

Wednesday, 2nd August, 1950



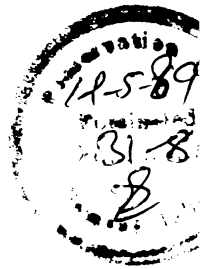
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART I— Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

Volume IV, 1950
(1st August to 14th August, 1950)

Second Session
of
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
1950



CONTENTS

Volume IV—1st August to 14th August, 1950

	Cols.
Tuesday, 1st August, 1950—	
Members sworn	1—2
Oral Answers to Questions	2—32
Written Answers to Questions	32—70
Wednesday, 2nd August, 1950—	
Oral Answers to Questions	71—107
Written Answers to Questions	107—42
Thursday, 3rd August, 1950—	
Oral Answers to Questions	143—77
Written Answers to Questions	177—206
Friday, 4th August, 1950—	
Members sworn	... 207
Oral Answers to Questions	... 207—42
Written Answers to Questions	... 243—80
Monday, 7th August, 1950—	
Members sworn	281
Oral Answers to Questions	281—318
Written Answers to Questions	318—46
Tuesday, 8th August, 1950—	
Members sworn	347
Oral Answers to Questions	347—54
Thursday, 10th August, 1950—	
Oral Answers to Questions	355—89
Written Answers to Questions	389—440
Friday, 11th August, 1950—	
Oral Answers to Questions	441—78
Written Answers to Questions	478—508
Saturday, 12th August, 1950—	
Members sworn	509
Oral Answers to Questions	509—42
Written Answers to Questions	542—56
Monday, 14th August, 1950—	
Oral Answers to Questions	... 557—611
Written Answers to Questions	... 611—84

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

71

72

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Wednesday, 2nd August, 1950

—

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**EXPENDITURE ON RE-CLASSIFICATION
OF RAILWAY COMPARTMENTS**

*62. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the expenditure incurred in reversion to the old classification of railway compartments *viz.*, class one, class two, Inter and class three?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): Presumably the hon. Member is referring to the expenditure involved in the reversion to the old nomenclature of classes of passenger accommodation from 1st July, 1950. So far as the Assam, B.B. & C.I., E.I., E.P., O.T. and S. I. Railways are concerned, this is estimated not to exceed Rs. 6,000. In regard to the other three major railways, namely, B.N., G.I.P. and M. & S. M., the information is being obtained. On a proportionate basis, the

total expenditure on all the nine major railways is, however, not expected to exceed Rs. 10,000.

Shri Kamath: What was the expenditure incurred by Government in switching over to three classes from four in August 1947 or soon thereafter?

Shri Gopaldaswami: In answer to your question last year it was estimated to have been Rs. 24 lakhs.

Shri Kamath: Does this include the cost incurred in converting the old compartments for the new categories and also the money spent on repainting, and printing card tickets?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It includes all expenditure on the conversion.

Seth Govind Das: With regard to this Rs. 10,000 that is now being spent, may I know on what items will it be spent, on repainting or on other things?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Mostly on repainting.

Prof. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Rs. 24 lakhs that was spent originally to convert these Railways from three classes to four classes is practically lost?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I suppose if we had not taken the decision then we should have saved that amount.

Prof. Ranga: Hear, hear!

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if any attempt has been made to calculate the loss of fare as a result of this change in the classification?

Shri Gopalaswami: Whether it is a loss or gain, no calculation has been made.

Shri Tyagi: May I know if it is the hon. Minister who was responsible for this suggestion or the Railway Board which was responsible for this commercial loss?

Shri Gopalaswami: I think largely hon. Members of Parliament were responsible.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Is it a fact that a major portion of the Rs. 24 lakhs that were spent were spent in improving the upholstery?

Shri Gopalaswami: Partly in improving upholstery, partly in perhaps altering the nature of the accommodation with the seats and things like that.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question now.

TREES PLANTED DURING *Vanamahotsava*

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

(a) the number of trees planted during the *Vanamahotsava* in each of the States in India;

(b) how many of these are edible-fruit bearing; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred in connection with the *Vanamahotsava* and that expected to be incurred for the up-bringing and care of the trees?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) to (c). The *Vanamahotsava* having been extended upto August 31, 1950, complete information is not yet available but from the reports which

have come the original target of one crore of trees has been substantially increased.

Shri Kamath: Is this *Vanamahotsava* part of a long range plan for the Grow More Food Campaign by trying to get more rain?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Yes. It is a part of not merely Grow More Food Campaign but also preventing soil erosion.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if the hon. Member has tried to discover any relationship between the *Vanamahotsava* and the excessive rainfall from which we are suffering at the present day?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I thought that it will take 20 years to bring down the rains, but on the authority of Sardar, I am able to say that immediately the seedlings were planted rains poured down.

Sardar B. S. Man: I wanted to know which of the two was greater in number, the photographs taken of the trees planted.

Shri Tyagi: What is the estimate of expenditure which the ministry has sanctioned for this *Vanamahotsava*?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It is a part of the next question and if you will permit me, I will answer it now. It is part of question No. 64.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी के पास इस प्रकार की भी कुछ रिपोर्टें आई हैं कि जितने दरख्त लगाये गये उन में से बहुत से बाद में सावधानी न करने के कारण से समाप्त हो गये ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Has the hon. Minister received any reports to the effect that out of the trees that were planted a large number have since been destroyed for want of proper care?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: No reports have come so far but the arrangement is such that more trees are likely to survive this year than last year.

Shri Kamath: Have any reports reached the hon. Minister that some of the seedlings and saplings planted have been washed away by the subsequent rains?

Shri K. M. Munshi: No. But it is likely.

Shri B. Das: With deference to the hon. Ministers' appeals that during the *Vanamahotsava* Week everybody should live on forest produce and tubers, how many Ministers and Government officials lived on forest produce and without any cereal food that week?

Shri Jhunjhunwala: In view of the fact that the organic property of the land is getting deteriorated for want of farm-yard manure specially cowdung which is burnt as fuel, is it part and parcel of the *Vanamahotsava* Scheme to have trees planted so that the cultivators might get fuel wood and save this farm-yard manure?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, as part of the *Vanamahotsava*, the provincial Governments are being requested to set apart in every village a few acres of land where fuel may be grown so that cowdung may be saved as useful manure.

Vanamahotsava AND TREE PLANTING

*64. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the number of trees planted during the *Vanamahotsava*?

(b) What is the total target contemplated by the Ministry?

(c) What efforts are made to maintain and grow to the full height all the trees which are planted during the *Utsav*?

(d) What are the commitments of the Government of India and States Governments in planting and maintaining these trees?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Information is not yet available as the period of planting extends upto August 31st.

(b) The target fixed was originally one crore but it has been substantially exceeded.

(c) It has been emphasized on all concerned that the after-care of trees is as important, if not more, as planting itself and instructions regarding the after-care and up-keep of the plants have already been issued. While details for the protection of plants are being further elaborated, State Departments and public bodies are reported to be doing all they can to nurse up the young seedlings planted along public highways, railway lands, canal banks, municipal parks, camping grounds, cantonments, public buildings and compounds of schools and colleges. The planting and nursing of trees along road sides is also being encouraged by letting the villagers appropriate the fruit and also the timber of the trees they plant. It may be expected that this condition will instil a sense of responsibility on those planting the trees for their up-keep and after-care.

(d) About Rs. 20,000 were spent on handbills and posters. A provision of about Rs. 30,000 has been made for the award of prizes. State Governments depend largely upon the efforts of private and public bodies and individuals for planting and looking after the trees. Information regarding their actual commitments is not available.

Shri Sidhva: May I know what will be the cost of maintenance of each plant?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, the seedling costs very little because the Government nurseries supply it in most cases.

As regards the guard which has to be put round the tree, it costs about 8 or 4 rupees. Then, watering and other charges for the two or three months when it requires protection, come to Rs. 7 or 8. In the result, it comes to about Rs. 15/- on a rough average for a tree to be looked after till it is able to look after itself.

Shri Sidhva: If this calculation is correct, it would come to about a crore of rupees. May I know who will spend this amount, the State Governments or the Central Government?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Forest Departments of the State Governments will look after the trees planted in their buildings. The schools, colleges and universities will look after the trees planted by them. So far as the villages are concerned, the villagers who have planted the trees on the road-side will look after them because they will get the fruits and timber.

Shri Sidhva: What will be the check over these various bodies?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There cannot be any check over State Governments. There cannot be any check over universities and colleges. As regards the trees which are planted on the road-side, their care would depend upon the officers of the District and Local Boards and other people.

Shri Dwivedi: How is it that in some parts of the country like the Vindhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh forests are being uprooted on one side and on the other hand, Vanamahotsava is going on?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think that is an argument.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if any steps are being taken for the protection of the trees which are already there?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have not thought of this so far.

Shri Raj Bahadur: From such information as the hon. Minister may have in his possession, can he tell us what is the proportion of trees that have been planted in rural areas as distinguished from urban areas?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have not got that figure. I will get it after the 31st of August.

Shri M. L. Gupta: Will the hon. Minister please state as to whether to protect forests and conserve wood for fuel purposes any proposals to encourage and instal coal gas supply plants in big towns were being put forward by Government?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not think coal gas plants fall in my jurisdiction.

Shri B. Velayudhan: May I know if Government have received any complaints regarding de-forestation in any of the States?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There is not only complaint, but it is a fact that on account of political changes and incidental affairs large forests have been cut down during the last two years.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

SUGAR

*65. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the position of Sugar Syndicate at present?

(b) Has any purchase of sugar from foreign countries been contemplated and if so, at what price?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The Statutory recognition given to the Indian Sugar Syndicate by the U. P. and Bihar Governments has been withdrawn and it is being wound up.

(b) Government have placed an order for the purchase of 100,000 tons sugar from abroad. It is not in the public interest at present to disclose the sources and the prices.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the Government has taken any decision to see that a percentage of this sugar which will be imported is kept in reserve, or will it be given to the merchants for sale?

Shri K. M. Munshi: This is the stock purchased by Government on Government account, to meet the rationing commitments as the stock at the disposal of Government is running down. For the moment, there is no intention to give it to the merchants or to use it for any other purpose.

Shri Sidhva: What is the price at which this sugar has been purchased?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Not in the public interest to say.

Shri Sidhva: Has it already been purchased or is it about to be purchased?

Shri K. M. Munshi: About to be purchased.

Shri Sidhva: When is the shipment likely to arrive?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I hope to have it before the end of September.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the order has actually been placed?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That again, as I have already said, is not in the public interest to disclose.

Shri Sidhva: If the shipment is to come next month, how does he say that it is not in the public interest?

Mr. Speaker: I think that is an argument.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या सरकार अब भी इस बात पर विचार कर रही है कि शगर कन्ट्रोल रक्खा जाये या उठा दिया जाये ? अगर इस पर विचार कर रही है तो इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार का निर्णय कब तक हो जाने की आशा है ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Is the Government still considering whether to

retain sugar control or to remove it? If so, by when a decision is likely to be arrived at?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: At present, as I said, the stocks are running low. It is only when we have got a certain reserve and when we may be able to induce the State Governments to fall in a line for a unified policy, I hope to consider that question.

Shri Jhunjunwala: Is it a fact that there are sufficient facilities here in India to produce the requirements of sugar, and if the answer is in the affirmative, why were no proper steps taken to produce sufficient sugar in the country and save the foreign exchange?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The capacity of the factories in India is 14 lakh tons. If sugar is de-controlled, we must have normally 11 or 12 lakh tons sugar in our hand. So, the capacity is there. Last year we produced 9.8 lakh tons only. That was largely because, as I pointed out, there is no unified policy in the different States.

Shri Sidhva: May I know what is the present stock of Indian sugar?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The total produce was 9.80 lakh tons. Eighty thousand tons per month were allotted up to April and 78,000 tons per month for May and June, 1950. For July it is 70,000 tons. Whatever is left is there.

Shri Sidhva: Am I correct in stating that between 5 and 6 lakh tons are still available?

Shri K. M. Munshi: If you give me time, I shall total up and give the figure. I am not a very good mathematician.

Dr. Deshmukh: Has it been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister or not that the figures supplied to the Department by the Syndicate were entirely misleading and that as a matter of fact there are far larger stocks in the country than has been represented or made known to the Ministry?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think that would be for the Ganga Nath Jha Committee to find. I have no information in my possession.

Shri J. B. Kapoor: May I know what was the open market price of sugar before control and the highest black-market price after control?

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

Shri Karunakara Menon: May I know how it is that notwithstanding the fact that larger production of sugar is published in the Bulletins and Government publications, there is more scarcity of sugar in the rural parts of India than last year?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As I said, this time the production is much less than last year. Secondly, the other factor is that people are consuming more sugar than before, mostly in tea. There is a considerable quantity of *gur* which is going to illicit distillation.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा है कि हम को जितनी शकर की आवश्यकता है, वह हमारे यहां पैदा हो सकती है पर गये साल कम हुई तो इस साल काफी शकर पैदा हो सके इस के लिये सरकार क्या कर रही है?

[**Seth Govind Das:** The hon. Minister has just stated that we can produce here as much sugar as we require but that the production last year was deficient. What, then, is the Government doing to ensure sufficient production of sugar this year?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: I hope and trust that the State Governments will accept a unified system.

Shri Tyagi: Is it the policy of the Government to divert the next sugar cane harvest from *gur* manufacture to sugar manufacture?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Unfortunately the Centre has very little power in that matter.

NIGHT AIR SERVICES

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

(a) the number of passengers travelling from 1st January, 1950 to 30th June, 1950 by Night Air Services between Bombay and Delhi and between Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and *vice versa*; and

(b) the accommodation available in these services during the above period?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) and (b). I lay on the Table two statements giving the required information for the period January to May, 1950. [See *Appendix I, annexure No. 21.*] Information for the month of June, 1950 is being collected and will be laid on the Table in due course.

Shri Sidhva: What is the number of passengers carried from Bombay to Delhi and from Delhi to Bombay?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The numbers are given in the Statement. They are, from Delhi to Bombay, by *Himalayan Aviation*, January 147, February 139, March 90, April 72 and May 82. And by *Air India* in March it is 673, in April 650 and in May 694. The figures from Bombay to Delhi are also given. By *Himalayan Aviation* they are January 157, February 146, March 88, April 90 and May 101. By *Air India* they are, March 655, April 667 and May 691.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the major portion of the freight consists of mail or passengers?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It all depends on the passengers offering; but the majority of the traffic is of passengers.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, may I know whether it is contemplated to have a direct service between Bombay and Calcutta or Delhi and Calcutta?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There is a direct service between Bombay and Calcutta. Delhi and Calcutta night service is under consideration.

Shri Sidhva: I mean night air service, Sir.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes, there is night air service between Bombay and Calcutta.

Shri Sidhva: But is there not a diversion at Nagpur?

Shri Khurshed Lal: But Nagpur is on the way.

Shri Sidhva: But then....

Mr. Speaker: No arguments please.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: May I know from the Minister of Communications whether any licences have been granted to any air companies now who had refused to help in the project of night service, and if so to which companies?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The Ministry of Communications does not take a vindictive view of these things. The *Air India* applied for licence and the application was considered on its merits.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know what passenger amenities are afforded by these night services?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The Himalayan offers coffee, when it stops at Nagpur.

Shri Buragohain: Sir, are there any arrangements for emergency landings for these night services?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Yes, there are.

Shri Buragohain: What is the average distance between these landing stations?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Normally the place is never over a hundred miles from a landing place.

Shri Kamath: Sir, after the resumption of night flying during this monsoon, have any proposals been received from Sonegaon Airport in Nagpur for better night lighting?

Shri Khurshed Lal: All necessary facilities are given.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know, Sir, if the day traffic is being affected as a result of these night services?

Shri Khurshed Lal: This was the subject matter of a debate last time; I may say it has not very much affected the day traffic.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, are the fares for these air services fixed in consultation with the Railway Ministry to see that we are not competing with the railways with regard to passenger traffic?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There is no such complaint from the Railway Ministry.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, I want to know if the fares are fixed after consultation with the Railway Ministry or not. It is not a question of the Railway Ministry objecting or not objecting. The question is whether the fares are fixed in consultation with the Railway Ministry.

Shri Khurshed Lal: The Railway Ministry was not consulted.

Shri Chattopadhyay: Sir, in view of the fact that the night air service is getting sufficient quantity of postal mail, is there any proposal to reduce the passenger fares on these night air services?

Shri Khurshed Lal: There is no such proposal.

Dr. Deshmukh: Was the stopping of the Sunday delivery a consequence of the introduction of the night air mail service?

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid that question does not arise.

NON-INDIAN NATIONALS EMPLOYED IN MAJOR PORTS

*37. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the number of technical personnel employed in the major ports in the country?

(b) How many of these are non-Indian Nationals and how long do their contracts run if on contract service?

(c) When will it be possible for India to replace all these foreign personnel?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) and (b). A statement giving the necessary information is placed on the Table. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 22.]

(c) Non-Indian employees in permanent service can ordinarily be replaced only after they attain the age of superannuation. Employees on contract will as far as possible be replaced by Indians on the expiry of their present terms of contract. Steps have been taken to speed up the pace of Indianisation by providing training facilities wherever possible.

Shri Kesava Rao: Sir, is it a fact that Indian technicians are being paid less pay than non-Indian technicians?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It is quite possible.

Shri Kesava Rao: What is the reason for paying less salary to the Indian technicians who have got the same qualifications as the foreign technicians?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Foreign technicians were all practically recruited during the pre-independence days, and in those days there was always a weightage in the matter of salaries in favour of foreign technicians.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that there is no standard scales of pay for these foreign technicians employed in this country?

Shri Gopaldaswami: We have no separate scales of pay for foreign technicians to-day. If foreign technicians are required, and if they could not be got on the sanctioned scales of pay, we make specific contracts with them and obtain their services.

Shri Kesava Rao: Is it a fact that technicians having the same qualifications are paid different scales of pay in different ports?

Shri Gopaldaswami: That also is possible, because each port has developed in its own way in the past.

Shri Kamath: Sir, which nationality preponderates among the non-Indian technical personnel?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It is difficult to say, but if we take the whole lot of the personnel, I think Pakistan preponderates.

Shri Kamath: Are Britishers regarded as foreigners for this purpose?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Yes, certainly; non-Indian in any case.

Shri Kamath: Not foreigners?

Shri Chaliha: Has any scheme for training technicians been started in Kidderpore Dock?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Yes, a training centre has been started there.

Shri Kamath: Sir, how many such Pakistani technicians are there?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I can give the figures so far as the non-Indian technical staff receiving less than Rs. 500 per month are concerned. The total of Pakistani technicians in that pay group is 2,780 out of a total of 3,530.

Shri Kamath: Among these, are there any who initially opted for Pakistan in August 1947?

Shri Gopaldaswami: That would require some investigation.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, what is the number of students undergoing training in the school recently started in Calcutta?

Shri Gopalaswami: I would require notice of that question.

WELLS FOR IRRIGATION IN BHOPAL STATE

***68. Thakur Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many new wells are to be sunk in Bhopal State for irrigation purposes in the year 1950-51;

(b) what part of this expenditure will be borne by the agriculturists; and

(c) how many of these wells will be in the area where sugar-cane is grown?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) It is proposed to give subsidies to cultivators in Bhopal for sinking 20 new wells during 1950-51.

(b) The subsidy given by the Government will be limited to 50 per cent. of the cost; the remaining 50 per cent. of the cost will be found by the cultivators themselves.

(c) These wells will be sunk for growing foodgrains only.

ठाकुर लाल सिंह : शकर की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए जहां शकर पैदा होती है उस एरिया में क्या सरकार काश्तकारों को खास तौर से नये कुवें खोदने के लिए बृद्ध ग्रांट दे रही है ?

[**Thakur Lal Singh:** Is the Government making any special grants to cultivators for the sinking of new wells in sugar-producing areas, with a view to step up the production of sugar?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Bhopal Administration has approached the Indian Sugar-cane Committee separately for funds for grant of loans to

agriculturists for construction of wells to grow sugar-cane.

Prof. Ranga: Are these tube-wells or ordinary wells and how much is each one expected to cost?

Shri K. M. Munshi: These are not tube-wells. The cost of a well to be borne by Government is Rs. 2,000 and the cost of repairs to old wells is Rs. 500.

Prof. Ranga: How was this number arrived at? Was it because of the request of the State Government or the Government did not have any more money than to give for twenty wells for the whole State?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The money was being distributed according to a certain formula and also the recommendations of the State Governments are taken into account.

Shri Kesava Rao: What is the acreage that a single well can irrigate?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It differs from Province to province. The figures are not available for Bhopal.

TRACTORIZED LAND IN BHOPAL STATE

***69. Thakur Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land were scheduled to be tractorized up to the 30th June 1950, in Bhopal State;

(b) how many acres were actually tractorized;

(c) what portion of such tractorized land was under cultivation;

(d) how many families of displaced persons are to be settled on such tractorized land; and

(e) what facilities in the form of *taccavi*, cattle and seed have been given to these displaced persons?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The target for reclamation operations in Bhopal State by the Central Tractor

Organisation for the working season ending with the 31st May 1950, was 15,000 acres to 20,000 acres.

(b) 18,509 acres.

(c) 11,000 acres.

(d) 1,500 acres of unoccupied land out of those reclaimed are being settled by 200 families of displaced persons.

(e) *Taccavi* at the rate of Rs. 1,168 per family has been sanctioned, and this includes a provision for the purchase of seeds and a bullock.

ठाकुर लाल सिंह : क्या यह सही है कि जो तकवी उन को दी गई थी उस में से वह कुछ रुपया खर्च कर चुके हैं और उन के पास बँल वगैरह खरीदने को रुपया नहीं है ?

Thakur Lal Singh: Is it correct that they have already spent some money out of the *taccavi* granted to them and that they no longer have money to buy oxen etc.?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I require notice of this question.

Sardar B. S. Man: What is the average output daily, so far as reclamation is concerned per tractor in Bhopal?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The hon. Member will give me notice of that question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: How many tractors were employed by the Central Tractor Organisation for tractorising these 18 thousand acres? What was the average of working hours given by these tractors? Are there any repairing arrangements made available for these tractors?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Out of the 375 tractors to be purchased for the Central Tractor Organisation 60 are to be used in Bhopal. Out of them 80 tractors have already started work on the 15th February, 1950.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What is the cost of cultivation per acre done by

means of these tractors and what was the maximum number of tractors which at any one time was lying idle?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is another question which is coming up subsequently on which the whole matter may be gone into. I have not got separate figures for Bhopal.

Sardar B. S. Man: The total land so reclaimed was 15,000 acres to 20,000 acres, out of which 11,000 acres were allotted to refugees. May I know as to what has become of the rest of the land; whether it was reclaimed and ploughed and is under cultivation or not?

Shri K. M. Munshi: No: the entire land cannot possibly be cultivated; unless there is a follow-up of the tractoring it is not possible to cultivate it. That is one reason. The second reason is that as regards the *kharif* crop one of the principles to be observed is that unless conservation takes place you cannot use the land for a next *kharif* season.

Sardar B. S. Man: After the land was reclaimed what was the reason; why the land was not allowed to be ploughed?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The follow-up is undertaken by the State Government. Schemes for this purpose have been received from the Bhopal Administration and are under examination.

Shri Tyagi: What is the average cost of tractorising an acre in Bhopal State?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As I said, I cannot give you the exact figures for Bhopal; but I can tell you that the average charge is Rs. 52 per tractor hour.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know the number of ploughed acres which have again gone as fallow land?

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

Sardar B. S. Man: As regards this reclamation of land what

arrangements have been made by the State Government to follow up those operations. Is it a fact that reclaimed land in the initial stage cannot be followed up by bullocks? Have a certain number of tractors been made available to the State to follow up those operations?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As I told you, the scheme for the follow up and conservation has been received from the Bhopal Government and it is being examined. The tractors there will be placed at the disposal of the Bhopal Government.

PROCUREMENT AND DEFICIT OF FOOD GRAINS

*70. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of food grains of *rabi* crop collected in each State; and

(b) the quantity and value of the anticipated deficit of food-grains in the country during the year 1950-51 in the light of the aforesaid collection?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):

(a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 23.] Actual price paid varies from place to place. It is not, therefore, possible to give an accurate estimate of the value of the quantities procured without calling for detailed information from all States.

(b) The total deficit of the country depends on the prospects of both the *rabi* and the *kharif* food crops. It is too early yet to make an assessment of the *kharif* crops to be harvested from December 1950 onwards. It is not, therefore, possible at this stage to calculate the extent of the total food deficit during 1950-51.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What is the total quantity of grains procured all over the country?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The quantity of *rabi* grains procured upto the 30th June, 1950, was 10,29,000 tons.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I want the information for *kharif* also.

Shri K. M. Munshi: For the *kharif* crop the figure for January to June is 24,59,000 tons.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What was the total cost incurred on this procurement?

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

सेठ गोविन्द दास: जितना अन्न इस साल प्रोक्चोर किया गया है क्या वह गये साल से ज्यादा था या गये साल से कम था ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Was the food procured this year more or less than that was procured last year?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: For comparison, I can only give the figures from January to June of both the years. Last year's *rabi* crop actuals were 8,16,000; this year it was 11,06,000. So far as *kharif* is concerned, it was 37,57,000 last year and this year 43,18,000. So, there is an increase.

Shri Karmarkar: May I know whether it is a fact that there is not even a rough estimate of the deficit likely to be incurred this year, and if that is so, how does the hon. Minister propose to frame the estimated imports of food grains?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think I made a mistake in the last question. I referred to the procurement of food grains—not to the production. I have no figures of production at the moment.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the procurement price of paddy is fixed by the Centre or by the States?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It is fixed by the States.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether these figures which have been given are forecasts or actuals?.

Shri K. M. Munshi: These are actuals.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Taking the figures given by the hon. Minister into account, may I know whether he is hopeful that the country will be able to achieve the target of self-sufficiency by 1951?

Shri K. M. Munshi: We hope to be self-sufficient and I am sure we will be if all the hon. Members help us.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

*71. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents involving (i) passenger trains and (ii) goods trains in the country during the last six months ending on 30th June, 1950;

(b) the loss of life and property resulting from these accidents;

(c) the loss suffered by the Railways; and

(d) the measures adopted or steps taken to minimise such accidents?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) to (c). A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 24.]

(d) More intensive patrolling of selected lengths of the railway line in consultation and collaboration with State Governments; provision of certain mechanical devices in the structure of the permanent way so as to make tampering with the track difficult; effective disciplinary action against railway staff found responsible for accidents or connected with subversive activities; frequent and intensive inspections of permanent way, rolling stock, etc; systematic examination of the working of stations; and according special priority for works required to enhance the margin of safety.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know how many out of the total number of accidents were due to suspected sabotage and how many due purely to accidental reasons?

Shri Gopalaswami: The total number of accidents due certainly to sabotage were three. The rest were due to other causes.

Shri Sidhva: "Rest" means how many?

Shri Gopalaswami: Well, if we include all major, minor and trivial accidents.....

Shri Sidhva: No, major ones.

Shri Gopalaswami: That would be about 12.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether in any of the cases of suspected sabotage the culprits were apprehended or brought to book?

Shri Gopalaswami: I don't think that has happened yet.

Shrimati Durgabai: Would the hon. Minister kindly tell the House whether the enquiry into the recent Calcutta Mail accident has concluded and what was the amount actually paid by way of compensation and on what basis?

Shri Gopalaswami: Compensation claims are being enquired into and paid. I have not got the figures of the amounts so far paid. I should like to have notice of that.

Shri Sidhva: Out of those twelve accidents to which the hon. Minister referred, how many were due to the mistakes of the Railway employees?

Shri Gopalaswami: I think the bulk of them were due to some failure on the part of the staff in some form or other.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know in how many cases enquiry was instituted into these accidents and in how many cases have those enquiry committees submitted their reports?

Shri Gopalaswami: I think about fifteen cases were enquired into by the Government Inspectorate of Railways. The other accidents were

all enquired into by committees of Railway officers.

Shri Karmarkar: May I know whether the Ministry has received a representation from a person from Kolhapur offering to demonstrate an instrument facilitating detection of removal of fish plates, and if so whether Government are considering that representation?

Shri Gopaldaswami: Very probably I have, but I have received hundreds of such suggestions and they have all been remitted to my expert advisers to investigate.

Shri Gautam: Has it been brought to the notice of Government that some of these accidents are due to not keeping the tracks in order and that the Railway Department shifts the responsibility to sabotage?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I don't think that has happened in any case.

Shrimati Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government have given instructions to drivers to lessen the speed in order to avoid accidents?

Shri Gopaldaswami: On some lines for some days we did issue instructions to slow down the speed of trains, but that is not a permanent instruction.

AGRARIAN REFORMS COMMITTEE REPORT

*72. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Report of the Agrarian Reforms Committee of which Shri J. C. Kumarappa was the Chairman?

(b) Are Government contemplating any action upon it and if so, what and if not, why not?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) The Resolutions of the Conference of Chief Ministers and Presidents of Provincial Congress

Committees, which considered the Report as well as a Memorandum covering it drawn up by the Congress Planning Sub-Committee, are under the consideration of Government in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Dr. Deshmukh: How long would this consideration last and when would any results be available?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think as long as they are able to finish the consideration.

Shri Tirumala Rao: Have Government examined whether the Government of India are competent to implement legislatively the recommendations contained in this report?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Many of the proposals contained in the report are being given effect to.

Shri Hanumanthaiya: Are Government considering legislative measures to guarantee minimum profitable prices for agricultural produce as recommended by the Committee?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There is no such scheme.

TRACTORS FROM U.S.A.

*73. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on the import of tractors from U.S.A.?

(b) Have all the tractors that were to be obtained from the international loan arrived?

(c) What is the total expenditure incurred by (i) the Central and (ii) the State Governments on them?

(d) What is the total acreage ploughed by them?

(e) Has the cost per acre been worked out and if so, what is it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Rs. 1,89,96,360 has been incurred since 1945 on the import of about 622 tractors from the U.S.A. Of these, only 180 tractors were on the account of the Government of India.

(b) No. Only 180 of the tractors have arrived so far, out of a total number of 375 contemplated under the Loan Agreement.

(c) The total expenditure incurred by the Government of India on the purchase of the 180 tractors is Rs. 1,20,15,000. No expenditure has been incurred by the State Governments on the purchase of these tractors. The State Governments will, in due course, be called upon to meet the above purchase cost and cost of operating these tractors by paying reclamation charges on the area reclaimed.

(d) 40,363 acres, during the season 1949-50.

(e) The cost per acre has been provisionally worked out at Rs. 52 for *Kans* land reclamation and Rs. 130 for jungle land reclamation.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that the hon. Minister has ordered a thorough enquiry into this whole matter under the chairmanship of Mr. Kharegat?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I initiated a departmental enquiry and sought the assistance of Mr. Kharegat who, when he was Secretary of the Agriculture Department of the Central Government, was responsible for inaugurating this scheme. His report has been received and the Central Tractor Organisation is practically reorganised.

Dr. Deshmukh: What steps are being taken to see that more satisfactory results in the working of these 180 tractors are achieved?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I trust the reorganisation will bring some result.

Dr. Deshmukh: In view of the fact that we have not been able to utilise properly these tractors which we have already got, is it contemplated that we should not get the remaining 375 tractors and thus save our money?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The matter whether the remaining tractors which

have not been ordered out should be ordered out or not is under consideration

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या सरकार को यह बात मालूम है कि सरकार के पास जो ट्रैक्टर हैं, वे, और कुछ दूसरे लोगों ने जो ट्रैक्टर लिये हैं, वे बेकार इसलिए पड़े रहते हैं कि उन के स्पेयर पार्ट्स नहीं मिलते हैं और इन स्पेयर पार्ट्स को प्राप्त करने के लिये सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Is it known to Government that of the tractors belonging to them as also those purchased by private persons some keep lying about unused for the reason that their spare parts are not available? What Government is doing to procure these spare parts?]

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, an arrangement has been agreed to with the Commerce Department that with regard to spare parts priority should be given.

Shri Tirumala Rao: Will the hon. Minister make a copy of Mr. Kharegat's report available to us, or is it a purely departmental document?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It was not a Commission. I could not go to Bhopal and I had no technical knowledge. So I wanted Mr. Kharegat to give me the information. I do not think it is right to place his report at the disposal of hon. Members.

Oh. Ranbir Singh: May I know the number of days taken to remove these tractors from the railway stations to the farms in respect of each consignment?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I should like to have notice of this question. It all depends upon the wagon facilities and in regard to them questions may be addressed to my hon. colleague the Transport Minister.

Shri Tyagi: May I know from which firm the tractors were purchased and whether it is a fact that the firm

from which these tractors were purchased is represented by a person who is a relation of one of the engineers of the Central Tractor Organisation?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There is no doubt that two sons, I understand, of the Chairman of the Central Tractor Organisation are employed with the firm who have supplied the tractors.

Shri Tyagi: Were these tractors purchased from these very firms?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As a matter of fact, the tractors are not purchased by us but by the Industries and Supplies Ministry.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know how many of these tractors are in use and how many are not working?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I think all the tractors are working. Of course, there are occasional breakdowns for two reasons. Sometimes, there are no spare parts available; sometimes the persons who are in charge of the tractors are not accustomed to work such high-powered mechanised instruments and in order to obviate that it is intended to open a school for this purpose at Bhopal very shortly.

Sardar B. S. Man: I believe all these tractors that have arrived are heavy tractors, and these 375 tractors are also heavy tractors. In the light of the experience gained now, what arrangements have you made to follow up these operations by light tractors?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Government of India possess a few tractors which are of a small size and they will be placed at the disposal of the States.

COMMITTEE FOR GROWING MORE SUBSIDIARY FOOD

*74. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the Committee for encouragement for growing more subsidiary food is still continuing to function?

(b) If so, what has been the expenditure incurred on it since the beginning of the present financial year?

(c) What acreage of uncultivated land has this Committee been able to bring under the cultivation of subsidiary food?

(d) Is it proposed to wind up this Committee and if not, why not?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Government recently reviewed the pioneering work done by Subsidiary Food Production Committee in focusing the attention on the importance of subsidiary foods and have now decided to place the work of encouraging increased production and consumption of all supplementary foods on a popular basis. Accordingly, Government have decided to wind up the Subsidiary Food Production Committee and its Regional Branch in Madras.

(b) Approximately Rs. 22,000.

(c) The Committee was asked to undertake work of promoting increased production on an experimental basis. As a result of its activities, Bombay, U.P. and Bihar have reported an increase in acreage under sweet potatoes of 17,500 acres, 11,000 acres and 5,000 acres respectively.

(d) In view of answer to (a) the question does not arise.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if the hon. Minister has come to know the actual loss suffered owing to the importation of some sweet potatoes from Kanpore and Lucknow and what is the amount of the loss?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not know about Kanpore, but I know that in Bombay, Government suffered some loss by growing sweet potatoes in the hope that people will take to them, but somehow or other it did not happen.

Dr. Deshmukh: What was the amount?

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

Shri Sidhva: What is the answer to part (b)—i.e. what is the expenditure incurred since the beginning?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Approximately Rs. 22,000.

Shri Tyagi: Out of the Rs. 10 lakhs which was sanctioned for this Subsidiary Foods Committee, how much was spent in actually mixing up sweet potato flour with *atta*?

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

Shri Hanumanthaiya: Is it true that it was the hon. the Prime Minister who initiated this Grow More Subsidiary Food Campaign?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not know, but the Government did. It was the decision of the Government.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that this Committee was given Rs. 10 lakhs for expenditure?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have no knowledge. I would like to have notice. I am quite new to this business.

Short Notice Question and Answer SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

AIR ACCIDENT TO I.N.A. PLANE NEAR PATHANKOT

Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Indian National Airways aircraft which left Delhi Willingdon aerodrome on 17th July for Srinagar at about 9 A.M. crashed near Pathankot?

(b) Was air-worthy certificate given when the aircraft took off?

(c) What was the weather report by Meteorological Department at that time and when was this Dakota first put on flight?

(d) What was the total weight of the aircraft inclusive of freight, passengers' weight, and petrol when it took off and what was its carrying capacity?

(e) How much petrol is ordinarily required for a trip from Delhi to Srinagar and how much did this aircraft have when it left the airport?

(f) What is the record at the Willingdon airport of this plane when it took off?

(g) How old was the Dakota?

(h) How many accidents have occurred on this route since the service was introduced?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Yes—Indian National Airways' Dakota aircraft VT-ATS which left Willingdon Airport on the 17th July at 0928 hours I.S.T. for Srinagar non-stop crashed approximately 16 miles South-east of Pathankot a little after 1105 hours I.S.T.

(b) The aircraft possessed a Current Certificate of Airworthiness issued by the Civil Aviation Department in December, 1949 and valid for one year and a Daily Certificate of Safety for Flight was issued before the flight by the Engineer of the Indian National Airways.

(c) The weather briefing given to the pilot stated:—

Local thundershowers upto 32 North and scattered thundershowers beyond. Weather over Jammu and Banihal was reported as improving. Banihal Pass was visible from Jammu side though not so from Srinagar.

The aircraft took off at 0928 hours I.S.T. as stated in (a).

(d) The total weight of the aircraft inclusive of crew passengers, freight, petrol and oil at the time of take-off was 26073 lbs. while its permissible total weight, authorized by the certificate of airworthiness, was 26200 lbs.

(e) 170 Imperial Gallons of petrol would ordinarily be required for a journey Delhi to Srinagar and a similar quantity for the return journey. This aircraft carried not only 340 Imperial Gallons of petrol required for the journey to Srinagar and back but an additional quantity

of 110 gallons as reserve for any emergency.

(f) The actual time of take-off has been recorded at Willingdon Airport as 0928 hours. The aircraft was duly cleared and this is recorded in the Aircraft Clearance Form.

(g) The aircraft was 7 years old, having been manufactured in 1943.

(h) This is the second accident that has occurred on this route to civil aircraft. The first accident occurred to a Dalmia Jain Dakota aircraft on the 16th January, 1949, near Panihal Pass at the height of approximately 10,000 feet which resulted in 23 fatalities (9 crew and 14 passengers).

I take the opportunity to announce that in exercise of the powers conferred by rule 75 of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, the Central Government has directed a formal investigation to be held and has appointed Shri K. P. Lakshman Rao retired High Court Judge of Madras, to hold the investigation. He will be assisted by two assessors. Under the rules, he shall make a report to Government stating his findings as to the causes of the accident, adding any recommendations he may consider fit with a view to avoidance of similar accidents in future and the taking of any necessary action. Government have also secured the services of an expert from the United Kingdom to assist the Court with technical advice.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the pilot was warned by any officer before his taking off that there was stormy weather *en route*?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I have already read out the weather briefing given to the pilot.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether any officer on the ground did warn the pilot before he took off that the weather on the way was stormy.

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): A weather chart was given to the pilot and it was on the

basis of that that the aerodrome officer gave him permission to take off.

Shri Sidhva: Is it not a fact that despite this warning the pilot said that he would be prepared to take the risk?

Shri Kidwai: There was no risk involved.

Shri Sidhva: Is there anything on record to show that the pilot was warned?

Shri Kidwai: The pilot was given the weather chart and it was on the basis of the chart that the aerodrome authorities gave him permission to proceed.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether there was any other navigator amongst the crew on the Dakota?

Shri Kidwai: Yes.

Shri Sidhva: Is there anything on record to show that there was stormy weather, or likelihood of storm, on the route of the aircraft?

Shri Kidwai: The weather chart given to the pilot has already been read out.

Shri Sidhva: May I know at what time the distress signal for help from the aircraft was received at the aerodrome?

Shri Kidwai: There was no such message.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether any preliminary enquiry was conducted by a departmental officer?

Shri Khurshed Lal: An officer of the Civil Aviation Department proceeded to the place of the accident next morning.

Shri Sidhva: What is his report?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Disclosure of it would be prejudicial to the enquiry which is to be held.

Shri Sidhva: But what is his impression?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I submit it will be prejudicial to the enquiry.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know if the log books both at the Delhi and the Kashmir aerodromes have been preserved?

Shri Khurshed Lal: The log books are perfectly all right.

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know if any complaints have been received by the Ministry of Communications from the passengers who travel between Delhi and Kashmir about the type of engines which are used on the planes of this service?

Shri Khurshed Lal: Not that I know of.

Shri Sidhva: I understood the hon. Minister to say, in reply to part (b) of my question that an engineer of the Indian National Airways gave a certificate of airworthiness of this plane? May I know why a certificate of air-worthiness was not obtained from a Government engineer.

Shri Khurshed Lal: As I stated in answer to that part of the question, a certificate of airworthiness is granted once a year by the Department. Then, under the rules, every twenty-four hours a ground engineer of the company, who is a licensed man, has to testify to the air-worthiness of the aircraft.

Shri Sidhva: It was stated that the aircraft was seven years old and was manufactured in 1943. Was it a new plane that was purchased by the company?

Shri Khurshed Lal: It was manufactured in 1943. It was purchased by the Indian National Airways from the American Disposals.

Shri Sidhva: What is the life of this second-hand aircraft?

Shri Kidwai: The Dakota was manufactured in 1943 and the total hours it has flown is 7,000 and odd, while its capacity is 14,000. Therefore, it has hardly done more than half its capacity.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether according to international rules, the life of a second-hand Dakota is only four years?

Shri Kidwai: That is not true.

Shri Sidhva: What is the life according to international rules?

Shri Kidwai: I just now said that the body was capable of flying 14,000 hours from the time of its manufacture. It had done only 7,000 hours or so.

Shri Tyagi: How far is it true that the parts of this Dakota were strewn over an area of a few square miles near the place of the accident?

Shri Khurshed Lal: That again is a matter which the investigating officer will have to enquire into.

Shri Tyagi: But was the wreckage found in one place, or was it strewn over ten different places?

Shri Kidwai: So far as we are aware the wreckage of the plane was lying within an area of five hundred square yards—not a few miles.

Shri Kamath: Is there any truth in the report that the pilot, Mr. Mehra, was at the time of his taking off running high temperature and he asked to be relieved but was not relieved by the company?

Shri Kidwai: That is the news that we have just received from the hon. Member and we will enquire into it.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: Was the engine of this Dakota ever since its purchase in 1943, changed?

Shri Kidwai: Engines are changed after a fixed number of hours that an aircraft has done: in the case of this Dakota the engine was in an air-worthy state.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I ask whether such of the passengers on the Dakota as belonged to the civil or

Defence services of the Government of India are entitled to any compensation under the rules and whether they will be awarded such compensation?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I require notice of that question.

Shri Gopinath Singh: Is it a fact that many of the passengers in the aircraft were not insured under the departmental rules?

Shri Khurshed Lal: I do not know of any rules under which the passengers of an aircraft are required to be insured.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TELEPHONE FACTORY IN BANGALORE

*75. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the progress made in the establishment of the Telephone Factory in Bangalore?

(b) At present what parts of telephones are manufactured in the country?

(c) When will India be able to manufacture all the parts that constitute the telephone?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Permanent buildings for the Factory are partly ready and partly under construction and the Factory at present is housed in temporary aeroplane hangars. The machines obtained from the Disposals and the imported machines are being installed as and when received. The Factory has assembled about 22,000 telephones so far and has also now taken up the actual manufacture of some of the telephone parts and tools.

(b) The parts being manufactured at present are screws, rivets, base, telephone ringer, bell gongs, induction coils, switch hooks and hook springs. A number of production tools are also being made.

(c) India will be able to manufacture all parts in about three years' time.

ELECTRIC ENERGY

*76. **Shri Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state whether it is proposed to have a National Grid for the distribution of Hydro-Electric Energy?

(b) What is the total amount of the Electrical Energy produced in this country from (i) Hydro-Electrical Power and (ii) other sources?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) Government are aware of the advantages of inter-connections between regional power systems which will ultimately lead to the formation of a national grid in India for the distribution of electric energy both hydro and thermal. This aspect is always kept in view in designing the transmission systems of the various hydro-electric and thermal projects.

(b) The figures for the year 1949 were:—

(i) 2,489,865 million kilowatt-hrs.

(ii) 2,419,424 million kilowatt-hrs.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING

*77. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state what progress has been made in Co-operative farming so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): On 29th November, 1949 my predecessor in office had stated in this House that the area under Co-operative farming during 1948-49 was 40,065 acres. Complete information regarding progress of these Societies during 1949-50 is not yet available. But information regarding Co-operative Land Colonisation Societies alone indicates that the area farmed by them has increased to 47,140 acres.

SERVICE POSTAGE STAMPS

*78. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be

pleased to place on the Table of the House a list of the Semi-Governmental and other specially authorised institutions, bodies, societies or individuals of a non-Governmental character who are entitled to use service postage stamps in connection with their public correspondence?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): The hon. Member's attention is invited to Clause 354 of the P. and T. Guide which contains the required information.

REGROUPING OF RAILWAYS

***79. Shri Gautam:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the Railway System of India is going to be re-grouped and if so, on what basis?

(b) What will be the extra cost of providing buildings to these offices and residential quarters to the members of the staff?

(c) Are the General Managers of the different Railways and members of Railway Board satisfied that this system would improve the working of the Railways and bring more convenience to the staff and the public?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes. Tentative proposals for the regrouping of railways into six zones have been formulated and have been circulated to all State Governments, various Chambers of Commerce, Railway Labour Organisations, etc., to elicit their opinion. The main principles underlying the tentative scheme are:

(i) Every railway administration should serve as far as possible a compact region.

(ii) It should be large enough to provide a headquarters organisation of the highest calibre capable of following and assimilating up to date improvements in railway techniques and equipped with adequate workshop facilities and statistical, training and research institutions.

(iii) The regrouping should cause the minimum dislocation in the existing arrangements and should be so phased as to prevent any kind of dislocation or even temporary diminution of the quantity or efficiency of railway service.

(b) Whether there will be any net extra cost and if so how much, it is yet premature to make a statement on. The matter is under investigation.

(c) The Railway Board have been considering the question of regrouping for quite a long time and, after taking into consideration all relevant factors and the views of railway administrations, have reached the tentative conclusion to regroup the railways into six zones with a view to achieve maximum degree of operating efficiency and service to public.

RESTORATION OF DISMANTLED RAILWAY LINES

***80. Shri Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether any final decision has been taken regarding the restoration of the following dismantled Branch lines:

(i) line between Bhagalpur and Baunsi; and

(ii) line between Rajmahal and Tinpahar?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when will the restoration of these lines be completed?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) A final decision has not yet been taken. The matter is being referred to the Central Board of Transport.

(b) Does not arise.

NEW RAILWAY LINES

***81. Shri Jhunjhunwala:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether any representation was received for starting new lines on O. T. Ry. North of Bhagalpur near Murliganj extending about 20 miles?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what were the main grounds on which the representation was based?

(c) Have the Government considered the question of cost for laying down this new line, and the income that is likely to accrue therefrom?

(d) Was there any representation for laying down any other new lines in North of Bhagalpur?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) The hon. Member presumably refers to the proposal of constructing a Railway line between Murliganj and Dauram Madhepura, distance of 13 miles, for which a number of representations were received.

(b) The main reasons advanced in the representations were that the area had become free from the ravages of the river Kosi, that the line would provide much needed communication to the Madhepura sub-division which gets cut off during the rains and that it would help the development of the area.

(c) Traffic and Engineering surveys for this project were carried out by the old B.A. Railway in 1947. The Reports revealed that the line, if constructed, would result in an annual loss of 2.07 per cent. on a capital of Rs. 13.79 lakhs. Actually the cost will be higher and the loss therefore greater, at present price levels.

(d) There have been some representations for laying another line between Madhepura and Birpur via Singeswarasthan, Raghupur and Forbesganj.

INDIAN CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

***82. Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether any non-official agency has scrutinised the working of the Indian Central Tractor Organisation?

(b) If not, do Government propose to appoint a Committee to scrutinise the working of the Organisation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) No. However, Shri P. M. Kharegat, then Regional Agricultural Production Commissioner, Bombay, was entrusted with the work, and some officials and non-officials were associated with him in the work.

(b) No.

RIGS FOR WELL-BORING

***83. Ch. Ranbir Singh:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of rigs with the Central Government;

(b) the number of rigs working at present;

(c) the number of tube-wells bored with the help of these rigs since 1st April, 1950; and

(d) the capacity of the rigs for boring wells per month?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Two percussive rigs and one rotary rig are under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) One percussive rig.

(c) Eight.

(d) The capacity would naturally depend on the strata conditions met with, and transport distances for each well etc. Ordinarily, it would take one to two months' time to complete a tubewell with a percussive rig. A Rotary rig can be expected to do about three tubewells per month provided the sites are in a compact block, full staff and equipment required are used, and all necessary stores kept ready beforehand at the work sites.

DAMODAR VALLEY PROJECT

***84. Shri Shiva Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether

any economies have been effected in the working of the Damodar Valley Project?

(b) If so, what are the nature and the extent of such economies?

(c) Has a Chief Engineer been appointed and if so, what are the terms and conditions of his appointment?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The project has been and is being worked as economically as possible.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

METERING EQUIPMENTS OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM

*85. { **Shri Hanumanthaiya:**
 { **Shri Ethirajulu Naidu:**
 { **Shri Channah:**

(a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state what are the places in India in which the metering equipments of the Telephone System have been installed?

(b) From what countries were these equipments imported and by whom?

(c) What is the cost of the equipments in each of the places?

(d) What are the fixing and operating charges of these equipments in each of the places?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Indore, Kanpur, Madras, and Poona.

(b) The equipment was imported mostly from Great Britain, some also came from Australia.

The equipment for Calcutta and Madras was obtained by the then Telephone Companies.

For other stations, it was obtained by the P. and T. Department.

(c) and (d). A statement showing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix I, annexure No. 25.*]

HIGHWAYS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

*85. **Dr. Parmar:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new highways have been constructed connecting the main centres in Himachal Pradesh with one another and with the rest of India;

(b) whether the 5 mile link between Taleri in Sirmur, and Kumhar Hati (Dagshai K. S. Railway), which will connect Simla right up to Dehra Dun has so far been constructed and if not, when it is proposed to construct it;

(c) whether the condition of the existing roads is deteriorating;

(d) whether it is a fact, that no headquarters of any District are connected with other Districts by motorable roads in Himachal Pradesh; and

(e) if so, how long will it take to do it?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) No new roads have been constructed since the formation of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) No. This forms a part of a long-term scheme to connect Dehra Dun with Simla via Poanta and Nahan. At present the road is being developed from Poanta to Nahan and a little beyond.

(c) No.

(d) No. There is more or less a direct motorable road between Mandi and Chamba. Circuitous motorable roads connect other district headquarters.

(e) Direct connecting roads between all the district headquarters will take several years to materialise owing to the hilly nature of the country and the expense involved.

**INDO-PAKISTAN CONFERENCE ON
CANAL WATER DISPUTES**

*87. **Sardar B. S. Man:** Will the Minister of **Works, Mines and Power** be pleased to state whether a conference between India and Pakistan was convened in the month of May, 1950 to settle the disputes regarding canal water?

(b) If so, what were the decisions arrived at, or the recommendations made in the conference?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes, a meeting of the Negotiators on behalf of India and Pakistan was held on 29-31 May, 1950.

(b) There was a frank exchange of views and various matters connected with the dispute were discussed. No decisions were taken and it was agreed that the negotiators on either side should seek further instructions from their respective Governments.

**DESTRUCTION OF FOOD CROPS BY
MONKEYS**

*88. **Sardar B. S. Man:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether any statistics have been taken to find how much food crops are eaten away or destroyed by monkeys in Himachal Pradesh and Delhi province annually?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to counter this evil?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) No quantitative assessment of such damage has been undertaken. But on the basis of estimates furnished by some States, it appears that there are over 2½ crores of monkeys in this country living outside the forests: a similar number is estimated to be living in forests. At a conservative estimate the damage to foodgrains caused by them is to the extent of 5 to 6 lakhs tons valued at Rs. 16 to 20 crores.

(b) Government have taken the following steps:

(1) Central Government have given to the State Governments subsidies to meet the expenditure on employment of shooting parties. During the last three years, these subsidies have the following steps:

(2) The Central Government have asked the State Governments to take the following steps:—

(i) Sanction payment of rewards for destruction of monkeys.

(ii) Employ shooting parties in suitable areas.

(iii) Permit private parties to pursue monkeys in forests and destroy them there.

(iv) Grant licences for fire-arms to suitable persons on condition that they will be used for protecting crops from wild animals.

(v) Ask licensees to loan their surplus fire-arms for destruction of monkeys.

Some State Governments have adopted these measures, but others have not shown sufficient response despite the damage caused by these monkeys to food supplies.

**PROCUREMENT PRICE OF PADDY IN
TRAVANCORE-COCHIN**

*89. **Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state whether the cost of cultivation is taken into account in fixing the procurement price of paddy?

(b) Has any representation been made by the Travancore-Cochin Government to allow them to increase this price?

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

(b) Increase in price was informally suggested but no specific proposals have so far been received.

TELEPHONE SYSTEMS IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*90. **Shri N. Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether in taking over the telephone systems of the State of Travancore-Cochin, there was a standardisation of pay of staff of the Department?

(b) Do they get equal facilities with the employees of Telephone Department in the rest of India?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) No. They continue to serve on ex-State scales of pay, allowances and conditions of service.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

ALLOTMENT OF RICE AND OTHER FOOD GRAINS TO MADRAS

*91. **Shri Alagesan:** Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state what is the quantity of rice and other food grains that has been (i) allotted and (ii) actually supplied so far to Madras during the current financial year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The Central Government allots quotas for the calendar year and not the financial year. A ceiling import quota of 900,000 tons was originally fixed for Madras for the calendar year 1950 but it has since been raised to 550,000 tons. The actual allocations made so far and the quantities supplied are shown below:

	Quantities allotted.	Tons. Quantities supplied.
Rice .	2,19,817	1,51,785
Wheat .	87,139	55,000
Other grains	53,520	18,323
	<u>3,58,476</u>	<u>2,25,108</u>

RAILWAY ENGINEERING WORKSHOP, ARKONAM

*92. **Shri Obaidullah:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Engineering workshop at Arkonam is faced with a reduction of work due to letting out certain works on contract or reduction in Capital Programme;

(b) the aggregate value of such contracts in the past two years;

(c) whether it is a fact that improved machinery and operating facilities worth over five lakhs of Rupees were sanctioned for this workshop in the past three years, and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, whether the question of large scale manufacture of engineering fittings, signal parts etc., in the workshop will be investigated with a view to keep this workshop in full production?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) The reduction of work is chiefly due to the reduction in the capital programme and not due to the giving of works on contract.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), the question does not arise.

(c) Machinery and Plant estimated to cost Rs. 4.43 lakhs were sanctioned for the workshop in the past 3 years. Of these over Rs. 3 lakhs is on renewal account and the balance for items such as road rollers, stone crushers, air compressors, concrete mixers, lorries, etc.

(d) Engineering workshops are generally meant for the manufacture of special equipment, reconditioning of unserviceable and scrap items for reuse and for the manufacture of such other articles as are not readily available but are urgently required. It is not the policy to manufacture articles in these workshops which are readily and economically obtainable in the open market. Consistently with this policy it is intended to keep the Arkonam workshops in full production for normal requirements.

DESPATCH OF TEA FROM ASSAM

*93. **Shri Chaliha:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea despatched by river routes in the years 1946 and 1947, and after partition from Assam to Calcutta docks;

(b) the quantity despatched during the above periods through Parbatipur on E. B. Railway now East Pakistan Railway;

(c) the quantity of tea despatched by the Assam Rail Link after the opening of the line; and

(d) the capacity and availability of wagons to carry tea through the Assam Rail Link from Assam?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):

(a)	
1946	10,17,000 mds.
1947	15,36,000 mds.
1948	18,03,000 mds.
1949	21,34,000 mds.

(b)	
1946	19,98,000 mds.
1947	15,84,000 mds.
1948	12,43,000 mds.
1949	13,59,000 mds.

(c) From January to May 1950, 4,60,000 mds.

(d) Traffic in tea from Assam to Calcutta is being fully cleared through Rail-cum-River route, *via* Dhubri, Pandu, and Dibrugarh and is not experiencing shortage of wagons.

It is premature to estimate the all rail route capacity that will fall to the share of tea when the Link route is restored after the repair of the breaches.

ASSAM RAIL LINK

*94. **Shri Chaliha:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of breaches in the Assam Rail Link now existing and the number already repaired.

(b) the estimated capacity of Assam Rail Link to carry tea and jute from Assam in the months of August, September and October, 1950; and

(c) the availability of wagons for carrying tea from Assam?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) There is now only one breach on the Assam Rail Link which is still in the process of repairs, nine having been repaired already.

(b) and (c). It is premature to estimate the all rail route capacity of the Link that will fall to the share of tea and jute when the Link route is restored after the repair of the breach. The distribution of the capacity of the Assam Rail Link between different commodities, including tea from Assam, in the months of August, September and October will be a matter for recommendations by the Link Movement Committee, Calcutta, who after consultation with the Governments and interests concerned apportion the available capacity.

CARRIAGE OF TEA ACROSS MANIHIRGHAT

*95. **Shri Chaliha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state how many wagons can be ferried across Manihirghat daily and how many wagons of tea are allowed to be ferried daily across the Ghats?

(b) What is the quantity of tea carried this season across the ghats from Assam?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) The changeable behaviour of the river materially affects the ferrying capacity at Manihari Ghat from time to time. The actual crossings from

Manihari Ghat to Sakrigali Ghat have averaged between 72 and 90 metre gauge wagon loads per day during the period February to May, 1950, both inclusive. Under the most favourable conditions it may be possible to ferry even more than 150 metre gauge wagon loads of traffic from Manihari Ghat to Sakrigali Ghat on any single day. The movement of Tea is planned taking into account the ferrying capacity available at Manihari Ghat, Bhagalpur and Mokameh Ghat. 45 metre gauge wagons of Tea per day are at present programmed for movement *via* the three routes taken together.

(b) 2700 metre gauge wagon loads of tea were despatched from the stations on the Assam Railway *via* the three routes mentioned in reply to part (a) during the period February to May, 1950, both inclusive. During June and the first ten days of July, 1950 another 1061 metre gauge wagons of Tea were similarly despatched. Separate figures of Tea moved from stations situated in the Assam State will be obtained and placed on the Table of the House in due course.

GRAND TRUNK ROAD

*96. **Shri Hossain Imam:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state if bridges and causeways on National Highways have to conform to any standard?

(b) Do the bridges and causeways in the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Delhi conform to this standard and if not, how many such bridges and causeways are below standard and what are the reasons for their remaining so?

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

(b) Generally no. Most of the bridges on the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Delhi are old bridges which were constructed to narrower widths and for much lighter

loads than the modern heavy vehicles for which the present standards are designed.

All the newly constructed bridges under the National Highway scheme however comply with the standards laid down. These bridges are:

- (1) Barakar Bridge in Bihar.
- (2) Poonpoon Bridge in Bihar.
- (3) Malaviya Bridge over Ganga near Banaras.

The existing old bridges and culverts, which are not to the required standard, will be replaced by new structures when missing bridges and road links in the National Highway system are constructed.

RESEARCH INSTITUTES FOR ANALYSIS AND TESTING OF SOIL

*97. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of Research Institutes where there are arrangements for the chemical analysis and testing of soil; and

(b) which of the States of the Indian Union and the cultivators thereof are getting benefit of these analyses and testing?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The hon. Member is presumably referring to the Central Research Institutes. Such Institutes, where soil testing and analysis are done, are the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, and the Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack. There are also other laboratories, the large majority of them belonging to the State Governments and attached to their Departments of Agriculture, where similar work is done. A list of such laboratories has been placed on the Table. [See *Appendix I, annexure No. 26.*]

(b) The facilities at the Central Institutes have been availed of by the large majority of Part 'C' States

and also by others, e.g. Orissa. The results of the researches at the Institutes are freely available to all the States. Based on these researches and also on the experiments conducted in their own laboratories, a large number of States have suggested to the cultivators in their respective areas various manurial practices calculated to improve crop yields.

NEW POST OFFICES FOR VILLAGES

*98. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural Post offices opened in villages having a population of two thousand and above from January, 1950 up to date (State-wise); and

(b) in how many cases the applications for such Post offices have been rejected during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal):

(a) Assam.	..	6
West Bengal.	..	49
Bihar.	..	54
Orissa.	..	18
U.P.	..	8
Punjab.	..	18
Bombay.	..	18
Madras.	..	434
Madhya Pradesh.	..	16
Rajasthan.	..	53
Madhya Bharat.	..	3
Vindhya Pradesh	..	1
Ajmer Merwara.	..	1
	Total	679

(b) In no State were any proposals rejected except 15 in Madras and 1 in the Punjab.

CROP INSURANCE

*99. **Shri Buragohain:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government have considered any scheme of Crop Insurance for the country?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): Yes, Sir.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR STAMPS AND PHILATELIC PROBLEMS

*100. **Shri Jnani Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether an advisory committee has been formed to advise the Post and Telegraph Directorate in matters of stamps and philatelic problems?

(b) If so, who are the members of the Committee?

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

(b) The Committee is composed of:

- (i) Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs . . . Chairman.
- (ii) A Philatelist. . . Member.
- (iii) An Artist . . . "
- (iv) The Master, India Security Press, Nasik . . . "
- (v) A Member of Parliament . . . "

Mr. R. F. Stoney, President, Philatelic Society of India has been nominated as a Philatelist, and Mr. V. N. Adarkar, Superintendent, Commercial Arts Section, Sir J. J. School of Arts, Bombay has been nominated as an Artist.

A Member of Parliament has yet to be nominated.

AGRIMONY

*101. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States where agrimony grows or is cultivated;

(b) the quantity of annual produce in different States;

(c) the quantity used in States and exports annually; and

(d) the steps if any, taken by Government to stop its growing?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Agrimony grows wild all over India but is most prolific in the North and Central India.

(b) and (c). The information is not available and cannot be collected as the seed has no marketable value and grows wild all over.

(d) The State Governments have been asked:

(i) to undertake legislation making it compulsory for every cultivator to remove this weed from his field, either by hand or by ploughing it up;

(ii) to undertake propaganda to explain to the cultivators the harmful effects of this weed and the method of its removal. Effective eradication of this weed can only be done with the full co-operation of the cultivator.

SUPPLY OF GRAM

*102. **Dr. Parmar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government incurred a loss of Rs. 40,000 in Chamba District due to the bad supply of gram by M/s Amar Chand Butail & sons?

(b) Is it a fact that the Advisory Council brought this matter and other complaints concerning this Commission Agent before the Chief Commissioner?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of Himachal Pradesh, after these complaints, entered into an agreement with M/s Amar Chand Butail and Sons and appointed them as Commission Agents for the whole of the State and wholesale dealers in food grains for District Mahasu for an indefinite period till the control lasts or at least for two years without calling for any tenders?

(d) Is it a fact that other suppliers are prepared to undertake this work at a saving of Rs. 2 lakhs a year to the Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) No. loss was incurred by Himachal Pradesh Government due to bad supply of gram by M/s Amar Chand Butail & Sons.

(b) The matter was discussed and explained to the Advisory Council of the Chief Commissioner. No other serious complaints were made against this firm.

(c) No. Himachal Pradesh Government have appointed this firm as Procurement Agents for Mahasu District only. They are to continue as Procurement Agents as long as procurement work is continued in this District.

(d) No. The aggregate amount of money paid as commission to this firm during the last year does not amount to Rs. 2 lakhs. The question of performing this work with a saving of Rs. 2 lakhs by other firms, therefore, does not arise.

COMMITTEE ON *Vanaspati*

*103. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether there was a proposal of late to appoint a Committee to go into the question of the effect of *Vanaspati* (vegetable oil) on ghee industry, cattle industry and rural economy?

(b) If so, is the proposal subsisting or has it been given up?

(c) If it has been given up, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) It was given up during the time of my predecessor and a departmental enquiry by an expert was instituted.

(c) it was felt that

(i) in a matter of scientific investigation it was better to have the report of an expert rather than that of a committee consisting of persons majority of whom held definite views on the question.

(ii) in view of the decision to circulate for eliciting public opinion, the hon. Member's Bill proposing to ban production and import of *vanaspati* enquiry by a Committee was not advisable.

PROPAGANDA FOR *Vanaspati*

*104. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government propose to take any action in the matter of the propaganda that the *Vanaspati* Manufacturers' Association and other interested persons, and associations are indulging in *Vanaspati* using the name of hon. Ministers of the Union and the States for the same?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): It is a fact that the *Vanaspati* Manufacturers' Association and other interested persons have been doing propaganda about *Vanaspati*. I cannot say whether this propaganda is misleading any persons.

ROAD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TRIPURA AND ASSAM

*105. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before Government for consideration regarding the construction of roads and opening up communications to Tripura from Assam side?

(b) If so, what is the proposal and by what time is it likely to be given effect to?

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

(b) The proposals are to construct one main road from Assam border near Churaibari to Agartala and three link roads from this road to Khowai, Belonia, and Sabroom.

The Churaibari-Agartala and Udaipur-Sabroom roads are already under construction and are expected to be completed by the summer of 1952. A road already exists from Agartala to Udaipur. So the completion of the Udaipur-Sabroom road will give a through road from Churaibari to Sabroom *via* Agartala.

Surveys are being made and estimates prepared for link roads connecting Khowai with the Churaibari-Agartala road at Teliamura and Belonia with the Udaipur-Sabroom road at Bogafa.

AERODROME AT AGRA

*106. **Shri Iyyunni:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether the aerodrome at Agra is allowed to be used for civil purposes?

(b) If not, what is the objection to its being so used?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) The Indian Air Force Aerodrome at Agra is available for Civil Aviation purposes whenever required.

(b) Does not arise.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FOOD PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE

*107. **Shri T. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of **Food** be pleased to state the action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Food Procurement Committee?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The Committee's report is under consideration and no decision has yet been taken.

NON-DELIVERY OF MAILS ON SUNDAYS

*108. **Shri T. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the effect of the closing of post offices and postal deliveries etc. on Sundays on the revenue and expenses of the department?

(b) Have any members of the staff been retrenched in consequence thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) It is as yet too early to give the financial effects of the Scheme, but it is estimated that the scheme will not result in any financial loss to the Department.

(b) No.

STOCKS OF WHEAT, RICE AND OTHER FOOD GRAINS

*109. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state the stock position of wheat, rice and other food grains in the country as on 30th June, 1950?

(b) What is the total quantity and value of wheat, rice and other food grains imported into India from other countries during 1949-50 and upto end of June, 1950?

(c) What was the target of procurement fixed, State by State and what has been the actual procurement made during 1949-50?

(d) Is it a fact that the Indo-Pakistan talks on wheat procurement have failed, and if so, do the Government of India still contemplate to pursue the matter?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Accurate data about stocks of food grains held by producers or trade are not available. The total stocks of rice, wheat and other grains held on Government account on 30-6-1950 are as follows:

Rice	7,51,923 tons.
Wheat	8,48,260 tons.
Other grains	3,55,365 tons

(b) The total quantity and value of imported food grains for the relevant period is as follows:

	Quantity.	Value
During 1949-50 (April 1949 to March 1950)	28.6 Lac tons.	Rs. 107.9 crores
During 1950 (April to June 1950)	4.7 Lac tons.	Rs. 18.3 (approximately) crores

(c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix I, annexure No. 27.*]

(d) The question of purchase of wheat from Pakistan is still under discussion and formal negotiations may be resumed in the near future.

NEW LOCATION FOR SUPREME COURT

*110. **Shri Dwivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power, be pleased to state whether the question of shifting the Supreme Court from its present location to some other place is under the consideration of Government?

(b) If so, have the Government come to a decision as to which place the Supreme Court shall move?

(c) What is the estimate of expenditure in this connection?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes.

(b) Not yet.

(c) The estimate of expenditure depends on the premises eventually selected for the location of the Supreme Court.

BOUNDARY LINE BETWEEN DISTRICTS OF BALLIA (U.P.) AND SHAHABAD (BIHAR).

*111. **Dr. R. S., Singh:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to refer to one of my supplementaries to Starred Question No. 1763 put on 17th April, 1950, and state whether the Committee appointed by the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for settling the dispute regarding the boundary line between the districts of Ballia (U. P.) and Shahabad (Bihar) has met and whether any time limit has been fixed for settling that dispute?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The Government of India propose to appoint a Commission shortly for the purpose.

NATIONAL HARBOUR BOARD

*112. **Shri Satish Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether a National Harbour Board has been constituted by the Government of India?

(b) If so, what are its functions and composition?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) and (b). The Government of India have, in the Ministry of Transport Resolution No. 19-P(123)/49, dated the 27th March 1950, accepted the recommendation of the West Coast Major Port Development Committee regarding the setting up of a National Harbour Board as an advisory Board to ensure integrated consideration of all important port matters, *e.g.*, port management and development affecting industry, commerce, shipping, railway, etc. The first meeting of the Board is proposed to be convened in the last week of August.

REPORT OF THE FOODGRAINS INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

***113. Shri Satish Chandra:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the report of the Foodgrains Investigation Committee which submitted its report on 30th April 1950?

(b) If so, to what extent Government have accepted the recommendations contained in the report?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). The report is under consideration and no decision has yet been taken.

RICE PROCUREMENT IN SADAR MANBHUM (BIHAR)

***114. Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice procured in Sadar Manbhumi (Bihar) this year; and

(b) the quantity despatched so far out of Sadar Manbhumi?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). The information has been called for from Bihar Government and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

RICE SCARCITY IN SADAR MANBHUM (BIHAR)

***115. Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that due to drought in 1949 there is scarcity of rice in Sadar Manbhumi and procurement has intensified this scarcity?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The information has been called for from Bihar Government and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

GRANTS TO STATES FOR KILLING MONKEYS

***116. Shri Jagannath Mishra:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what were the amounts of grants paid to different State Governments for killing monkeys in the years 1947-48 to 1950-51;

(b) what percentage of more food has been grown by this step; and

(c) whether Government propose to continue this grant for some more years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table. [See *Appendix I, annexure No. 28.*]

(b) On an average a monkey destroys 2 oz. of foodgrains per day and on the basis of monkeys killed so far, it is estimated that the savings in foodgrains amounted to about 3,348 tons per year.

(c) Yes.

PRODUCTION OF FOOD MATERIALS

***117. Shri Jagannath Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what are the particular food materials with the quantities of each, which are to be produced to make India self-sufficient?

(b) What was the quantity of such food materials produced in the years 1948-49 and 1949-50?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) All foodgrains and subsidiary foods such as potatoes, tapioca, etc., come within the purview of the Grow More Food campaign to make India self-sufficient in food. As the targets of additional production have been fixed scheme-wise and not grain-wise for each State, it is not possible to furnish figures regarding the quantities of each food grain to be produced. The targets of total additional production fixed for 1950-51 and 1951-52 over 1948-49 as the base year are:

	(Lakh tons)
1950-51 . . .	27.31*
1951-52	36.38

*Excludes figures for subsidiary foods in West Bengal and Travancore and Cochin.

(b) As stated above in reply to part (a) of the question, it is not possible to give grain-wise figures of actual production during 1948-49 and 1949-50. The additional food production achieved during these years under the Grow More Food campaign is:

(Additional production in lakh tons)	
1948-49 (over 1947-48)	7.82 (including C.T O operations and 0.15 lakh tons of potatoes and vegetables for West Bengal)
1949-50 (over 1948-49)	9.35 (including C. T O. operations and 0.75 tons of potatoes and vegetables for West Bengal but excluding figures for Madhya Bharat, P.E.P.S.U. and Vindhya Pradesh, which are not available).

TARGET OF JUTE PRODUCTION

***118. Shri B. K. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what target has been fixed for production of jute in India this year?

(b) What steps have been taken to reach that target?

(c) What is the forecast of production in different States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 41.17 lakh bales of jute.

(b) The steps taken to achieve the target include removal of legislative restrictions on cultivation of jute, extension of acreage to waste lands and *aus* paddy lands, double cropping of jute with *arian* paddy lands, use of fertilisers, subsidized distribution of improved seeds, protection of crop from pests and diseases and excavation of retting tanks.

(c) Information from the States has not yet been received.

GRANT OR LOAN TO ASSAM GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH "GROW MORE FOOD" SCHEMES.

***119. Shri Buragohain:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have given any grant or loan to the Government of Assam to meet expenditure in the current year in connection with Grow More Food schemes; and

(b) the amounts of such grants or loans, if any?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). A grant of Rs. 36,10,061 and a loan of Rs. 36,19,000 have been sanctioned.

IMPROVEMENT OF INDIA'S LIVESTOCK

***120. Shri Buragohain:** Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) India's livestock population; and

(b) the measures taken by Government in connection with the work of livestock improvement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The total livestock population on the basis of the Census held in undivided India in 1945 is estimated at 263.4 millions.

(b) The measures taken by Government in connection with the work of livestock improvement are:

- (i) Research relating to the breeding of pedigree stock, prevention and treatment of contagious animal diseases, preparation of vaccines and sera, artificial insemination, animal nutrition and dairying, is being conducted at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar and Mukteswar, Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore and Cattle Breeding Research Station at Jubbulpore. The results of research are made known to the public and to the State Governments from time to time.
- (ii) Arrangements for the collection and dissemination of timely information in regard to outbreaks of animal diseases with a view to enable the State Governments and the public to take steps to control the diseases and to prevent them spreading from place to place.
- (iii) Under the Livestock Importation Act of 1898 enacted by the Central Government, import of livestock is controlled and measures are taken by the State Governments to ensure that no new diseases are introduced into India.
- (iv) A comprehensive Bill dealing with preservation and development of the bovine cattle, preventing the slaughter of such cattle, and setting up of *Goshalas* on modern and scientific lines and *Gosadans* for use-less cattle is under preparation.

QUANTITY OF RATIONED FOODSTUFFS PER ADULT

***121. Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of Food be pleased to state whether the quantum of rationed foodstuffs allowed for each individual adult is the same throughout India wherever there is Statutory Rationing?

(b) If so, what is that quantity and if not, why not?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes, with very few exceptions the standard quantity of cereals admissible for each individual adult is the same in areas where there is statutory rationing. Heavy manual labour is also allowed 4 ozs. per day extra.

(b) It is 12 oz. per adult per day, in all States except U.P., Mysore, United States of Travancore and Cochin. In U.P. it is 14 oz., in Mysore and Travancore/Cochin the daily quantum varies from 9 oz. (for rice eaters) to 11.5 ozs. While the low quantum is attributable to availability of stocks falling short of the requirements, the position in Mysore is that mixed grain eaters, who form a large proportion of population, get a ration of 11.5 ounces and it is only rice eaters who get 9 oz. In Travancore-Cochin the basic diet for most of the population consists, in a large measure, of tapioca, a ration of 10.4 and 10 oz. of cereals is not considered to be a reduced ration.

LABOUR EMPLOYED ON KANDALA PORT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

***122. Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the number of labour, skilled and unskilled, employed in connection with the development of the major port of Kandla in Kutch, including those working on shore to provide the usual Port facilities?

(b) What arrangements have been made for the welfare of the local, or

immigrant labour working on this project?

(c) Has any of this labour been organised into a Trade Union, and if so, has such Trade Union been registered?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) No major construction work in connection with the development of Kandla as a major port has yet been started and the labour force employed now for working the minor port is negligible.

(b) Arrangements already exist for medical attendance and other aspects of labour welfare will be duly kept in mind in the construction projects.

(c) No.

MULTI-PURPOSE RIVER PROJECTS

*123. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state what progress has been made in the several multi-purpose river projects which are in process of execution, and the amount spent already on them?

(b) Have the estimates, originally made, been varied since and if so, to what extent, and for what reasons?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) Copies of the latest available progress reports in respect of the Bhakra-Nangal, Damodar, Hirakud and Kakrapara projects are laid on the Table. (*Revised statement received from the Ministry of W.M.P. placed in the Library. See No. P. 101/50.*) Loans given or expenditure incurred amounted to—

- (i) Bhakra-Nangal—Rs. 12.62 crores, loan to Punjab (I) upto 31-3-50.
- (ii) Damodar—Rs. 8.76 crores, expenditure upto 31-5-50.
- (iii) Hirakud—Rs. 3.30 crores, expenditure upto 30-6-50.
- (iv) Kakrapara—Rs. 12.29 lakhs, expenditure upto 30-6-50.

The Bhakra-Nangal project is in charge of the Punjab (India) Government. Actual figures of expenditure are not available. Similarly with the Tungabhadra project, which is being constructed by the Madras and Hyderabad Governments. Details of Kakrapara project are being given because the work is being done by Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission, although it is a Bombay State Government project solely financed by that Government.

(b) According to the project estimate, which has just been received, the Bhakra-Nangal project is estimated to cost Rs. 132.91 crores. The latest available estimate of the Damodar Project suggests that the cost has risen from Rs. 55 crores, as estimated by Mr. Voorduin, to Rs. 63 crores. The estimate of the Kakrapara Weir and Canals project has increased from Rs. 12.16 crores, as the project has been enlarged from a purely irrigation project to a multi-purpose project. It is inevitable that the estimates of multi-purpose projects, spread out over several years, should vary with changed circumstances, e.g., devaluation, rising prices, etc.

RIVER PROJECTS AFFECTED BY FLOODS IN BIHAR AND BENGAL

*124. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether any of the River projects under the control of the Central Government have been affected in any way by the recent floods in Bihar and Bengal?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): The Damodar Valley Project has not been affected in any way according to latest information received from the Damodar Valley Corporation. Other projects like Kosi and Ganga Barrage are under investigation and not likely to be affected by the recent floods.

NEW THIRD CLASS COACHES AND FANS IN THEM

11. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the number of new third class coaches introduced and the fans fitted in third class coaches so far?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): The information desired by the hon. Member is shown in the statement placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(1) New Third Class Coaches constructed and put into traffic :—

	(in terms of units)		
	B.G.	M.G.	Total
(a) 1st April, 1949 to 31st March, 1950.	146	167	313
(b) 1st April, 1950 to June, 1950.	53	40	93
Total	199*	207	406

* Includes 82 B.G. new type (interim design) coaches built by Hindustan Aircraft, Ltd., Bangalore.

(2) Total number of fans fitted in third class coaches so far. 4,350

VANA PREMI SANGH ORGANISATION

12. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government have started an organisation called "Vana Premi Sangh" (Forests Lovers Association)?

(b) If so, who is its patron and how many members have joined?

(c) What is the subscription?

(d) What is the composition of the Sangh?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) The President has been pleased to agree to be the Patron of the Sangh. There have been numerous enquiries. Members will be enrolled after the constitution has been approved.

(c) and (d). The constitution of the Sangh will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

ENQUIRY COMMITTEES FOR RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

13. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) in how many cases Enquiry Committees were appointed to investigate the causes of railway accidents in the financial year 1949-1950; and

(b) in how many cases reports have been submitted?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) 1,296 cases involving trains.

(b) In 1,292 cases.

FRANKING MACHINES

14. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state how many franking machines are being used by the public for stamping their post?

(b) What are the rates charged for the use of these machines?

(c) What is the revenue derived during the financial year 1949-50?

(d) How many Government offices use these machines?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) 1,244.

(b) The Department does not charge any fees for granting licences for use of franking machines. The cost of franking machines, which is borne by the users, is Rs. 960 for a "Neo Post" franking machine and Rs. 1,900 for a "Universal" franking machine.

(c) Rs. 88,84,793-6-7.

(d) 35.

LOCUST INVASIONS

15. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Agriculture** be pleased to state the normal expenditure incurred on prevention of locust invasions?

(b) What additional expenditure has been incurred since the 1st of April 1950?

(c) To what extent has the possibility of locust invasion been controlled?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Rs. 1,50,000 per annum.

(b) Rs. 20,972.

(c) Steps have been taken on a war emergency basis to keep down the locust population in the breeding areas in this country. An extensive field organisation with 27 outposts in the desert areas and in the States likely to be affected has been set up. But control can only be effective if adequate measures are taken in Pakistan, Iran and Arabia as provided by an International Convention. In these countries locusts breed during winter and spring and then migrate to India.

ELECTRIC SUPPLY IN DELHI

16. Dr. Deshmukh: Will the Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for scarcity of electric supply in Delhi; and

(b) by what date is the supply expected to meet the demand?

The Minister of Works, Mines and Power (Shri Gadgil): (a) The abnormal growth of the population in Delhi during the last three years and the difficulty in getting quick delivery of adequate and suitable generating plant from abroad have been responsible to a great extent for the present scarcity of electric power in Delhi.

(b) The Delhi Central Electric Power Authority hope to commission in the next four months their 5,000 KW set which will meet the present urgent requirement of Government and the public. Another 20,000 KWs of power is expected to become available by the end of next year which will greatly improve the electricity supply position in Delhi. The demands for electric power in Delhi will be fully met when a further block of 20,000 KWs becomes available from the Bhakra-Nangal Project in 1952-58.

NON-DELIVERY OF MAILS ON SUNDAYS

17. Dr. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be

pleased to state the date from which Sunday delivery of mails has been discontinued?

(b) Was this proposal approved by the Standing Advisory Committee of the Ministry?

(c) What is the saving that was calculated to accrue as a result of this proposal and what saving has actually accrued?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) 7th May, 1950.

(b) The proposal was not placed before the Standing Advisory Committee.

(c) The measure was not introduced to effect any economy. The object was to give a weekly holiday to the staff.

CARRIAGE OF MAIL FOR JORHAT

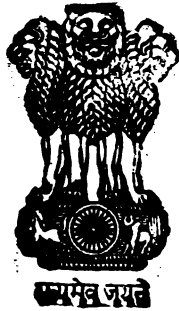
18. Shri Chaliha: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that mail for Jorhat is carried by air to Mohanbari (Dibrugarh) and then sent back to Jorhat by rail (a distance of about 120 miles); and

(b) whether Government are aware that it takes three days for a letter to reach Jorhat from Calcutta?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Khurshed Lal): (a) The facts are not as stated by the hon. Member. Mails for Jorhat were being carried by air upto Gauhati and not to Dibrugarh. From Gauhati they were being conveyed by train upto Mariani Junction and from there by motor transport to Jorhat. Arrangements have been made, however, with effect from the 1st August, 1950 to convey First Class mails by air to Jorhat itself.

(b) Letters posted in Calcutta were being delivered in Jorhat on the third day morning. Under the new arrangements, all letters will be delivered on the afternoon of the second day.



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME V, 1950

(31st July, 1950 to 14th August, 1950)

Second Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950



CONTENTS

Volume V—21st July, 1950 to 14th August, 1950

CONTENTS

MONDAY, 31ST JULY, 1950—

President's Address to Parliament	1—16
---	------

TUESDAY, 1ST AUGUST, 1950—

Business of the House	17
Death of Shri A. B. Lathe	18
Resignations of Dr. John Matthai and Shri Motilal Pandit	18
Leave of absence from the House	18—19
The President's Assent to Bills	20

Papers laid on the Table—

Documents on Korean Affairs	20—21
Treaty of friendship between the Government of India and the Imperial Government of Iran	20—21
Report of the Indian Delegation to the Ninth Session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council	20—21

WEDNESDAY, 2ND AUGUST, 1950—

Death of Mr. Bhaskarrao V. Jadhav	107—108
Leave of absence from the House	108

Papers laid on the Table—

Delhi Road Transport Authority (Motor Vehicles Insurance Fund) Rules, 1950	108
Report on Fourth Session of Transport and Communications Commission	108—109
Delhi Road Transport Authority (Members Allowances and Fees) Rules, 1950	109
Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules, 1950	109
Report of the Indian Delegation to Second Session of International Rice Commission, February, 1950	109
Report on Second meeting of F. A. O. Nutrition Committee for South East Asia	110
Report on Fifth Annual Conference of Food and Agriculture Organisation	110
Supplementary statement showing the action taken on assurances, promises and undertakings given during November-December Session, 1949	110
Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	110—111
Motion on Address by the President— <i>Concluded</i>	111—141, 141—214
Member Sworn	141

THURSDAY, 3RD AUGUST, 1950—

Papers laid on the Table—

Amendments to Federal Public Service Commission (Consultation by the Governor-General) Regulations and Union Public Service Commission (Consultation) Regulations	215—216
Revised Regulation 54 of General Regulations of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India	216
Central Excises and Salt Notifications	216
Motion <i>re</i> : Korean Situation— <i>not concluded</i>	217—290

	Columns
FRIDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 1950—	
Message from the President	291
Cooch-Bihar (Assimilation of Laws) Bill—Introduced	291—292
Dentists (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	292
Naval Forces (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill—Introduced	292—293
Motion <i>re</i> : Korean Situation—Adopted	293—299
MONDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 1950—	
Deaths of Shri Akhil Chandra Datta and Shri Gopinath Bardoloi	391—393
Motions for Adjournment—	
Strike by Delhi Tongawalas	393—395
Papers laid on the Table—	
Notifications making certain further amendments to the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1920 and 1937	395—396
Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	396
Ajmer Rural Boards and Municipalities (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	396—397
Allianz Und Stuttgarter Life Insurance Bank (Transfer) Bill—Introduced	397
Contingency Fund of India Bill—Introduced	397
Business of the House	398
Motion <i>re</i> : Bengal Situation— <i>not concluded</i>	398—482
TUESDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 1950—	
Sugar Crisis Enquiring Authority Bill—Introduced	483
Motion <i>re</i> : Bengal Situation— <i>not concluded</i>	483—52
	528—596
Business of the House	526—528
WEDNESDAY, 9TH AUGUST, 1950—	
Members Sworn	597
Motion <i>re</i> : Bengal Situation— <i>concluded</i>	597—623
Census (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	623
Salaries of Ministers (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	623
Preventive Detention (Amendment) Bill—Passed	624—639
Demands for Supplementary Grants for 1950-51	639—706
Demand No. 8—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)	640—665
Demand No. 9—Cabinet	665—704
Demand No. 11—Ministry of Home Affairs	704—705
Demand No. 13—Ministry of Law	705—706
THURSDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 1950—	
Papers laid on the Table—	
Forty Second Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Explosives in India	707
Business of the House	708—712
Fair Wages Bill—Introduced	712
Motion <i>re</i> : Treaty of Friendship with Iran	712—736
Voluntary Surrender of Salaries (Exemption from Taxation) Bill—Passed	737—742
Cantonment Laws (Extension and Amendment) Bill—Passed, as amended	742—765
Naval Forces (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill—Passed	765—789
Minimum Wages (Amendment) Bill—Passed	789—796
Discussion on Government Housing Factory at Delhi— <i>concluded</i>	796—808

FRIDAY, 11TH AUGUST, 1950—

Papers laid on the Table—

Declarations of Exemption under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939	809—810
Annual Report of the Central Electricity Commission for 1948-49	810
Report of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee	810—811
The Constitution (Removal of Difficulties) Order, No. II (Second Amendment) Order	895—897
Motion <i>re</i> : Report of the Rural Banking Enquiry Committee—Adopted	811—812
Influx from Pakistan (Control) Amendment Bill—Introduced	812
Ajmer Tenancy and Land Records (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	812—813
Salaries of Ministers (Amendment) Bill—Passed	813—839
Census (Amendment) Bill—Passed	840—841
Dentists (Amendment) Bill—Passed	841—871
Contingency Fund of India Bill—Passed	871—891
Demand for Supplementary Grant for 1950-51	892
Demand No. 19-A.—Transfer to the Contingency Fund of India	892
Financial Laws (Amendment) Bill—Motion to consider— <i>not concluded</i>	892—895
Closing of Post Offices on Sundays	898—910

SATURDAY, 12TH AUGUST, 1950—

Appropriation (No. 3) Bill—Introduced	911
Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill—Introduced	911—913
Delhi Premises (Requisition and Eviction) Amendment Bill—Introduced	913
Resolution <i>re</i> : making of laws by Parliament with respect to certain matters in State List for one year—Adopted	913—995
Finance Laws (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	995—1008

MONDAY, 14TH AUGUST, 1950—

Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> : Toofan Express Accident	1009—1012, 1112—1123
Business of the House	1012
Paper laid on the Table—	
Report of the Indian Delegation to the Fourth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, 1949	1013
Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Amendment Bill—Passed, as amended	1013—1112
Influx from Pakistan (Control) Amendment Bill—Passed	1123—1127
Appropriation (No. 3) Bill—Passed	1127—1128

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

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

OFFICIAL REPORT

107

108

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

*Wednesday, 2nd August, 1950**The House met at a Quarter to
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(See Part I)

11-45 A. M.

DEATH OF MR. BHASKARRAO
V. JADHAV

Mr. Speaker: Before we proceed I have again the painful duty of informing hon. Members of the sad demise of another Member of the Central Assembly, the predecessor of this House, Mr. Bhaskarrao V. Jadhav. He was a very prominent figure in the Bombay Presidency. He died at a ripe age and was in the forefront of public life. He went to represent the claims of certain communities before the Parliamentary Committee in England in 1919. He was for some time a Member of the Bombay Legislative Council and thereafter the Minister of Education and the Minister of Agriculture in the Presidency of Bombay. He was a leader of the Non-Brahmin Party in the Bombay Presidency and he was also a Delegate to the Round Table Conference in 1930-31. He was a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly from 1930 to 1934.

We regret his death and we offer our best condolences to the family of the deceased. The House may stand in silence for a minute.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM
THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform hon. Members that Lt.-Col. Kanwar Dalel Singh and Thakur Bhanu Pratap Singh have requested for leave of absence from all meetings during this session on account of illness. Is it the pleasure of the House to grant them leave?

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE
DELHI ROAD TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
(MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE FUND)
RULES, 1950

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

REPORT ON FOURTH SESSION OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION

Shri Gopalaswami: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report

[Shri Gopaldaswami]

by India's representative on the Fourth Session of the Transport and Communications Commission held in Lake Success, New York in March-April, 1950. [Placed in the Library. See No. IVM6(15).]

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

Shri Gopaldaswami: I beg also to lay 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 the Library. See No. P-98/50.]

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS (COMPENSATION)
 RULES, 1950

Shri Gopaldaswami: I beg further to lay on the Table, in accordance with sub-section (3) of Section 82J of the Indian Railways Act, a copy of the Railway Accidents (Compensation) Rules, 1950, published in the Ministry of Railways Notification No. 898-T G., dated the 27th June, 1950. [Placed in the Library. See No. P-99/50.]

REPORT OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION
 TO SECOND SESSION OF INTERNATIONAL
 RICE COMMISSION, FEBRUARY 1950

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Indian Delegation to the Second Session of the International Rice Commission held in Rangoon in February, 1950. [Placed in the Library. See No. II-C.F.(d) (98).]

REPORT ON SECOND MEETING OF
 F.A.O. NUTRITION COMMITTEE FOR
 SOUTH EAST ASIA

Shri K. M. Munshi: I also beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Indian Delegate to the Second Meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization Nutrition Committee for South East Asia held in Rangoon in February, 1950. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 29.]

REPORT ON FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
 OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
 ORGANISATION

Shri K. M. Munshi: I further beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (without appendices) of the Indian Delegation to the Fifth Annual Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation held in Washington in November-December, 1949. [Placed in the Library. See No. II-C.1(d)(92).]

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT SHOWING
 THE ACTION TAKEN ON ASSURANCES,
 PROMISES AND UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN
 DURING NOVEMBER-DECEMBER SESSION,
 1949

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, I beg to lay on the table a supplementary statement showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the November-December Session, 1949 of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative). [See Appendix II].

MINIMUM WAGES (AMEND-
 MENT) BILL

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.”

The motion was adopted.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I introduce the Bill.

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

Mr. Speaker: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved yesterday by Shri M. Tirumala Rao and seconded by Kumari Padmaja Naidu and the amendments in respect of that motion.

The Minister of Home Affairs and the States (Sardar Patel): As I was listening yesterday to the learned speech of my hon. friend Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru with all the attention that I could command, my mind went back thirty years ago, when the Legislative Chambers of this country were dominated by the Party to which my hon. friend has the honour to belong and when thousands and thousands of our young men and old men, and women were detained without any cause or for the simple reason that they were fighting for a patriotic cause, for the liberty of the country. Then we missed the eloquence and the vehemence with which my hon. friend pleaded the cause of civil liberty yesterday for people whose avowed object is to disrupt society by violent means. He has dealt with two aspects, one referring to the Central Government, in which he charged the Central Government with improper use of the powers that have been given or improper administration of the powers that have been given to them under the Preventive Detention Act which was passed by this House some time ago. I wish to take this House into confidence that so far as the Centrally Administered Areas are concerned there were 177 detenus a year ago; there is only one detenu today.

That man is in detention on a charge of espionage; on behalf of a foreign country. Will you now, I ask, charge the Central Government for improper use of the powers that have been given to them? What else do you expect from us?

Now the other aspect is about the administration of the Act by the Provinces and the improper scrutiny or probably the inaccurate or insufficient scrutiny by me at the time when the Bill was passed. So far as that criticism is concerned, I think six months ago the House was given the opportunity to closely scrutinize all the sections of that small Act, and if I have failed, I have the consolation that I shall share the failure in this respect with all the Members of this House, of which the hon. Member is one. That Bill was passed six months ago.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): I was not present here in India when the Bill was passed.

Sardar Patel: I am sorry that the hon. Member was not present. Time and tide wait for no man and the House waits for no man however important he may be but even after that when he knew that the Bill was passed, it was his duty to make efforts to bring an amending Bill or to point out to the Government the improper use that was being made of those powers.

Now I proceed to deal with the administration of the Act by the Provinces. His whole attack has unfortunately been on the Bombay Government, whose administration in my opinion, is the best of all the States. When he said that we ought to be grateful to the High Court for safeguarding the liberties of the people, I make bold to say that this House and the millions of people in India should be grateful to those administrators of the Government of Bombay, whose efficiency, *bona fides*, and integrity have never been doubted by anybody.

[Sardar Patel]

He referred to classes of cases and to the judicial pronouncements. In one class of cases the High Court held that while the magistrate passed orders it was found by the Court that the magistrate had no jurisdiction. There may be two opinions about that. If a detenu committed a certain act in a particular area but it affected the security of his district or he belonged to that district and committed those acts outside, the magistrate thought that he had jurisdiction and therefore ordered his detention. The High Court acquitted those cases not on merits but on the technical ground that the magistrate had no jurisdiction. Therefore the Government of Bombay issued orders on their own behalf and re-arrested these men. That is a common procedure even followed in ordinary criminal cases where the accused is discharged for want of jurisdiction, he is arrested again and placed before a proper court having proper jurisdiction. How can you blame the Government of Bombay and say that their action was *mala fide*? I think we must at least be fair to those people on whom we have placed a very heavy and difficult burden of administration of a newly born democracy, where all elements combine to disrupt society.

Now what is the second class of cases? The second class is of those whom the High Court discharged or acquitted on the ground that they were in detention for two years and therefore, there was no reason to believe that they were any longer dangerous. I do not want to dispute the reason behind that view. I make bold to say that for the class of people who have been acquitted or discharged, the Administration had every reason to believe that if they are let out, they were going again to enlist a larger number of people to follow the same policy. What is the policy?

After two years of hard work done by our administrative units and the tremendous efforts of the Police,

these people have been made to confess at least that a bomb or throwing an acid bottle or dislocation of a Railway or the cutting of telegraph wires is not the kind of revolution that can succeed; they realized that after two years and that if it is a *bona fide* statement, but at what cost? How many innocent lives have been lost in the dislocation of Railways? Have you any idea of the number of innocent people travelling at night and who—suddenly when the train slips out because the rails have been removed—have met with most violent deaths? Yet no word of sympathy has been expressed on that account, but you criticise the actions of the Government here.

The Bombay Government has respected the decision of the High Court in spite of this difference of opinion; and that difference is real because to illustrate the leader of the group who was released immediately after his release made a statement. I will make a present of that statement to you to read. In the very first interview that he gave in Bombay, what did he say? He wants an army of liberation to liberate society by violent means on the lines in which it is being done in certain districts in Hyderabad. You want this to be allowed to be done in this country? Is that the class of people for whose civil liberty you are advocating? I believe that if the Bombay Government had followed a different policy, they would have been charged as criminals. They are responsible for the liberty of millions of people including the liberty of the Judges of the High Court sitting on the Bench. These are not people who will spare Judges or Ministers. So, there must be some limit. If there is a mistake in individual cases, it can be corrected. But, to condemn the policy of the Government would be highly unfair.

There is a third class of cases in which it is said that the grounds given were not sufficient and therefore they were released. Here also

I wish to say that the Act makes no provision for giving full details of grounds. Therefore, they honestly believed that it was not necessary for them to give such details to the accused. The High Court took a different view. We bowed to the decision of the High Court. They are our own High Courts. We are proud that they have become advocates of liberty. But, we are equally proud of our Governments in view of the difficult circumstances in which they are working. Who would like to become an unpopular Government by putting people in jail, particularly after their own personal experience of detention for years? They do not want to do so. This is the thing. A question has been put by my friend; how many of you would like to be detained for a week without sufficient cause? I must, with due respect, say that the question has been addressed to the wrong people.

Shri Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): We have already had so much of it.

Sardar Patel: We have not been detained for weeks, but years without cause. We did not know for what we were being detained. Several times we were not allowed to know whether our relatives were living or not. We were not allowed to know what was happening outside. The facilities that have been given to these people in jail, many people would prefer them to the liberty outside. Those people who have made sacrifices for civil liberty are not less able to appreciate what civil liberty is. But, my friend does not know or does not appreciate that the very liberty for which we have fought and which we hold dear is at stake.

See what is happening all round India! See where the world is today! Debating in a House like this where there is complete protection, you think that it is so all round. You talk of civil liberty. My friends, I would like any of you, to go to Old Delhi where meetings are held every day and where speeches are made

that were never made before in the whole history of India. The vulgar speeches they make, the vituperative language that they use and the violence that they preach, you should go and hear!

There are two challenges that we have to meet. There is a challenge from a class of people who delight in, and who believe it their duty to widen the gulf between community and community, to create hatred between community and community. There is another class of people who want to disrupt the society and the democratic institutions with violence, without any scruples. We are going to meet both the challenges with all our resources.

My friend referred to the case of Mr. Bhopatkar. I know Mr. Bhopatkar is a revered leader. I have worked with him as a comrade. But, the Hindu Mahasabha, to a certain extent is an organisation which has a complex about it. You must remember that when the Father of the Nation was murdered, it was by a group of people who belonged to that organisation. I am ready to prove to anybody that there was a group of people there who were determined to take his life. They were not satisfied even after taking his life. He tells me that the Magistrate did not know who was the Minister to be murdered. He wants to know it. Well, I shall meet his challenge. The Minister meant was the Prime Minister of India.

What do you get by knowing that? And the information was given by an associate of Mr. Bhopatkar. You wish everything to be divulged! Is it in the public interest? Can the police take risks? When Mahatma Gandhi was murdered, the Ministry was being attacked for not protecting his life. I was not spared. When we take precautions, you say civil liberty is at stake. Where are we to go?

[Sardar Patel]

We do not arrest people in order to stifle opposition. I challenge anybody to show an instance in which a single individual has been arrested during our regime for stifling opposition. On the contrary, I have told the communists often, and so has our revered leader the Prime Minister, that the communists are free to contest the polls if they adopt the method of non-violence. If they do not, if they persist in their methods, they must take their chance; I cannot help it.

What we have done up to now is that we have given a freedom which was never enjoyed by the country before. Read the newspapers 8, 9 or 10 which continuously incite violence. What is the meaning of your reading a sentence from a judgment of the Chief Justice where he says that there should be no objection to criticism of or disaffection against Government. See the volume of preaching of disaffection against the Government: such as was never heard of before us! Our own colleagues preach disaffection. We do not mind it. Many people do it. Everywhere you find it.

He says that this Act gives greater powers and it is more severe. Has he balanced the thing? In this Act, we have given power for the scrutiny of cases of detenus by a judicial officer of the rank of a High Court Judge, whose decision is mandatory and we are bound to accept it. It was not so in the past. What is it that you want? I know the defects of this Act. We know the circumstances in which we were forced to bring in this Act. But, the defects are on both sides.

I am going to bring in, I promise, a well considered measure either in the next session or at least in the Budget session, because I think that the aim of this Government must be clear, the objective of this Government must be understood properly, not only in this House, but outside also, in the country

as a whole, that no amount of propaganda however violent will deter this Government from maintaining law and order in this country. In the whole of South East Asia, this is the only stable country where democracy can function. We are still proud of the performance that we have put in in the short period of our office. We may have failed; a beginner may make mistakes. But, will you not appreciate and encourage our Governments, our Units who are functioning in very difficult circumstances?

Take a province like Bombay, the centre of Communist activity since its birth, the place of revolutionaries who claim that there should be a Hindu communal government in this country, perhaps not only a Hindu, but a sectional Brahminical government of this country. If that is the aim and object of a set of people, then I tell you that we are performing the elementary functions of a civilized government in detaining these people. We are not keeping them a day longer than is necessary. We do not take delight in it. But we are prepared to take up any challenge from any quarter.

I may also warn this House that there are elements in this country, who want to disrupt the very fabric of our society, there are people who think that under the garb of linguistic provinces they can create conditions for communal provinces and disturb the peace in the country, and who say, "Aurengzeb was not able to do this, then how are these people going to do so?" I say their place is in the mad-house, the lunatic asylum. We shall see that this Government functions in such a way that no combination of any group or of all the groups together can disturb law and order in this country. Therefore, I expect words of appreciation rather than of disparagement. I love civil liberty of my people more than anybody: but I cannot sacrifice or put the civil liberty of millions in danger for the liberty, for the criminal liberty, of

a few who, to my mind, are fanatical, and lunatically inclined.

The House knows that we have just liquidated a large number of States. But we have yet to liquidate a large number of vested interests. We have yet to fight the communal canker.

My friend complains about the detention of Bhopatkar. But does he not know that we were forced to take that action at a time when Bengal was disrupted? I mean not the partition, but the after effects of it, when the two Bengals or at least hundreds on either side were being butchered mercilessly and we were putting ourselves to disgrace all over the world? Well, that was not the place for communal hatred to be spread. That was not the occasion for asking for the two Bengals to unite, or for asking India and Pakistan to unite. That is not the method of unity. That is the Korean method. But there they have a method in their madness. They have prepared. They have an army. They have ships. But here people give speeches, excite the people and run away the very next day. They are not the people whose liberty we should care for, because as a result of their teachings thousands are butchered and many women have lost their honour. And subsequently, when everything is quiet, they come to the refugees and excite them, incite them, and blame the Government for everything. That has been the fashion these days—that is called civil liberty. Well, that is not civil liberty.

श्री जे० झार० कपूर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, राष्ट्रपति जी ने जो भाषण दिया, उस के लिये उन के प्रति जो कृतज्ञता प्रकट करने का प्रस्ताव उपस्थित किया गया है, उस का समर्थन करते हुए मुझे बहुत हर्ष होता है। उस भाषण की सरलता, उस की स्पष्टता और उस में जो प्रत्यक्ष सच्चाई भरी हुई है वह राष्ट्रपति जी के लिये हम

लोगों के हृदयों की श्रद्धा सहज ही मैं आकर्षित कर लेती हूँ।

यह संसद का अधिवेशन, अध्यक्ष महोदय, प्रधानतः कोरिया के फ़गड़ों के कारण बुलाया गया हूँ जिस के कारण सारे संसार में लड़ाई के घनघोर बादल छाये हुए हैं। इस से आशंका इस बात की है कि कहीं विश्वव्यापी युद्ध शीघ्र ही न छिड़ जाये। हमारे जैसे शान्तिप्रिय देश के लिये ऐसी परिस्थिति में बड़ी चिन्ता का उत्पन्न हो जाना स्वाभाविक है। हमारे राष्ट्रपति जी ने अपने भाषण में यह कामना प्रकट की है कि कोरिया की लड़ाई जल्दी खत्म हो जाये और संसार के सब शान्तिप्रिय देशों के अनवरत प्रयत्नों से फिर विश्व शान्ति स्थापित हो जाये। वह कामना बड़ी सुन्दर कामना है, बड़ी पवित्र कामना है और सारे देश की भी यही कामना है। हम लोगों के हृदयों से भी इसी कामना की प्रतिध्वनि निकलती है और हम लोगों के हृदय से भगवान के चरणों में यह प्रार्थना चली जाती है कि वह सब देशों को यह सबबुद्धि दे कि वह निरन्तर इस बात का प्रयत्न करते रहें कि सदा संसार में शान्ति स्थापित रहे।

ऐसी परिस्थिति में, अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारी सरकार ने जो रुख अस्तयार किया है वही सर्वोत्तम रुख है और विश्व शान्ति परिषद् के दो प्रस्तावों का समर्थन कर के हमारी सरकार ने यह बिस्वा दिया है कि यह बहादुरी के साथ जिस समय जो काम करना चाहिये, जो कर्तव्य उस को पालन करना चाहिये, वह काम और कर्तव्य पालन करने के लिये वह सदा तैयार रहती है। इस से हमारे देश का मान सारे संसार में निश्चय ही बहुत बढ़ गया है लेकिन अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस राष्ट्रपति जी के भाषण के सम्बन्ध में मुझे एक बात विशेष रूप से

[श्री जे० आर० कपूर]

कहनी है और वह यह है कि उस भाषण में नियंत्रण, चीजों का नियंत्रण या कंट्रोल (control) दूर करने की कोई चर्चा नहीं है। उस में यह भी संकेत नहीं है कि निकट भविष्य में इन चीजों का नियंत्रण दूर किया जायेगा या इस ओर विशेष रूप से सरकार कोई ध्यान दे रही है।

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बात बड़े खेद की है और देश के लोगों को इस बात से बहुत निराशा हुई है। इस समय सारे देश की यह अवस्था है कि एक स्वर से सारा देश कह रहा है कि इन कंट्रोलों को दूर करना चाहिये। सब लोग चिल्ला चिल्ला कर कह रहे हैं कि इन कंट्रोलों को दूर किया जाये। छुपा कर के इन्हें हटाइये, हम इस से परेशान हैं। इस से चारों तरफ बेईमानी बढ़ रही है, चारों तरफ रिशवत चल रही है, चारों तरफ ब्लैक मार्केट (black-market) का बाजार गर्म है और सारे देश में नैतिक पतन हो रहा है। इस तरह से इस देश के एक कोने से दूसरे कोने तक यह आवाज उठ रही है—पर हमारी सरकार के कानों पर, प्रतीत होता है, जू भी नहीं रेंगी है और इसलिये हमारी सरकार ने राष्ट्रपति से इस विषय में एक शब्द भी कहने को नहीं कहा। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर यह क्यों हो रहा है। हमारी सरकार इस बात का दावा करती है और ठीक ही दावा करती है कि यह जनता की सरकार है और जो जनता चाहती है वही काम करना इस का कर्तव्य है। तब फिर मैं पूछता हूँ कि जनता की इस आवाज के अनुसार सरकार कंट्रोलों के सिलसिले में क्यों नहीं काम करती। क्या, उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बताऊँ कि इस समय किन-किन लोगों की राय कंट्रोलों के खिलाफ

है। इस संसद के ज्यादातर सदस्यों की यही राय है कि इन कंट्रोलों को दूर कर देना चाहिये। कुछ दिन हुए मैंने यह जानने के लिये कि कंट्रोलों के सिलसिले में उनकी क्या राय है एक सवाल इस संसद के सारे सदस्यों की सेवा में भेजा था। जो जवाब उन लोगों ने दिये उन से प्रकट होता है कि उन में से ९० प्रतिशत से अधिक लोगों की यह राय है कि कंट्रोल हटा दिये जायें। इसके अलावा यहां के कांग्रेस दल ने एक सवाल सारे देश के मुख्य मुख्य लोगों को भेजा था। भिन्न भिन्न प्रान्तों की असेम्बलियों के मेम्बरों की सेवा में इकोनामिस्ट्स (Economists) की सेवा में, और मजदूर नेताओं की सेवा में भी भेजा था। देश की भिन्न भिन्न ज्यूपारी संस्थाओं की सेवा में भी भेजा था। और इस देश में जो अन्य संस्थायें हैं उनकी सेवा में भी भेजा था। उन लोगों के जवाब जो अभी तक आये हैं, और वह बड़ी तादाद में आये हैं, उन से यह विदित होता है कि उनमें से अधिकतर लोगों की यह स्पष्ट राय है कि कंट्रोल दूर कर देने चाहियें। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह मैं विशेष रूप से बताना चाहता हूँ कि उन में लेबर लीडर्स (Labour leaders) भी हैं, इकोनामिस्ट्स भी हैं और हर फिरके के लोग हैं। उन में हर राजनीतिक दल के लोग हैं। और उनकी राय यही है कि कंट्रोल दूर कर दिये जाने चाहियें। मैं तो कहना चाहता हूँ कि अब तो उन लोगों की राय भी कंट्रोल हटाने के पक्ष में है जो कि थोड़े दिन पहले कंट्रोल रखने के पक्ष में थे, कल ही हमने अपने माननीय मित्र प्रोफेसर के० टी० शाह का भाषण सुना, जिस में उन्होंने कहा कि थियोरैटिकली (theoretically) वह कंट्रोल के पक्ष में हैं, यानी इस मानी में कि यदि बहुत अच्छी तरह से

नियंत्रण रखा जा सके और उसकी कार्रवाई बहुत अच्छी तरह से की जा सके तो भले ही कंट्रोल रखे जायें। आज से पहले जो व्यक्ति कंट्रोल के पूरी तरह पक्ष में थे आज वह भी उससे ऊब कर यह कहने लगे हैं कि ऐसे कंट्रोलों से तो कंट्रोलों का जनाजा निकाल देना ही अच्छा है। मैं प्रोफेसर के० टी० शाह की इस राय के लिए कृतज्ञ हूँ क्योंकि उन जैसे बड़े सोशलिस्ट की ऐसी राय होना हमारे पक्ष का बहुत कुछ समर्थन करती है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह और पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर वह कौन लोग हैं जो इस कंट्रोल को रखना चाहते हैं सिवा सरकारी कर्मचारियों के और उन मंत्रियों के जो उन कर्मचारियों के कहने में हैं। यदि उनकी निजी राय यह है तो दूसरी बात है। किन्तु ऐसा प्रतीत नहीं होता क्योंकि मंत्री पद ग्रहण करने के पहिले उन की यह राय नहीं थी, सिवा इन दोनों के इस समय देश में कौन है जो कंट्रोल के पक्ष में है ? जो लोग माल पैदा करते हैं, जो फैक्टरियों के मालिक हैं और जो उत्पादन करते हैं वह सब एक स्वर से कहते हैं कि उत्पादन करने में इस से हमारे सामने दिक्कतें पैदा होती हैं। अभी कुछ दिन हुए कि इस संसद के कुछ सदस्य (Industrial areas) इंडस्ट्रियल क्षेत्र में घूमने गए थे, यह देखने कि हमारे कल कारखाने किस तरह चल रहे हैं। वहां जब हम उद्योगपतियों से मिले तो उन्होंने ने हम से कहा कि यदि आप हम से यह आशा करते हैं कि हम उत्पादन बढ़ायें तो कृपा कर के सरकार से हमारी ओर से निवेदन कीजिये कि इन कंट्रोलों को दूर कर दें, वरना क्रमदम क्रमदम पर हमारे सामने कठिनाईयां आती हैं और बावजूद इस के कि सरकार हम से कहती है, हम भी चाहते हैं और देश का हित भी इसी में है

कि उत्पादन बढ़े, लेकिन इन कंट्रोलों के कारण हमारे हाथ पैर बंधे हुए से दिखाई देते हैं। यदि कंट्रोल की जंजीरें आप नहीं तुड़ा सकते तो जबानी चाहे जितनी बातें कहा कीजिये आप को उत्पादन में सफलता नहीं मिल सकती।

इस के अलावा आप मिडिल मैन (middle-men) अर्थात् ब्योपारियों को लीजिये। वह लोग तो कंट्रोल से तंग आ गये हैं। उन में से बहुतों के रोजगार जाते रहे हैं। और वह आप से यह बहुत जोर से निवेदन करते हैं कि कंट्रोल हट जाने से उन का भी रोजगार चलेगा और उस के साथ ही साथ जो विशेष बात वह कहते हैं वह यह है कि यदि वह रोजगार करेंगे तो वह इनकमटैक्स (Income-tax) भी देंगे। पर जब उन का ब्योपार ही खत्म हो जायेगा और उन की आमदनी ही न होगी तो आप इनकमटैक्स किस पर लगायेंगे। इस से इनकमटैक्स में भी बहुत बड़ा घाटा होगा।

अन्त में आप लीजिये कंस्यूमर (consumers) को, उन लोगों को जो उत्पादित वस्तुओं का उपभोग करते हैं। वह लोग भी चिल्ला चिल्ला कर कहते हैं कि बाज्र आए हम ऐसे कंट्रोल से। धनी लोग जो हैं उनकी भी कंट्रोल से मुश्किल है क्योंकि उन्हें भी बड़ी परेशानी से सामान मिलता है लेकिन उनके पास तो पैसा है इसलिए वह इस समय ब्लैक मारकेट से भी सामान खरीद लेते हैं। लेकिन फिर भी वह बड़े परेशान हैं। आप कहेंगे कि उनकी परेशानी दूर करने की हमें कोई विशेष चिन्ता नहीं है। अच्छी बात है उन लोगों को जहन्नुम में जाने दीजिए। लेकिन उन गरीब आदमियों के लिए तो आप कंट्रोल दूर कीजिए जो कि यह कहते हैं कि हम इससे बहुत परेशान हैं। आप कहते हैं कि यदि हम कंट्रोल हटा देंगे तो गरीब आदमियों

[श्री जे० आर कपूर]

को चीज मंहगी मिलेगी । पहले आप अनाज को ही लीजिए जो कि खास चीज है और जो गरीब आदमियों को चाहिए । आप यह उनको सस्ते दाम पर देना चाहते हैं । क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि जितना अन्न बाब गरीबों को देते हैं राशन में वह उन के काम के लिए काफी नहीं है ? मैं माननीय कृषि मंत्री का ध्यान विशेष रूप से इस ओर आकर्षित करूंगा यदि उन्हें मरी बात सुनने की जरा भी इच्छा है अन्यथा यदि वह और बातों में ही मशगूल हैं और यह भी नहीं जानना चाहते कि इस संसद के लोगों की इसमें क्या राय है तो दूसरी बात है । परन्तु उनका यह एटीट्यूड (attitude) यानी रख सरकार के रख के अनुसार ही होगा कि वह कंट्रोल के बारे में किसी की राय को सुनना नहीं चाहती । लेकिन यदि कृषि मंत्री महोदय सुनना चाहते हैं तो कान खोलकर सुन लें कि गरीब आदमी यह बात चिल्ला कर कह रहे हैं कि राशन की जितनी सामग्री आप उनको देते हैं उस से उन का काम नहीं चलता, उससे उनका पेट नहीं भरता । उससे बड़े आदमियों का पेट भर जाता होगा क्योंकि वह फल और दूध भी खाकर अपना पेट भर लेते हैं । लेकिन गरीबों का पेट तो उस थोड़े से राशन से नहीं भरता । इसलिए उन्हें चोर बाजार से अन्न खरीद कर अपना पेट भरना पड़ता है । जब उन गरीब आदमियों को चोर बाजार में मजबूरन जाना पड़ता है, जिनका पेट भरने के लिए आप सस्ता अन्न देना चाहते हैं, तब फिर मैं पूछता हूँ कि आप कंट्रोल किस के लिए रख रहे हैं । चोर बाजार में उन्हें बहुत मंहगा अन्न मिलता है और यदि आप कंट्रोल हटा दें तो वही अन्न जो प्यादा दानों में चोर बाजार से वह लेते हैं खुला हुआ बाजार होने पर उस

चीज के दाम घट जाने से उन्हें आसानी से और सस्ते दाम में वह चीजें मिल सकेंगी ।

यहीं दिल्ली के तांगे वालों को आप लीजिए । वह कहते हैं कि या तो आप हमें थोड़ों को खिलाने के लिए पूरा चना दीजिए अन्यथा कृपा करके चने का खुला बाजार तो कर दीजिए ताकि हम आसानी से खुले बाजार में चना खरीद सकें । लेकिन आप यह भी नहीं करते हैं ।

तो मैं कहता हूँ कि जब इस सारे देश की यह राय है कि आप कंट्रोल तोड़िए, यह हमें नहीं चाहिए, तो फिर आप अपने ऊपर यह जिम्मेदारी लेकर लोगों की क्यों परेशान करते हैं । मैं कहता हूँ कि यदि आप को कंट्रोल रखना है अनाज पर तो आप इस हद तक रख लीजिए कि आप गरीबों के लिए जिनकी आमदनी १५० रुपया महीना या इससे कम है उनके लिए राशन रखें । इस तरह एक निश्चित मात्रा में आप सस्ते मूल्य पर उनको कंट्रोल से अन्न दीजिए । उसके अलावा आप खुला बाजार कर दीजिए ताकि खुले बाजार में लोग अपनी जरूरत के मुताबिक अन्न खरीद सकें । उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इसमें एक विशेष सुविधा यह होगी कि अमीर लोग जो इस समय कंट्रोल का अन्न खरीदते हैं खुला बाजार होने पर राशन कार्ड होते हुए भी वह कंट्रोल का अन्न न खरीदेंगे और खुले बाजार से खरीदेंगे जिसमें आप को राशन में देने के लिए जो अन्न चाहिए वह कम मात्रा में आवश्यक होगा ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस कंट्रोल ने, जैसा मैंने अभी कहा था, उत्पादन भी नहीं बढ़ाया है । जिन चीजों पर कंट्रोल है उन की मैं दो चार मिसाल दूंगा । पहले आप सीमेंट को ही ले लीजिये । सीमेंट के ऊपर अभी क्यों कंट्रोल चल रहा है, यह किसी

की समझ में नहीं आता। सभी कहते हैं कि सीमेंट का उत्पादन काफी ही नहीं है बल्कि थोड़े समय में आवश्यकता से भी अधिक हो जायेगा। इसी तरह से नमक को लीजिये। उस की भी यही बात है। मुझे तो अपने मित्र श्री मोहनलालजी गौतम से, जो एस्टिमेट्स कमेटी (Estimates Committee) के सदस्य हैं, यह सुन कर बड़ा आश्चर्य हुआ कि आप की सरकार जो नमक समुद्र के किनारे व अन्य विभिन्न स्थानों पर बनाया जाता है उसको बरबाद करने के लिये एक फ़ौज रखती है, इसलिये कि कहीं ऐसा न हो कि उस नमक को लोग उठा कर ले जायें और उस को खावें। इसका मतलब यह है कि आप के नमक का उत्पादन इतना ज्यादा है कि उस से आप की जरूरत ही पूरी नहीं होती बल्कि आप उसको बरबाद करने के लिये लाखों रुपये खर्च करते हैं। यह बड़ी अजीब सी बात मालूम होती है और फिर भी आप नमक पर नियंत्रण रखना चाहते हैं।

अब आप कपड़े को लीजिये। मिलें कुछ बन्द पड़ी हुई हैं। सूत की और कपड़े की कोई भी कमी नहीं है फिर इस पर नियंत्रण क्यों है? इस के अलावा आप चीनी को लीजिये। मिल की बनी हुई चीनी के ऊपर से यदि आप नियंत्रण हटा दें तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अंधे हो जायेगा? क्या यदि चीनी लोगों को खाने को नहीं मिलेगी तो वह मर जायेंगे?

डाक्टर देशमुख : कदापि नहीं मरेंगे, अमर हो जायेंगे।

श्री जे. आर. कपूर : जब कंट्रोल नहीं था उस समय चीनी का भाव रुपये सेर से भी कम खुले बाज़ार में था। लेकिन कंट्रोल होने के बाद चोर बाज़ार में उसका भाव दो ढाई रुपये सेर का हो गया है।

मैं पूछता हूँ कि ऐसी दशा होते हुए भी आप क्यों चाहते हैं कि दुग्ध के ऊपर कंट्रोल रहे?

एक और मजाक की बात। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपको बताऊँ। वह कोयले के सिलसिले में है। पत्थर के कोयले के बारे में जब पूछा जाता है कि इस के ऊपर से नियंत्रण क्यों नहीं हटा दिया जाता तो कहा यह जाता है कि यदि नियंत्रण हटा दिया गया तो इसका उत्पादन इतना अधिक हो जायेगा कि बहुत सी कोयले की खानें बन्द हो जायेंगी। यह सुन कर मैं ने अपने कानों पर हाथ रखा और कहा, "खुब, चित भी हमारी — पट भी हमारी"। एक तरफ कंट्रोल इसलिये आवश्यक है कि चीजों की कीमत बढ़े नहीं। दूसरी तरफ कोयले के ऊपर कंट्रोल इसलिये आवश्यक है कि कहीं इस का दाम गिर न जाये। बढ़े नहीं इसलिये भी कंट्रोल जरूरी है और दाम घटे नहीं इसलिये भी कंट्रोल जरूरी है। आखिर यह क्या बहस है, यह क्या तर्क है, कुछ समझ में नहीं आता। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस कंट्रोल ने हमारे सारे देश की आत्मा का हनन कर दिया है। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यदि आप की आज्ञा हो तो मैं एक क्षण और लूंगा। इसलिये मेरा केवल यही निवेदन है कि जनता की राय को मान कर और महात्मा गांधी की बात मान कर आप कंट्रोल को समाप्त कीजिये।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, I feel highly pleased and honoured in supporting the Motion of Thanks that has been moved to express our heart-felt gratitude for the Address of the President. The simplicity, the clarity and the ring of perfect truthfulness of the speech involuntarily command a great respect for our President in our hearts.

[**Shri J. R. Kapoor**]

The present session of Parliament has been called to consider over the question of Korea, the question that is responsible for the gathering of war clouds. It is very much apprehended lest it may not soon lead to a world war. For a peace loving country like ours it is but natural to feel anxious in the present circumstances. Our President has extended a hope in his speech that the war may soon come to an end and through the efforts of the peace loving countries world peace and tranquility may once again be established. It is a very pious hope and the country as a whole reciprocates this pious hope. The hearts of the people also resound with this hope and in our heart of hearts we pray to God to give the warring countries a good sense so that they also may ceaselessly try to establish peace and tranquility throughout the world.

Under such circumstances, Sir, the attitude our Government have adopted is perfectly correct, and by supporting the two resolutions of the U.N.O. the Government have shown that she is ever prepared to rise to the occasion and do the needful. By this act of ours the prestige of our country has no doubt increased in the eyes of the world.

But I have to say one thing about the address delivered by the President and it being that the speech does not contain any reference about the removal of the controls. It also does not extend any hope that the controls would be removed in near future or else this problem is receiving the entire consideration of the Government.

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

Sir, it is a matter of great regret and the people of the country have been much disappointed. Today the condition of the country is such that the country as a whole is demanding the lifting of the controls. Kindly remove them we are thoroughly disgusted with them. They are causing wide spread corruption and bribery, and black marketing is flourishing all

round resulting in the moral degradation of the country. This is voiced from one part of the country to the other but it appears as if the Government is not in the least perturbed and that is why the Government did not ask the President to say a single word about it in his Address. I want to know the reason of this state of affairs. Our Government proclaims and does rightly do so, that it is the People's Government and she is in duty bound to act according to the wishes and dictates of the people. So I again ask as to why the Government is not acting in accordance with the public opinion in respect of the controls. May I tell you, Sir, as to who are against these controls. The opinion of the majority of the hon. Members of this House is for the removal of these controls. Sometime back I had sent a questionnaire to the hon. Members in order to ascertain their opinion about these controls. The replies received by me signify that 90 per cent. of them are in favour of doing away with these controls. Besides this the Congress Party had also sent a questionnaire to the important and prominent persons of the country. This questionnaire was sent to the Members of the various Legislatures, eminent economists, labour leaders, other organisations and the leading business houses of the country. The replies, numerous as they are, that have been received clearly show that a majority of the people are definitely of the opinion that these controls should be done away with. Sir, I wish to make it clear that these persons include labour leaders, economists and members of other parties also. All of them hold the opinion that the controls should be removed. I am prepared to say that the opinion of even those persons, who till some time back had favoured the idea of maintaining controls, is now for their removal. Only yesterday we listened to the speech of our hon. friend Prof. K. T. Shah, wherein he said that theoretically he was in favour of the controls in the sense that they should be maintained and worked properly, and if

this could be done then the controls may be kept. Even those persons also, who were in the past fully in favour of controls, have become so much disgusted with them that they wish that their death knell should better be sounded soon. I am much grateful to Prof. K. T. Shah for his opinion, because the opinion held by such a prominent Socialist goes to support our cause a good deal.

Sir, I wish to enquire that, except the Government employees and the hon. Ministers, who accept every thing that is presented to them by their subordinates, who are those persons that wish to keep these controls. But if the Ministers themselves hold this opinion then it is quite another matter. But it does not appear so because before accepting Ministership they did not hold this opinion. Except them who others in the entire country are in the favour of controls? The producers and the factory owners with one voice proclaim that these controls lead to innumerable difficulties in the course of production. Sometime back some hon. Members of this House visited the industrial areas in order to see for themselves the conditions prevailing there. There when we talked with the industrialists, they told us that if we wanted to make them step up their production, then we should better insist upon the Government to remove these controls because at every step they had to face a lot of hardships and though the Government asked them to step up the production and they themselves felt that the welfare of the country and theirs at the same time lay in increased production yet due to these controls they were tied hand and foot. If we cannot break the shackles of these controls then though we may say whatever we like yet we cannot be successful in getting increased production.

Apart from this you may take the case of the middle men, i.e., retail traders. They have literally become disgusted with these controls. Many of them have lost their businesses

altogether. They very emphatically assert that their businesses would prosper if the controls are removed. At the same time they also assert that when they would be doing their businesses then they would be able to pay income-tax also. But when their businesses have stopped and they have no incomes then how would you assess them for income-tax? In this way there would be a good deal of loss of income-tax as well.

Finally, you take the consumers, the people who make use of the things produced. Even they are crying themselves hoarse, "We are fed up with this control". The rich are also suffering on account of the control because they too experience a lot of botheration in procuring supplies, but since they have money they can make purchases in the black market as well. They are very much worried all the same. You may say you are not very anxious to remove their worries. Very well, let them all be doomed. But, you should remove the controls for those poor people who declare that they are terribly fed up with them. You say that if the controls are removed the poor will have to pay exorbitant prices for things. Let us, in the first instance, take the case of foodgrains which are particularly in demand by the poor. You want to give them foodgrains at cheap rates. Is it not a fact that the quantity of foodgrains which you give to the poor as ration does not serve their purpose? I would specially draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture to this fact, if he has the least inclination to listen to me. If, however, he is preoccupied with other things and would not even like to know what is the opinion of the Members of this House in this respect then it is a different matter. Such an attitude on his part would, nevertheless, be in accord with the attitude of the Government who do not wish to hear any thing in respect of these controls. But, if the Minister of Agriculture does want to hear it let him know that these poor people are crying and protesting that the quantity of rations supplied to them is too insufficient to fill their stomachs. It

[Shri J. B. Kapoor]

might be enough to fill the stomachs of the well-to-do who also take fruits and milk as a supplementary diet but that small quantity of the rations does not satisfy the poor man's hunger. Hence, they have to supplement it by purchasing foodgrains from the black market. When these poor people whom you are anxious to provide foodgrains cheaper are obliged to have recourse to the black market, for whom then are you maintaining the controls? They get the foodgrains in the black market very dear, but if you were to remove the controls they would be able to get them in the open market more easily and at rates far cheaper than those of the black market.

Take the case of the tonga drivers in Delhi. They say, "Either give us full quota of gram for the feeding of our horses, or allow gram to be sold in the open market so that we may be able to buy it easily there". But you are not prepared to do that either.

Hence, I say that when the whole of the country is of the opinion that you should remove the controls and the people do not want them, then why should you take the responsibility and cause harassment to people. Even if you must retain the controls in respect of foodgrains you should have them to a limited extent. For instance, you might allow rations to the poor whose income may be Rs. 150/- per mensem or below. In this way you might allow them to purchase a fixed quantity of foodgrains at a cheap controlled rate. For the rest there should be the open market where they might purchase as much foodgrains as they require. This would have one great advantage that the rich people who now purchase foodgrains at controlled rates would, in case of there being an open market, avoid purchasing the controlled foodgrains and prefer to obtain their requirements in the open market. With the result that you would need less quantities of foodgrains for rationing purposes. Besides, the control has not helped to increase production

which is your *raison d'être* for the controls.

Let me cite a few instances of controlled goods. Let us first take the case of cement. Why the control of cement is still continuing nobody is able to follow. Everybody says that the production of cement is not only enough but it would soon exceed our requirements. Similarly take salt. The same thing applies to it as well. I was greatly surprised to hear from my friend, Shri Mohan Lal Gautam, who is a member of the Estimates Committee, that our Government employs a host of men to destroy such salt as is produced along the seashore or at other various places, lest people should remove it for consumption. This would mean that your production of salt is so great that it is not only sufficient to meet your requirements but you have even to spend lakhs of rupees over its destruction. It is rather surprising, therefore, that you should still want to retain control of salt.

Then take the case of cloth. Some of the mills have closed down. There is no shortage of either yarn or cloth. Why is it controlled then? Also take sugar. What harm can there be if you were to remove control over mill-made sugar? Will people die if they do not get sugar to eat? No, never.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): They will never die; they would become immortal.

Shri J. B. Kapoor: When there was no control sugar was sold at less than a rupee a seer in the open market. After the imposition of the control, however, its rate in the black market has gone up to two to two-and-a-half rupees per seer. Under the circumstances I am inclined to ask why you still want to maintain the control on sugar.

There is an anecdote about coal. When it was asked why control over coal was not being lifted the reply came that if the control was removed its production would become so excessive that a number of collieries would

close down. On hearing this I placed my hands on my ears and exclaimed, "Fine! Heads I win, tails you lose!". On the one hand control is indispensable so that the prices of commodities should not rise, while, on the other hand, as in the case of coal, it is essential lest the price should come down. The control is necessary to check a rise in prices; it is also necessary to prevent their fall. What logic is this, after all? Quite incomprehensible. This control has killed the very soul of the country. Sir, if you permit, I should be finishing in a moment. I close by appealing to you to bow to public opinion, and to follow the advice of Gandhiji and remove these controls.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Ramalingam Chettiar. I don't ring the bell too prematurely. The hon. Member has taken more than 17 minutes. There are other Members who want to speak. I have already requested yesterday that hon. Members should confine their speeches to ten minutes. Fifteen minutes will be the maximum that will be allowed. Nobody ought to put me in an embarrassing position by having to ring the bell continuously.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Sir, I am sorry but I missed the bell on the previous occasion. I am a bit hard of hearing. But I must submit that though fifteen minutes maximum was the ruling given, yesterday I found Members arguing for more than 17 minutes even for 30 minutes. Of course that is not my excuse, and I am sorry if I have in any way inconvenienced you.

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras): I have to refer to the question of food supply, both with reference to the present position and with reference to the policy which the Government is adopting. So far as the present position is concerned, there are some parts of this Union which are in a very bad condition at the present moment. The Government should have foreseen, as soon as the monsoon failed last year, what the position will be. They ought to

have taken steps to see that the people do not suffer. They ought to have made arrangements for getting supplies in proper time. Without their doing all that, what we find today in the State of Madras is that every week we are told we have got stocks to last only for two or three days. In the villages we are told that there is no stock at all. Then we go on reducing the supply of rice—from ten ounces to eight ounces, from eight ounces to seven ounces; and we are told now that before long there will be a further reduction. That is the state of affairs. Not only that. The Government ought also to see that it is not the whole population that is dependent on the rationing of theirs. The number of people who are rationed is only a small fraction of the total population. But the entire population has to be fed. In the ordinary course, if there was a proper monsoon this non-ration population will get their supplies from the villages. Now when the monsoon has failed and when that supply has ceased, it is for the Government to see that that non-ration population is also served. But no arrangement has been made in that direction.

As I said, every week we are being told that the supplies will last for a day or two. The hon. Food Minister gives us hopes. He makes statements here. "Nobody need fear, everything will go all right, nobody will starve". But actually the position in the States is that people are starving. I am told on very good authority—I can vouch for it—that people are living on plants and leaves in some areas, and that in some other areas some sort of vegetables which are not ordinarily used for eating purposes are being consumed. Of course the hon. Minister says that people should learn to live on tubers and vegetables and things like that. It is very good to say that from Delhi, from his position here. But what will be the cost of these vegetables, these tubers, etc.? The people in the villages, especially the labourers, must be in a position to bear the cost. Even if they are prepared to bear the cost, where are

[**Shri Ramalingam Chettiar**]

these things to be obtained? Vegetables are not available in the towns; until the rains come and we are able to grow some of these vegetables there will be no vegetables at all. In this state of affairs what are we to do? We have to depend only on the Government and the Government wants to feed us with promises and not with food grains. That is the complaint that I have got about the immediate position. I do hope the hon. Food Minister will realise the state of affairs. He will not think that his giving promises here and making nice speeches in Delhi and elsewhere where he is entertained with very good dinners and very good garlands and things like that is going to solve the question. He will have to see that action, prompt action, to meet the emergency is taken, and see that every place is properly supplied with what is required and that a proper organisation comes into effect for the purpose. I will give one instance. Kollegal is a taluk which is far away from the other parts of the Madras State. There they were able to get a crop; if that crop was left there the people could have managed somehow. But what was done was that as soon as the crop was harvested it was sent away elsewhere; it was taken to other places with the result that Kollegal is starving at the present moment. That is the sort of thing that is going on. As regards this idea of procurement, of course the Food Minister—whether it is the present Minister or his predecessor—has been singing this song that if only procurement is effected properly everything will be all right. But in the first place there must be something to procure and in the second place even if you procure how are you going to distribute it? The distribution is much more important than procurement. The question is whether Government are in a position to carry out the policy which they are enunciating from the Centre. After all, they have come to the conclusion that it is not possible for them to feed everybody in the Union. They say that they will

undertake only some responsibility and that responsibility too only with reference to those persons who will take ration cards. For this purpose, they are procuring grains from the villages, but what is to become of the persons in the villages themselves? Even those persons who are in the villages to whom you are giving cards are not supplied. For weeks together there is no stock and when there is stock you give sometimes two ounces and sometimes five ounces. This sort of thing will not do. I do not think that the people are in a mood to stand this sort of treatment for very long. I think they are at the end of the tether. They are not in a position to get on like this. If unfortunately there is still some delay in the monsoon in the South, I think things will get very serious indeed. Already, as I said, people are practically living on nothing and if this sort of thing is continued, we do not know what exactly will be the position. That is with reference to the immediate position. I do hope that the hon. the Food Minister will rise to the occasion and see that proper supplies are sent to those areas which are in deficit and which are suffering. He must also see that the food is distributed properly. He may send a shipload of wheat to Madras harbour, but that may not reach either the districts and much less the villages.

Shri B. Das (Orissa): Do you want the Government of India to take over the Government of Madras?

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar: Not the Government of Madras—every Government. He has to supply first. First the rice is not there. Then, even if it is there, it is not released. That is what is happening. Well, this is my first request to the Government.

Then, as regards their policy with reference to food supply and distribution, it is a very wrong policy that they are adopting. They themselves enunciated the policy that they ought to reduce their commitments gradually, so that by the end of 1951 their commitments will cease and they may

[Shri Ramalingam Chettiar] not have the necessity to import grains from abroad. How far have they brought that policy into force? Instead of withdrawing their commitments, they are undertaking more commitments in regard to procurement. They are complaining that they have not procured everything. They want to procure more. If they procure more, there is always the additional liability that they should feed all those people from whom they procure. Now, this half-hearted policy has led to this, namely, that everywhere there is corruption; everywhere there is mismanagement. The person who suffers is the poor man, not the rich man. When a poor labourer gets a rupee and a half as wages and in the evening he takes a measure or a measure and a half of rice, he is prosecuted if he is found out, but there are big landholders who are getting thousands of bags of paddy or rice and if they sell in the black market, no notice is taken of it. That is only natural, because there are avenues for corruption and by means of corruption they get away. They are able to make money. They are able to sell in the black market. It is not unknown to the hon. Minister of Food that there is a black market everywhere—from the village right up to the capital of India, Delhi. It is not possible for him to avoid this black market for the very simple reason that the policy which Government are following leads to this black market; it leads to corruption. It is only by shutting the avenues for corruption and black marketing that you can avoid them and not merely by saying that you are going to procure everything and that you are not going to feed the people. If you undertake the procurement, you should also undertake the supply and meet the needs of everybody. That, you have clearly said, is not in your power to do. You are not in a position to meet the needs of all the people in the Union. If that is so, then it is only proper for you, it is honest on your part, to admit your incapacity for doing that and then

undertake what is necessary and what you can undertake. A suggestion has been made not merely by me—I have been making it for the last three years—but by the Committee appointed by Government themselves. I am referring to the Committee appointed under the Chairmanship of Mr. Maitra. That Committee has recommended that the commitment of Government so far as rural areas are concerned should be given up and that they should undertake to supply only to the urban areas and labour centres and that what is necessary, for this purpose should be got from surplus areas and by imports. Of course, they have added quite reasonably a rider that the Government should, before adopting a very strict policy of giving up control in any area, build up a reserve stock which will last for some time to come and with the help of that stock whenever and wherever there is difficulty or failure Government will be in a position to rush supplies and avoid calamities. That is the recommendation made by that Committee appointed by Government themselves. Of course, the other Committee about which Mr. Tirumala Rao spoke yesterday took a different view. They want to have control all through. They want to strengthen the control, but control is not strengthened merely by undertaking procurement. Unless you are in a position to carry out the resultant commitment supply, there is no use your saying that you are going to strengthen the control or that you are going to do anything else. So, it is high time that Government reconsidered their own policy. They will have to say whether they are going to undertake the feeding of all the people in the Union and for that purpose take certain steps. If they say that, nobody will object, but if they are not in a position to undertake that responsibility, if they feel that they have not got the capacity to do that sort of thing for the whole of India, it is only fair that they should be expected to withdraw control to the extent to which they cannot take responsibility and carry out that policy. Such a deci-

[**Shri Ramalingam Chettiar**]
 sion is necessary. I do hope that Government will consider this very seriously. It is not a matter for making speeches and creating *tamashas* and things like that. It is a very serious thing, which affects the lives of all people concerned. In the old days at least, we used to have some stock always in Madras. What was grown in the year was not all consumed in the same year. There was always some stock available for the next year. All that is now gone. So things will become very serious indeed unless some serious steps are taken by Government. They should come to a definite conclusion as to what exactly they can do and then they should give effect to it in all seriousness. If that is not done, I fear things will be very bad indeed in the Union.

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]

MEMBER SWORN

Rev. Jerome D'Souza (Madras)

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

Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Madras): Sir, before coming to the major points that arise out of the President's address I would like to say a few words in relation to the topics which were raised in the earlier portion of the President's address.

Sir, you are well aware of the parliamentary practice that if a Minister makes a statement, he must be in his seat to hear the reply. I would like, Sir, that the Republic of India should implement democracy in its real form. We have been copying English practices where inch by inch the people withdrew the sovereignty from the King. They have got the King still with his grandeur, but with-

out powers. All the same, out of respect to the King they allow him to make a statement and ask him to go away. But I would like that the President should be here and hear what the hon. Members of this House have to say relating to the address. I am aware that hon. Ministers will immediately reply to me that they are here and they will convey the information to the President. But I would like that there should be a departure. The President instead of following the King of England ought to be the peoples' man. He should be in his box here, noting down what we say and finding for himself what reactions are produced in the minds of hon. Members here regarding his address. That is the departure that I would expect and in that respect I would like that we should set an example to the rest of the Republics of the world.

The other point that I want to refer to is that in the President's address he said that he did not anticipate a special session of this kind. I would urge that instead of coming and going like this there should be a continuous session of Parliament. There ought to be no prorogation. I am aware that the bureaucracy or the Ministers, particularly under the New Constitution who have been clothed with the powers of passing ordinances will find it very difficult if there is a continuous session of Parliament. Parliament should only adjourn and not prorogue, because so long as the Parliament is in session, the power of ordinance rule is taken away. I find, Sir, that instead of the ordinances being an exception, they seem to be the rule nowadays. Evidently the Ministers and the Government as a whole seem to be waiting for the close of a particular session and with all the weapons in their armoury they come forward. Therefore, that practice must stop. The power of issue of ordinances must be used as an exception. Parliament must be in session continuously from day to day, and for that hon. Members might be given a salary, however small it might be. They must be

given a first class or second class silver pass to go from end to end whenever it is necessary for them to see things for themselves. Otherwise, I know how it is impossible for us to really know what is happening behind the screens.

Shri T. Husain (Bihar): Supposing there is no work for the Members of Parliament, does the hon. member expect us to meet?

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: My hon. friend is not able to find work. A lazy man never finds work. I have found it from my experience of the Estimates Committee, which you inaugurated, that there is a lot of work for every Member to do. We are in fact idling away our time. We do not know what exactly we have to do and for want of actual experience, we are guided by the nose by the executive authority who are in charge of it and who have been there for over one hundred and fifty years. It is high time that the whole thing changed. We must become whole-time politicians; we must sit continuously in session watching the administration from day to day.

Dr. Deshmukh: And debate the Address of the President for at least a week.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: If we sit continuously we can do it. Then, Sir, the President referred to the change in the Cabinet of Ministers. Every time the poor Prime Minister has to make a search to find out competent men for various jobs. I have been repeatedly saying both in public as well as in private that it is time that we found men from our own ranks and for that purpose we must create a second line for which there is no dearth of material here. I have been carefully watching. A number of young men have come from various parts and the services of these people can be very easily utilised. I have to make one suggestion to Government. They ought not to lose time. Let for each Department of the State there be a Deputy Minister immediately,—let

their names be announced even tomorrow—so that we need not merely depend upon the I.C.S. men. I have no quarrel with them. In the Estimates Committee we wanted to suggest some retrenchment. But these men were saying that even the staff they have is not enough. Then, who is the other independent person on whom I can rely, on whom Parliament can rely. Certainly for the purpose of implementing the new ideology, or the ideology with which we came to this House, we can depend upon our own men. Not that I say that I do not depend upon others. But as between the two, I would certainly accept the advice of a Deputy Minister. Therefore, Deputy Ministers should be appointed to everyone of the Departments.

Sir, in the years to come—God must only save us that the Korean war does not develop into a global war—Sardar Baldev Singh will not be in a position to bear the burden of the responsibilities of his onerous Department. I would advise that he should have very strong lieutenants—one in charge of the Air Force, another in charge of the Navy and a third one in charge of the armed forces. I had been to Minori the other day. The men in charge of the Air Force asked for a grant of Rs. 3 crores for building up a new station. We went and saw these buildings and suggested that the present buildings could easily be repaired at a cost of three lakhs. We convinced them that we are not able to raise any money either by taxation or by loans. We satisfied them of the difficulties under which the Government of India is labouring. Their complaint was about the promise held out by the Government of India. They immediately appreciated our arguments. The whole difficulty is that there is no human touch about it. We are treating them like old mercenaries. Our own men should go and infuse a sense of confidence, loyalty, energy and patriotism among our countrymen. Let us open our eyes. Let not the Prime Minister

[**Shri M. A. Ayyangar**] think that we can wait till the next general elections. Whether it is next year or five years later, I want some Members of Parliament to be associated with Government as Deputy Ministers or Ministers of State. I may assure the House that I am too old to be a Deputy Minister or a Minister of State: nor am I in the run for either.

I will proceed to the next point. Even as regards the Finance Ministry I heard from the remote corner of my place that the Finance Minister said that he is not prepared to share his responsibility with any other person. I do not know; it is only a newspaper report. I may suggest to him that I am not asking him to share the responsibility, but I would ask him to consider the earning departments, for instance Excise.....

Dr. Deshmukh: He is merely following the footsteps of the other Finance Ministers.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: This Finance Minister is so new to us that we need not cast any aspersions on him before we hear him. As I was saying, there are the earning departments. Take for instance the Income-tax department. Year before last we were told that a sum of Rs. 18 crores has not been collected, that Customs and excise revenue is evaded in various ways. The main earning departments must be put in charge of a young man who will roam about and tighten up the machinery. The Finance Minister will be there, overall, watching as to what commodities will bear additional taxation, what commodities come in or what exports go out. The Monetary Fund is there and the various policies are there and his hands will be too full. There are the various branches of his Department, the Financial Advisers under him have been sent to various Ministries of the Government and he has to see how far they are carrying out their behests.

There are other Departments also, for instance, Industries. I am sure

my hon. friend Mr. Mahtab would not avoid a Deputy Minister. I suggested this to the Prime Minister and he said that on his part there is absolutely no objection. He has asked the Ministers to take Deputy Ministers, but unfortunately the Ministers have not chosen to do so. We are working as a team and as one party. Any one man is as good as any other man. It is not my private property that I will share it with my son only and with none else. This must be shared by everybody. The Prime Minister must insist on the Ministers to choose from the party men as Deputy Ministers. If they do not do so at the end of forty-eight hours the Prime Minister must force the Deputy Ministers upon them.

Now I come to the third point. Recently I went to Calcutta. I do not want to refer to the Indo-Pakistan Agreement but I would just like to make a passing reference to the manner in which men, women and children have been huddled in Scaldah station. In a third-class compartment they have greater space to live than in that station where ten thousand persons are huddled. I do not know how human beings can live there. If immediate arrangements are not made to transport these people elsewhere and if they have to remain there for more than a week, you will have to remove not living beings but only carcasses. I do not want my friend Mr. Jain to live here in Delhi: he must be constantly rolling about at least for fifteen days in a month around Calcutta. Otherwise the red-tape will go on and if clothing is to be given the clothing will have to be used only to cover the carcasses and not be available to them so long as they are alive.

In the Disposals we came to know that lots of clothing were available—trousers, coats and other things—but there is an eternal conflict between the Industries Ministry and the Rehabilitation Ministry. We would like to know how it has arisen. The Industries Ministry says "take all this cloth and give it away to your refugees lock, stock and barrel". But

this cloth is strewn over five hundred and odd places in the various depots and the Rehabilitation Minister says, "What is the use of putting them in my Department? I will issue permits and you issue the cloth. I do not have the administrative personnel". There is this duplication, and in-between the cloth is allowed to rot, it is not given to the Rehabilitation Ministry or it does not reach the refugees. For want of co-ordination this is what is happening. I hope the Government will pull through as a whole and not remain each Ministry to itself. I also want that we should prevent smuggling of cloth through the land customs frontier between Pakistan and India. I would suggest why not the Governor of Bengal, on the 15th of August, distribute all this clothing, *dhoties*, coats, petticoats, trousers, everything to the refugees.

An Hon. Member: Petticoats?

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: There must also be a good proportion for women. It is not as if I am making it in the nature of a sporting offer, for I know at what prices they are sold away. Sometimes they dispose of a thousand *dhoties* for half a rupee, for somebody must remove them away. That is how all the cloth is removed.

As regards Controls much has been said. I personally feel that controls are a necessary evil. I agree that it is the wish of the Government to remove controls as soon as possible. Control on paper has been removed, control on kerosene has been removed, control on petrol is being removed, and decontrol of cement is under contemplation. I want the removal of control in respect of salt also because we are producing sufficiently large quantities and there will be no deficiency hereafter. But when you come to food and clothing and also iron and steel I have got my own differences.

Let me come to food. My friend Mr. Sidhva wants to kill all Madrasis by his statistics. If statistics can take the place of food I have absolutely no quarrel. I am not a statis-

tician myself, but I will place before the House the facts from which the hon. Member can easily judge, and if he is able to convince me that I am wrong I am prepared to die by starvation. In 1939 itself we were importing $1\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of rice from Burma. Now, thanks to the Karens and others who are creating trouble for that Government, not a grain is coming from there, or very little. In 1939 we had Sind and Punjab which were producing 750,000 tons of wheat, that is, three-fourth of a million tons. After partition that has gone. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ plus the three-fourth million comes to two and a quarter million tons. As regards population, whatever Mr. Sidhva might say, there are the existing children. How can you kill them? Population is increased at the rate of 1 per cent. per annum. In 1941 we started with 320 million. Now, if we accept the Commissioner's estimate, it is 345 or 350 million. Therefore, we want $3\frac{1}{2}$ million tons more per year. This $3\frac{1}{2}$ plus the other $2\frac{1}{2}$ million comes to $5\frac{1}{2}$ million tons. By no jugglery can you bring this $5\frac{1}{2}$ million tons unless you produce the same. And unless you do it you cannot remove the deficiency in this country. What my friend Mr. Sidhva does, and what the others also do, is they say "Draw from the villages and feed the vociferous section in the towns and declare that after 1951 nothing will be imported". I think my friends will be satisfied when they go to the villages and find only the cremation grounds and nothing else. In my part of the country if a man has got ten cents of land and if he produces something out of it, they will count the number of heads and allow him a stock for three or four months, that is till the next season and draw the remaining stocks. In the previous days they could store up for one full year. But there is nothing now. We are doing our best in the matter of procurement. But with the best of procurement you can merely transfer the food from one quarter to another and make the rich richer and the fat fatter and the lean leaner. How can

[Shri M. A. Ayyangar]

the deficit be made up? It can be met by the imports that we have been having, to the tune of 2½ million tons. My friend wants imports to be stopped. I appreciate the enthusiasm of my friend Mr. Munshi but I never knew that trees could produce grain. As a long-term project I can understand it. But as a short-term programme how does it help? It only reminds me of what one of my children asked me namely whether persons living in Madras City knew whether grain was produced out of plants or trees and whether it was not true that they thought that it was produced in trees! I hope my friend Mr. Munshi does not commit that mistake.

The planting of trees does not solve the problem today. The estimate of officers is that with added enthusiasm you may produce 1½ million tons of rice or wheat. How are you going to meet this deficit? It is not by transferring foodgrains from one place to another place. Even at the risk of being the only voice in this Parliament I would say that there is no meaning in this control unless we want millions of human beings to die of starvation such as we had in the Bengal famine. I want to thank on behalf of the entire Parliament two or three persons who have shown enormous interest in making procurement and supplying foodgrains to the rest of the country. My thanks are first due to Orissa. They have made procurement cent per cent. whatever target was fixed; they have extended that target but unfortunately others refused to consider on account of various considerations. (*Interruption*) Mysore also has not lagged behind. I must here pay a tribute to Mr. Hanumanthayya. Though Mysore is a deficit State they have made the best procurement. Mine is a deficit State. Assam has plenty of rice but they would not move an inch.

Uttar Pradesh is a land where Karna and Sibi cut off portions of their muscles and gave to doves and kites. Even if you pay the

money you are not able to get enough rice. Are we the inheritors of that ancient system? My hon. friend Mr. Kapoor is in a surplus province. He is getting fatter and fatter and I am going leaner and leaner. All I have to say is that I have made the best of calculations and I am prepared to spend some more time with Mr. Sidhva and convince him that this jugglery would not do; it is only transference of poverty to poverty and it is no good. Unless the Damodar Valley Project and other valley projects come into being as early as possible, you cannot remove this acute difficulty.

I will now proceed to economic depression and this has a passing reference to this. Originally when we started the proceedings in the Estimates Committee I thought that so far as iron and steel is concerned the control might go but I do not know what will happen if the control was not good. As regards the economic index I find the price of cereals in 1939 was 100 and today it is 501. Do people die just for the purpose of mocking at Mr. Munshi? It is possible they might transfer from one corner to another but all the same the prices have gone up. People do not realize here that there are two kinds of famines. Even if you transport food from other areas, they have not the wherewithal to purchase. People do not know that mere absence of land alone does not help to purchase. There is also the 'lack of sinews' to purchase food. Under these circumstances the hon. the Finance Minister must try to find out ways and means and throw a lot of money; he must bring prosperity like the Ganges over our areas; otherwise all of us will die. With the price index at 501 how do you expect the middle classes to live. I know of a family where all the members work and they get an income of Rs. 165 but I must tell you that their standard of life has not gone up. It is the richer class of people who are rolling in Rolls Royce and the middle class people

with all the dearness allowances etc. are going to the wall. I am ready to eat vegetables but where do you get them? After all the vegetables do not grow on the top of my head. Whether they are vegetables or fruits they must grow in the same land. Therefore there should be a central authority of procurement. I hope my hon. friend will make up his mind to introduce this measure. I do not know how to clothe the Centre with that power but the Centre must have the ultimate authority of imposing crop planning. In my part they have converted all fields into sugar cane. We can live without sugar but we cannot go without cereals. Mr. Ramalingam Chetty comes from Coimbatore District and there every field has been converted into a cotton growing area. They have given up millets and my friend Mr. Chetty wants to become richer at the cost of others and then the other poor fellows alone should produce the millets and then give it to him. Therefore crop planning is also necessary if we want to avert a famine which will come sooner or later. Let us all realize therefore that we must produce more. I am glad you have been very indulgent to me. I thank you.

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Punjab): I rise to support the original motion of thanks to the President moved by my hon. friend Mr. Tirumala Rao. The President referred in his Address to the keenness of the Government and the anxiety of the Government to grow more food. In this connection, I wish to say a few words and offer a few humble suggestions which directly or indirectly have a bearing on the question of grow more food. First of all I will take the system of land tenure prevailing in the country. Even today in our country land tenure system is as faulty as it was before 1947. The *Jagirdari* system in Rajasthan and the *Zamindari* system in the Punjab still continue, and even today in the Punjab, Rajasthan and Patiala Union the tenants who have the means to cultivate and who want

to do so are being ejected from the land. I do realize the difficulties of the Central Minister, the hon. Mr. Munshi. He is not all powerful, he is working under some limitations which have been placed by the Constitution but I know that he has got a vast influence at his command and he can move the Central Government and the Centre can force the Provinces. In this connection, I wish to stress that whatever system it may be, whether it is land tenure or procurement, it should be uniform. As long as it is not uniform, it creates reaction in the other parts of the country. (*Interruption*). As long as there is no uniformity the policies of one State has reactions on the policies of the other.

In this connection I would like to say something about *Zamindari* abolition. That is very good but as the same steps were not being taken at the same time in the Punjab, Patiala Union and Rajasthan, it has reactions of that system in the areas where no such bills are pending. An atmosphere of distrust has been created; the landlords in the past although were charging an exorbitant share from the tenants, and the tenants were exploited up to the last limit, but they were able to have land for cultivation. Now the conditions have changed with the result that the huge tracts of land which were under cultivation till now are now lying fallow; while our Central Minister is spending crores of rupees for importing tractors to bring under cultivation the fresh lands, the lands which were under cultivation previously are going fallow and as agricultural waste lands. I will request my hon. friend to exercise his influence and see that the tenants are not ejected from their holdings in the Punjab, the Patiala States Union and Rajasthan.

Then, Sir, with regard to procurement, I wish to make some suggestions. My personal opinion in this matter is that there should be de-control. But, I know that control is an evil that we cannot avoid at the

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

present juncture. If we cannot avoid controls, then we have to go in for procurement. Then the question arises what is the best type of procurement. Whatever I am going to say, it is not meant for the benefit of the agriculturists in particular; or that more grain should be left with him; there should be more procurement of grain and at a lesser cost. In this connection, as Tirumala Rao Committee has recommended, I would also suggest that the Punjab system should be adopted throughout the country. Under the Punjab system, the Government does not go to the farmers; the farmers come of their own accord to the *mandis* and sell grain. They have created conditions under which the farmers have realised that they cannot realise more price than what is offered by Government. I have submitted an interpellation in that connection. I wish to tell you, Sir, that today the condition in my district is that the agriculturists are taking wheat to the market, but there is nobody to buy and the agriculturists are compelled to take back their wheat to their home or sell it to the *baniyas* at a lesser price. My submission in this connection is that the Government, whether it is the Central Government or the Provincial Governments have not been able to control the markets or they have not been able to over-power the *baniyas* or the trading classes. Fortunately or unfortunately, they are exercising their power on the wrong lines. They are trying to see that procurement is the largest; but they are taking steps which lead to the opposite result. I have this much to say that a unified system should be adopted and that system should be the Punjab system.

Regarding gram, the other day, at the Party meeting, Mr. Munshi referred.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not refer to the Party meeting.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Regarding gram, I agree with what Mr. Munshi has said in several places that we cannot procure gram with these restrictions. My hon. friend Mr. R. K. Sidhva has often advocated that people are hoarding grain I wish to point out that it is only gram which can be hoarded, or kept for years together. It is not beneficial to the agriculturists or to any other person to hoard wheat or rice for more than a year or a year and a half because that hoarding involves loss on the hoarder and no hoarder is interested in incurring a loss. It is only gram which can be hoarded under conditions over which we cannot have any control. I can cite an example. If gram is mixed with fodder, that is *bhoosa*, it can be hoarded and it is not possible to procure that gram. Therefore, the gram problem can only be solved if the restrictions on movement and control are altogether removed.

As regards controls in general, I wish to submit that I am not for controls. I want de-control as I have stated earlier. I know there are people who believe that control on food-grains is absolutely necessary. If you retain the control on food-grains, there is a legacy to that policy. You cannot de-control cement. My hon. friend Mr. Kapoor has just said that there is sufficient cement or that there is going to be sufficient production of cement. I come from the rural areas, and I know the conditions. Even today, they are not able to get the cement.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Because of controls.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: No; I do not agree that they are not able to get cement because of controls. If control is removed, prices will again go high. The same is the case with coal and iron. If we have to keep the controls on food-grains, as a legacy, we will have to retain controls on all other articles which the agriculturists use.

I have to make a suggestion with regard to another aspect of the Grow More Food campaign, that is the Central Tractor Organisation. I have often passed through the Lal Kuan station. Near that railway station, heavy tractors are lying for months together, in a season which is the best suited for work. Now the rainy season has set in and this is not the working season for the tractors. The tractors have reached their destination months earlier, but they have not so far reached the farms where they are to work. One day I was travelling in a train. In that train, two officers of the Central Tractor Organisation were also travelling and they were talking to each other. One of them was saying that he has been posted to an appointment which requires experience of a particular type of tractor and that he has not got that experience. I can say this much that a huge amount of Government money has been invested and I do not think that that money will produce the result that it should have produced if that expenditure had been controlled in an efficient manner. Today in the question hour, several friends wanted to know what is the capacity per hour of a tractor and what is the work which is put in by a tractor per hour. I wish to refer to a personal experience, in this connection. I am developing some agricultural waste lands in the the U.P. We requested the U.P. Tractor Organisation to help us and we have deposited the necessary amounts. The tractor man came after a year but went away again leaving the tractor on my field, because he demanded some extra money and that extra money was not given to him.

Shri Bharati (Madras): Extra money for himself?

Ch. Ranbir Singh: For the driver.

✓ **Shri Syammandan Sahaya (Bihar):** You have paid only for the tractor.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let him proceed.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: There are many other bad examples. Under these conditions, they are not producing the results which they should.

There is another point and that is about the price levels of agricultural products. These levels fluctuate very much. In U.P. *Khandsari* sugar is being sold, I am told, at Rs. 40 per maund, while in Bombay the price is something like Rs. 90 per maund, and in Calcutta it is Rs. 70 per maund. Take the case of *gur*. While in the producing season, *gur* was being sold at about Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 per maund, now *gur* is being sold at Rs. 40 per maund. May I know, when we are not able to control the markets, how we can expect the agriculturist or the farmer, who fortunately or unfortunately has gained some retaining power, not to retain his produce? If you want that the entire produce should come into the market, it is absolutely necessary that you should create conditions favourable for that, that is the prices of agricultural products should remain uniform throughout the year and at all places as far as possible. If these conditions are fulfilled, I am sure a great deal can be done.

I do not want to take up more of the time of the House, especially as I know there are several other Members who may be giving better suggestions than myself.

Mr. Speaker: I presume that we are intent upon bringing this debate to a close at least to-day by 5 p.m. That means I must first give the chance to the hon. Food Minister, and then the only other Minister who wishes to reply may be the hon. Finance Minister. I shall be calling the hon. Finance Minister at about 4.30 p.m. for replying, and the hon. Food Minister may give his reply now.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): I am much obliged to the Members of this House.

[Shri K. M. Munshi]
 who have spoken on the food problem, for it will give me an opportunity to place before the House at the earliest moment the Government side of the problem as it is today, its difficulties and its complications. I want that the food problem of the country should be raised beyond all controversy in this country. It is not a political problem, it is a problem of life and death, and I wish we all help to raise it to a pedestal which is beyond party controversy, beyond election campaigns and beyond power politics. In my humble opinion, you cannot solve this problem without doing that.

I confess I am ignorant of agriculture. Two months ago I knew next to nothing about it, and therefore you must be prepared to extend the indulgence which my friend Mr. Sidhva was pleased to extend to me for a couple of months. My friend Mr. Sidhva told me, of course in his very inspiring manner, that I should bring energy and swiftness to the activities of this Department. I confess I am not as energetic and as swift as my friend would wish me to be. I would only request him to be with me for seven days from morning till night. I would like him to scan the daily decisions of the new committee which has been co-ordinating all the activities of the Agricultural Department and see how they are implemented, and I am sure I shall be deeply indebted to him for any assistance that he may render to add greater speed to the machine as he wants me to. If I may very humbly say so, Guru Dattatraya learned many things from the humble bee, the lowly ant and the insignificant worm. If he came to the Agricultural Department he would perhaps learn something of the energy and speed of that Department.

✓ **Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** Who is Guru Dattatraya here?

Shri K. M. Munshi: He is Guru Dattatraya, no doubt about that.

My friend Mr. Sidhva like Dick of Dicken's novel referred to that Charles

the First's head of his—statistics. I want to bury this Charles' head once and for all. I am quite prepared to admit here and now that there cannot possibly be any accurate and exact statistics with regard to food production or with regard to deficiency or sufficiency. Our estimates of the number of people to be fed at the end of 1951 is bound to be hypothetical. Our figures of increased production are equally bound to be hypothetical. There are non-ryotwari lands all over the country for which there are no records as regards the area under cultivation. That is also a matter of hypothesis. Then, the figures of yield are not exact. They are not taken from actual crop cutting experiments. They are only eye-estimates and are bound to be inaccurate. Then, there is another thing. There is a tendency in the surplus States to minimise the surplus and there is also the tendency in the deficit States to maximise the deficit. How on earth can you get correct figures? All that can be done is to decide the order of magnitude, and that is done in this way. If everyone in India in the villages—about 70 per cent.—of the total population is given 16 oz. and everyone in the urban areas is given 12 oz. per day and if the adult population is taken at 86 per cent. then there will be four or five million tons of deficit in this country. If that is made up we will be self-sufficient. That is all the claim that we are putting forward. My learned friend asks why 86 per cent? He also asks who is an adult? Well, adult has one meaning in law, another under the Majority Act but a third for food consumption. An adult with regard to food is a child which at a particular age requires 12 oz. of food. That is sometimes taken at the age of 10 and sometimes at the age of 12 according to the opinion of the State Governments. Therefore 'adult' in terms of food statistics is not the adult in the sense in which my learned friend is. That is the reason of difference between him and myself, between his 71 per cent. and my 86 per cent. I have tried to

follow the voluminous correspondence he carried on with my distinguished predecessor, and I may assure him that I am not going to contest either in this House or any other place that the statistics are only hypothetical.

I feel, and I agree with my hon. friend, Mr. Sidhva, that there is self-sufficiency in this country so far as food is concerned, but it is so if certain conditions are fulfilled. The average of 16 oz. for the villages and 12 oz. for the urban areas should be consumed by the whole population. U.P. for instance today gives 14 oz. Secondly there should be a rigorous scheme of unified procurement throughout the whole country which does not allow any surplus to be hoarded or kept away. And lastly there should be no transport difficulties. Few people realise how the difficulties which have been so often described in this House arose from the fact—and that is nobody's fault—that there is scarcity of transport at a given moment in some definite area in some part of the country. How can you say there is self-sufficiency in the practical sense? Theoretically it may be. I can conceive of self-sufficiency in a small country like England or Scotland where you can distribute food through the whole country speedily. When we have to deal with a vast country of 350 million people governed by States with differing administrations and with different levels of agricultural productivity how is it possible to claim that it is self-sufficient?

Something was said about decontrol. My hon. friend the Deputy-Speaker has replied to it. How can we decontrol, I ask? There is, as I said, no self-sufficiency except in the bare sense that if all the theoretical considerations which I mentioned are valid, there is enough food to go round. Can you decontrol? If as a result prices go up what will happen?

It could have been done under two contingencies. Firstly, that there is a certain amount of surplus which would provide for the additional off-

take which people will take, in case there is decontrol. For instance, today in many of the cities parties are restricted to 24 persons but the moment there is decontrol there will be caste-dinners of 2,000 people. Therefore there must be sufficient surplus in our hands to go round. Secondly, there should be a large reserve available to the Government of India, so that if there is scarcity in any area food may be rushed to that spot. So long as these two conditions are not fulfilled it is inconceivable that there can be decontrol.

In this country there are people of two minds—people whom I call control-minded and others who are decontrol-minded. They will never agree. I started as a decontrol-minded person and after two and half months I am convinced that nothing could bring a graver danger to the country than to decontrol just now . . .

Some Hon. Members: No, no.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (Punjab): In two months you have changed so much.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar): That is the opinion of the Department.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I was one of you till yesterday and I am one of you even today. But I am speaking with a full sense of my responsibility.

Now there is an additional factor, namely the Korean War. The day the war was declared prices shot up and at such a time are you going to decontrol?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Are the controls to remain for all time?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Korean war today lays the ghost of decontrol in my humble opinion. If, for instance, the war is over and the world returns to peace and plenty when we are able to get wheat and rice from outside—it is very difficult to get them now—decontrol can be thought of.

[Shri K. M. Munshi]

But today I cannot see how we can conceive of a situation in which we can think of decontrol.

Another charge levelled against me was of complacency. I think I am charged with making too many statements during the short time that I have been a Minister. But hon. Members would have seen that I have established personal contact with the deficit States, Madras, Travancore, Mysore, Bihar, Saurashtra and Bombay by visits to most States and conferring with the Ministers. As regards what has been done as a result of those conferences I will presently mention to you. However, it is difficult for me to understand how anyone could say that I am complacent in this matter.

Agitation has been set up about food scarcity and we should try to analyse it. I want you, Sir, and the House to follow me in this, because I feel that unless the Members of this House support the Government in creating a psychological stability in which the scare-mongering that is going on is put an end to, food or no food, we are heading towards a catastrophe. By the very condition of panic which we create we encourage hoarding and profiteering and thus create the very conditions which we want to avoid. Therefore I want all the Members of the House strongly to support the Government in its attempt to lay the ghost of this famine scare, which has unfortunately been started.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Did the Government support us?

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon. Minister proceed.

Shri K. M. Munshi: July, August and September are lean months every year—it is not so this year only—because it is the fag end of the *kharif* crop which accounts for two-thirds of our total food production. This year rice rose in price and there is the difficulty of transport. Rain came with much greater intensity than before in parts of the country. Refugees poured

into Bengal and Assam. There was a cyclone. There was failure of the North East monsoon in certain parts of the country. There was a delay in the onset of the Southwest monsoon in the central and Southern districts of Madras and there were heavy rains and floods in Bihar. Therefore at the very time when we required stable conditions nature was cruel to us and we had to face a very difficult situation.

My friends tell me about the scare of starvation deaths in certain parts. It is a very curious thing that if a Minister goes to the spot, looks into the condition in the villages, talks to the villagers and thus examines the so called starvation deaths and then comes to a conclusion, then he is wrong, he must be wrong or, at any rate he ought to be wrong. Why should it be Government's business to conceal anything in this important matter? If there are starvation deaths, it is all the more necessary that the public should know about them so that drastic steps may be taken.

I will give you a few facts. There is no doubt that this scare started in North Bihar. Unfortunately the rains came on the 15th June, a fortnight earlier. The result was that the maize crop was destroyed to the extent of 60 per cent. Naturally that led to scarcity there. The procurement system followed was also such as not to provide sufficient stock at all places. The Centre had seen to it that there is enough stock at the disposal of the State Governments in order to distribute it if they chose to. What happened was that about a month ago there was agitation in the different districts and somehow or other sufficient attention was not paid to it. Then on the 7th July 1950 the scare of starvation deaths started. Paper after paper took the lead. My friend Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra who is always full as the fire of generous impulses saw the nightmare of the famine of 1943 in Bengal. The conversations which he had with the Chief Minister of Bengal, he should

have kept it to himself; but he chose to give it to the press. Even the Chief Minister had requested him not to publish it but in glaring headlines he told the world that Bengal was facing the famine of 1943. As a result of the statement the whole country went into hysterics, even in a far away place like Bombay. Was it right and was it fair? He could have written to me. I am a friend of his. He could have run up to Delhi and told me about it. Is it necessary to publish it in the Calcutta papers? At the time when this took place the West Bengal Government had 149,000 tons of rice in their possession, whereas their monthly consumption was 45,000 tons. They had three months' stock with them. Was there any fault of mine?

The story of the starvation deaths went on from paper to paper. I want the House to realise that there are parties in this country who are manoeuvring for an advantage at the next election. This gives them a very good handle to hit the Congress Party. Unfortunately I find some of my Congress friends also thinking that they should take part in this campaign. I am not blaming them. The President of the Bhagalpore District Congress Committee—one of the finest Congressmen I met, I may tell you by the way—told me, "We had to go to the Press because had we not gone you would not have come here and our difficulties would not have been solved. It was an unfortunate thing that it should have been done". He realised the tremendous repercussions and said, "I am very sorry I have created a situation in which the repercussions were India-wide and which created all these complications."

As regards the position with regard to the deaths which have been mentioned again and again in spite of my contradiction, I have an analysis here. I did not know there were 77 deaths—the number 77 sprang up in the last two days. There were only 33 reported cases when I went to Bhagalpur on the 29th. I went into them meticulously. In the five villages

which I visited and from where people came to me, I was pointed out only three people in whose houses these deaths occurred. I examined them. In none of these cases, was there unimpeachable testimony; people had worked themselves up to describing every death as starvation death. On account of the floods no doubt there was cholera or malaria or some other disease. No doubt there is malnutrition. I visited the people and saw that their condition was very precarious; it is very precarious still—I don't deny that fact. One danger is enough—scarcity. Let us not, I beseech you, convert it into a famine and starvation. It only gives a handle to the political enemies of the Congress in order to create a situation in which it is made to appear to the country that we have failed altogether.

What is the position in Bihar? I don't want to take hon. Members through details, but out of the 33 deaths which I investigated only one was a case of starvation in a beggar's family. There were eight cases of malaria, cholera, etc. where I am prepared to give the benefit of doubt and say that malnutrition was a contributory cause. Four have still to be investigated. Twenty deaths were entirely untrue. One person whose name was given in the village died twenty years ago. Another died two years ago. A third was miling of asthma for some years; six or seven others whose deaths were reported were not in the villages indicated and in some cases the local villagers said that for the last few months there had been no deaths in their villages. Is this the kind of propaganda of which we should become victims? I can understand others who want to hurt us or bring discredit upon us may do it, but should we not stand up to it to say that we are discharging our duties to the best of our ability?

I will mention certain facts which will help the House in understanding the food position. About the 12th, as soon as I read of these reports of deaths, I immediately gave instructions that 18,000 tons. of wheat

[Shri K. M. Munshi]

should be moved into Bihar; though at that time, on that date, Bihar had enough to feed itself for a month and a half or two months. Still as a matter of precaution 18,000 tons were moved. I went to Madras. I even went to a couple of villages in Madras. I met all the officers, I spent two days with them. What did I find? I found that there was no scarcity of available commodity with the Government. The difficulty arose from the fact that whereas the scarcity was in the central and southern districts, the stocks were lying in East Godavari and West Godavari and transport was not available at the time. Even "starvation deaths" scare had been started in Madras. In *The Hindu* I read an officer contradicting that no such starvation deaths took place. I had the Food Secretary of Madras yesterday with me and he assured me that there was not a single starvation death in Madras upto date. The whole story is the outcome of panic, of rumour and of interested parties trying to bring discredit to the Congress administration. Apart from that, as a matter of precaution 20,000 tons of wheat and 18,000 tons of milo were immediately despatched. There were transport difficulties. The Food Secretary ran up to Bombay, he saw the Railway Board; and immediately arranged for as much railway movement as was possible under the difficult transport conditions of the country.

I may give the hon. Members certain figures to satisfy them. There is no scarcity of food in the country. There may be difficulty about distribution, there may be difficulty arising from administrative inefficiency, but so far as the Centre is concerned—and the Centre is only an importing agency—we have seen to it that there is no scarcity. I will give you a few figures although it may tire some Members. I am doing it for this reason. I want hon. Members to realise that the Government of India is doing the utmost that could possi-

bly be done under the present conditions, to see that the country is provided for under any contingency.

The stock with the States was 19,87,000 tons on the 1st of July. The procurement from July to October, on a very conservative basis, is 6,30,000 tons, and the Government of India's supplies are 10,14,000 tons. Therefore, the total availability up to October is 36,31,000 tons as against our requirement of about 6,00,000 tons per month for our rationing commitments.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): Six thousand tons?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The margin is so large that even if any portion of the country collapses it is enough to go round.

I put it as 31st October for this reason. The new crop begins to come from the 31st October. When the new crop comes into the market, old boards also are emptied into the market. As from the 15th October, as usual, there is always an easy market. Therefore, the total availability as I said was 36,31,000 tons and the offtake from July to October is 26,43,000 tons. Therefore, our stocks would on the 1st of November be 9,88,000 tons. The stocks of the Government of India with the States will be 1,09,000 tons. So we have got 11,00,000 tons. Then what about November and December? We will have, between procurement and imports and this carryover stock of 9,88,000 tons, up to December 18,61,000 tons of food grains whereas the expected offtake is 12,00,000 tons. Immediately, therefore, whatever strain is there, we will have at all times something like 10,00,000 tons at our disposal to throw in wherever required. And that is not all. What we expect is that on the 1st January there will be this eight lakhs and 61 thousand tons, but if still we do not reach our target of two million tons, we can get more, if need be. January stocks are coming and if there is a famine, I will come to

the House and say, "All right. Two million tons are not enough. Give me another 100 thousand tons more." I would not be ashamed of it. But to say that the country has not got food sufficient to go round, I submit, is not warranted by the facts and by the stocks in the possession of Government.

Then with regard to Bihar, certain regions in Bihar, as I saw for myself, are in an unfortunate state of things. The crop was lost; floods came; and the landless labour was without work. There was dislocation of all traffic and the result was naturally that the landless worker who lives on the last margin of subsistence could not get enough, though I must say that I found that the well-to-do villager in each village is still maintaining himself with whatever little stock he possesses. When I went there, we had a conference and we took certain decisions and I am glad to announce that the Bihar Government has promptly taken the steps agreed upon and the result will be that in the ordinary course, except for propaganda, you will not hear of the stories which are reported in the papers about deaths. I have just got a telephonic message from there, which says that the decisions that we had come to have been implemented. *Inter alia*, it says:

"Orders have been issued for the immediate supply of 5,000 tons of *atta* for distribution in these areas.

A levy order has been promulgated for the procurement of rice and paddy in these areas."

I assure you that there is any amount of rice and paddy hoarded in the very area, but nothing was done. Then—

"Movement ban has been placed restricting the movement of rice and paddy, wheat and maize, from one district to another."

And this is perhaps the most important—

"The rice stocks with big

growers and rice millers and hullers have been frozen and will be procured by levy."

I do not know what stock has been frozen, but in the very area in which people were suffering, there were more than 150 thousand maunds of rice and this has been frozen as a result of the decision that we took. Then the message says that Fair Price Shops have been and are being opened throughout the distressed areas and these Shops will make supplies... (*Interruption*).

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: How did you get these figures?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I was told so by those in authority—the merchants and the Government.

Seed is being supplied for the sowing of the next crop and road making will soon commence as soon as the floods disappear in order to give work to the landless labour and pay them some wages which will carry them over to the next season, and the next season will commence by the middle of October or November. Therefore, immediate steps have been taken both by us and the Bihar Government. The Bihar Government has done its best. The Government of India has done its best, and I am sure the House will feel convinced that everything is being done which should be done.

✓ **Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** On this question of freezing of stocks, did Government ascertain the stocks before ordering the freezing or they ordered freezing so that everything may go underground and be frozen there permanently?

Shri K. M. Munshi: There was no intention on the part of Government that it should go underground. It is not that with a desire to enable people to hoard the freezing order was made.

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: No. But if they did not ascertain the stocks first, the result would be the same as the one I have described.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I have got the message only by telephone and the words used are:

“The rice stocks with big growers and rice millers and hullers have been frozen and will be procured by levy.”

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

As to what has been collared, I do not know. It all depends upon the alacrity of the officers and the cleverness of the hoarders. These are all uncertain elements about which I cannot say anything. But, anyway, as I said, 18,000 tons have already been sent and with this stock there will be no difficulty at all.

Then, you must realize that the rice eating areas are in a really difficult position. There is no rice in this country. Assam, U.P. and C.P. which had promised to give thousands of tons of rice have not been able to implement their promises.

Seth Govind Das (Madhya Pradesh): But I think C.P. has done it.

Shri K. M. Munshi: C.P. has not done it to the extent of the Basic Plan. They have done something. They have released only 8047 tons as a result of my request to Shuklaji and I am much obliged to him for that, but the Basic Plan on which the supply was based has not been implemented.—I do not say purposely not implemented,—but not implemented because their means were insufficient. Therefore, there is scarcity of rice. Since last month, I have been frantically trying in different foreign countries to secure rice. If any is secured, it will be made available, but in Madras, as I have said already, we shall see that wheat is sold at a cheaper price than rice. What more could be done? Milo will be supplied to them. Stocks are actually moving to them and within a short time, there will be quite a large quantity of milo and wheat. But it is not correct that the people are not given their proper ration of seven ounces. What really happened was this. In certain districts, there was

a scarcity; in certain others, the stocks were lying idle, and it was impossible for the Madras Government to move the surplus stocks from one district to the other. To say that this was something of a grave ‘breach of duty’ or ‘neglect of the people’ or ‘inducing starvation’ or anything of that kind—I submit that all those words are entirely unjustified. That disposes of the position in regard to scarcity and I can assure you that we have got enough resources at our disposal to see that there is no question of starvation and no question of famine at all. I wish and pray that Members of this House will rather help in creating an atmosphere in which this panic comes to an end.

Pandit Maitra (West Bengal): The whole trouble is that the whole rationed population is suffering because Government are unable to fulfil their ration commitments. What is the percentage of population throughout India that is rationed and what is the percentage that is unrationed? Have you taken care of that?

Shri K. M. Munshi: It has been taken care of. I have been saying the very same thing. My friend came in just now perhaps. I have been saying that these are the commitments of Government and that there is a sufficient margin and even if there is an increase in certain areas or where there is no commitment at present a commitment has to be undertaken, that extra requirement would be forthcoming. I have already stated that. Now, that disposes of this question of scarcity in the country.

Shri Chattopadhyay (West Bengal): Is there any prospect of prices coming down?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Well, I can tell you this, that the prices have risen largely because of the fear of scarcity and because of panic. We are doing our best to maintain the prices by throwing in fresh stocks in places where there is scarcity. One can try, but I cannot guarantee anything. Tomorrow, another panicky statement

by another half a dozen Members of this House or by our opponents might raise the scare to an even higher degree and it may become worse. But I am sure about it that if this House makes up its mind to help the Government by creating the necessary atmosphere, Government also will try its utmost to see that the food goes round and that there is no famine or scarcity anywhere.

Pandit Maitra: Who is the Member here who is interested in famine and is not willing to co-operate with you in regard to fighting the famine?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I am very glad that my learned friend is rising up to the reputation which I ascribed to him. I just now said.....

An Hon. Member: But he was absent then.

Shri K. M. Munshi: Was he? His heart is full of the flame of the passion of generous impulses and he cannot restrain himself. The next point is.....

Shri J. R. Kapoor: At this stage, may I put one question? After the Government has procured all that it wants, if there is some grain left with an agriculturist, is there any objection to the agriculturist being permitted to go to the urban area and sell the extra grain in the open market at a competitive price?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Now, my hon. friend ought to realise that the essence of procurement is that the procurement takes place not at competitive prices but at prices fixed by Government. If a free market is allowed as my hon. friend suggests, the result will be that the agriculturist will sell at a competitive high price in the market in the urban area and will not sell to Government at the procurement price, with the result that your procurement stock will be completely gone. Competitive prices will dig the grave of controls.

I want to say only one word with regard to sugar. I do not want to tire the House. But as I have already said this morning, if this House sup-

ports me in having a uniform system throughout the country, if this House supports me in getting round the State Governments to have a uniform system with regard to sugarcane and the supply of sugar, I can assure the House that there is no scarcity. But for that purpose somebody must be there with an elbow much stronger and much more powerful than mine.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: But please tell us how we can help you.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I come to one or two other miscellaneous matters which have been mentioned. One is with regard to the C.T.O. I am not trying to defend anything that the C.T.O. may have done in the past. All I can assure you is that whatever can be done would be done. If a mistake has been made, if proper men are not trained, it is not the fault of anybody. It is the fault of those who inaugurated this organisation.

Shri Sidhva: But what action has been taken against them?

Shri K. M. Munshi: If my friend can come with me, I will give him an idea of the action which has been taken. Action is being taken day after day. I do not think in the few minutes at my disposal I can give him an idea as to what has been done or what could be done.

My friend Pandit Kunzru asked a certain question with regard to the integrated programme. Immediately on my taking office, I felt that mere emphasis on the "grow more food" side would only complicate affairs. We must have cotton, we must have jute, we must have other oil-seeds. Therefore, the best course was to have an integrated programme which would stimulate production in all the different varieties which are required by the country. Now that can only be done by intensive cultivation. It cannot be done by having more and more acreage, because there is not sufficient acreage. As a result of the Central Tractor Organisation activities there might be at the end of seven years about three million acres more added, but that is a long way

[**Shri K. M. Munshi**]

off. In the meantime what has been done is to have as much of intensive cultivation as is possible. A Malwa Board has been formed in order to co-ordinate the 'Grow more food' activities of Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, PEPSU and Vindhya Pradesh. The Centre and the States will all co-ordinate their efforts in order to stimulate intensive cultivation in that area where there is much vacant land, where there are water resources and which is today a fertile region. I have no doubt that if every effort is being made possibly we may have some more substantial results.

With regard to South India, I am trying to formulate a scheme by which the delta areas of the South could be so intensively cultivated that the rice deficit in the South could at least be substantially met by internal production. For that purpose I have already suggested to the different States that a South India Development Board may be formed by the States in co-ordination with the Centre to undertake an intensive and swift programme of cultivating those areas where water is available. Similarly we have also a scheme in Orissa for the intensive cultivation of rice and potatoes. There is also a scheme in Bombay for the intensive cultivation of cotton in certain areas. The schemes have been formulated, preliminary investigations have taken place and by October or November I hope we will be able to do something.

There are only one or two points left. Some heat was generated about the two rival committees—one presided over by my hon. friend Mr. Tirumala Rao and the other presided over by Pandit Maitra. I tried, with my very limited capacity for reading English to see whether the terms of reference to the two committees were the same. Somehow or other I remained unconvinced that they are overlapping. The Maitra Committee was intended to examine the arrangements with regard to procurement, that is godown arrangements, commission paid and so on.

Shri Sidhva: And also procurement.

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is my reading. My hon. friend will excuse me. I have applied to it, as I said, whatever little knowledge of English I have. I am speaking for myself. My hon. friend is at perfect liberty to read the terms of reference in his own way.

My hon. friend Pandit Maitra's Committee has followed the adage of wise judges. In courts, it is said that he is a wise judge who extends his jurisdiction. The Maitra Committee not only went about taking evidence on matters referred to it but also with regard to the systems of procurement.

The system of procurement is a technical affair. It is a matter on which certain official experience has to be applied. Therefore, the best officers available to us were brought on the Committee in order to study the system. My hon. friend Mr. Tirumala Rao was put at the head of it in order to see that the official mind does not run away with red-tapism. The report of that committee has not been published, but it will be published after Government have taken decisions. But I must record my deep appreciation for the work done by both the committees. With regard to Tirumala Rao Committee, I should say that the analysis of each procurement system in the provinces and the methods they have suggested are some of the most valuable contributions to the literature on the present procurement systems in this country.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that Mr. Tirumala Rao was a member of the Maitra Committee originally?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are not concerned with the membership of the committees; we are only concerned with their recommendations. The hon. Minister need not answer that question.

Shri Satish Chandra (Uttar Pradesh): Were not the arrangements for procurement and distribution covered by the terms of reference of the Maitra Committee?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Some hon. members of Parliament have made some recommendations. It is for the Parliament to accept or reject them.

Shri Sidhva: Pandit Maitra has stated that by the appointment of the other committee, confusion has arisen.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. members are taking sides, as in a court of law, on the terms of reference to the committees. Is it at all pertinent to this issue? The hon. Minister need not address himself to this matter.

Shri R. Khan (Bombay): We have not got the reports with us and we are discussing them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is another reason why we need not discuss it now.

Shri K. M. Munshi: Then my hon. friend said something about vegetables, my activities with regard to food habits and to the monkey business. So far as vegetables are concerned, I have here the figures of all countries and it is curious that more vegetables are consumed in other countries compared to cereals than in India. In India today there are millions of people who either on account of *ekadeshi* or *poornima* or some such reason give up cereals on one day or another. Naturally, therefore, the question was one of concentrating the attention of the public on the necessity of having one day as the non-cereal day. It is not going to hunt anyone, or impose any difficulty.

The whole point is this. You want to reduce consumption. You want to make the country self-sufficient. If anybody suggests an idea, all that you present him with is the statement that it is impossible . . .

Shri Sidhva: Where are the vegetables?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Mr. Sidhva referred to my statements. I am sure he has not read all of them, because I made it amply clear that vegetables are more costly than cereals. I had been to Bombay for that very purpose. A pilot scheme has been

started and a few hundred acres of land are proposed to be placed under vegetable cultivation in order 4 P.M. to supply that city. In the hotels special effort is going to be made to supply cheap vegetable luncheons.

I do not want to take the time of the House—I have already taken much time. If on any effort that Government makes in order to minimise difficulties, Members turn round and try to ridicule it, how are you going to succeed in anything? My hon. friend referred to monkeys. I have here an international authority which says that in the world twenty per cent. of the food grown is destroyed by pests, disease and infestation. If these are the figures for the world, our figures are bound to be higher. I have said something about the monkey. I assure my hon. friend that I have the highest respect for it. My hon. friend said they are in the House! Whether they are in our outside the House—I do not yield to him in my respect for them for. I have no doubt that in some geological period his ancestors and mine were swinging from tree to tree by their tails. I cannot therefore be guilty of such disrespect for our common ancestors. The point today is this, and let us solemnly look at it, that we have no food to go round, we have no foreign exchange to pay food with. Are you going to allow the pests, the parrots, crows, monkeys and *nilgais* to destroy twenty per cent. or more of our grains? If you want them to live, then do not come here and ask the House or my hon. colleague to provide more funds for purchasing food. Then you give up growing more food. I shall be quite willing. But I am sure I am not quite wrong that the number of monkeys and persons above fifty-five in this country is roughly the same,—there may be a mistake by a few lakhs. Whether to kill the one or the other, I leave it to my friend.

I have only one more word to say. This debate to my mind is a little unreal. The attack on the Government

of India can only be made with regard to those matters in respect of which it has the power to do something. In this case, so far as food is concerned, the Government of India is an importing agency subject to the exigencies of finance. It is a subsidising agency for grow more food, subject to this limitation that it dare not ask anybody as to how the money is spent. And it is a whipping boy; every blame is to be attached to it if anything happened in the country, without its having the power to correct the same. Few members here realize that the Ministry of Agriculture was not intended to be an executive office so far as the Grow More Food campaign and the other things relating to food are concerned. This has come to it as a matter of historical accident. Today it is impossible for the Ministry of Agriculture to pull up any State with regard to its procurement policy. It cannot say a word as to why it did not fulfil its expectations for giving food grains to another Province. It cannot prescribe as to how the Grow More Food campaign is to be made. Not only that. It is the most surprising thing which I have learnt only during the last ten months—that it is impossible for the Ministry of Agriculture to engage the most efficient officer, because there is a rule which limits the amount of salary to be paid. My hon. friend Seth Govind Das talked about Hindi. For a month and a half I tried to get a Hindi and Devanagri knowing clerk on my personal staff, because lot of letters come in, and it took me a month and a half and any amount of red-tapism in order to secure him. And you will be surprised to know that I cannot even cashier or dismiss a servant against whom charges of corruption are levelled and who says "Please don't enquire into them, dismiss me". I have tried to dismiss him, but not succeeded.

Shri Hanumanthaiya (Mysore): It is your fault to have made provision in the Constitution which makes the dismissal of Government servants extremely difficult.

Sari K. M. Munshi: It is not my fault. I have the maximum of responsibility and also the maximum of impotency!

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Cannot something be done to remove this impotency?

Shri K. M. Munshi: That is in the hands of the House, not in my hands. I showed the man the charges against him, and he said "Please don't enquire into anything; let me go; dismiss me". I am trying to dismiss him for a month and a half. He is drawing his salary. I have not been able to succeed. Therefore, when you attack this Ministry you must also realise that it has got its limitations. But I tell you one thing. Whatever the reports may be, the food situation is not an easy one. It will require the strenuous effort not only of the Government of India but of everyone in this country before it can be satisfactorily solved. If I may permit myself to make the last appeal it is this that you select the best man that you can think of for this job, a man in whom you have the largest confidence. Ask the hon. Prime Minister to take charge of it. After you do that, you give him all the necessary power to carry out his responsibility. You give him all the power to see that the schemes made by the Government of India and discussed and passed by this House are implemented. This is not merely a local affair. I have found after two months of study that it is a matter of real national emergency. If you fail to do that, then I tell you no man will be able to save the situation next year. I am not pessimistic. I have started with an optimistic note. I am an optimist all my life. In this matter, you find out the best man in the country and put him there, but for Heaven's sake give him power to implement the decisions which you make. This is the only submission I have to make. I am only pointing out to you the real difficulty in the matter. If you do that, he may fail or falter; he may not succeed. But then human effort would have been at

its best. But this kind of discussion of what I may call an unreal type only creates an unfortunate impression in the country which gives a handle to our critics and does no good to anybody.

I thank the House for the patience with which it has heard me.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भांगव : मैंने जो तकरीर मिस्टर मुन्शी से आज सुनी है यही तकरीर अर्सा कोई दो साल का हुआ और तकरीबन इन्हीं अल्फाज में मैंने इस तकरीर का लुब्बे लुबाब इस हाउस में अर्ज किया था। मेरा अब भी यह दावा है कि.....

Shri B. Das : Let the hon. Member speak either in Hindi or English. I cannot understand Persian.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker : I am afraid the hon. Member is appealing to a wrong quarter. I myself am not able to decide whether it is Hindi or Urdu.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भांगव : मैंने यह अर्ज किया कि आज जो तकरीर मिस्टर मुन्शी ने की है यही तकरीर, जो यही अल्फाज उस में नहीं थे, और उन अल्फाज में वह खूबसूरती नहीं थी जो मिस्टर मुन्शी की तकरीर में होती है, दो साल पहले मैंने इस हाउस में की थी। मेरा अब यह दावा है कि चाहे मिस्टर मुन्शी इस एग्रीकल्चर और फूड (Agriculture and Food) के अहकमे में बज्जीर रहें या इनसे भी कोई बेहतर इस देश में जो आदमी हो उस को बज्जीर मुर्करर कर दिया जाये बल्कि चाहे सारी कॅबिनेट (Cabinet) के मेम्बरान और सारे हिन्दुस्तान की कनसंटेन्टेड विजडम (concentrated wisdom) इस जगह बैठा दी जाये जहां मिस्टर मुन्शी बैठे हुए हैं तब भी यह मसला हरगिज हल नहीं हो सकता। डाक्टर राजेन्द्रप्रसाद, हमारे देश के रत्न,

इस ओहदे पर मुमताज थे। मिस्टर जयराम-दास, जो अब आसाम के लाट साहब हैं, इस ओहदे पर मुमताज रहे और उन्होंने ने निहायत जाफिसानी से काम किया, बड़ी अच्छी तरह से काम किया, लेकिन वह कामयाब नहीं हुए। और मैं जानता हूँ कि मिस्टर मुन्शी की किस्मत में भी यह नाकामयाबी लिखी हुई है। मिस्टर मुन्शी हरगिज कामयाब नहीं होंगे। इतनी लम्बी तकरीर उन की थी, दो घंटे की थी जिसमें उन्होंने इतनी बातें कहीं मगर मैं जानता हूँ कि यह मसला हल नहीं हो सकता क्योंकि जाना तो आप को है अमृतसर और आप रास्ता लेते हैं कानपुर का। जब यह रिस्पांसिबिलिटी (responsibility) गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया (Government of India) की है कि हर एक आदमी का मुँह भरे, हर एक आदमी का पेट भरे खुराक की कमी न रहे तो फिर उस खुराक को पैदा करने की, उस पैदावार को प्रोक्योर (procure) करने की भी जिम्मेवारी आप को लेनी होगी। जब यह जिम्मेवारी आप किसी दूसरे शख्स को देते हैं, तो इस तरीके में इस सिस्टम (system) में, एक ऐसी खराबी है कि आप का इस मसले को हल करना नामुमकिन है। जैसे कि हिन्दी के अन्दर एक मिसाल है कि आप एक पौधा तो बोते हैं कीकर का और चाहते हैं कि उस में से आम पैदा हो जायें। जो भी मिनिस्टर (Minister) आज प्राविशियाल गवर्नमेंट्स (Provincial Governments) में है वह प्रोक्योरमेंट (procurement) में पूरी तरह से इंटेरेस्टेड (interested) नहीं है। सब तो यह है कि कुछ अरसे पहले सारे प्राविसेज के जिलों में कहीं किसी किस्म

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भागव]

की कोशिश ऐसी नहीं की गई थी कि जिस से लोग यह महसूस करें कि हमें अपने देश में ज्यादा अनाज पैदा करना है, कल्चिवेटर (Cultivator) को, काश्तकार को, पता नहीं था कि देश में क्या समस्या है। मैं आप से ठीक अर्ज कर रहा हूँ कि यहां से सौ मील पर एक छोटा सा ज़िला है हिसार का, जहां का मैं रहने वाला हूँ। वहां पर ज़मींदार इस तरह के हैं कि अगर उन को पता लगे कि देश में यह संकट है तो वह हर तरह की कोशिश करने को तैयार हैं। लेकिन एक साल पहले तक शायद हिसार में डिप्टी कमिश्नर ने कोई भीटिंग तक नहीं की थी कि ग्रो मोर फूड (Grow More Food) किया जाये।

प्रोक्वोरमेंट के बारे में मेरा यह दावा है कि देश में अनाज काफी है। मैं कभी एक मिनट के लिये भी यह भानने को तैयार नहीं हूँ कि देश के अन्दर अनाज की कमी है। देश में अनाज की कमी एक तरह की साइकोलाजी (Psychology) से पैदा कर दी गई है, प्रोडक्शन (Production) के लिहाज़ से कोई कमी नहीं है। देश में अनाज की कमी इस लिहाज़ से मानी जा सकती है कि यहाँ जो कंट्रोल (Control) है और राशनिंग (rationing) है उसके लिये काफी प्रोक्वोरमेंट नहीं होता है। मैं अदब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जब मुन्शी साहब यह तसलीम करते हैं कि उन के पास जो फिगर्स (figures) हैं वह सही नहीं हैं तो फिर किस बेसिस (basis) पर वह कहते हैं कि देश में अनाज की कमी है। कुछ दिन हुए हमें गवर्नमेंट आफ

इंडिया (Government of India) की तरफ से सरकारी कागज़ात से मालूम हुआ कि उस के पास जो फिगर्स हैं उन में तीस फी सदी तक की ग़लती हो सकती है। अगर तीस फी सदी आंकड़े आपको नाकाबिले ऐतबार हैं तो मैं अदब से पूछता हूँ कि आप किस बिना पर कहते हैं कि इस देश में पांच सात परसेंट की कमी है। इस देश में अनाज की कमी बिल्कुल नहीं है। मैं मान सकता हूँ कि इस देश में अगर कमी हो तो किसी क़दर चावल की कमी हो सकती है। मैं मान सकता हूँ कि इस देश में गेहूँ की कमी किसी क़दर हो सकती है। मगर अप ओवर-आल (overall), मारे अनाज की पोजीशन (Position) को लें तो उसमें कोई कमी नहीं है। यह गेहूँ और चावल की जो कमी है उसके लिये भी हम ज़िम्मेवार हैं कि हमने यह खराबी पैदा कर दी। जिस इलाक़े के लोग पहले बाजरा और ज्वार और साथ ही चना खाने थे उस इलाक़े के अन्दर हमने उनको ज़बरदस्ती मजबूर किया कि वे गेहूँ और चावल खायें। हमने कम्प्ट्रोल और राशनिंग के नाम से कितनी और खराबियाँ पैदा कर दी हैं और अगर अब उन खराबियों के बाद आप अपनी शकल शीशे में जब उन खराबियों से घिरे हुये हों देखें तो आपको अपनी शकल डरावनी मालूम होगी। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में अनाज की कमी बिल्कुल नहीं है।

मुझको खुशी है कि मिस्टर मुन्शी ने भी इसको चन्द कण्डीशन्स (conditions) के साथ तसलीम तो कर लिया। मिस्टर मुन्शी फ़रमाते हैं कि इस देश में उस दिन डीकम्प्ट्रोल (decontrol) हो जायगा जब वह कण्डीशन्स पूरी हो जायंगी। इन में एक कण्डीशन है प्रोडक्शन

और प्रोक्थोरमेण्ट की। हिन्दी में एक मसल है कि "न नौ मन तेल हो और न राधा नाचे"। अगर यह चीजें पूरी हो जायें, अगर इस देश में सब के सब लोग घनाढ्य हो जायें, अगर यहां सारी चीजें पैदा हो जायें तो फिर सारा मामला अपने आप ही हल हो जायेगा। इसलिये मुझे उम्मीद है कि मिस्टर मुन्शी इस कण्ट्रोल और डीकण्ट्रोल के मामले की तरफ और ज्यादा तबज्जह देंगे। इस दो महीने के अरसे में उनमें तबदीली आई है। मगर कहीं जो ६७ हजार आदमी इस काम में लगे हुये हैं, कण्ट्रोल के काम में, और जिनका अब वैस्टेड इन्टरेस्ट (vested interest) हो गया है, उन के हटाये जाने का असर उन पर न पड़े और उनके रास्ते में इस वजह से कोई दिक्कतें वाकै न हो जाये। मैं जानता हूं कि दो महीने के अन्दर वह इस राय पर पहुंच जायेंगे कि दर असल इस देश में अनाज की बिल्कुल कमी नहीं है और अब वक्त आ गया है कि हम फूड को डीकण्ट्रोल कर दें। मेरा यह कहने का मतलब नहीं है, जनाबवाला ने खुद मद्रास की मिसाल देते हुये बतलाया था, कि हम एक मिनट के वास्ते भी यह चाहते हों कि मद्रास के इलाक़े में या जहां इस देश में कमी हो वहां देश के दूसरे जितने सरप्लस प्राविन्सेज (surplus provinces) हैं वहां से अनाज न पहुंचे। जो सरप्लस स्टेट्स हैं उनका फ़र्ज है कि जितना भी सरप्लस उनके पास हो उस को वह सस्ते से सस्ते दामों पर प्रोक्थोर करें और वहां पहुंचायें। लेकिन हम देखते क्या हैं। ज़िला हिसार में दो बरस हुये बेशुमार चना पैदा हुआ। हमारे ज़िले में ज़मींदारों को साढ़े छः रुपया फ़ी मन के हिसाब से उसका दाम दिया गया, हालांकि उस वक्त दिल्ली के अन्दर दस रुपये मन और मद्रास और कलकत्ते में बीस रुपये फ़ी मन के हिसाब से

चना बिकता था। हम पंजाब गवर्नमेण्ट के पास गये, यहां गवर्नमेण्ट आफ इण्डिया के पास आये, हमने बड़ी कोशिश की कि किसी तरह से यहां का चना उन इलाक़ों में पहुंच जाये जहां इसकी कमी है और हमको हमारे चने के पैसे मिल जायें। लेकिन क्या जवाब मिला? गवर्नमेण्ट आफ इण्डिया ने हमारी कतई मदद नहीं की। पंजाब गवर्नमेण्ट ने हमारी कतई मदद नहीं की। हमसे कहा गया कि यू० पी० गवर्नमेण्ट नहीं मानती है, हमको वह चना ले जाने की इजाज़त नहीं देना चाहती। बहुत सी स्टेट्स गवर्नमेण्टों (States Governments) को हमारी इस सैण्ट्रल गवर्नमेण्ट की तरफ से अख्तियार दिये हुये हैं कि चाहे जिस तरह से वह गवर्नमेण्ट अपने ही एक ज़िले से दूसरे ज़िले के अन्दर कम्युनिकेशन (communication) बन्द कर दे, एक चीज़ को एक जगह से दूसरी जगह न ले जाने दे और जो चाहे करे। जब कान्स्टीट्यूशन (Constitution) बनाने के वक्त यह सवाल पेश हुआ तो मैंने बड़े जोर से अर्ज किया कि जब हमारा मुल्क एक है तो कम से कम खाने के मामले में पूरी सहूलियत होनी चाहिये और किसी प्राविन्स को दूसरे प्राविन्स के खिलाफ़ किसी प्रकार के रैस्ट्रिक्शन्स (restrictions) लगाने की इजाज़त नहीं होनी चाहिये। लेकिन उस समय इस सवाल को किसी तरह टाल दिया गया और लोकल गवर्नमेण्ट्स (Local Governments) को कुछ न कुछ इजाज़त रही कि वह रैस्ट्रिक्शन लगा सके। आज हमारे बड़े अच्छे, निहायत क़ाबिल वकील साहब, हमारे वकील साहब मिस्टर मुन्शी फ़रमाते हैं कि मेरे अन्दर मैग्जिमम इम्पोटेन्सी (maximum impotency) है और मेरे ऊपर मैग्जिमम रिसपांसिबिलिटी (maximum responsibility) है। लेकिन मैं

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि कान्स्टीट्यूशन के अन्दर गवर्नमेण्ट आफ इण्डिया को पूरे अस्तित्वयारात हासिल है कि असेन्डियल कामोडिटीज (essential commodities) के बारे में वह जो चाहे करे। हमने जो कान्स्टीट्यूशन पास किया है उसकी ३६९ दफ़ा की रू से गवर्नमेण्ट आफ इण्डिया को यह सब अस्तित्वयारात हासिल है। पांच साल के अरसे तक वह जो स्टेप (step) चाहे ले और जो अस्तित्वयारात चाहे लोकल गवर्नमेण्ट को दे। मैं निहायत अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप को यह यकीन है, जब आप कहते हैं कि यू० पी० गवर्नमेण्ट से आप यह काम नहीं करा सकते हैं, तो आप खुद अपने उन अस्तित्वयारात का इस्तेमाल नहीं कर रहे हैं जो आप को कान्स्टीट्यूशन की रू से हासिल है। अगर आप कहते हैं कि यू० पी० गवर्नमेण्ट किसी जगह पर गन्ना बोये और वह उस ज़मीन में गन्ना नहीं बोती, अगर आप मद्रास गवर्नमेण्ट से कहते हैं कि मूंगफली की जगह चावल बोया जाय और वह नहीं बोती तो मैं अर्ज करता हूँ कि आपको यह सब अस्तित्वयारात काम में लाने चाहिये। अगर आप वह काम नहीं करते हैं जिनको आप जानते हैं कि मही है तो मैं समझता हूँ कि आप खुद अपनी ताकत का इस्तेमाल नहीं करते हैं। मैं जानता हूँ कि कान्स्टीट्यूशन में आपको यह सब ताकत हासिल है और आपको इसका इस्तेमाल करना चाहिये।

तो मैं आपसे अर्ज कर रहा हूँ कि मेरी आबाज कमज़ोर अवश्य है लेकिन मैं जानता हूँ कि आज मिस्टर मुन्शी ने इस हकीकत को तसलीम कर लिया है, उन्होंने खुद अपने अल्फ़ाज़ में कह दिया है कि कुछ शर्तों के बाद मैं खुद चाहता हूँ कि डिकण्ट्रोल हो जाये। जब तक यह डिकण्ट्रोल नहीं होता

तब तक कण्ट्रोल को कामयाब बनाने के वास्ते ज़रूरी है कि कण्ट्रोल सारा का सारा सैण्टर (Centre) के हाथ में हो और सैण्टर जो कहे उसको प्राविसेज माने। इस वक़्त प्राविसेज नहीं चाहते कि वह अनपापुलर (unpopular) बने, वह नहीं चाहते कि प्रोक्वोरमेण्ट करें। वह यह नहीं करेंगे। तो ऐसी हालत में मैं चाहता हूँ कि अगर गवर्नमेण्ट यूनीटरी गवर्नमेण्ट (Unitary Government) है तो जो कान्स्टीट्यूशन में आपको अस्तित्वयारात हासिल है उनको आप प्राविसेज से ले लें और प्राविसेज को मजबूर करें कि वह सैण्टर के कहने के मुताबिक़ काम करें। जब आप इसके लिये जिम्मेदार हैं कि इस देश के लोगों को खुराक हम पहुंचावें तो मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि आपको इसके लिये सब अस्तित्वयारात और ताकत हासिल करनी होगी।

Shri K. M. Munshi : Give me *taqat*.

पण्डित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : आपको ताकत हासिल करनी होगी आपको मर्दमी हासिल करनी होगी। ताकत और मर्दमी आपके अन्दर है लेकिन आप इसको जानते नहीं हैं। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि आपको कान्स्टीट्यूशन के अन्दर यह सब अस्तित्वयारात हासिल है। लेकिन चूँकि एक सैण्ट्रल इन्ववायरी कमेटी बंठी है, इसलिये, मैं उन बजूहात में दाखिल नहीं होना चाहता। जो कुछ मुझे अर्ज करना होगा, जो कुछ मेरी समझ में आयेगा, उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट में हम मैम्बरान कमेटी अर्ज करेंगे। लेकिन मैं सिर्फ़ इतना अर्ज करता हूँ कि आप जिस बेसिस पर कहते हैं कि आप कण्ट्रोल कायम रखते हैं, तो उनको इस तरीक़े से रखिये, जिस से देश में शान्ति हो।

जनाब की इजाज़त से एक वाक़्या मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ। अभी तक हम सुनते

आये थे कि आदमियों की खुराक को कण्ट्रोल किया जाता था, आठ छंटाक और छः छंटाक राशन में मिलता था। लेकिन एक हफ्ता हुआ, मुझे फीरोजपुर जाने का मौका हुआ, सारे के सारे बार असोसियेशन (Bar Association) के मेम्बर आकर मेरे गिर्द बैठ गये और कहने लगे कि अब तुम्हारी गवर्नमेंट क्या करती है, अब तो यह जानवरों का भी राशन कण्ट्रोल करती है। वह मुझसे कहने लगे कि भैंस को दस छंटाक सुबह और दस छंटाक शाम को चने का दाना देने का हुक्म है, सात दिन से ज्यादा किसी को अस्तियार नहीं है उनके लिये राशन लेने का। मैं बड़े अदब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सवा सेर दाना खा कर कोई भैंस पूरा दूध देगी? आप कहते हैं कि सीरयल्स (cereals) छोड़ दें, वेजीटेबल (vegetables) खायें, दूध तो पैदा होने नहीं देते। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि मालएड्मिनिस्ट्रेशन (maladministration) कण्ट्रोल की वजह से लाखों मन गल्ला पड़ा सड़ता रहता है। आपने कई जानवरों के नाम लिये हैं जो गल्ले का नुकसान करते हैं मुझे पता नहीं यह किस किस के जानवर हैं मैं किस का नाम लूँ, क्या यह दुरुस्त नहीं कि गवर्नमेंट की बेपरवाही से कई लाख मन ग्राम हिमार में सड़ गया और लोगों के खाने में नहीं आया। तो यह स्टेट ओफ़ ऐफ़ेयर्स (state of affairs) तब तक ठीक नहीं होगा जब तक कि श्री मुन्शी पूरे अस्तियारात जो चाहते हैं वह उन्हें दिये जाये। मैं चाहता हूँ कि जितने अस्तियारात ज़रूरी हों, वह उन्हें ज़रूर मिलने चाहिये जिससे यह सारा का सारा मालएड्मिनिस्ट्रेशन खत्म हो। या तो प्राविनसेज़ उनकी मन्शा के मुआफ़िक काम करें या उनसे अस्तियारात छीन कर सेण्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट अपने हाथ में ले ले जैसे मैंने पहले भी अर्ज किया था श्री जयरामदास .

से कि कसूर आपका नहीं है, आपके पास अस्तियारात नहीं हैं मेरी दरखास्त है, कैबिनेट से दरखास्त है प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब मौजूद हैं उनसे मेरी दरखास्त है कि इस सिस्टम को तब्दील कर दें और सेण्टर को पूरी ताकत हो जिससे लोगों की भलाई के लिये वह कदम बढ़ा सकें और काम कर सकें और प्रान्त इसके अन्दर ऐसी बाधा न डाल सकें जिससे पूरा फायदा न उठाया जा सके।

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Some two years back I had submitted before this House in nearly these very words the gist of the speech delivered today by Shri Munshi. I still contend that.....

Shri B. Das: Let the hon. Member speak either in Hindi or English. I cannot understand Persian.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid the hon. Member is appealing to a wrong quarter. I myself am not able to decide whether it is Hindi or Urdu.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I submitted that the speech that I delivered two years back in this House, though it did not contain these very words and expressions and was not so eloquent and beautiful, yet was nearly similar to the one delivered by Shri Munshi today before the House. I do assert and contend that may Shri Munshi remain the Minister incharge of this Agriculture and Food Ministry, or some better man be appointed in his place or the entire Cabinet as a whole or the entire concentrated wisdom of the whole country be substituted for Shri Munshi yet still the problem cannot be solved. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the jewel of our country, once graced this post. Shri Jairamdas, who is now a Governor, remained incharge of this Ministry and though he worked with utmost zeal and strove hard yet he did not succeed, and I know for certain that Shri Munshi is also destined to face the same doom. Shri Munshi will never be successful. He deli-

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

vered a long speech lasting for over two hours and mentioned therein so many things but I know that this problem cannot be solved in this way because he talks of chalk and hears of cheese. It is the responsibility of the Government of India to feed each and every person and to see that there is no shortage of food. Then in order to meet these ends the Government will have to take upon itself the responsibility of producing more foodgrains and the procurement of the same. When the Government shifts these responsibilities to other agencies then this system results in such a state of affairs that it becomes impossible to resolve it. As the Hindi proverb goes the Government wants to gather thistles and expects pickles. The existing Ministers of the Provincial Governments are not interested in the procurement of foodgrains. It is a fact that till some time back no efforts whatsoever were made in the various districts of the provinces to make the people feel that they have to grow more food for the country and thus no additional foodgrains were produced. The cultivators are not aware of the problems that are facing the country. I am telling you concrete fact. A hundred miles away from here lies the small district of Hissar, the district I belong to. There the cultivators are of such a nature that if they were to know of the conditions prevailing in the country then they are ready to put in their best possible efforts. But till last year the Deputy Commissioner had not even convened a meeting to lay stress upon the importance of the 'Grow More Food Campaign'.

As regards procurement I do assert that there are enough foodgrains in the country. I am not even for a minute prepared to accept that there is a shortage of foodgrains in our country. This shortage is more due to psychological effects rather than to lack or paucity of production. The shortage of foodgrains can be acknowledged in a way that enough procurement is not made to meet the needs of control and rationing. I

very humbly beg to ask that when Shri Munshi acknowledges that the figures and statistics that are at his disposal are not correct then on what basis does he assert that there is a shortage of foodgrains in the country. Some time back we came to know through the official records of the Government of India that the statistics computed by the Government could be wrong to the extent of 30 per cent. If 30 per cent. of the statistics are wrong and unreliable then on what basis the Government asserts that there is shortage of some five to seven per cent. There is not the slightest shortage of foodgrains in this country. I do accept that there can be some shortage of rice. I acknowledge that some shortage of wheat may be there. But if the Government were to see the overall position of the foodgrains then it would be found that there is no shortage at all. For the shortage of rice and wheat also we ourselves are responsible. We have created this shortage. At those places where people generally took *Bajra* and *Jowar* we have compelled them to eat rice and wheat. As a result of rationing and control we have given rise to a lot of difficulties and if after all these distortions we were to look at the overall picture then a very hideous spectacle would meet our eyes. So I beg to submit that there is no shortage of foodgrains in our country.

I am glad to note that Shri Munshi has also acknowledged this fact with certain conditions. Shri Munshi has said that the day the conditions would be fulfilled the foodgrains would be decontrolled. One of the conditions is that of production and the other is of procurement. In Hindi there goes an old proverb 'If the sky falls we shall gather larks'. If these conditions were fulfilled, if all the people of our country were to become rich, if we were to produce everything that we needed then the entire problem would automatically be solved. Therefore I hope that Shri Munshi would pay more attention towards the question of control and decontrol. Some change has taken place in him during the last two months. But let not the removal

of the 67 thousand people employed in the various controls and who have created vested interests in the same affect him and put obstacles in his way. I know that after two months he will also arrive at this very conclusion that there is really no shortage of foodgrains in the country and so a time has now come that the foodgrains be decontrolled. I do not mean to say, you yourself, Sir, had given out this thing while quoting the example of Madras, that even for a minute we wish that foodgrains may not be sent to Madras or any part of the country where a shortage arises. The surplus States are in duty bound to send their surplus stocks to the deficit areas at cheapest possible rates. But what we see instead? Some two years back huge quantities of gram were produced in the Hissar district. The cultivators of that district were paid at the rate of Rs. 6/8 per maund, although gram was selling at Rs. 10 per maund in Delhi and at Rs. 20 per maund in Madras and Calcutta. We at first approached the Government of Punjab in this connection and later on the Government of India.

We tried a great deal so that the gram available in our area could be taken to those areas where it was in short supply and also that we might get the value for it. But, what was the response? The Government of India did not help us at all. The Punjab Government did not help us at all. We were told, "The U.P. Government does not agree to it. They do not want to allow us to take the gram". Our Central Government has given such powers to most of the State Governments whereby they are competent even to stop communications between two of their own districts, to stop transport of goods from one into the other and to act in any manner they like. When this question had come up for discussion at the time when we were framing the Constitution I had submitted very emphatically that since our country was one and common there should be the fullest facilities for the movement of food and no province should be allowed

to apply restrictions against the other Provinces. But the question was shelved at the time and the local Governments were left with some sort of power to apply such restrictions. Today, our very learned and talented lawyer, Mr. Munshi, says he has the 'maximum impotency' and is burdened with the 'maximum responsibility'. But I submit very respectfully that according to the Article 369 of the Constitution the Government of India has full powers to take whatever action it likes in regard to essential commodities. The Constitution that we have passed gives them all those powers. For a period of five years they are competent to take whatever steps they like and to delegate whatever powers they like to local Governments. I beg to submit most respectfully that if you are convinced, as you allege, that you cannot make the U.P. Government do this for you then you are evidently not exercising the powers that vest in you under the Constitution. If, for instance, you want the U.P. Government to have sugar-cane grown in some area but it refuses to do so, or if you ask the Madras Government to grow rice instead of groundnuts but it declines, you should then, in that case, exercise all those powers which you have. If you intentionally forbear to do what you know to be right and proper I am of the opinion that you are not using your powers which you should use.

My voice is weak no doubt but I know that Mr. Munshi has admitted today and has so stated in his own words that with a few reservations he himself is in favour of decontrol. Until this decontrol comes, in order to make a success of the control it is necessary that it should be entirely in the hands of the Centre and that the Provinces should do the bidding of the Centre. At this time, the Provinces do not want to become unpopular; they do not want to do the procurement. They will not do it. Under the circumstances, if it is a unitary system of government, you should withdraw from the Provinces the powers which vest in you under

[**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava**] the Constitution and compel the Provinces to act as directed by the Centre. Since you are responsible for the supply of food to the people of this land I wish to submit that you will have to use all sorts of powers and prerogatives to that end.

Shri K. M. Munshi: Give me *taqat*.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: You will have to acquire power; you will have to seek courage. The power and courage are there in you but you are not conscious of them. My submission is, you have all those powers under the Constitution. As the Central Enquiry Committee is already considering that subject I do not want to enter into the pros and cons. Whatever we the members of the said committee will have to say, we will state in the course of that committee's report. I must say, however, that you should, if you retain the controls, do so on such a basis as might lead to peaceful conditions in the country.

With your permission, Sir, I shall relate an incident. Heretofore we had been hearing about the food for men being controlled, eight *chhataks* or six *chhataks* per head being allowed. But a week back I happened to go to Ferozepore. All the members of the Bar Association crowded round me. They said, "See what your Government has started doing now; they are now controlling the rations for animals too". They told me that a buffalo was allowed ten *chhataks* of gram in the morning and a similar quantity in the evening and that nobody was competent to draw more than a week's ration at a time for them. Very respectfully I ask, will a buffalo, fed on one and a quarter *seer* of gram, yield full supply of milk. You say we should eat cereals sparingly and use vegetables and milk instead but you are at the same time limiting the production of milk. Let me tell you that lacs of maunds of food-grains are rotting simply because of maladministration of control. You have named a few animals that lay waste to crops but I do not know to whom to apportion the blame. Is it

not a fact that due to the slackness on the part of the Government several lakh maunds of gram in Hissar became rotten and could not be utilized as food. Now, such a state of affairs will not improve until Munshiji is invested with all the powers which he desires. I want that he should be given all necessary powers so that all this maladministration could be ended. Either the Provinces should act according to his directions or the Centre should take away and assume their powers for itself. Previously too I had told Shri Jairamdas that the fault did not lie with him for he lacked proper authority. Hence I make a request to the Cabinet and to the Prime Minister, who is present here, that this system should be changed. Let the Centre have full powers so that it may be in a better position to take proper action in the interests of the people and the Provinces may not be able to place impediments in its way and thereby render its action less effective.

Shri Goenka (Madras): I am sorry to see that enough time has not been given to this House to express itself upon the achievements of Government and also over their acts of commission and omission. We have found that whenever an opportunity comes, there are half a dozen members in this House—I am casting no reflection—I must be excused for that .

Dr. Deshmukh: He is also one of them.

Shri Goenka: I may be one of them; but there is a general dissatisfaction and I wanted to bring that to the notice of the House and of the Leader of the House this afternoon.

Having said that,—I have only a few minutes at my disposal—I shall immediately come to the point. The President in his address has admitted that the economic position in this country is far from satisfactory and far from being happy. That is an admitted fact. I would only try to go into the facts and prove to you that this House has not been taken into confidence by the Executive in their various projects.

Dr. Deshmukh; And mismanagements.

Shri Goenka: The last occasion when a special session of this Parliament was called was to discuss the question of the devaluation of the rupee. It was an international matter concerning finance and economics and a special session was called. We have another special session now to discuss the Korean situation, an international political situation. What happened in the last session? What happened in the last session was that we were confronted with a *fait accompli* by the Government, and the House had to give its seal of approval to devaluation. There was the question of consultations with Pakistan, etc. But since the House was faced with a *fait accompli*, what did this House do? This House went into the matter and finding that no useful purpose will be served in changing the position which the Government had taken, and in the view of many including myself, very rightly taken, we said that further matters in relation to and the consequences of devaluation should be examined by an *ad hoc* committee of this House. Assurances to that effect were given by the hon. Finance Minister and an *ad hoc* committee was appointed accordingly. Only yesterday the hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs laid on the Table of the House a statement showing the action taken by Government on various assurances and promises given by them during the October 1949 session. That statement shows that the promise made by Government was in the following terms:

“Assured that an *ad hoc* Committee will be appointed to look into all the problems created by devaluation and watch the eight point policy announced by the hon. Finance Minister.”

That was the promise made; that was the assurance given. This is how it has been fulfilled!

“An *ad hoc* Committee on devaluation has been appointed and

is watching the progress of action taken on the eight point programme.”

I say this is a perversion of truth. I am a Member of that Committee. I will go into facts and figures and I will tell you presently what has been done.

Shri B. Das: That Committee has met four times.

Shri Goenka: This Committee has met twice, on the 15th of November and 5th of December, 1949. The last meeting was on 5th December, 1949. Now, it is eight months since the 5th December, 1949. What has happened during these eight months? We have not met; we have not made any review, nor gone into the matter; nor even known whether such a committee has been in existence or not.

Shri Sidhva: What happened in these two sittings?

Shri Goenka: I am coming to that; that is the main object of my speech this afternoon. At the first meeting, on the 15th of November the general situation was reviewed and the eight point programme was discussed. We decided to meet again. We met again on the 5th of December, 1949. Now, this meeting of the 5th December is really a very important one. Four subjects came up before the Committee. The first point was about the voluntary settlement of taxes, one of the points in the eight point programme. This matter was gone into and discussions took place. The assurance given to the Committee was—you, Sir, were also a member at that committee and were present at the meeting—that “a detailed note on the subject will be circulated”. No such detailed note has been circulated for the last eight months. The second point was trade with Pakistan. In that connection also, the Chairman desired and an assurance was given that “a note on that question should be circulated to the Devaluation Committee”. No such note has been circulated so far, nor has the Committee met. Then came the question in regard to jute. In

[Shri Goenka]

the course of his last Budget speech, the hon. Finance Minister made a reference that so far as the 1931 devaluation was concerned, the dollar prices of the commodities came down to the level of the sterling prices but so far as the 1949 devaluation is concerned, it is the sterling price which has gone up to meet the dollar price, namely, that the price of the commodity in the sterling area went up to the extent of 44 per cent. to meet the price in the dollar areas. I need not quote the speech. Therefore, the question naturally arose: are we going to export 44 per cent. more of the commodities which we export or are we raising our prices to the level of the devaluation to keep up our exports?

As you may remember, Sir, there arose the question of the export price of jute. The position was that in America the price of a particular quality of jute manufacture before devaluation was, say, about 17 dollars, and the corresponding price in rupee was about Rs. 55. After devaluation, while the American price remained at 17 dollars and when obviously the price in India should be about Rs. 79, the Government of India fixed the price at Rs. 55, the ceiling price beyond which nobody could sell. The result was that this difference went into the black market, and I can say without fear of contradiction that millions and millions of dollars went into what might be called the black market—you may call it any market—and it went into pockets of people whom the hon. Finance Minister could not reach with his taxes. You know the majority of the jute interests are Europeans and when they export to America, all the extra money which they get from America go straight from America to England. That is the case even to-day and that is well known to the Reserve Bank and I have discussed it with several persons in Calcutta and in Bombay. They all know that there is a big dollar black-market going on in this country and tens of crores of rupees have gone into this black-market and are

going into it even to-day. The ceiling price is Rs. 55 and the price at which America purchases to-day is about Rs. 72 and the result is that of the Rs. 200 crores worth of jute export, a minimum of about Rs. 30 crores go into this black-market.

What did the Government of India do in this respect? They raised the export duty on jute goods by 15 per cent. when the prices went up by 44 per cent. Where did the balance of 29 per cent. go? It went in the direction in which I have mentioned to you just now. This was a point raised before the Committee and the hon. Minister of Commerce had agreed that the matter would be examined and a note circulated before the next meeting. Eight months have passed and this promise also has met with the same fate.

Then again, there was the question of tea. That is the third largest exportable commodity and we make about Rs. 60 crores from the export of tea. The question raised was that while we had bargained with the United Kingdom to sell about 350 million pounds of tea at about Rs. 1 8/- per pound, the market price at that time was Rs. 2/14/- and there was thus a difference of Rs. 1 6/- and could not some of this difference between the local and foreign prices be taxed? Discussion ensued and the hon. Commerce Minister promised to look into the matter. These are the various aspects of the question for which the Devaluation Committee was appointed. These were discussed, but with what result? I have placed the results before you. As I have been trying to show the House, this House has been treated with scant courtesy at the hands of the Executive.

I may refer to the speech of the hon. Minister of Finance—Dr. John Matthai—after he quitted office with regard to the Standing Finance Committee and the various subjects coming up before that Committee. I am not in complete agreement with him, because every subject that came up

before it came with his approval but all the same we were only a sort of *post-mortem* examination committee. Rs. two crores were given to Scindias for construction of three steamers, though as you know, Sir, the Standing Finance Committee practically unanimously rejected it, and the payment was made before we came to a decision. Then again, this was done in spite of the fact that even the Industries Standing Committee, was also equally divided on the matter. There are so many things I have to refer to, but I find the time before me is so short. If, Sir, you would permit me, I would like to take another ten or fifteen minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member expects the hon. Finance Minister to reply, but he was not then in office.

Shri Goenka: Yes, Sir, and I was not going to finish my remarks without paying the highest tribute to the present Finance Minister. I have no grievances against him; my grievances are with the Finance Department, the Commerce Department and the Industries Department. All the Ministers in charge of these portfolios are new Ministers and I wish them all the best of luck. The hon. Finance Minister has taken up office at a time when the economic situation of the country is far from satisfactory, and therefore I take him to be a very bold man and I particularly wish him good luck. What I say is only by way of guidance to the hon. Finance Minister. This House has not been taken into confidence, and not only has the House not been taken into confidence, but even the promises given to the House by the Members of the Treasury Benches have not been carried out in many cases.

If you will permit me, Sir, I will refer just to three or four more cases.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, no.

Shri Goenka: Then I have nothing more to say. I only want to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister, the hon. Commerce Minister and

the hon. Minister of Industries to the fact that the economic condition of the country is in a bad state for the time being and if they really want to do something with regard to this matter, I think they ought to take this House into their confidence, into their complete confidence and not come forward at the Budget Session saying that their expectations were not realised, that their expectations had gone wrong here and there and so there is a deficit of, say, Rs. 250 crores and face us with a *fait accompli* again. I know our position to-day is far from satisfactory. Our income is going down and our expenditure is going up. There is a deficit and an examination of the position will show that none of the expectations of the Budget has been realised in the last 3 months for which accounts are now available. Therefore I would request the hon. Finance Minister at the earliest opportunity to take this House into confidence and say which way the wind blows with regard to the future economic position of the country. Unless this is done, the House will have a perpetual grievance against the Executive for presenting it with a *fait accompli* again.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): The President's Address drew attention to the difficulties of the economic situation and their aggravation by the recent international developments. It referred to the necessity for constant vigilance, especially in respect of the price levels and the need for the greatest possible economy in Government expenditure and restraint in spending by the public.

According to Prof. K. T. Shah Government have utterly failed to deal with the situation, notwithstanding the appointment of the Planning Commission or the improvement in the country's balance of trade. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru regretted that no indication has been given of the steps that Government propose to take to deal in the immediate future with what he, in common with Prof. Shah, characterises as the *fast*

[**Shri C. D. Deshmukh**] deteriorating economic situation. He has also expressed disappointment with the Planning Commission's giving no assistance in the matter. Mr. Mahavir Tyagi complained that Government's planning has neglected the rural areas and he was confident that by dint of effort an economy of a hundred crores could be effected in government expenditure. Mr. Goenka has just expressed several grievances in regard to the Devaluation Committee. Well, apart from Mr. Goenka's speech with which I shall have to deal separately, I listened carefully to the speeches, but I failed to find in them any significant evidence in support of the basic assertion that the economic situation has deteriorated seriously. Prof. Shah was candid enough to concede that he was not sure of the facts regarding the food situation.

Pandit Kunzru referred to the spurt in the price index of foodgrains between the 6th June and the 8th July as also to the phenomenal rise in the prices of oilseeds and both he and Prof. Shah referred to the deficient industrial production.

I submit that the evidence adduced does not prove that the economic situation is fast deteriorating or that the blame, if any, is to be laid entirely at the door of Government. I am free to confess that the economic situation is, in my opinion, difficult but I do not regard it as desperate. Nor do I admit that the Government have been supine and apathetic or that Government policy in this regard has been vacillating or unco-ordinated. I see no reason why we should take such a lurid view of the position or fail to notice the bright spots that relieve the gloom. An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory. Let us examine some of the facts of the situation.

The index number of wholesale prices show very near the pre-devaluation level throughout the first half of the year. The House will be interested to know that the rise in the price index in India from December 1940 to June 1950 was 3.7 per cent. The corresponding figure for U.K. was 7.2

per cent. and that for the U.S.A. was 15.2 per cent.

I should like to take you through some of the detailed figures in this connection. I have here a statement which gives the price indices since decontrol, the index being the weekly index of wholesale prices and the source being the Economic Adviser's Office. Under cereals in January 1950 the index was 454 and on the 10th June 1950 it was 455. Under food articles in January 1950 the index was 385.3 and on the 10th June 399.6. Under industrial raw materials the index was 490.3 in January and on the 10th June 493.5. Under semi-manufactures as against 337.3 in January it was 335.8 in June. Under manufactured articles against 355.4 in January it was 348.1. Under miscellaneous, on the other hand, the composition of which covers a very wide range, the index rose from 619 to 699.3 and for all commodities the index rose from 388 to 395.4.

It is true that for the first three weeks of July 1950 there was a rise of 2.5 points over the figure for the week ending the 24th June but I think that can fairly be attributed to the reasons which my hon. colleague mentioned as well as to hoarding, speculation and profiteering. These are with us persistent and provoking problems and we may fail to solve them at our peril. It is surely expecting too much to demand that they be solved in a week or in a fortnight.....

Shri B. Das: After two and a half years of our Government!

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I do not know whether that statement is justified after a consideration of the figures that I have just read. I will say that the Ministers are only workers and not wonder-workers. We recognise that perhaps a grave situation may develop, largely through factors outside our control and grave evils might need grave remedies. But it would surely be unreasonable to deny Government a little more time in which to devise suitable corrective measures.

It may be that Government will need special emergency powers to enable them to cope with the situation.

It should also be borne in mind that in certain vital fields the appropriate action lies within the jurisdiction of State Governments and certain measures in consultation with them require a little time.

So far as the monetary field is concerned I think any dispassionate observer of economic trends would find that there has been a distinct improvement and that there are signs of returning confidence. I refer to the response that was made to the first loan that was floated by the Central Government this year. I think for the first time we secured something net in cash...

Shri B. Das: Was it all in cash?

Shri O. D. Deshmukh: I said something net in cash. The loan was a conversion loan and not a regular loan and considering that the fact that we secured 7½ crores in cash might be regarded as satisfactory.

Then, Members must have read reports that the Provincial loans which were floated the other day were well subscribed. That, again, is in distinct contrast to what happened last year, when only one Province was able to raise some loans. These, I think, are relieving features.

Prof. Shah has referred to food, the king-pin of Indian economy. On this matter it is not necessary for me now to say anything except that I am sometimes amazed at the defeatism that is shown in certain quarters. It may be that we experience difficulties in procurement; as long as human nature is there these difficulties I suppose will continue to be experienced. But I believe that if we were to reform the administrative machine—and that is a matter which I know has the closest attention of my hon. colleague—it should not be difficult to raise the production of food to a stage where perhaps we might be able to do without controls in a reasonable period of time. All I need say

in this connection is that the only thing that my hon. colleague does not promote is the growth of grass under his feet.

In regard to industrial production, there are scores of factors that might account for a shortfall from installed capacity, and I can assure you that measures are already in train for investigating the causes, and machinery for the purpose is being organised in close consultation with the Planning Commission. The process, however, is bound to be long and intricate and at every step the co-operation of employers and workers will be essential not to speak of the adequate provision of finance. The other day a most useful consultation in regard to this and connected problems was held with a number of leading industrialists. I myself am in consultation with the Reserve Bank in regard to the possibilities of augmenting facilities for finance—I mean industrial finance. Something is also being attempted, as you are aware, in order to improve the working conditions for labour. These are all measures that take time to fructify and it would be sometime before we get the right amalgam of brain, brass and brawn for increasing industrial production.

From the fiscal and monetary angle the end of the first quarter of the year is a somewhat difficult time for answering charges of ineptitude. The ink has hardly dried on the record of the full-dress debates regarding the economic and other policies of Government that characterised the Budget session, and for lack of fresh charges there is a temptation to Government's critics to resort to accusations which could have been made and answered then. For instance, Prof. Shah referred to failure to implement the Economy Committee's Report. The circumstances in which the recommendations contained in that report were overlaid by emergent retrenchment measures could have been ascertained in the Budget session. Actually, for the information of the House, the Economy Committee's recommendations, if fully carried out,

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

would have resulted in a saving of roughly Rs. 4½ crores for a whole year. In view of the financial crisis, however, a percentage cut was imposed on the sanctioned budget estimates of all the Ministries at a flat rate and this was theoretically estimated to yield an annual rate of saving of more than Rs. 6½ crores. Unfortunately the accounts are not in hand and we have not been able to ascertain whether the whole or any part of this has been saved because *pari passu* new expenditure proposals for services which were deemed to be necessary were entertained and it is possible that much of the saving aimed at has not materialised. However, I can assure the House that it is my intention to have this matter thoroughly gone into. I have had a review made of the outturn of the Budget for the first quarter and the trends that I have noticed convince me that redoubled efforts are called for in the interest of avoidance of waste and effecting retrenchment. I am not sure if these efforts will reach the heroic heights of renunciation envisaged by Shri Mahavir Tyagi. It should also be remembered that by and large retrenchment means throwing out men temporarily at least and adding to unemployment. Therefore, the human aspects of this process could not be ignored. But I hope that I shall not be regarded as being callous when I express my view that after an initially painful readjustment the results must benefit the community by replacing waste, by gainful employment. I have explained the budgetary situation to the Standing Finance Committee, and from my first experience with them I anticipate a great deal of assistance from them. I have also had reports of the thorough investigation which has been conducted into the Ministries they have looked into, by the Estimates Committee, and to these also I shall look for assistance.

Well, apart from retrenchment and avoidance of waste the only other means of improving the budgetary situation is by trying to increase one's

resources. It is here that I should feel that it would be premature to expect Government to make any pronouncement. Usually this is a matter that comes up sometime towards the end of the year. I am, however, free to say this, that I have been paying very close attention to the progress, or perhaps the lack of it, in the National Savings movement. I find that it has not progressed as well as it should have, owing to certain organisational deficiencies, but we have taken steps to correct these and an officer with a great deal of experience in banking and money matters has been appointed as the National Savings Commissioner. He has been round some of the States and in a few months time I hope that I shall be in a position to call a conference of the States in order to enlist their support for this movement. I am quite convinced that the solution of some of our rural problems depends upon the success with which we tap savings in certain strata of the rural field and that, incidentally, perhaps furnishes an answer to the points which Shri Mahavir Tyagi and the hon. the Deputy-Speaker made.

The hon. the Deputy-Speaker referred to the increase in the index for cereal prices from 100 to 500—it is 455 actually—since 1939. Now, that is an indication of the manner in

which purchasing power 5 P.M. has dispersed from its usual receptacles in the urban areas to the rural areas. It is true that much of it is lying idle or is not perhaps applied to the best possible uses, and that is the problem which the Central Government will have to solve in consultation with the State Governments. At the moment, there is a tendency on the part of State Governments to look to the Centre for assistance for carrying out schemes of development, whereas the Centre is less and less able to raise moneys in the money market. The reason I think is that some of this money is right under the noses of the State Governments and if only they will make efforts—I do not mean by way of taxation necessarily—but if they will

only make efforts to wean these savings for constructive uses, both the problems of rural development and the problems of finding employment for some of our agricultural labour will be solved.

Now, apart from resources and the sound management of the Budget which is calculated to ensure that no fresh inflation is generated, the customary method of dealing with scarcities of goods and thereby influencing the price level is finding exchange for imports. The House is aware that here Nasik does not furnish a solution, and one is limited by the amount of foreign exchange that one can earn. From the figures given in the Address, the House will have formed some idea of the improvement that has taken place in our balance of trade. It is quite true, as Prof. Shah observed, that this improvement may not be enduring and that the position would have to be watched. Indeed, in considering this matter we have made allowance for this and all that we claim is not the net improvement in the balance of trade but the increase in exports that is noticeable over the first six months of the year. That again will be reduced very considerably during the next six months, but it will be reduced for a good purpose.

Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal):

On this point I think the hon. the Finance Minister ought to correct a mistake in paragraph 14 of the Address. The last line reads:

“Our exports during this year have been double those of the corresponding period in the previous year.”

It is very likely that it refers to a particular item of export. It cannot be that the total export has been double this year. I think it refers to export of textiles, or some other similar commodity.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I shall take note of the point, although it is not for me to correct the Address; but I shall see that the statistics are right.

As I was going to say, we have made good use of the temporary respite that we have received. The recent improvement in our balance of trade has enabled us to make larger allocations of foreign exchange for the importation of essential goods, and in fixing these allocations we have followed the usual plan of giving the highest consideration to goods required for industrial and development purposes. The allocations for commercial imports have been made after making reasonable provision for the import of foodgrains, of Government stores required for Defence and Railways and for other purposes. The House will be interested to know that of the allocations made for commercial imports only a small proportion which does not exceed four per cent of the total import allocations is for consumer goods, and the balance of the allocations is entirely for industrial raw materials and semi-manufactured goods as well as for plant and machinery. The consumer goods include largely such essential articles as infant milk food, powdered and condensed milk, drugs and medicines and certain other articles such as betel nuts on which revenue is collected in the shape of revenue duty. But the major part of the allocations is, as I have said, for plant and machinery, petroleum products, steel, non-ferrous metals, cotton, chemicals, machine tools, newspaper, paper..

Shri Goenka: I have heard you.

Shri O. D. Deshmukh: Since Shri Goenka has heard me, I might as well deal with the points that he made in regard to the Devaluation Committee. I am sorry I shall not be able to deal exhaustively with them, as I have not been familiar with the papers concerning this Committee. He was good enough to warn me yesterday and I have obtained some information. It is true that only two meetings of the *ad hoc* Committee on Devaluation were held during the November-December Session of Parliament and problems arising from the eight point Economic Plan were discussed. Now, the discussions that took place during these two meetings and the sugges-

[**Shri C. D. Deshmukh**]

tions made were examined by Government, and such of these as could be adopted were implemented. Then, as **Shri Goenka** has said, this matter came up at the time of the Budget discussions and I am informed that the specific question of imposing an export duty on jute and tea was raised during the debate on the Commerce Ministry's Demand and Government's views on this suggestion were fully explained by the Commerce Minister. A decision was then taken not to convene a meeting of the committee. As the views of the members of the committee as well as of other members were known during the parliamentary debates. Whether this was a good reason or not it is not for me to say.

Shri Goenka: The parliamentary debate was three months after the meeting. The meeting was on the 5th of December; the debate was in March.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I am referring to the decision taken after the debate. All that I am saying is that the decision taken was not arbitrary. The reason may not be regarded as valid by some.

Shri B. Das: None of us were informed of that decision. But is the committee still alive?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I think so. The Committee is still alive. Anyway the position now is this that after a lapse of several months, the specific economic problem that arose immediately after devaluation now forms part of the general economic situation and it is not easy to separate them. Apart from anything else, 'Devaluation Committee' seems rather an ominous name. Anyway now that the matter has been mentioned, it is my intention to convene a meeting of the committee in order to review the whole position.

Well, during the debate several references were made to the Planning Commission. Ever since the Planning Commission was established I have marvelled at the carping and cavilling

criticism that has been directed against the Commission. This has emerged not only from those who are not in the habit of devoting much thought to economic matters, but also from those who ought to know better. In part, the critics belong to the ranks of those who do not believe in planning. This is hardly the place or occasion to join issue. I must, however, deal with one aspect of the criticism in this regard and that is that it is no use planning when our resources are so low and our aspirations so high. I should have thought that this is precisely the conjunction of circumstances in which planning becomes imperative with a view to the most fruitful and balanced utilisation of our meagre resources, for in the absence of planning there is risk of misuse and misapplication.

The other class of critics, which include Prof. Shah and Pandit Kunzru expressed disappointment at the results achieved by the Commission. I cannot help feeling that this sort of criticism emanates from a misconception about the functions of the Planning Commission and the technique and implications of planning. Prof. Shah said that he did not know what the role of the Planning Commission was and Pandit Kunzru is disappointed that the Planning Commission has done nothing to cure the current economic malaise. I cannot help wondering at Prof. Shah's statement, because the terms of reference to the Commission were published and are pretty elaborate, or I can only infer that he could not have read them recently or very carefully. Pandit Kunzru seems to me to have read a wrong causal relation between the appointment of the Commission and the difficult economic situation as referred to in paragraph 11 of the President's Address. I do not want at this late stage to take the time of the House in reading out the terms of reference to the Commission. But I wish to say this that the tasks of reviewing the economic background, defining objectives, scrutinising production in scores of different fields, surveying resources, especially finan-

cial, and drawing up realistic plans, are tasks of great complexity. They require for their accomplishment a wide range of statistical data, the collection of which takes time and calls for expert assistance.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): That is exactly what I said.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I must have misheard my hon friend. That these tasks are being attended to by the Commission with zest and diligence, I as a Member of the Planning Commission as well as Minister of Finance can bear ample testimony, because I have to devote a great deal of time. I appeal to the Commission's critics to give it a fair chance. If they feel like it, they can forward any constructive suggestions that they may have and I am sure that this kind of positive assistance will be gratefully welcomed by the Commission. At any rate, they could assist negatively by showing forbearance, patience and understanding.

Pandit Kunzru: What I said with regard to the Planning Commission was that its recommendations were not likely to be useful to Government in dealing with the emergency with which it was faced and it was for Government to deal with it without waiting for the Commission's report.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It is not a fact that Government is waiting for the Planning Commission's report. For that purpose it is only waiting for their plans.

I was saying that they ought to let the Planning Commission get on with its job in an atmosphere free from popular prejudice, because any plans that the Planning Commission may be able to evolve will be condemned to futility in advance if the public is taught to believe that they will mean nothing to them.

The major objectives of Government's economic policy may be defined as these:

(i) To ensure that no fresh inflation is generated and to that end to follow sound fiscal and monetary policy;

(ii) In particular, not to relax in the pursuit of economy;

(iii) To endeavour to remove or minimise the strain on our economy attributable to our political and economic relations with our neighbour countries;

(iv) To press forward purposefully with plans to attain self-sufficiency in food, cotton and jute.

(v) To make sustained efforts to establish conditions in which industrial production can be maximised;

(vi) To assist, as far as possible, in alleviating rural under-employment;

(vii) To watch the price level vigilantly and take measures within its constitutional and administrative resources to hold it in check; and

(viii) To plan the utilisation of the country's limited resources in the most advantageous manner possible.

I submit that Government are addressing themselves to these tasks with energy and earnestness of purpose and are entitled to receive from all sections of the community an understanding support and not petulant criticism.

Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal): Sir, I rise on a point of order. The motion which is before the House is very comprehensive as it accepts the President's Address *in toto*. But tomorrow we have a separate motion for Korea and two or three days hence we have another motion regarding East Bengal. If we pass the motion today—the comprehensive motion accepting the speech *in toto*—then the other motions, or rather the amendments to this motion, would be jeopardised. Under the procedural rules we accept the speech containing statements as to Korea and East Bengal; that would facilitate the easy passage of the motions tomorrow. But the amendments, I think, would be seriously prejudiced. So the motion should be so worded as to read: "subject to what may be decided later on with regard to Korea and East Bengal".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has already been made clear by the hon. the Speaker that so far as Korea and

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]
Indo-Pakistan Relations are concerned, there are two different motions separately tabled which will come up for discussion in the course of the next three days. It is not as if every word of the Address is accepted by this House. The motion is that we express our gratitude to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House. Therefore there is no necessity to say "subject to all that may be said hereafter" for we have not committed ourselves completely to every statement. We have to meet many times and we might go beyond what has been said by the President. Therefore there is no point of order in this and I rule it out.

I will now put the amendments to the House.

The first is Sardar Hukam Singh's amendment. Does he want to press it? He is not in his seat and therefore I am bound to put it.

The question is:

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

'but regret—

(i) that the Government has failed to take effective steps to rehabilitate the refugees who are undergoing extreme privations and untold sufferings;

(ii) that no progress has so far been made towards the solution of the evacuee property problem vexing the minds of the unfortunate refugees from Western Pakistan; and

(iii) that the address omits to make mention of any progress made in the recovery of Hindu and Sikh abducted women which should have received top priority in the Government of India activities.' "

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then comes Prof. Shah's amendment.

The question is:

"that at the end of the motion the following be added:

'but regret that government have proved utterly unable to deal with the steadily worsening economic situation in the country, particularly in regard to food and clothing, notwithstanding the appointment of a Planning Commission, or the improvement in the country's balance of trade.' "

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The next is Pandit Kunzru's amendment.

The question is:

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

'but regret that notwithstanding the declared policy of the Government with regard to the maintenance of the civil liberties of the people, they have recently been severely curtailed.' "

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: With regard to the next amendment of Pandit Kunzru, though the wording is different—it refers to the fast deteriorating economic situation and the failure of the Government to undertake drastic steps—it is ruled out by the decision of the House on the amendment proposed by Prof. Shah which was put to the House and negatived. So it is barred.

The next amendment is that of Mr. Jaipal Singh and he has already said that he wants to withdraw it.

The amendment was by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the motion to the House.

The question is:

"That the Members of Parliament assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to the House.' "

The motion was adopted.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 3rd August, 1950.