of sugar. Last year, when there was a scarcity of sugar and blackmarketing in sugar on account of hoarding and other reasons, there was also a corresponding rise in the price of *gur*. The price of *gur* went as high as Rs 30 per maund and in some places it went up to Rs. 40. You cannot say that there was *gur* in abundance. *Gur* is an important article of diet of the village population. They do not consume sugar; in fact, they do not get sugar. What you are doing is this. You are depriving that population which is not vocal, whose voice does not reach you here, of this article of food in order to produce more sugar.

Again, if you continue this restriction, what will happen is this. All the sugar cane that is growing in that area will not be crushed by the sugar factories. As I said, they are producing only one million tons of sugar and if they are asked to crush much more sugar cane, they just cannot do it. The sugarcane will not be purchased; no factory can purchase all of it. When the *gur*-making season is gone, when you come to March, you will have in your hands a large quantity of sugarcane and you will not know what to do with it. The factory owners will say that the price of sugar-cane should be reduced to rupee one or annas twelve; and that otherwise, they will not be able to purchase the cane. This is what happened in 1941. You have fallen into the trap of the factory owners. They want to have sugarcane at cheap prices at that season. I would request you not to commit that folly again. If you want to produce more sugar, you will have to develop your cane-growing technique and increase the yield per acre. By diverting sugar-cane from *gur* to sugar, you

cannot produce more sugar. In fact, the per capita consumption of *gur* in the U.P. is 40 lbs., whereas the per capita consumption of sugar is seven lbs. Thus you will see that we consume six times as much of *gur* as sugar. In America, the per capita consumption is 54 lbs. This low consumption in our country is made up to some extent by the consumption of *gur*. The result of this order will be, while you are not going to increase the quantity of sugar production, you are taking all the risk that it involves. Besides, if you insist on this licensing system, corruption is so prevalent that anybody who wants a licence will not only have to pay the fee of Rs. three but he will have to roam about the entire district before he could get a licence, and the resulting discontentment will be intolerable. When we go to the villages, we are asked: "Is this Swaraj? We are prohibited from even putting up *kolhus* and making *gur* for our children." This is a position which cannot be tolerated. We claim to follow Mahatma Gandhi who said that *gur* is a much better and much more nutritious article of food than sugar and yet we are advocating diversion of cane from *gur* to sugar, and we are depriving our rural people of this article of food in order to escape censure in this House that there is no sugar. As I said already, if you want to have more sugar-cane, increase the yield per acre. If Java could produce 3,000 maunds of sugar-cane in one acre, why can't we also do it? Our production, even after 15 years of work in this line, is only 400 maunds per acre. I would, therefore, urge upon you to cancel this order. Otherwise, the entire cane-growing population will be against us and they will say: "You have deprived us even of this cottage industry which was important to us even for our very existence".

About food production, I would like to refer to one thing before I close. We are spending every year 130 crores of rupees in importing food. If we spend even a portion of this on rural irrigation works, probably we could have saved more foodgrains than we import. In my own district, we are losing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores of maunds of rice. This year, if we had tube wells in every village, this amount of rice could have been produced and that would come to thirty crores of rupees. You are spending 130 crores for importing food. If you spend that amount in one year by concentrating on tube wells, I am sure, you will have more foodgrains in your hands. You must concentrate on tube-wells even before manure. If there is irrigation, the fields will not be parched and we can grow paddy and we would earn

much more than is spent in digging the well. In one acre, we produce thirty maunds of rice which comes to about Rs. 400. That is the amount that is necessary for sinking one well. If you want to grow more food, you must concentrate more on irrigation and sinking of tube wells.

**Shri D. D. Pant:** Before I begin, I would like to bring to your notice that the allotment of only ten minutes for a speech on such an important subject is hardly enough. It reduces the whole parliamentary debate to the level of a school-boys' debate where a subject is given and a time is fixed. However, I will put forward certain points before the House.

The real question today before us is whether we should grow more food or make more money. That is, in fact, the real trouble. By growing less food, you make more money. That is what is happening today. What I have seen with my own eyes is this. Wherever there is surplus food, that food is either cornered or destroyed so that the price is kept up for dealers to make more money. I am reminded of Fourier. The boy was horror-stricken when he saw his father burning wheat when there was famine in France. When he asked his father why he was burning grain he was told that that was being done to make more money. Therefore, my submission is, that if the hon. Minister of Agriculture wants to grow more food, he should abolish the present system and introduce collective farming in its place. Unless the whole agriculture is collectivised, the country will not be able to meet its food needs.

As regards the quantity of food in the country, we do not know how Government says that there is a dearth of food in certain provinces or a surplus in certain provinces. I have seen in my own district; Government has not got any means to ascertain the exact quantity of foodgrains grown in the country. They simply issue orders from here. The orders go to the State Governments who in their turn send them to the District Magistrates. Then, the order goes to the Patwaris and he calculates on a basis which is entirely wrong. The Patwari actually does not know how much area is under cultivation. He only consults his records fifty years old and gives a figure. That figure is supplied to the Government here and the Government says that there is a deficit.

In a village to which I went, I actually saw the villagers destroying their potato. When asked why they were doing it, they said it was a simple

[Shri D. D. Pant]

economic proposition. Supposing we put ten maunds in the market, the supply exceeds the demand and the price comes down to rupees five. If you reduce the quantity by two maunds, as the demand is inelastic, the price shoots up to rupees seven. Whereas eight maunds would fetch you Rs. 56, ten maunds at the rate of rupees five per maund will give you Rs. 50 and they immediately make a profit of rupees six. This is what they do to make more money.

My hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.....

**Ch. Ranbir Singh (Punjab):** Are you speaking of America or of India?

**Shri D. D. Pant:** I am talking of India, about my own district, about my own town where I have actually seen people destroying vegetables and foodgrains.

**Shri Tyagi:** They should have been prosecuted.

**Shri D. D. Pant:** I have seen sacks of cabbages being destroyed, thrown into the gutters. People say that if they put the whole thing in the market, you cannot make so much money.

**Shri Tyagi:** It is not the case in the whole of India; it may be so in your town.

**Shri D. D. Pant:** I think it is the case in the whole of India.

**Several Hon. Members:** No, no.

**Shri Bharati:** It is monkeys that destroy the food.

**Shri D. D. Pant:** You will please bear with me. Most people speak like men but act like monkeys. These are the monkeys that destroy food like this.

The real way to solve the problem is to collectivise the entire agriculture in the country. People who look at this question from the point of view of profit and destroy food should be sentenced with capital punishment. No private individual should be allowed to deal in food. So long as you allow these private individuals to deal with foodgrains in this way, who destroy food like monkeys, they will go on doing it in order to keep the prices up. You always find that they are working on this principle of scarcity economy. The present arrangement stands for economic scarcity and

wants to keep the people down by means of this scarcity.

The other thing I want to submit is that the whole problem must be tackled scientifically. Our people must be made to follow a scientific dietary. They should not discard any particular food just because they are not used to it. Whatever one may say about Beverley Nichols and his book, there is a passage in the book he wrote which says that while in Bengal at a railway station, he saw men starving and opened a tin of fish and another of beans and other foods and gave it to them and they smelt them and threw them away. That is because people are used only to one kind of diet, say of boiled rice or *chappatti* and *dal*. Government should evolve a new dietary composed of all the eatable things available in the country, a balanced diet for the country. There is abundance of fish, but most people, just because they are vegetarians would not eat it. Where the people are used to rice diet, when wheat is sent to them, they complain that they are not used to wheat diet though it is more nourishing. If these sort of complaints continue, I do not think the Department will ever be able to tackle the food problem.

There is one more thing I want to say. They say there is dearth of manure too and there is dearth of manure too. I am surprised how the Government can say there is dearth of money when they have got the printing press for notes. If they plan scientifically they can have an abundance of money. Only certain vested interests would suffer. As for manure, if you only accumulate all the dirt in the country and convert it into compost, there will be enough of manure in this country. All that the problem wants is scientific tackling.

Finally, there is no problem in the world which is so difficult that it cannot be successfully tackled by human beings, and especially with intelligent leaders like the ones we have in the Government it should not be impossible to solve these problems. The leaders must appeal to the people and show them how it is the fault of the system. It is the system that starves the people and not the Government and if the people come to know this, they will easily agree to collectivization of agriculture in the country and you will have all the food you want. Therefore, my humble submission to the hon. Minister of Agriculture is that the problem should be scientifically tackled. He should study the problem scientifically rather than hear

al: sorts of arguments which are advanced by different vested interests, simply to confuse him.

**Shri M. L. Gupta (Hyderabad):** Sir, I thank you for allowing me to take part in this debate on food, and I am also thankful to express my gratitude to the President for having addressed this session of Parliament.

Now, dealing with the subject of food, I fully appreciate and realise the stress that the President laid on the scarcity of food in the country. Though much has been said in the House against the Grow More Food campaign by previous speakers, especially Mr. Hussain Imam who said that Rs. 35 crores had been squandered on this work, I say that we have failed in this Grow More Food campaign for certain reasons. One of them is that the people entrusted with this work laid too much stress on their administrative work and they did not take sufficient interest in field work. They did not approach the cultivator. They did not advise the cultivator but only took interest in schemes in the offices and they laid too much stress on their official routines. I am told that even when the schemes are prepared, they are not properly planned. This was because as Mr. Sidhva emphasised, we lack proper statistics and without proper statistics we cannot plan and so we have failed in these plans.

I am told that in the beginning tractors were imported from other countries, but they were lying idle for a long time here because there were no implements and also there were no spare parts. When we got the implements from foreign countries, we were then told that technical people or the people who could operate them were not available and we had no centres where these technicians could be trained. This shows lack of planning. The Grow More Food work and other plans failed because of lack of statistics and foresight. I am told the incentive to grow more food is lacking even in the officers of the Agricultural Department because they feel that their salaries depend on their daily attendance and their progress on their seniority and not on their actual output. I think if we can evolve some method by which we could get these officers to take charge of some area and ask them to show results there, on which their salaries and increments would depend, that would infuse the necessary incentive in them and the scheme may succeed. Otherwise if we depend only on the present system of having official routines and conferences, then

I do not think any results would be produced. My own experience as a cultivator is this. My own Minister of Agriculture a short time back had laid great stress on manures and improved seeds. I applied for some seeds to the Agriculture Department but was told that they had no seeds for jowar and for paddy and they expected the seeds from the rabi crop and that these would be supplied after buying from the people. I do not understand what is the meaning of improved seeds. As far as I know there should be a certain time lag before the seed for a crop can be sown. If this is the type of wrong instructions and wrong type of seeds we get from the Agriculture Department, which is responsible for the Grow More Food campaign, how can we expect from the cultivators any co-operation with the Government in growing more food?

There is another matter which I have taken up with the Food Minister. The prices paid to the cultivator are uneconomic. It has been accepted that the prices are uneconomic but it has been said that the cultivator is free to grow cash crops on a certain portion of his land so as to compensate himself. By allowing this we discourage the Grow More Food campaign to some extent and encourage the growth of cash crops which should not be the aim of Government in the present food scarcity conditions. We should increase the subsidy if necessary and calculate the economic price and pay it to the cultivators. At present the cultivators have been hard hit; put to all sorts of inconveniences and the whole benefit is transferred to the urban population which is only ten per cent. The rationing benefit is given to the urban areas and the poor cultivator has to suffer. He is not allowed to consume a better type of food, for, it is taken away from him. As a matter of fact the whole patriotism or the burden of the country is thrown on the cultivator who is not vocal as compared to the city population. The urban areas should not monopolise the resources of the country and take away every thing from the countryside, whose population constitutes the majority and thus penalise them for not being vocal. Ten per cent. of the urban population deprives the ninety per cent. cultivators of their rightful gains. Due to foolishness of the authorities the cost of the produce is further increased. We procure at very low prices and since we have no statistics we do not distribute the food properly. We go on shifting the grains from one place to another and then we suddenly find

[Shri M. L. Gupta]

that the original place from which it was shifted was a scarcity area and so it is taken back and sold to the cultivator at double the price at which it had been obtained from him.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Is the hon. Member against any control?

**Shri M. L. Gupta:** I am against inefficient controls.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I thought you were speaking altogether against controls.

**Shri Bharati:** He is against control as at present worked out.

**Shri M. L. Gupta:** We not only raise the prices of a commodity but we lay stress on the transport system, which could have been otherwise beneficially used if we had statistics and we had planned our procurement in a better way.

It is not out of place to refer here to the procurement agency in my State, Hyderabad, which is called the Hyderabad Co-operative Commercial Corporation Ltd. I am told that the grains are procured at the rate of Rs. eight to ten a maund but the handling charges come to nearly Rs. 20 a palla, that is about Rs. six or seven a maund. That burden is shouldered by the consumers in part and the rest is borne by the public treasury, which means ultimately the consumers themselves. This should be put an end to. This procurement agency which is a government agency requires a thorough investigation.

My friends have already spoken about difficulties in control. I have some pamphlets which say that the controls adversely affect the production and the price of sugar. The pamphlets are from the Sugar Manufacturers' Association. No sooner was controlled than it vanished from the market. Government do not take care to see that the stocks are seized and then the prices are controlled, so that they may not disappear from the market. Control thus practically defeats its own purpose. Controls have always defeated their purpose.

I want to mention one point about my own State. My State is not vocal. We do not have a legislature or bodies which can shout loudly. Hence a discrimination has been made against us. Last time while allocating quotas other States were allowed to maintain a rice ration of three to four oz. whereas our State was forced to reduce the quantum of rice to two oz. It was

unjust to our State which has already suffered much hardship. I hope the Food Minister will see that the injustice is removed and that our rice quantum is in consonance with the rest of India.

شری تی - حسہن : سہا پتی  
جی ! آج ہمارے لائق دوست مسٹر  
مہابہر تھائی نے فرمایا کہ سارا تصور  
جو ہے وہ ہمارے آئیہیل مسٹر کے -  
ایم - ملشی کا ہے - مہن ان سے  
اختلاف کرتا ہوں -

**Shri Tyagi:** I never said so.

شری تی - حسہن : مہرا کہتا ہے  
ہے کہ یہ ملشی صاحب کا تصور نہیں  
ہے - بلکہ اس جگہ کا تصور ہے جس پر  
وہ جا کر بیٹھے ہیں - مجھ کو خوب  
یاد ہے اور آپ کو بھی یاد ہو گا جب کہ  
ہمارے موجودہ ڈپٹی فوڈ مسٹر  
(Deputy Food Minister) اس سہٹ  
(Seat) پر نہیں تھے اور ہم لوگوں کے  
ساتھ تھے اور اس وقت میں وہ جو فوڈ  
مسٹر تھے ان کو خوب کریٹیکسائس  
(criticise) کرتے تھے اور آج وہ زمانہ  
آگیا ہے -

سہی تھائی : مے یہ سا ف کر دنا چاہتا  
ہے کہ یہ میسٹر مہی یا کسی کا کسور  
نہا ۔ آسا مے نہ نہی کھا ۔

شری تی - حسہن : جہاں تک  
مہرا خیال ہے مہابہر تھائی صاحب  
نے فرمایا تھا کہ فوڈ کا پروبلم  
(problem) ملشی صاحب آ سولو  
(solve) نہ کر رہے ہیں - اس سے

معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ ہمیں یہ تصور یا کا ہے یا ان کے دفتر کا ہے کہیں پر تصور ضرور ہے - تو مجھ کو یہ عرض کرنا ہے کہ یہ ان کا ذاتی تصور نہیں ہے - بلکہ وہ کرسی (سہت) کرانی ہے اور اس کرسی کا تصور ہے -

میں آپ کے سامنے ایک کن کریت اگزامپل (concrete example) پیش کرتا ہوں کہ جب آپ ہم لوگوں کے ساتھ بیٹھتے ہیں اور میں نے آپ سے رائے پوچھی کہ میں تقریر کروں تو آپ نے کہا ضرور بولنے لیکن جب آپ وہاں تشریف فرما رہے تو میں ۱۲ مرتبہ اٹھا اور میں اپنے کو خوش قسمت سمجھتا ہوں کہ ۱۳ ویں بار آپ نے مجھ بولنے کا موقع دے دیا۔

श्री स्वामी : कुरसी का कसूर है ।

شری تی - حسین : ہمارے لائق دوست مسٹر مہابہر تھاکر نے فرمایا کہ فورڈ منسٹری سے بہت سا روپیہ برباد ہوا ہے - انہوں نے مثال دی کہ کروڑ روپیہ یورپ میں چینی کی خریداری وغیرہ میں خرچ ہوا - تو میں عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ یہی ایک منسٹری نہیں ہے - جہاں کہ اتنا ویسٹج (wastage) ہوتا ہے -

بہت سی منسٹریز (Ministries) ہیں ہمارے سنٹر (Centre) میں جہاں بہت ویسٹج ہوا ہے - اور ایک ایگزامپل جو میرے ذاتی تجربہ

کی ہے میں بتانا چاہتا ہوں - مجھے خوشی ہے کہ ہمارے ڈپٹی منسٹر (Deputy Minister of Defence) موجود ہیں جو سہیلگے -

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has it any direct relationship to food and agriculture?

5 P.M.

Shri T. Husain: Direct relationship to wastage.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may confine himself to food.

شری تی - حسین : بنا فورڈ کے تو ہم لوگ رہ ہی نہیں سکتے ہیں - جب روپیہ برباد ہوتا ہے تو کھانا کہاں سے آئے گا - رام گوہ جہاں ایک زمانہ میں کانگریس کا سیشن (Session) ہوا تھا وہاں ایک بہت بڑا ملٹری کیمپ (Military Camp) بنا ہے - جہاں جنرلی ماترن کنولینس (Modern Conveniences) ہو سکتی ہیں موجود ہیں - اور اس میں جگہ ۱۲۰۰۰ آدمیوں کی ہے - اس میں سب چیزیں موجود ہیں صرف الیکٹریسٹی (Electricity) کا انتظام نہیں ہو سکا تھا - اس کے لئے ایک پرائیویٹ کنٹریکٹر (Private Contractor) کو ۲۰۰۰۰۰ روپیہ ماہوار پر دیا گیا ہے جو اس وقت تک جاری ہے - حالت یہ ہے کہ وہاں ۳۰۰۰ آدمیوں سے زیادہ نہیں رہتے ہیں مگر وہ ۲۰۰۰۰۰ روپیہ ہر مہینہ کنٹریکٹر کو الیکٹریسٹی کے لئے دئے جاتے ہیں اور اسی صوبہ میں یعنی بہار میں ایک

[ شری تی - حسین ]  
 پہلہ شہل بلڈنگ (palatial building) حکومت نے ڈیفینس ڈپارٹمنٹ (Defence Department) کی طرف سے رکھی گئی ہے جس کا بڑا کرایہ پتلہ میں دیا جا رہا ہے جب کہ اس کا گھر رام گڑھ میں خالی ہے -

سہی سیاگی : بیا وھ کتہی خالی ہئ ؟

شری تی - حسین : میں نے کہا ۱۲۰۰۰ آدمی اس میں اس وقت رہ سکتے ہیں لیکن اس میں لگ بھگ ۳۰۰۰ آدمی گورنمنٹ کے رہتے ہیں اور جو منٹری اکاؤنٹس کا ڈپارٹمنٹ (Military Accounts Department) ہے وہ پتلہ میں پہلہ شہل بلڈنگ میں رہتا ہے - مجھے تعجب ہے .....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We are straying away much from the subject in hand. The hon. Defence Minister must be here to reply to all this. Moreover, this is the debate on food.

**Shri Tyagi:** The Deputy Minister is here.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The Deputy Minister is here but the point is not germane to the issue before us.

شری تی - حسین : میں زیادہ اس پر نہیں کہتا - مجھے صرف ایک بات کہنی ہے - اور وہ پروکیورمنٹ (Procurement) کے متعلق ہے - ہمارے منسٹر صاحب نے ہمیشہ فرمایا مجھ سے بھی اور حکومت بہار سے بھی کہ دیکھو تم لوگ پروکیورمنٹ نہیں کرتے - پروکیورمنٹ بہت ضروری چیز ہے - اس کے متعلق مجھے جلاب منسٹر

صاحب سے یہ عرض کرنا ہے کہ راشننگ (Rationing) جو آپ نے کیا ہے وہ خالی اربن ایریا (Urban area) میں ہے - روئل ایریا (Rural area) میں نہیں ہے - آپ پروکیورمنٹ جو کرتے ہیں وہ کس طریقہ سے - وہ یہ ہے ان کلتیویٹرس (cultivators) سے - جن کے پاس آپ ان کی ضرورت کے لئے چھوڑ کر باقی پروکیور (Procure) کرتے ہیں - مگر وہ کلتیویٹرس جن کے پاس اتنا کھانا نہیں ہے کہ خود اپنے کو اپنے غلہ سے مینٹین (maintain) کر سکیں وہ کہاں سے لاتے ہیں اگر آپ سب لے لیتے ہیں - اور دوسرے وہ لہنڈلیس لہبرس (Landless labourers) جن کی تعداد بہت زیادہ ہے جو پھداوار بالکل نہیں کرتے ہیں وہ غلہ کہاں سے لائیں گے - دیہات کے اندر کا سب غلہ جب آپ شہر میں لے جاتے ہیں پروکیور کر کے - اس لئے میں التجا کرتا ہوں اپنے لائق منسٹر صاحب سے کہ یہ پروکیورمنٹ کا جو لفظ آپ کہا کرتے ہیں اور یہ کہ تم لوگ پروکیور نہیں کرتے ہو وہ میرے خیال میں ناچائز ہے - مجھ کو عرض یہ کرنا ہے کہ اس میں کوئی شک نہیں کہ ان تین چار برسوں میں ہماری حکومت نے بہت کچھ کام کیا ہے - دامودر ویلی بن رہی ہے - اس سے بھی غلہ ہم کو ملیگا - بھاکرا ڈام (Bhakra Dam) ہے - ہیراکڈ ہے - سلڈری فیکٹری ہے - مگر حات اس وقت یہ ہے کہ کوئی خاص امپرووومنٹ

(Improvement) نہیں ہے - ہم جانتے ہیں کہ ضرور ایک زمانہ آئے گا جب فائدہ ہو گا لیکن اس وقت کوئی پرسپیکٹو (Perceptible Improvement) نہیں ہے - ہمارے لوگ جو جاہل ہیں - جن سے ہمیں وقت لہنا ہے - انہیں اسکی خبر نہیں ہے اور مہرا تجربہ تو یہ ہے کہ جو لوگ پڑھے لکھے ہیں ان کی سمجھ میں نہیں آتا ہے - وہ کہتے ہیں کیا حکومت تمہاری ہے - ہمارے انریبل منسٹر فوتہ کو اس کا تجربہ نہیں ہے - وہ لوگوں سے نہیں ملتے ہیں - انہیں نہیں معلوم ہے کیا ہو رہا ہے - ہم ہمیشہ کہتے ہیں کہ آپ کو وقت نہیں ملے گا (Magic Wand) سے پرسپیکٹو (Perceptible Improvement) نہیں دیکھا جاسکتا ہے - میں زیادہ کہنا نہیں چاہتا ہوں کیونکہ آپ نے مجھے زیادہ وقت نہیں دیا - ہاں یہ ضرور کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ غلط یا صحیح (Food) کی پرابلم (Problem) سولو (Solve) نہیں ہوئی ہے اور ہماری بدقسمتی یہ ہے کہ - آپ نے بھی سنا ہو گا اور ہم لوگوں نے بھی سنا ہے کہ لوگ کہتے ہیں کہ تعجب ہے کہ آزاد ہو گئے ہیں سو راج ہو گیا ہے - انگریز چلے گئے ہیں مگر ہم جو ہیں وہ اس وقت بہ بد تر ہیں - جلسہ سنا روپیہ من چاول ملے - سستے سے سستا چالوس روپیہ من ملتا ہے - اس وقت کم سے کم روپیہ کا تھن ساڑھے تین سیر ملتا تھا - ہمیں کوئی ٹرانسٹک میٹرز (Drastic measure) لہنا ہوگا مہرے پاس اس وقت کوئی پروپوزل (Proposal) نہیں - میں وقت ملے پر آپ کے سامنے بیٹھ کروں گا اور

اگر انریبل منسٹر اجازت دیں تو میں انکو ضرور بتاؤنگا -

(English translation of the above speech)

**Shri T. Husain:** Mr. Speaker, our able friend Mr. Mahavir Tyagi has said today that whatever the fault may be it is of our Honourable Minister Shri K. M. Munshi. I differ from him.

**Shri Tyagi:** I never said so.

**Shri T. Husain:** What I say is this that it is no fault of Shri Munshi but the fault lies with the seat on which he has seated himself. I quite remember and you too might be remembering it that when our present Deputy Food Minister was not on this seat but was with us; he used to criticize the then Food Minister bitterly and now has come the time.....

**Shri Tyagi:** I would like to make it clear that I did not say so that it was the fault of Shri Munshi or of somebody else.

**Shri T. Husain:** So far as I think Shri Tyagi did say that the food problem was not being solved by Shri Munshi. From this one can conclude that the fault lies either with him or with his office. Certainly the fault lies somewhere, but I have to submit that it is not his personal fault. The fault lies with the seat, and it is this seat which makes a man to do fault. I put before you, Sir, one concrete example. When you were with us and I had asked your opinion whether I should speak, you had replied that I should definitely do so. But when you were there I rose twelve times and I consider myself fortunate to have been given a chance to speak 13th time.

**Shri Tyagi:** The fault lies with the seat.

**Shri T. Husain:** Our able friend Shri Tyagi remarked that much money has been wasted by the Food Ministry. He gave an example that a sum of one crore of rupees has been spent in Europe for buying sugar. To this I would submit that this was not the only Ministry where there was so much wastage of money. There are many Ministries in our Central Government where there is still more. I would like to give you an example of which I have personal experience. I am glad that our Deputy Minister of Defence is present here who would listen to it.



[Shri T. Hussain]

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has it any direct relationship to food and agriculture?

**Shri T. Husain:** Direct relationship to wastage.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member may confine himself to food.

**Shri T. Husain:** Sir, without food we cannot even live. When money is wasted wherefrom will food come? In Ramgarh, where the Congress Session was held sometime back, a big military camp has been established. All possible modern conveniences exist there; and it contains an accommodation for 12,000 persons. All things are available there, only arrangements for electricity could not be made. A contract of Rs. 20,000/- per month has been made with a private contractor for this purpose, which continues up to this day. The position is that not more than 3,000 men reside there but this sum of Rs. 20,000/- is being given to the contractor every month for electricity. In this very province the Government have requisitioned a palatial building at Patna for the Defence Department for which huge rent is being paid while building intended for this purpose at Ramgarh is lying vacant.

**Shri Tyagi:** Is it quite vacant?

**Shri T. Husain:** As I said, 12,000 men can live there at present but only about 3,000 Government employees are residing there; while the Military Accounts Department has occupied the palatial building at Patna. I am surprised.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** We are straying away much from the subject in hand. The hon. Defence Minister must be here to reply to all this. Moreover, this is the Debate on Food.

**Shri Tyagi:** The Deputy Minister is here.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The Deputy Minister is here but the point is not germane to the issue before us.

**Shri T. Husain:** I do not say much on this. I have to say only one thing and that is about procurement. Our Minister has always said to me as well as to the Bihar Government that we do not work for procurement. Procurement is an essential thing. With regard to this I have to submit to the Honourable Minister that the rationing that you have introduced is only meant for the urban areas and not for the rural areas. This is the way in which you do this procurement. You

procure all the grain from the cultivators leaving with them what they require. But when you take all, wherefrom do those cultivators who are short of food and who have not got so much foodgrains as to enable them to maintain themselves, get their food? Secondly when you take all the foodgrains to the city how would those landless labourers subsist who do not produce any food and who are in a very large number? Therefore I submit to the hon. Minister that the word 'procure' which he uses so often and about which he holds that we do not procure enough grains is quite unjustified. I have to submit that there is no doubt that our Government has done a lot of work during the last three or four years. Damodar Valley Project is in progress. We would get foodgrains from this too. There are Bhakra Dam, Hirakud and Sindri Factory Projects also. But the situation at present is that there is no marked improvement. We know that a day is certainly to come when we shall benefit, but there is no perceptible improvement at present. Our people who are ignorant and from whom we have to take our votes, are not aware of this thing, and my experience is that even literate people do not understand this. They ask whether the Government was yours. Our Honourable Minister of Food has no experience of this thing. He does not contact people. He does not know what is happening. We always say that we will not get votes from these people because we cannot show any perceptible improvement by a magic wand. I do not want to say more because the time at my disposal is short. But I do want to point out here that rightly or wrongly the problem of food has not yet been solved. Our misfortune is that people express their surprise and say "we have become free, we have achieved Swaraj, Britishers have left but our condition is worse than what it was in those days." You might have heard it all and we too have heard it. Rice sells at sixty rupees a maund now-a-days. It is at rupees forty a maund when cheapest. In those days one could get three or three and a half seers of rice for a rupee. We shall have to take some drastic measure. I have not got any proposals at this time. I shall submit them before you when I get time. And if the Honourable Minister will allow me I would certainly tell him about the same.

*The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 17th November, 1950.*