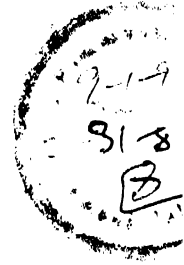
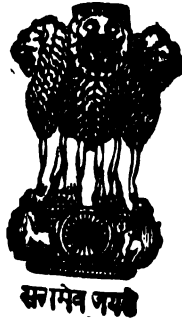


Wednesday, 4th April, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME VII, 1951

(2nd April to 16th May, 1951)

Third Session (Second Part)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

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CORRIGENDA

In the Parliamentary Debates (Part I—Questions and Answers) Third Session of Parliament (Second Part), 1951,—

In Volume VII—

1. No. 1, dated the 2nd April, 1951,—

(i) कालम २७८२, पंक्ति ३, “हम” के स्थान पर “इस” पढ़ें ।

(ii) - کالم ۲۷۸۳ نہجے سے سطر ۸ میں ”بھی“ کے بجائے ”اسی“ پڑھیں۔

(iii) Col. 2807, line 30 for “Archaeological” read “archaeological” and line 5 from bottom for “Ttransport” read “Transport”.

2. No. 7, dated the 10th April, 1951,—

(i) कालम ३०३२, नीचे से पंक्ति ४ “बगैहर” के स्थान पर “बगैरह” पढ़ें ।

(ii) Col. 3055, lines 16 and 17 for the word “Consituation” read “Constitution”.

3. No. 8, dated the 11th April, 1951,—

कालम ३१२५, नीचे से पंक्ति ९ “यागिज्य” के स्थान पर “वाधिज्य” पढ़ें ।

4. No. 11, dated the 16th April, 1951,—

(i) Col. 3230, line 27 from bottom for “ment” read “meant”.

(ii) Col. 3244, line 23 insert “of” after the words “abolition of any”.

(iii) कालम ३२५१, नीचे से पंक्ति २ “श्री जागडे” के स्थान पर “श्री जापडे” पढ़ें ।

(iv) Col. 3254, line 14 for “yards” read “years”.

5. No. 12, dated the 17th April, 1951,—

Col. 3267, line 24 for “clerllago” read “clerkage”.

6. No. 13, dated the 18th April, 1951,—

(i) Cols. 3301 & 3302, lines 22 from bottom and 24 respectively for the words “statu- tary” and “statutory” read “statuary”.

(ii) Col. 3330, line 21 for “landing ” read “landed”.

(iii) Col. 3340, lines 16 and 18 for “manzas” read “mouzas”.

7. No. 15, dated the 20th April, 1951,—

Col. 3402, line 2 from bottom for “Cureh” read “Church”.

8. No. 16, dated the 21st April, 1951,—

Col. 3447, for the existing line 24 substitute “ship Scholarship ; and ”

9. No. 17, dated the 23rd April, 1951,—

(i) Col. 3478, line 27 from bottom for “so” read “of”.

(ii) Col. 3491, between lines 4 and 5 from bottom insert new line “and (iii) Raw materials during the period October 1950 to February”.

10. No. 19, dated the 25th April, 1951,—

(i) Col. 3548, for the existing line 20 from bottom substitute “satisfaction of Members. It is the”.

(ii) Col. 3556 for the existing line 1 from bottom substitute “Indian Rupee or Sterling ?” and for line 26 from bottom substitute “meet for the first session. Accord”

- کالم ۳۵۱۳ نہجے سے سطر ۱۱ سے سطر ۲۲ کے بجائے ۲۲ سطر پر پڑھیں۔

11. No. 20, dated the 26th April, 1951,—

(i) Col. 3621, line 7 from bottom for the figures “1,420” read “41,420”.

(ii) Col. 3626, line 1 for “condeming” read “condemning”.

12. No. 22, dated the 28th April, 1951,—

Col. 3687, line 26 for “complete” read “compete”.

13. No. 26, dated the 3rd May 1951,—

Col. 3881 for the existing line 17 from bottom *substitute* "and Supply (Shri Gadgil):(a) 105".

14. No. 27, dated the 4th May, 1951,—

Col. 3925, line 25 from bottom for "fireman" read "firman".

15. No. 30, dated the 8th May 1951,—

(i) Col. 4041, for the existing line 15 from bottom *substitute* "(c) No, as none is considered neces-".

(ii) Col. 4042, line 31 *insert* "such" before the word "circums-".

16. No. 31, dated the 9th May, 1951,—

Col. 4087, line 21 for "Rama" read "Rana".

17. No. 32, dated the 10th May, 1951,—

(i) Col. 4124, line 20 from bottom for "member" read "number".

(ii) Col. 4129, line 21 for the words "having come" read "coming out of", lines 6 & 8 from bottom for the figure "1.4.51" read "15.4.51", and for "15.4.51" read "1.4.51" respectively.

- (iii) कालम ४१३३, पंक्ति १२ "नियम" के स्थान पर "नियंत्रणों" पढ़ें ।

18. No. 33, dated the 11th May, 1951,—

(i) Col. 4150, line 10 from bottom for "of" read "to".

(ii) Col. 4161, line 17 for the figure "85" read "185".

(iii) Col. 4162, line 24 for "in view of" read "in lieu of".

19. No. 36, dated the 15th May, 1951,—

(i) Col. 4270, line 30 for "pait-mixture" read "paint-mixture"

(ii) कालम ४२८८, पंक्ति २८, "*२९५" के स्थान पर "२९५" पढ़ें ।

(iii) कालम ४२८९, नीचे से पंक्ति १९, "बद्य" के स्थान पर "लाद्य" पढ़ें ।

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

The-Speaker

The Honourable Shri G. V. Mavalankar.

The Deputy-Speaker

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Panel of Chairmen

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava.

Shrimati G. Durgabai.

Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka.

Sardar Hukam Singh.

Shri Manilal Chaturbhai Shah.

Secretary

Shri M. N. Kaul, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary

Shri A. J. M. Atkinson.

Shri N. C. Nandi.

Shri D. N. Majumdar.

Shri C. V. Narayana Rao.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Members of the Cabinet

- Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs—The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru.**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs and the States—The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
Minister of Education—The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
Minister Without Portfolio—The Honourable Shri C. Rajagopalachari.
Minister of Defence—The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh.
Minister of Labour—The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram.
Minister of Communications—The Honourable Shri Rafi Ahmad Kidwai.
Minister of Health—The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.
Minister of Law—The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.
Minister of Works, Mines and Power—The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil.
Minister of Transport and Railways—The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar.
Minister of Industry and Supply—The Honourable Shri Hare Krishna Mahtab.
Minister of Food and Agriculture—The Honourable Shri K. M. Munshi.
Minister of Commerce—The Honourable Shri Sri Prakasa.
Minister of Finance—The Honourable Shri Chintaman Dwarkanath Deshmukh.

Ministers not in the Cabinet.

- Minister for the purposes of agreement between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan of the 8th April, 1950—The Honourable Shri C. C. Biswas.**
Minister of State for Transport and Railways—The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam.
Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting—The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar.
Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs—The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha.
Minister of State for Rehabilitation—The Honourable Shri Ajit Prasad Jain.
Deputy Minister of Communications—Shri Khurshed Lal.
Deputy Minister of External Affairs—Dr. B. V. Keekar.
Deputy Minister of Commerce—Shri Dattatraya Parasahuram Karmarkar.
Deputy Minister of Defence—Major General Himatsinghji.
Deputy Minister of Works, Mines and Power—Shri S. N. Buragohain.
Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture—Shri M. Thirumala Rao.

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

2849

2850

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Wednesday, 4th April, 1951

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INDIAN STEAM-SHIP COMPANIES

*2770. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister for Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of steamship companies owned by Indians in India; and

(b) how many steamers, each of them own, and on what routes they ply?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) and (b). There are at present 22 Indian shipping companies. A statement giving the details asked for by the hon. Member is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 35.]

Shri Sidhva: These twenty-two companies according to the list have got ninety-two ships. The highest belongs to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company with thirty-three, and Bombay Steam Navigation Company has twelve—that is also Scindia's. May I know whether any of these companies, particularly the Bharat Line Ltd., Bombay, had asked for a loan for the building of ships and it was refused by the Government?

Shri Santhanam: Many of these companies are asking for loans. The Government are considering each application according to its merits.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I suggest this to hon. Members? The hon. Member who has tabled this question asked the names of steamship companies owned by Indians and how many is P.S.

steamers each of them own, etc. If he only wanted information regarding loans etc. he ought to have tabled that question. I can understand other hon. Members intervening and asking supplementary questions. But the very Member who asks the question does not include these items on which he requires information. And often no Minister can give answers to such questions without notice. There is no purpose in going over rovingly and asking supplementary questions by the Member who has himself tabled the question and not including those items.

Shri Sidhva: It arises out of this that he has given me the list now and I find from this list that certain smaller companies which wanted to purchase more ships are not given preference whereas big shipping companies like Scindias which already own a large number of ships are given the loans.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Loan is certainly a matter with respect to which the hon. Member can ask a question. But he must have contemplated all that earlier. Loan is an important matter how many companies have been given loans, why some discrimination is made in this respect, why smaller companies are not encouraged etc. It is a matter by itself which can be a subject-matter of discussion in this House. But I do not like in the guise of merely asking supplementary questions the whole range of steamship companies should be thrown open for discussion.

Shri Sidhva: Let the Minister say that he has no information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is equally the duty of the Chair to see that irrelevant matter is not introduced in the House.

Shri Sidhva: It is a new procedure. With due deference to you, we have been asking such questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Member is not able to find scope within this question for any supplementaries he can proceed to the next question.

Shri Sidhva: Arising out of part (b) as to the number of steamers and the routes on which they ply, may I know whether it will be permissible for me to ask between what ports the ships are running and whether further ships will be available, or whether I should confine myself to the ships and the routes?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will digress today, but he will bear it in mind for the future. Evidently he is not prepared.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the Bharat Line Ltd. asked for loan for one ship and they were refused that loan and Scindias was given preference? Is it correct?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Minister got the information?

Shri Santhanam: I do not know what exactly he wants. Whether the Bharat Line asked for a loan of capital money or what exactly is the question that he wants me to reply, I do not know.

Shri Sidhva: For the ship that was already built in Vizagapatam they wanted to give half the amount and wanted half from the Government. But they were not given the share and Scindias was given.

Shri Santhanam: That is a matter which is still under consideration.

Dr. Deshmukh: What steps have the Government taken to see that all the ships that are built in the Vizagapatam yard are not monopolised by the Scindias because they are the biggest bidders and to see that other companies are also given a chance of getting new as well as old ships?

Shri Santhanam: The allotment is to be made by the Government of India after consideration of all matters and in order that the shipping trade of India may be best served.

Dr. Deshmukh: Is it not a fact that so far most of the ships are going to Scindias and the other people have not been given a chance? Would he be pleased to consider the facts and see that a fair allotment is made to other companies also?

Shri Santhanam: A fair allotment is made.

Shri Hussain Imam: Is the hon. Minister in a position to say as to how

many Indian-owned ships sank last year and what compensation, if any, Government paid to these shipping companies?

Shri Santhanam: Sir, I have no statistics of the mortality of ships with me.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question, Dr. Ram Subhag Singh.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I would like to inform you, Sir, that this question was replied to by the hon. Minister sometime back—a question to this effect.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So the hon. Member does not press this question. Next question, No. 2772.

SCHEDULED TIME FOR AIRCRAFTS

*2772. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any instances in which aircrafts took off from aerodromes beyond the scheduled time have come to his notice and if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

(b) Whether he is aware of any complaints made to the Enquiry and Reporting staff at the Dum Dum aerodrome regarding delays in starting aircrafts at scheduled time even when they were ready to take off and if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Under the terms of the licences granted by the Air Transport Licensing Board for the operation of scheduled air transport services, all delays of half an hour and over are reported by the Operating Companies to the Board which deals with such cases on merits.

(b) Yes. One such complaint was received and has been enquired into. No action has been taken.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the complaint related to the concession period allowed or it was beyond the concession period, and what was the concession period?

Shri Kidwai: On enquiry it was found that the complaint was not correct.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether Government is aware that the Himalayan Airways take off their planes beyond the scheduled time every day?

Shri Kidwai: I have no information here, but the hon. Member might be correct.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the hon. Minister has made the statement that all the aircraft take off within the schedule time or that they exceed the concession period of quarter of an hour?

Shri Kidwai: I did not make the statement that all the aircraft take off within this time, but the complaint that I have received from the hon. Member Mr. Sidhva himself, that a plane started 75 minutes late, was not found to be correct. It was only 18 minutes late.

Shri Kesava Rao: Is it not a fact that most of the planes reach the destination half an hour or one hour late?

Shri Kidwai: Sometimes they also reach half an hour or fifteen minutes early.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I suggest that there is no good putting such a general question. It is not as if all planes are late or that all are in time. Specific questions may be put, if they are very important. Otherwise, questions as to whether a particular plane left late or early are all matters which may be written to the hon. Minister and the information easily obtained instead of spending away the time of the House.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if there is anybody in charge to see whether the aircraft leave at the proper time or not, and in the event of consistent delay whether companies are pulled up or any warnings issued to them?

Shri Kidwai: I have stated in my reply that a concession period has been given to every company. They can be late up to half an hour. But beyond that they have to report the fact and also report the cause of the delay.

Shri Sidhva: Is the concession time half an hour or fifteen minutes?

Shri Kidwai: I have read in my reply that the companies have to report to the Air Licensing Board if the plane is delayed by more than half an hour.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister stated that my complaint was being investigated whether the aircraft was 15 minutes late and not 75 minutes late. Is it a fact that the Director General is still making enquiries in this matter? If that is so, how does it accord with that?

Shri Kidwai: The reply could have been completed last evening.

Sari Ramalingam Chettiar: Is the Government aware that the scheduled time for the starting of the aircraft from Madras is a little too early and all the mails from the South arrive within half an hour of the time fixed for the starting of the aircraft in

Madras and will Government see that the time is suitably modified so that people need not wait for one full day in Madras for catching the mail?

Shri Kidwai: I am thankful to the hon. Member for the information and I shall pass on this suggestion to the companies concerned.

RAILWAY INCOME FROM ADVERTISEMENTS

*2773. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total amounts received by Railways from advertisements of all kinds during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950, each year separately;

(b) which Railway earned the largest amount; and

(c) whether there is an advertisement agency on behalf of the Railway and if so, who represents it?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The total amount received by Railways towards advertisements of all kinds during the years mentioned below is as follows:

(In rupees)

1947-48	5,95,468
1948-49	7,41,218
1949-50	8,31,997
1950-51	8,13,224

(up to December 1950)

(b) The B. B and C. I. Railway earned the largest amount.

(c) Advertisements are secured by the Railways directly through inspectors as well as through canvassers and advertising agencies the selection of which is made by the Railway Administrations.

Shri Sidhva: What are these agencies and what percentage they get, if any?

Shri Santhanam: I would require notice of that question.

Shri T. Husain: Will Government be pleased to state the total amount spent by Railways on advertisements of all kinds during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950, each year separately and which Railway has spent the largest amount?

Shri Santhanam: I do not think this will be kept as a separate item of expenditure. Some amount will be paid as commission, some as salaries and others as incidental expenses which will go under separate heads. It will not be possible to collect them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They have not got a separate account.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the expenditure on the Railway Time-table for which the Government is receiving advertisements is in any way more than the income from that?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Railway time-table is itself self-supporting.

Shri Santhanam: I cannot say.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is such a small detail that the hon. Minister cannot be expected to answer that.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know in the matter of publicity done on platforms or on suburban trains there is any uniformity of rates for advertisements on the different Railways? Also whether any estimate has been made of the losses due to prevailing rates for insertions in Railway time-tables as compared with other publications?

Shri Santhanam: The rates varied widely. Last year we had a conference of all the officers concerned. We are trying to bring the rates to a more or less uniform standard. It is not practicable to have absolute uniformity because some Railways offer better scope for advertisements and some advertisers choose particular Railways where we can charge higher rates while in other Railways, we cannot charge the same rates.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether in respect of these advertisements it is considered necessary to have differential rate on the basis of Railway lines or a uniform rate on the importance of the Stations?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it not a suggestion for action? The hon. Minister said that having regard to the peculiar cases of each line the quantity of advertisements they get, the rates have to vary. He will certainly consider the various matters suggested. Next question, Mr. Bhargava.

Dr. Deshmukh: I want to ask a question. It concerns the morals of youth.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly reserve it for the next question. I have asked the hon. Member to put the next question and he has already stood up.

AERODROME OFFICERS

*2774. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the number of Aerodrome Officers and Assistant Aerodrome Officers in the employment of the Government at present and how many of these are Indians and how many non-Indians?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): 10 Aerodrome Officers and 22 Assistant Aerodrome Officers. All of them are Indians.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know whether any additional Aerodrome Officers and Assistant Officers are being recruited? If so, what is the agency for recruitment?

Shri Kidwai: The agency is the Union Public Service Commission.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: My question was whether any additional officers are being recruited?

Shri Kidwai: I think every year we send our requirements to the Public Service Commission and they recruit them. My impression is that some have recently been recruited or they have been interviewed and that we may get the lists soon.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Is any training given to these officers before they take up their duties?

Shri Kidwai: Yes. They are given training in the Allahabad Training Centre.

Shri T. Husain: I want to know the number of Aerodrome Officers and Assistant Officers employed by the Government of India at Patna.

Shri Kidwai: I do not think that Patna is such a big station that it will require a number of Aerodrome Officers and Additional Aerodrome Officers.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is any technical qualifications necessary for the appointment of an Aerodrome Officer?

Shri Kidwai: May I read out the qualifications that have been supplied to the Public Service Commission?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister need not read the whole of the qualifications. He may indicate whether any technical qualifications are necessary or not. That is enough.

Shri Kidwai: B.A., Graduate in Engineering of a recognized university or possesses qualifications recognized by the U.P.S.C. for the Engineering Service Examination of the Government of India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is enough.

CUSTOMS BARRIERS BETWEEN STATES

*2775. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Customs barriers exist at present between the Part B

and Part A and C States in the Indian Union;

(b) if so, what is the nature and extent of such barriers;

(c) by which date and what stages these barriers are intended to be removed; and

(d) what progress has been made in that direction so far?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):

(a) Yes. Inter-State transit duties are levied by the Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, Saurashtra and Hyderabad Governments.

(b) The Governments of the States levy inter-State transit duties on goods brought into or sent from their territories to the rest of India (except in the case of Saurashtra where duty is charged only on exports of articles). These duties are levied according to tariffs prescribed by them.

(c) These duties will be completely abolished within a maximum period of 5 years from 1st April 1950. The stages by which this is to be achieved will be determined from time to time with reference among other things to the extent to which the State is able to replace the revenue lost by alternative sources.

(d) In the case of Madhya Bharat steps have been taken to replace gradually the inter-State transit duties by sales-tax. Import duty on most of the items mentioned in the States' Customs Schedule has been abolished with effect from 1st May 1950 and 1st October 1950, and sales-tax is being collected on these articles.

The Hyderabad Government are gradually reducing the scale of duty. The rate of duty on imports into the State has been reduced to the extent of 25 per cent. on all general goods and 40 per cent. on foodgrains, and further reductions are under consideration.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know what is the machinery employed to determine the stages and the extent of reduction or the abolition of duty?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The Myderabad Government?

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: In respect of other States which is the machinery which will determine the stages by which the duty is to be abolished and uniformity is to be brought about?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It is the Government of the State practically in all

cases but as the reduction or variation of these duties will affect their purchases and the purchases have got to get the approval of the Government of India, the Government of India takes a part in determining these rates of duty.

Shri Dwivedi: May I know whether the Government are aware that although Customs duties have been abolished in Vindhya Pradesh, there are barriers still in existence between Uttar Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh? Is the hon. Minister aware that these barriers have proved to be more advantageous to the guards rather than to the Government?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I do not know if these irregular levies are being continued. If things come to our notice, we shall certainly take the necessary action.

Kanwar Jaswant Singh: Is it a fact that within Rajasthan, in regard to certain commodities, the scale of customs duties has been increased?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I am afraid I should like to have notice of the question.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Is there any customs barrier between Assam and Manipur?

Shri Gopaldaswami: No. It is only in the case of the States that I have mentioned, that customs duties as between the States and what were previously provinces of India have been retained for a period of five years. In the case of other States, the Indian States Finances Enquiry Committee itself recommended their abolition and that has been carried out.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know what is the effect of the imposition or continuance of these customs duties on the industries in these respective States? Is it beneficial or is it detrimental?

Shri Gopaldaswami: It depends upon the particular commodities. May be that duties on particular commodities affect the local industries, and in other cases, not.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Is the Government aware that there is a strong public opinion against the continuance of these duties?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is why they are being reduced gradually.

Shri Hussain Imam: Could the hon. Minister give us some idea as to the amount of money lost by the States by the abolition or reduction of these duties?

Shri Gopalaswami: All the States put together?

Shri Hussain Imam: Separately for each State.

Shri Gopalaswami: If the hon. Member will put down a question, I shall give the information.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the revenue gap in the Travancore-Cochin State revenues has been in any way compensated by the Centre?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does it arise?

Shri Gopalaswami: The revenue gap has been the subject of negotiations between the Centre and the Travancore-Cochin State and I believe a final settlement has been reached which has been accepted by both the parties.

DEFACING OF STAMPS ON LETTERS

*2776. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the practice of defacing the stamps of Air Mail letters to foreign countries at the P.O. Counter in the presence of the sender, has been discontinued and if so, why?

(b) Are Government aware that the discontinuance of this practice has led to an easy commitment of pilferage of stamps?

The Minister of Communications (**Shri Kidwai**): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that a large number of letters have been published in the newspapers complaining about pilferage of stamps on letters that go to foreign countries?

Shri Kidwai: I am aware of that.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the Government has got any machinery at their disposal to ascertain the truth of these complaints?

Shri Kidwai: I think the hon. Member is aware that recently we raided a certain place where we recovered destroyed letters. The Special police has been investigating into this matter.

Shrimati Velayudhan: May I know whether the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a suggestion made by the Madras High Court in a judicial pronouncement that punching of stamps will reduce pilferage in the initial stages?

Shri Kidwai: I have seen a judgment of the Madras Court where an employee was punished for using used stamps.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know the number of cases detected among the employees of the postal department for pilferage of stamps?

Shri Kidwai: I have no figures with me. Recently some arrests have been made in Calcutta. In Bombay, we raided a Press and arrested certain persons who were printing our Five rupee stamps. We also intercepted some parcels in Assam where these forged stamps were sent.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Is the hon. Minister aware that in the case of local letters, stamps are occasionally not being defaced in Delhi?

Shri Kidwai: We have received such complaints.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (INCOME AND EXPENDITURE)

*2777. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what head of the Ministry of Communications brings the largest amount of revenue and under what head the expenditure is the largest stating the amount in each case?

(b) What is the amount of expenditure on salaries and emoluments of the staff including that of attached and subordinate offices?

(c) What is the ratio of the amount referred to in part (b) to the entire expenditure?

(d) What is the income from the telephone system in the year 1949-50?

The Minister of Communications (**Shri Kidwai**): (a) The Posts and Telegraphs Department brings the largest amount of revenue; this Department also incurs the largest amount of expenditure. The total revenues and expenditure of this Department for the year 1950-51 are Rs. 35.53 crores and Rs. 32.46 crores respectively.

(b) Rs. 24.34 crores approximately during 1950-51.

(c) 2:3

(d) Rs. 7.70 crores.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As far as possible, may I suggest to hon. Members that questions like this, answers for which could easily be had from the Administration Reports, ought not to be put and the time of the House taken.

Shri Sondhi: Or un-starred questions may be sent.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Either un-starred questions may be put or with some care and trouble, they may go to the Library and get the information from the Administration reports. What I would like to impress upon hon. Members is this. They must exhaust all sources of information before they give a particular question. It is only such questions that must be answered on the floor of the House, to which the attention of the hon. Minister has to be drawn, and answers for which could not be easily available except through the agency of the Ministers and the agency of questions.

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): You may instruct your office to scrutinise questions of this type and you may not allow such questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would like the hon. Members to take that responsibility themselves.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I make a submission, Sir? There is a very large number of questions which are already disallowed. I would not be surprised if the percentage of admitted questions in some cases does go down to 15 per cent. or 20 per cent. All the care that you are suggesting is already exercised. My hon. friend (the hon. Shri A. P. Jain) having ceased to put questions is not aware of question being disallowed. All these considerations are borne in mind by the office a little too much. I would say they err on the other side, not on the right side.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am thankful to the hon. Members for their suggestions.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know in what cities of U.P. there is no automatic system of telephone up till now?

Shri Kidwai: I can reply the other way. Automatic system is available in Allahabad, Kanpur and at a small place like Barabanki.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know when we are likely to have it in Lucknow?

Shri Kidwai: We have no proposal to have the automatic system in Lucknow in the next few years.

Shri Sondhi: Did the hon. Minister mention Barabanki?

Shri Kidwai: Yes.

Shri Sondhi: Is that the hon. Minister's native town?

Shri Kidwai: Yes; that is why I mentioned it.

Shri Chattopadhyay: The hon. Minister said that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is running at a profit. May I know what are the different items handled by the Posts and Telegraphs Department like post-cards, envelopes, money orders, insurance and other things which run at a loss?

Shri Kidwai: I think only letters bring some profit to the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Money orders, and registered letters are causing some loss. I think we are having a debate on the Budget; this will be explained.

SURPLUS STORES

*2778. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the total value of—

(i) the Stores, vehicles, planes, and equipment in the possession of the Ministry found to be useless, un-serviceable, lost, or declared "Surplus" to requirements, in 1947-48 (Post-partition), 1948-49 and 1949-50;

(ii) the realisations out of Stores or vehicles declared to be "surplus", damaged, or otherwise un-serviceable, and so put up for disposal, and disposed of to other Ministries of the Government of India, other State Governments, or to the public; and

(iii) the Stores, vehicles or equipment lost, or otherwise found unavailable on stock-taking, or any other similar check, in 1947-48 (Post-partition), 1948-49 and 1949-50?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): In the Departments with which the Communications Ministry is concerned, there has been no case of stores, vehicles or other equipment declared 'surplus' to requirements. In regard to material being found un-serviceable, in a big Department like, say, the Posts and Telegraphs Department, some item of equipment or other will be constantly becoming un-serviceable due to constant use in the normal day-to-day working and it is very difficult to furnish information of all such items. Particulars of these cases are however being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as they are available.

Shri Shiva Rao: Has the attention of my hon. friend, the Minister, been drawn to the existence of substantial quantities of new copper coils in the surplus stores of the various military

depots, and has any attempt been made by my hon. friend, the Minister, to utilise these copper coils?

Shri Kidwai: Yes. Wherever we come to know that in the Disposals some material is available that could be of service to the Department, officers are sent there and if they find that the material is serviceable, they take it over.

SURPLUS STORES

*2779. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the total value of—

(i) the Stores and Equipment in the possession of the Ministry found to be useless, unserviceable, lost, or declared "Surplus" to requirements in 1947-48 (Post-partition), 1948-49 and 1949-50;

(ii) the realisations out of Stores declared to be "surplus", damaged, or otherwise unserviceable, and so put up for disposal and disposed of, to other Ministries of the Government of India, other State Governments, or to the public; and

(iii) the Stores lost, or otherwise found short on stock-taking, or any other similar check, in 1947-48 (Post-partition), 1948-49 and 1949-50?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): A statement containing such of the information required by the hon. Member, as it has been possible to collect, from railways, is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 36.]

Information concerning the B.B. and C.I. and Mysore Railways has not so far been received, but will be supplied to the hon. Member in the form of a supplementary statement when it has been collected.

Prof. K. T. Shah: What is the proportion of the stores declared surplus to requirements as compared with the total value of the stores held? I want the information for the year 1949-1950.

Shri Santhanam: The annual consumption of stores, including the grain-shops is Rs. 100 crores. The hon. Member may calculate the percentage for himself.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Is it a fact that even when stores are declared surplus to requirements, new stores of the same kind are purchased?

Shri Santhanam: It is quite possible that in one Railway a particular article may be declared surplus while another Railway may be purchasing it. But we have set up a stores enquiry

committee which is going into the details of all these matters and we expect its report shortly. We are taking all possible steps to prevent any such duplication.

Prof. K. T. Shah: From the Statement I find that stores valued up to Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 30 lakhs are declared as either lost or unaccounted for. May I know whether any steps are taken by the Ministry to check this evil? I ask this question particularly because for the three years that I have asked for the figures 1947-48 (post-partition), 1948-49 and 1949-50 these figures of stores lost or unaccounted for, instead of going down, have actually risen from year to year? Last year it was over Rs. 35 lakhs and the year before that it was Rs. 23 lakhs and odd and earlier it was Rs. 9,87,000. Previously at least we had the excuse that the officers concerned had all gone; but what is the reason now?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may put the question and stop at that.

Shri Santhanam: Part of the explanation or reason for that is this. Our accounting and checking have been made more rigorous and the figures are now more reliable for the recent years. In 1947-48, the whole thing was in a state of break-down and probably figures were not so accurate as for the year 1949-50. We are taking all possible steps to investigate into each major article which is missing or which is found damaged and the Railway Administrations have been instructed to take the fullest care to prevent such things.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I know whether articles declared surplus are disposed of by the same department that declares them surplus or are they made over to the disposal section of the Industry and Supply Ministry?

Shri Santhanam: It all depends on the articles concerned. Some of the articles like steel scraps etc. are handed over to the Steel Controller for disposal. Some other articles may be directly disposed of by auction. If they are like junk or other such things which are not likely to be of use to anybody. It all depends upon the particular article.

Shri Sondhi: In view of the fact that the check on the Railways is more efficient this year and we are likely to be much more efficient next year, is this figure of stores lost or unaccounted for likely to go up still further?

Shri Santhanam: Well, it may be, I cannot say anything now.

Shri Syamanandan Sahaya: The hon. Minister stated that the figures this year are accurate. Are we to take it that the figures for the previous years were inaccurate? If so, will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what are the justifications or grounds for considering the previous figures to be inaccurate and the present figures to be accurate?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The whole day may be occupied in answering that question, I am afraid.

Shri Santhanam: In 1947-48, as hon. Members know, thousands of employees of the Railways were going to Pakistan and thousands were coming from Pakistan and the whole railway system was in a state of dislocation and it is not surprising to find that there was not the same degree of accuracy in those disturbed years as now.

Shri Sidhva: Arising from part (ii) of the question, may I know what is the value of the stores declared un-serviceable and now included in the surplus?

Shri Santhanam: If the hon. Member will look into the Statement, he will find the information in column (ii).

Shri Sidhva: What is the total value of such stores, if the hon. Minister has no objection?

Shri Santhanam: For 1947-48 (post-partition) it is Rs. 45.81 lakhs, for 1948-49 it is Rs. 120.23 lakhs, and for 1949-50 it is Rs. 83.51 lakhs. These figures consist partly of surplus and partly of un-serviceable stores.

Shri Sidhva: I wanted separate figures, Sir.

Shri Santhanam: I have not got the break-up, Sir.

Shri A. C. Guha: The hon. Minister has said that some of the surplus stores are disposed of by the same Railway administration and are not being sent to the Disposals section. Does the office or the officer which declares the stores to be surplus, also sell them?

Shri Santhanam: There are very elaborate rules laying down the procedure for declaring articles to be surplus and for their disposal. State Railway Code, Chapter XXII may be looked up by the hon. Member for further information on this matter.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, what is the explanation for the rise in the figures in 1949-50 as against those for 1948-49?

Shri Santhanam: We began to tighten up our stores organisation in the beginning of 1949 and so the total of surplus and un-serviceable stores for 1949-50 is more than for 1948-49.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am asking about the unaccounted for articles.

Shri Santhanam: I have given the figures here and if the hon. Member wants any further information, I shall be glad to get it from the individual railways concerned. These figures here are collected from all the railways and they are the consolidated figures. Some railways may have less and others more of these surplus or un-serviceable articles.

Prof. K. T. Shah: The Statement gives the figures for the various railways also.

Shri Santhanam: As I said, if the hon. Member wants further information on any particular railway, I shall be glad to get it for him.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Sir, the hon. Minister has explained the position as regards the year 1947-48. But the figures for 1949-50 are higher than those for 1948-49. What is the reason for this increase?

Shri Santhanam: I am prepared to go into the whole question. But I have not got any particular answer ready for this question.

Shri Hussain Imam: Sir, on a matter of procedure. The Statement which the hon. Minister says he has laid on the Table of the House in reply to this question, is available only to the hon. Member who has put the question. Others who are interested in the question do not get the benefit of that Statement. It is not available to them. May I request that steps may be taken to lay more copies of the Statements on the Table of the House so that other hon. Members who may be interested in the question may be able to see it?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has evidently forgotten that a copy of the Statement is being kept in the Notice Office, that is besides the copy supplied to the hon. Member who has put the question. That copy in the Notice Office is there for the information of all hon. Members. That is as good as placing it on the Table of the House.

Shri Sidhva: Is it put on the Notice-Board?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No, it is placed in the Notice Office. Any hon. Member anxious to see it can look at it in the Notice Office.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: May I point out, Sir, that only one copy is kept there in the Notice Office and that is not at all adequate? Could you see that more copies are kept there for the use of hon. Members?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, that can be done. More copies can be kept in the Notice Office.

SURPLUS STORES AND EQUIPMENT

*2780. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the total value of—

(i) the Stores and Equipment in the possession of the Ministry of Transport found to be useless, unserviceable, lost, or declared "Surplus" to requirements in 1947-48 (Post-partition), 1948-49 and 1949-50;

(ii) the realisation out of Stores declared to be "surplus", damaged, or otherwise unserviceable, and so put up for disposal and disposed of, to other Ministries of the Government of India, other State Governments, or to the public; and

(iii) the Stores lost, or otherwise found short on stock-taking, or any other similar check, in 1947-48 (Post-partition), 1948-49 and 1949-50?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): A statement giving the details asked for is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 37.]

ADMINISTRATION OF MAJOR PORTS

*2781. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Government of India contemplate to introduce a single Central Act for the administration of all major ports of this country?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): No. What the Government of India at present contemplate is to promote a single Central Act for the administration of the major ports in the country, other than Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Sir, is it a fact that certain port authorities have suggested to Government to introduce a central Act for the administration of all the major ports?

Shri Santhanam: Probably the hon. Member refers to a sentence in the Report of the Select Committee on the

Ports Bill. The suggestion was made and the matter was explained to the members of the Select Committee.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I did not mean members of the Select Committee, but some port authorities. Did the port authorities make a suggestion that a single Central Act should be introduced for all the ports?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Report of the Select Committee is before hon. Members and they will be getting ample opportunities to discuss the whole matter.

Shri Santhanam: No port authority, so far as I am aware, has made any such suggestion.

RAILWAY FARES

*2782. **Shri Deogirikar:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether on certain Railways like the Barsi Light Railway, Kalka-Simla Railway, etc., a certain percentage of surcharge is levied over and above the usual rates of fares?

(b) If so, which are those Railways?

(c) What are the reasons for these higher rates?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) No surcharge is levied on any railway. On certain railways or sections of railways, fares higher than standard fares or fares based on inflated mile-ages are levied.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 38.]

(c) Higher rates are charged on account of factors, such as the higher cost of construction, maintenance and working of hilly or ghat sections or of small railways.

Shri Deogirikar: May I know whether on the Barsi Light Railway there is a surcharge levied on the ordinary fares?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, fares at inflated rates are levied on that railway.

Shri Deogirikar: What is the percentage of this surcharge?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That question also could have been added on to the original question as part (d). That could be done in case of information which has to be obtained from the office, instead of taking the hon. Minister by surprise here. I don't think the hon. Minister has got that information.

Shri Sonavane: Are the disadvantages and discomforts of the passengers also added on to the fares?

Shri Santhanam: As the hon. Member knows, this thing has been handed down to us for historical reasons in its present form. We are looking into the entire question of why there should be different rates in different railways and we are considering the question of rationalising the rates.

Shri Sonavane: Is there any proposal before Government to take over the Barsi Light Railway from the present management

Shri Santhanam: That will be considered when the present contract expires.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, may I know whether the Ministry enjoys the right to levy higher rates than those passed by the House? Under what authority does the Ministry do that?

Shri Santhanam: The House has not passed any schedule of fares. What was done in the Budget was to state that a certain percentage increase is going to be charged. The actual fares are raised by the railway administration in accordance with the Railways Act.

Shri Sidhva: But we have fixed the rates here, Sir, as so much per mile.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There seems to be some confusion. In the case of, say the Postal rates, these come in the Financial Bill before the House and they cannot be increased at the pleasure of the Ministry or by the Government. If the hon. Member wants the same thing in connection with the railway fares also, he may insist on a Finance Bill being introduced here for the Railway rates and fares also.

Shri Dwivedi: Are some pilgrims taxes and terminal taxes also collected on the railways?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, at the present of the local Governments for local purposes. The Railways do not take any of these taxes.

Shri Sonavane: Is it a fact that surcharge is being levied on the Matheran Railway and if so, has there been any change effected as a result of the hon. Minister's visit to Matheran?

Shri Santhanam: In that railway because it had been constructed for special purposes, higher charges had been levied; and after the Railway Board took it over, these old rates have been continued. When I visited Matheran I promised examination of this question and it is being examined.

Shri Deogirikar: What are the reasons for the surcharge on the Barsi Light Railway?

Shri Santhanam: As a rule the charges on these Light Railways are more than those for broad gauge or metre gauge.

Shri Deogirikar: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that this railway is making huge profits?

Shri Santhanam: As I have already said, this matter is being looked into. We are looking into this matter.

Shri Hussain Imam: Sir, regarding your suggestion about bringing in the railway fares in the Finance Bill, may I know if the hon. Minister is agreeable to this proposal?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall make my own position clear. I did not make any such suggestion. I only said in answer to Mr. Sidhva that there are various methods in which hon. Members if they so desire, and if the House so desires, may express their desire on a particular matter, and it is open to the hon. Minister to accept their suggestions or not. I did not express any opinion. The Chair has no opinion of its own.

Shri Sidhva: The House has expressed that desire in this matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No. The question is as to the manner in which the House expresses its desire.

ALARM SIGNAL FACILITY IN TRAINS

*2783. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether alarm signal facility has been removed from the local trains of the B. N. Railway;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representation from the Passengers' Association for the restoration of this facility; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken on such representation?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The alarm signal apparatus has been disconnected in all compartments of Howrah suburban service trains except compartments reserved for ladies.

(b) Yes.

(c) As the number of cases of unauthorised pulling of alarm chain by mischievous elements has not decreased appreciably on through trains

traversing the suburban area, the restoration of the alarm signal facility in suburban trains where misuse was greatest, is not considered justifiable. The position is, however, being carefully watched and as soon as there is an indication of a sustained improvement, the question of restoring this facility in suburban trains will be considered.

Shri A. C. Guha: What are the reasons for withdrawing this facility?

Shri Santhanam: People began to pull the chains very often and train services were going in an interrupted fashion and passengers could not reach the destination at all in time.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How many cases of such abuse were detected?

Shri Santhanam: In February 1948 there were 168 such cases, in March, there were 168 and in April 115.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Were all these cases of abuse dealt with and how?

Shri Santhanam: They must have been dealt with locally according to the rules.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is that the only area where this misuse happens?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, this area has this distinction.

Shri Kamath: What is the date or time at which the hon. Minister took alarm or began to be alarmed at the pulling of alarm chains on the railways?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member wants his question to be on record. But does he expect a reply also?

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that because of the withdrawal of the alarm signals, smuggling has increased especially in rice?

Shri Santhanam: We have first to see that the trains run and then we look into other matters.

Shri Chattopadhyay: Can the hon. Minister give us an idea as to what is the amount of fine realised on account of the improper use of the signals?

Shri Santhanam: I would like to have notice.

Shri Sonavane: Is the hon. Minister aware that the alarm signal chain was out of order on the Frontier Mail last month? Was there any complaint made about it?

Shri Santhanam: I have not received any complaint.

MERCHANT NAVY RATINGS (TRAINING)

*2784. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what are the arrangements so far made by Government to train Ratings of Merchant Navy, the places where such training is given and the number of boys undergoing training at each place?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): Two training ships, viz., the *Lady Fraser* and the *Andrew* have been established by Government at Visakhapatnam and Calcutta, respectively, where a three months' course of training is provided free of cost for selected candidates intending to take up a career at sea. About 80 ratings are at present trained on either ship every quarter.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Are there any qualifications for candidates to get admission to these schools?

Shri Santhanam: I think they should have some sea-faring tradition and ordinary education.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Is it a fact that most of the Indian officers quit sea life after their marriage? If so, what is the inducement given to officers in the interest of security of service?

Shri Santhanam: I am answering a question on ratings, not on officers.

कत्था

*१७८६ श्री जांगड़े : क्या कत्था तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(ए) उन स्थानों के नाम जहाँसे भारत में पान के साथ खाया जाने वाला कत्था प्राप्त होता है;

(बी) क्या यह कत्था कत्थों के वृक्षों से निकाला जाता है;

(सी) यदि भाग (ब) का उत्तर 'हां' हो तो क्या हमारी आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति के लिये कत्थे के वृक्ष हमारे जंगलों में पर्याप्त संख्या में पाये जाते हैं; तथा

(डी) क्या कत्थे के वृक्षों से निकाला गया कत्था पान खाने वाले अन्य देशों को भी निर्यात किया जाता है?

CATECHU

*2786. **Shri Jangde:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places from where catechu, which is used with betels in India, is obtained;

(b) whether this catechu is extracted from the catechu trees;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative whether the catechu trees are found in sufficient numbers in our forests to meet our requirements; and

(d) whether the catechu prepared from the catechu trees is exported to other betel taking countries?]

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Bareilly and Gwalior factories as also from various cottage units set up in forest divisions throughout the Union.

(b) Yes, from *Acasia catechu* (North India) and *Acacia Sundra* (South India).

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

Shri Sonavane: Is the hon. Minister aware that catechu is prepared from animal blood in Bombay?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I am not aware of it.

Shri Sonavane: Will he make investigation into the matter?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I do not know if the hon. Member is giving me information or is wanting to verify the facts.

श्री द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या विन्ध्य प्रदेश में कत्था बनाने वालों को चार आने और छः आने मजदूरी पर रख कर काम कराया जाता है और वहाँ पर ज्यादातर कत्था बनाने का काम बड़े बड़े ठेकेदारों को दे दिया जाता है जिससे कि कत्था बनाने वाले लेबर को बहुत कष्ट होता है ?

[**Shri Dwivedi:** I want to know whether it is a fact that the labour engaged to prepare catechu in Vindhya Pradesh is given four to six annas a day only as wages, and the contracts for preparing catechu there are given to big contractors only with the result that the labour is put to a lot of hardship?]

Shri Thirumala Rao: This question does not refer to it. I have no information on it.

DIVERSION OF LAND FROM FOOD CROPS TO TOBACCO CULTIVATION IN MADRAS

*2787. **Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the acreage that has been diverted in Madras State during the years 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950 from food crops to tobacco cultivation?

(b) What was the average yield of food crops in those lands?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) During the period 1946-47 to 1949-50 the area under foodgrains and tobacco, and the changes in each year as compared with the previous one, were as under:

(Figures in lakh acres)

Year	Area under food crops	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with previous year	Area under tobacco	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with previous year
1946-47	276.3	..	3.0	..
1947-48	264.1	-12.2	2.9	-0.1
1948-49	275.2	+11.1	3.2	+0.3
1949-50	275.6	+0.4	3.4	+0.2

Thus during the latter two years, the areas under foodcrops and tobacco both increased. No field to field survey of diversion from foodgrains to tobacco has been made and on the total figures of acreages it is not possible to say what, if any, the diversion has been.

(b) the average yield of rice on 40,000 acres, the maximum possible diversion indicated by the figures given above may be estimated at about 16,000 tons of rice.

Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah: What is the extension of cultivation of tobacco on rice-growing land in Madras State?

Shri Thirumala Rao: In the year 1949-50 23,000 acres.

کہانی جی - ایس - مسانو - کیا
سرکار اس بات کو سوچ رہی ہے کہ

تسہا کو کی کاشت کو گھٹایا جائے یا
بالکل بند کیا جائے تاکہ نوڈہ کھلے
جگہ خالی رہے -

[Giani G. S. Musafir: Are the Government contemplating to reduce the acreage of tobacco or totally stop its cultivation so that more land may be available for food crops?]

Shri Thirumala Rao: No, Sir.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if any direction has been issued by the Government of India for the increase in production of money crops such as jute and tobacco and proportionately, if necessary, decrease the food crops?

Shri Thirumala Rao: In the integrated production plan foodgrains, cotton and jute are treated as one separate group. The others are treated as separate. Under the integrated production plan instructions have been issued to see that more cotton and jute are being grown in favourable areas.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if it is a fact that a specific direction has been given to the Government of Assam to increase jute production even at the cost of food production and that the Government of India had undertaken to compensate the State Government in this respect?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Yes, it is a fact.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Have similar instructions been issued to Madras State in respect of tobacco?

Shri Thirumala Rao: No.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Since there is more acreage under tobacco in Madras than under food crops.....

Mt. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has not heard the answer.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether there is any State in India where the acreage under tobacco is more than under food crops?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Even in Madras it is not so.

Shri Thirumala Rao: The area under food crops is 275.6 and the area under tobacco is 3.4.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is misinformed.

Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah: Is it a fact that tobacco cultivation has extended to some more food-growing lands?

Shri Thirumala Rao: In the deltaic areas of Godavari and Krishna some people have taken to tobacco but it is a small area.

Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah: What is the average loss in food production due to this cultivation?

Shri Thirumala Rao: On an average the additional land that came under cultivation is only 2 lakhs or 20,000 acres.

Prof. Ranga: Deltaic lands are fit for paddy cultivation and are not at all fit for tobacco cultivation, which requires raised platform lands or land of higher levels.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I may say from personal knowledge that in certain areas in East and West Godavari lands producing paddy hitherto have taken to tobacco-growing to the extent of 20,000 acres.

Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah: Have Government taken any steps to prohibit the cultivation of tobacco on lands on which formerly food crops were being grown?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is a matter for the State Governments to watch these things.

Shri A. Joseph: Did this Government issue instructions to the Provincial Governments not to grow tobacco on lands where food crops were being grown?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The resultant loss in foodgrains is negligible.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Is it a fact that the diversion from food crops to tobacco is due to the variation in rainfall?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We are now arguing the matter. Next question.

PROTEST DAY

*2788. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the All-India Postmen decided to observe "Protest Day" on 23rd February 1951, and, if so, for what reasons?

(b) What are the exact demands of the Postmen?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Yes. The Protest Day was observed in connection with the following demands:

(i) Increase in Dearness Allowance on the basis of the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission.

(ii) Deletion of certain provisions in the Labour Relations Bill and the Trade

Unions Bill which affect the P. and T. Staff Unions as at present constituted.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Will the hon. Minister clarify the position as to whether the observance of a protest by postal workers and similar demonstrations are in violation of the Government servants' conduct rules?

Shri Kidwai: No.

Short notice Question and Answer

DERAILMENT OF GOODS TRAIN ON KALYAN-IGATPURI LINE

Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether a derailment of a goods train occurred on the night of the 27th March 1951, on the Kalyan Igatpuri (G.I.P.) line?

(b) Is it a fact that important through trains and a tourist special were all delayed for a very long time?

(c) What was the duration of clearance of the line?

(d) What was the cause of the accident?

(e) When was the line cleared and through communication restored?

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

(c) The Down line had been cleared and restored for communication after about 16 hours and the Up line, on which the train had actually derailed fouling the Down line, had been cleared and restored for communication after about 52 hours.

(d) The cause is under investigation.

(e) This has already been indicated in part (c).

Shri Sidhva: May I know if the accident took place near any station between Kalyan and Igatpuri, and, if not, from what distance from any station did it take place?

Shri Santhanam: On 27.3.51, 12 wagons of BPT 46 Up goods train, hauled by an electric engine on the up line, derailed at 22.45 hours at mile 52/22 between Asangaon and Vasind on the Kalyan-Igatpuri Section of the G.I.P. Railway. Two of the derailed wagons capsized and fouled the down line. The down line was cleared at 14.45 hours on 28.3.51; that is after about 16 hours, on which single line working was introduced, and the Up line was given to traffic at 2.50 hours on 30-3-51, that is after about 52 hours.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether any damage was done to rollingstock and whether there were any casualties among the running staff?

Shri Santhanam: I don't think there were any casualties, but some damage must have been caused to the rollingstock when there was a derailment.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INTEGRATION OF TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

*2785. **Shri Alexander:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standardisation of the departments of the State of Travancore-Cochin taken over by the Centre as a result of the financial integration of that State has been completed; and

(b) if not, which are the departments which have still to be standardised and what is the cause of the delay in completing the process?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):

(a) and (b). Considerable progress has been made and the work is expected to be completed soon. The reorganisation of the Central Departments in Part 'B' States so as to bring them into full conformity with similar departments in Part 'A' States has to be carefully worked out with reference to local conditions and necessarily takes time.

COMMERCIAL CROPS

*2789. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered that a fixed percentage of land should be utilised to raise commercial crops; and

(b) if so, what is that percentage?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) and (b). No. The integrated production programme which has laid down certain targets for additional production of commercial crops such as cotton and jute is proposed to be implemented by offering suitable incentives to the cultivators for the purpose. Some of the State Governments however have assumed powers to regulate the sowing of particular crops.

PUBLIC CALL OFFICE

*2790. **Shri Ramaswamy Naidu:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a public call office at Sattur and Sivakasi in Madras State;

(b) whether the local people have sent applications for private telephone connections and if so, how many have been received; and

(c) when the telephones will be installed?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) *Sattur*: 7 applications were received for telephone connections in February 1951.

(ii) *Sivakasi*: About 28 applications from private parties have been received for telephone connections.

(c) (i) *Sattur*: The 7 applicants will be provided with telephones as extensions from the public call office as soon as the rentals are accepted and stores for the work are received. This may take about 4 to 5 months.

(ii) *Sivakasi*: It is hoped to install the telephone exchange in 1951-52.

LICENCES FOR RICE MILLS

***2791. Shri Ramaswamy Naidu:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have directed the State Governments not to issue licences for new rice mills as a step towards augmenting the rice contents of the paddy?

(b) How many State Governments have followed the directions?

(c) How many of the old rice mills have been fitted with the device recommended by the expert and what is the proportion of such mills to the total number?

(d) Will Government allow new rice mills to be licenced if fitted with the devices recommended by the expert?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Most of the State Governments are taking steps to get the rice mills fitted with the paddy separator and incorporate other mechanical adjustments suggested by the Honorary Adviser Rice Milling. The number of rice mills wherein paddy separators have been fitted in and the mechanical adjustments carried out is however not known at present to the Government of India.

(d) The question of issuing licences for new mills if fitted with the proposed devices of the Honorary Adviser Rice Milling does not arise as the new devices have to be carried out in the old type of huller mills. For the new mills to be set up, the Government of

India's instructions are that new up-to-date sheller type of mills should be encouraged.

MOBILE PLANT FOR BONE-CRUSHING

***2792. Shri Ramaswamy Naidu:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether an exhibition of a mobile plant for bone-crushing was recently held in Delhi;

(b) what is the cost of the mobile unit;

(c) what is the crushing capacity of the unit per day of eight hours;

(d) what quantity of raw bones is required per day of eight hours and what would be the approximate cost of the bones;

(e) what will be the cost of labour per day of eight hours and the cost of power for the same;

(f) after computing the overall cost of crushing what will be the cost per ton of bone meal obtained and how it compares with the cost of (i) imported bone meal; and (ii) locally crushed bone meal; and

(g) what are the advantages of the mobile unit?

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

(b) About Rs. 7,550 including the cost of tractor which provides the traction and the power for operating the Disintegrator.

(c) 1½ tons.

(d) 1½ tons of raw bones costing about Rs. 165.

(e) The cost of labour is estimated to be about Rs. 7/8/- and that for power about Rs. 14/8/-.

(f) This depends on the cost of raw bones which varies from place to place. Taking, however, an average cost of Rs. 110 per ton of raw bones and adding incidentals, the cost of bone meal with this process will be about Rs. 146 as against the present price of about Rs. 200 per ton f.o.r. station of despatch in the existing big mills in the country. As bone meal is not imported, the question of comparison with its cost does not arise.

(g) The main advantage expected from the establishment of such units is that further exploitation will become possible of the bones available in dispersed and hitherto insufficiently tapped regions, and in the result bone meal will become available to

agriculturists at a cheaper rate and in larger quantities.

TWELVE-CHANNEL TELEPHONE SYSTEM

*2793. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the twelve-channel telephone system for which order was placed has since been received; and

(b) if so, whether that has been installed and is working?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) The equipment is under installation and will be brought into use shortly.

E. P. RAILWAY (ENQUIRY INTO CORRUPTION)

*2794. **Prof. S. L. Saksena:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that an enquiry was held by the Assistant Transportation Officer, E. P. Railway, (Shri Raghbans Singh) Delhi Division, vide his letter No. 572-Conf. dated 19th March, 25th March and 12th April 1949 in the Office of the Yard Master, Khanalampura, Joint Goods Yard (E. P. Railway), in connection with a complaint of corruption received from the staff against the officials of that Railway?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the result of that enquiry?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, will Government place on the Table a copy of the letter referred to in part (a) above?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) An enquiry was held by the Assistant Transportation Officer in question. The complainant was an ex-employee of the E. P. Railway.

(b) The enquiry could not be completed as the complainant did not co-operate with the enquiring officer and also challenged his competency to conduct the enquiry. The allegations of corruption were, however, vague and could not be substantiated.

(c) Does not arise.

IMPORT OF TRACTORS

*2795. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the number of tractors proposed to be imported during 1951-52?

(b) How many tractors are kept idle for want of spare parts or otherwise?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) The Ministry of Food and Agriculture propose to import 135 tractors during 1951-52. It is presumed that the hon. Member is referring to the tractors to be purchased by the Central Tractor Organization.

(b) One tractor is idle due to want of spare parts. The part is not available in India and arrangements are being made to import it by air.

CONTRACTS FOR TUBE-WELL PUMPS

*2796. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of the contract entered into by the different States with the Associated Tube Wells, Ltd., for tube-well pumps;

(b) what progress has so far been made by the Associated Tube Wells, Ltd., in executing the order for the tube well pumps placed by the various States and what is the total number of tubewells expected to be completed by the end of this year;

(c) what penalty the firm will have to pay, if they fail to complete the project within the stipulated period, and what is that period;

(d) whether Government have ascertained the selling prices of the various items in the open market and of the orders given to the Associated Tube Wells, Ltd., by the State Governments;

(e) whether State Government have worked out any long-term plan to put up a large number of tube-wells for lift irrigation in different States as part of their "Grow More Food Campaign"; and

(f) the total number of such units required in each State together with the total estimated requirements of finance for the scheme, as also the period over which the entire scheme has been spread out?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):

(a) The contract made with Messrs. Associated Tube Wells Limited by the Governments of U.P., Bihar and the Punjab is for drilling of tubewells, energising, supplying of equipment including the power machinery engines. The number of wells will be 440 in U.P., 300 in Bihar and 225 in the Punjab. Pumps are only a small part of this contract and are naturally included in the contract.

(b) The firm has procured a great deal of drilling equipment and other machinery which is on its way to India. Orders have also been placed by the firm for the manufacture and supply of the remaining machinery and equipment. As soon as their first consignment, which is on its way to India, is received, they will start the actual drilling of wells.

(c) The stipulated period is 2 years from the date of the contract (which is December, 1950). A period of 6 months is provided for as grace and penalty at the rate of Rs. 50 per well per week will commence on the expiry of this period up to a maximum of 20 weeks. Thereafter, the work will be taken over by the Government of the State concerned at the risk and cost of the contractors.

(d) The Governments of the States concerned and their Technical Advisers went into the question of prices of each of the items covered under the contract in great detail before the contracts were finalised. It was only after satisfying themselves about the reasonableness of the prices that the State Governments entrusted this work to this firm and accepted the resulting financial responsibility.

(e) and (f). The 'Grow More Food Campaign', according to the present programme, ends on 31st March, 1952, and cannot, therefore, be considered as a long-term plan. Schemes of lift irrigation are, however, given high priority under the 'Grow More Food Campaign' provided they give results within the target date.

DACOITS IN BUNDELKHAND

*2797. **Shri Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain parts of Bundelkhand in Vindhya Pradesh, where gangs of dacoits are operating, even women are lifted, and held to ransom;

(b) whether Government are aware that noses and ears of citizens, who inform the police of the whereabouts of the dacoits, are chopped off and that so far there have been many cases of this nature;

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what is the number of such sufferers; and

(d) what measures are being taken to put down this menace?

The Minister of State Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) So far, no such report has been received.

(b) and (c). Two such cases have been reported. In one case portions of a man's nose and ear were chopped

off and in the other a man's eyes were pierced with a needle.

(d) The Chief Commissioner has taken special measures in furtherance of anti-dacoity operations. The special Armed Forces of Vindhya Pradesh and a company of Special Armed Constabulary on deputation from Madhya Pradesh are patrolling the affected areas. Special Police parties have been posted at all the Police stations in the affected areas armed with automatic weapons. In addition selected Police men have been posted in mobile columns to collect information regarding the movement of dacoits.

JUTE CULTIVATING LAND

*2798. **Saikh Mohiuddin:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the total acreage of jute cultivating land in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Bombay?

(b) What are the different measures that have been taken by Government towards 'Grow More Jute Scheme'?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Bihar—3,57,532 acres, West Bengal—6,50,900 acres, Orissa—1,10,162 acres and Bombay—900 acres.

(b) Supply of fertilizers and improved seeds, subsidised distribution of jute and mesta seeds, free distribution of jute seeds in new areas brought under jute cultivation, provision of retting facilities to the jute growers, plant protection measures, propaganda, publicity and demonstrations.

GANGES-DARJEELING ROAD

*2799. **Saikh Mohiuddin:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Ganges-Darjeeling Road is under the control of the Government of India?

(b) What was the amount spent for its repairs during the years, 1949-50 and 1950-51?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santanam): (a) Yes, except for the portion Siliguri to Darjeeling.

(b) Large sections of this road were reconstructed during the period 1949-51 and the repairs were charged, under the rules to the construction estimates and not booked separately. For the other sections the estimated cost of repairs is about Rs. 2.31 lakhs in 1949-50 and Rs. 3.26 lakhs in 1950-51. Actual costs cannot be given as the accounts are not kept roadwise.

RAILWAY CLAIMS (COMPLAINTS)

*2800. **Pradip Thakur Das Bhargava:**

(a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of the Railway administration has been drawn to the letter appearing in the *Tribune*, dated the 18th December, 1950, under the caption "Claims Branch, E.P. Railway"?

(b) If so, do Government propose to enquire into and remedy the complaints made in the said letter?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):

(a) Yes.

(b) The allegations made in the letter in question are without foundation. All claims including those arising out of delay in transit of perishable commodities are dealt with on their merits and in accordance with the legal obligations of the railways. The Station Masters of certain stations and Claims Inspectors authorised to settle claims up to Rs. 50 act in accordance with the instructions issued to them and refer for orders to the Claims office only when they are in doubt regarding the railway's liability in a particular case. The E.P. Railway are endeavouring to speed up the disposal of claims and reduce infructuous litigation.

DELHI-BOMBAY NATIONAL HIGHWAY

*2801. **Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:**

(a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what progress has so far been made in the construction of the National Highway running from Delhi to Bombay via Udaipur, Ahmedabad?

(b) When is it proposed to be completed?

(c) What is the estimated cost to be incurred thereon?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):

(a) Sixteen works estimated to cost about Rs. 67 lakhs have so far been sanctioned and are in progress.

(b) Considering the enormous volume of work involved and the scarcity of funds, the completion of the Highway will take several years.

(c) About Rs. 22½ crores spread over 931 miles of this road.

SENDHI GUR

*2802. **Shri K. Valdy:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total quantity of Gur prepared from *Sendhi* juice in Hyderabad State in the years 1949 and 1950?

(b) Do Government contemplate to have research and other experiments made for the increase in the production of *Sendhi Gur*?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Nil in 1949 and 522.5 lbs. in the first three months of 1950. Information for later months is not available.

(b) Government have tackled only some minor problems of research so far but have undertaken a few development schemes in collaboration with State Governments for increasing the production of Palm Gur in the country. Due to financial stringency, intensive research as recommended by the Indian Tariff Board in their report of 1950 has not been undertaken so far. A provision for a skeleton research staff to meet the minimum needs of the industry has, however, been made in the budget of the Central Palm Gur Training School, Cuddalore, for the year 1951-52.

LOCUST MENACE IN ASSAM

*2803. **Shri J. N. Hazarika:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large swarm of locusts has been seen in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills Districts of Assam;

(b) if so, what is the area covered by the swarm;

(c) what is the extent of crops damaged so far, if any;

(d) when the swarm has been first seen;

(e) what anti-locust measures so far have been taken to prevent further spread and emergence of locusts including hoppers and also to destroy the same in the area where it has been seen; and

(f) what advice and technical assistance to the State Government have been sent to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):

(a) Yes. A part of the swarm, which had visited West Bengal in the first week of March, 1951, was observed at Kynshi, a village in the Khasi Hills, 45 miles West of Shillong;

(b) About 2 square miles;

(c) No damage has been reported;

(d) On the 10th March, 1951;

(e) No locust breeding is anticipated in Assam;

(f) The various methods of locust control have been explained by the Director of Locust Control to the

State Plant Protection Officer personally, and a complete set of technical literature has been supplied to him.

RAILWAY PLATFORM TICKETS

*2804. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state: (a) whether representations and petitions have been received from public organisations or individuals asking for the reduction of the Railway Platform Ticket fee from two annas to one anna;

(b) whether the matter has been considered by Government; and

(c) if so, what is the decision?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):

(a) Two representations from individuals were received for the reduction of the fare for the platform ticket from two annas to one anna.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government have decided not to reduce the price of the platform ticket.

REDUCTION OF FOOD RATION IN RAJASTHAN

*2805. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food ration has been reduced throughout Rajasthan to 6 ounces per day;

(b) whether reports have been received about meetings and processions throughout Rajasthan demanding restoration of the ration cut;

(c) what are the reasons for reduction of the ration to six ounces; and

(d) when is it proposed to increase the ration?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):

(a) What has taken place in Rajasthan is essentially a change in the system of rationing from 1-2-51 under which statutory rationing has been discontinued and informal rationing introduced in its place. Prior to that 12 ozs. per adult per day was being given in Jodhpur, Udaipur and Bikaner Divisions and 9 ozs. in Jaipur City, 10 ozs. in Kishangarh town and 6 ozs. in other areas of Jaipur Division. There were also bans on village to village movement during the levy period and district bans throughout the year and the people of each locality had to rely on supplies through Government sources and the available local production, if any. Under the new system introduced from 1-2-51 all movement bans have been removed except between divisions thereby ensuring the free flow of foodgrains from the surplus pockets. The Government

issue to the consumers of 6 ozs. per head per day from fair price shops at a reasonable price is therefore in addition to what is available in the open market.

(b) Such reports demanding that Government themselves should supply more than 6 ozs. from their stocks have been received.

(c) It is not correct to say that the scale of ration was reduced as the daily rations in the rural areas of Jaipur Division were being issued at 6 ozs. per adult per day even before 1-2-51. In all the informally rationed areas where 6 ozs. are being issued from that date, imports and open market sales are permitted, thus providing facilities for people to meet their additional requirements therefrom.

(d) Does not arise.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN RANCHI

*2806. **Shri Ansari:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the total number of telegraph offices in Ranchi district?

(b) Is there any arrangements for despatching telegram in Hindi from telegraph offices in Ranchi?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Eleven.

(b) Telegrams written in Devanagari script are accepted at Ranchi Telegraph Office for the following places:

Agra
Ajmer
Allahabad
Banaras
Bareilly
Bombay
Gaya
Indore
Jaipur
Jabalpur
Kanpur
Lucknow
Muzaffarpur
Nagpur
New Delhi
Patna.

PART B STATES

*2807. **Shri K. Valdia:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether any directions have been given to the States of Hyderabad by the President under Article 371 of the Constitution of India and if so, what are they?

(b) What is the nature of the control to be exercised by the President on the Governments of Part B States under the above Article?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) It has not so far become necessary to issue any formal directions to the Hyderabad Government under Article 371 of the Constitution.

(b) The policy of Government in regard to the control to be exercised under Article 371 on the Governments of Part B States is indicated in paragraph 241 of the White Paper on Indian States. The nature of the control will vary from State to State and depend on the circumstances of each case.

SURVEY OF ANDAMANS (HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT)

*2808. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether I.N.S. *Kukri* was sent to survey the Andaman group of islands to see if they possess advantages of good harbour development and if so, with what results?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): It is a fact that I.N.S. *Kukri* is engaged on a survey of waters close to the Andamans, but the survey is not connected with harbour development.

FOOD DEFICIT

*2809. **Shri J. P. Srivastava:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state as to how the deficit of six million tons of foodgrains for the current year has been arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): The deficit is the difference between the quantity required for meeting commitments and the quantity expected to be procured. The total off-take from Government stocks in 1951 is expected to amount to 90 lakh tons, while the total procurement will be about 35 lakh tons, thus leaving a gap of 55 lakh tons to be bridged. In addition, 9 lakh tons will be required for replenishing the year-end stocks with Government.

बिजली से चलने वाली रेलगाड़ियाँ

*२८१०. **श्री ज्ञापक :** (ए) रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार यात्रियों तथा विभिन्न व्यापार केन्द्रों को अधिक सुविधाएं देने के लिए मध्य प्रदेश में विशेषतया नागपुर, कामठी १ गोंदिया के मध्य और नागपुर से बघी

और बाँचा बल्हरशाह तक बिजली से चलने वाली रेल गाड़ियों को चलाने की किसी योजना पर विचार कर रही है ?

(बी) क्या बिजली से चलने वाली रेलगाड़ियों पर वाष्प से चलने वाली गाड़ियों की अपेक्षा कम व्यय आता है तथा दोनों में अन्त में कौन सी गाड़ियाँ उत्तम सिद्ध होती हैं ?

ELECTRIC TRAIN SERVICES

[*2810. **Shri Khaparde:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Government are contemplating any scheme to introduce electric train services in Madhya Pradesh, especially between Nagpur, Kamptee and Gondia; and from Nagpur to Wardha and Chanda-Balharshah in order to give more transport facilities to passengers and different trade centres?

(b) Are the electric trains less expensive than the steam-driven ones, and which of the two serve better in the long run?]

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) No.

(b) Electric traction requires very heavy capital outlay. The initial cost of electric trains and locomotives is much more than that of steam stocks, but their operating costs are lower provided electric power is available at cheap rates. In the absence of a heavy electrical industry, electric traction is dependent on imports from abroad. Electric train services are generally considered more flexible and efficient than steam services and are more comfortable for passengers.

रेलवे कर्मचारियों के लिये गृह व्यवस्था

*२८११. **श्री ज्ञापक :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ए) १९४९-५० वर्ष में भारत में रेलवे कर्मचारियों के लिए बनाये गये नये क्वार्टरों की संख्या क्या है और वह कर्मचारियों की किस श्रेणी के लिए हैं; तथा

(बी) बम्बई में जी० आई० पी० एण्ड सी० आई० रेलवे के कर्मचारियों के लिए

बंसाई गई चालों की संख्या क्या है तथा
उनमें कितनी कितनी कोठरियां अथवा
कोठियां हैं ?

ACCOMMODATION FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

[*2811. Shri Khaparde: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new quarters built for the Railway employees in India during the year 1949-50 and for which class of employees; and

(b) the number of *chawals* built for the employees of the G.I.P. Railway and B.B. & C.I. Railway in Bombay and the number of rooms therein?]

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) 9,819 quarters were built by Railways during 1949-50 mostly for essential operating staff.

(b) The B.B. and C.I. Railway constructed 88 two-roomed units for Class III and 38 two-roomed units for Class IV staff at Bombay in 1949-50. The G.I.P. Railway did not build any staff quarters in Bombay itself during 1949-50.

Junnerdeo FAIR

*2812. Shri Kannamwar: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what are the facilities given to lacs of pilgrims who attend Junnerdeo religious fair in Madhya Pradesh?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no water and latrine arrangements at Junnerdeo Railway Station?

(c) Is it a fact that, for want of special through train from Nagpur to Junnerdeo, thousands of passengers have to undergo hardships by cutting their journey at Amla Railway Station?

(d) What action do Government propose to take to remove these inconveniences?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Government's information is that not lacs but about 20,000 passengers usually travel by rail to attend the fair in question. The facilities given in this connection include running of special trains, strengthening of train rakes, provision of temporary covered waiting sheds, additional high-power lamps, additional booking windows, separate gates for ingress and egress of pilgrims, supply of food and light refreshments, additional drinking water facilities, sanitary arrangements and the posting of medical relief.

(b) No.

(c) No, on the contrary through special trains were, on the last occasion, run from Nagpur to Parasia according to requirements of traffic.

(d) Does not arise in view of replies to parts (a) to (c) above.

TRACTORS UTILISATION

*2813. Shri Kannanwar: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the agriculturists of Madhya Pradesh have ceased to utilise the services of the Government supplied tractors for the reason that they are required to pay in advance the first instalment of the charges?

(b) If so, do Government propose to liberalise the terms in order to encourage the agriculturists to utilise the tractors in their fields?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) No such complaint has so far come to the notice of the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

NEW TELEPHONES (INSTALLATION)

172. Shri Sohan Lal: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many telephones have been installed in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi in the year, 1950-51?

(b) Is it a fact that large number of applications by the civilian population have been submitted requesting the Authorities to instal telephones but they are not getting the same?

(c) What is the normal time taken after which the applicants generally get telephones?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Uttar Pradesh—2,579; Delhi—1,234.

(b) Yes.

(c) No definite time can be mentioned as the connection will depend upon the availability of space on switch-board and other material.

CATERING CONTRACTS FOR AERODROMES

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

(a) whether the terms of contract given to various contractors for catering at various aerodromes in India are uniform and if so, what these terms are; and

(b) whether the Contractors are required to pay any fee to the Government and if so, on what basis?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidwai): (a) Except for the tenure of the contract and the fees payable to Government, the terms are uniform. A copy of the model agreement embodying the terms and conditions on which catering contracts are usually awarded at various civil aerodromes is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 39.]

(b) Yes Sir, on the basis of a percentage of the gross receipts subject to a minimum monthly payment. Such percentage and minimum payment are fixed according to the best offers received from tenderers after advertisement.

DETERIORATION OF IMPORTED FOOD GRAINS

174. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the quantity of imported food grains during the year 1950 and the months of January and February 1951, rejected as unfit for human consumption from the Government godowns in Bombay, Calcutta and other storing places?

(b) What is the value of such damaged quantity and was it originally received in such condition?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) and (b). A Statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 40.]

COCA-COLA (ANALYSIS)

175. Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether he has obtained actual analysis of Coca-Cola as promised in

the reply given to my starred question No. 1572 on the 20th February 1951;

(b) if so, what is the result of the analysis; and

(c) whether the analysis has shown that it contains any percentage of caffeine?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Result of the analysis is still awaited.

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

GHOST RATION CARDS

176. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether a drive against ghost ration cards in Delhi has been launched during the third week of March 1951?

(b) If so, what is the result?

(c) How many ration cards were issued in urban and rural areas for the latest period?

(d) How many of the cards were withdrawn on grounds of temporary allotment?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):

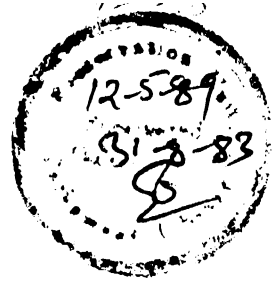
(a) Yes.

(b) The drive is still continuing and the results will be tabulated when it is over.

(c) During the three weeks ending 24th March, 47,109 ration cards were issued.

(d) Temporary cards automatically become invalid on the expiry of the period for which they are issued. During the three weeks ending 24th March, 48,474 cards became invalid.

Wednesday, 4th April, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME X, 1951

(31st March, 1951 to 20th April, 1951)

Third Session
of the
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

5878

5879

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Wednesday, 4th April 1951

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

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair**]
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(*See Part I*)

11-50 A.M.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES
STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE AND
CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RAILWAYS

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have to inform the House that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Finance Committee and the Central Advisory Council for Railways, 16 nominations in the case of the first and 12 nominations in the case of the second were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies in each of these Committees, I declare the following Members to be duly elected:

I. Standing Finance Committee.—
1. Shri S. R. Naidu, 2. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya, 3. Shri B. L. Sondhi, 4. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, 5. Shri M. V. Rama Rao, 6. Shri C. M. Poonacha, 7. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, 8. Shri R. Venkataraman, 9. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha, 10. Shri Feroz Gandhi, 11. Shrinmati Sucheta Kripalani, 12. Shri K. A. Damodara Menon, 13. Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose, 14. Shri L. Krishna-swami Bharathi, 15. Shri Prabhu Dayal Himatsingka and 16. Shri Bhiswanath Das.

*II. Central Advisory Council for Railways.—*1. Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir, 2. Shri Sri Narayan Mahla, 3. Shri Brijlal Biyani, 4. Shri Satis Chandra Samanta, 5. Shri A. M. Rathnaswamy, 6. Shri Devi Datt Pant.

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7. Kaka Bhagwant Roy, 8. Shri Frank Anthony, 9. Shri Nandkishore Das, 10. Shri M. Satyanarayana, 11. Dr. M. C. Reddy and 12. Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan.

RESOLUTION RE ELECTED LEGISLATURES AND POPULAR MINISTRIES IN PART C STATES.—concl'd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with further discussion of the following resolution moved by Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava on the 16th March, 1951:

"This House is of opinion that popularly elected Legislatures and Ministries responsible to them be set up in all States in the Union of India where they do not exist, and particularly in Part C States, and to implement this, necessary steps be taken before the General Elections in the country."

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): May I know whether after Pandit Bhargava's reply the debate will close or whether there will be further discussion?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The discussion will then end.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava (Ajmer): The debate on this resolution has disclosed a complete unanimity of opinion amongst the non-Minister Members who participated in the debate. The proposition that is incorporated in this resolution has been argued at length and all the private Members have conceded that it is essential that popularly elected legislatures and Ministries responsible to such elected legislatures should be set up in all the States where they do not exist, including those States which fall under the category of Part C States. But I submit I cannot congratulate the

[Pandit M. B. Bhargava]

Government on their decision as stated in the speech of the hon. Minister in reply to the debate. The essential approach of the Government to this problem, I may respectfully be permitted to remark, is the approach and attitude of a bureaucrat rather than of a democrat, both in respect of Part B States where the democratic set-up does not exist and in respect of Part C States where, of course, there is a complete negation of democracy. Now, what is the reason advanced for this legitimate demand? In so far as the question of the three Part B States of P.E.P.S.U., Rajasthan and Hyderabad are concerned, it was expected that a popular ministry would soon be in office so far as Rajasthan was concerned but the chances have receded to the background. As regards P.E.P.S.U. the situation is fluid and has been fluid for a considerable time now and the answer given by the States Minister yesterday does not inspire any great hopes. As regards Hyderabad it is said that the situation is different and the law and order position is said to be very difficult. But may I point out in all humility that it is also for the proper maintenance of law and order that I am advocating a change in the administrative set-up in these areas during the interim period? Only a popular Government, a Government of the representatives of the people can be in a position to evoke the necessary amount of enthusiasm and initiative on the part of the general masses to cope with the extraordinary situation that is said to be existing there. My submission, therefore, is that during the interim period, and just on the eve of the General Elections it is highly desirable that a popular Ministry may take up the task and so tone up the administrative set-up in these States that they may be able to harness popular enthusiasm and support in meeting the extraordinary situation.

Coming to Part C States, where there exists a complete negation of democracy, what is the declaration that has been made and what is the hope that that declaration rouses in the minds of the people? I must admit that the declaration is couched in highly diplomatic language which is, as usual, famous for its supreme vagueness and indefiniteness. In respect of Part C States a different and differential treatment is envisaged to be given to the different States. In respect of Himachal Pradesh and Vindhya Pradesh it was stated that Government has decided to extend

reforms to that State as a permanent measure. And what is the shape of reforms sought to be introduced...?

Dr. M. M. Das (West Bengal): On a point of order, Sir. May I know whether an hon. Member who is going to withdraw his resolution is entitled to have a right of reply?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How does the House know that he is going to withdraw it? The hon. Member may go on.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I point out that under rule 163, sub-rule (3)...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not necessary to refer to rules.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: I was coming to the question of the scheme of reforms incorporated in those proposals as applicable to Vindhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh as a permanent measure. It is stated that some sort of elected legislatures and Ministries responsible to such elected legislatures will be introduced as a permanent measure of reform in these areas. But those legislatures will have very limited powers inasmuch as there will be no provincial list at all. There will be only one concurrent list and every piece of legislation will be subject to the approval of the Central Government. In the case of the Budget also, before it can be operated upon it will have to be approved by the Central Government. So, what is sought to be introduced is a limited form of provincial autonomy subject to the legislative and financial control of the Centre.

What is the reason for this rigiddly reform? It is stated that after all these are Part C States and the House cannot expect the hon. Minister to raise Class C prisoners to Class A or Class B prisoners' status.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is a time-limit even for the reply of not more than fifteen minutes. Already the hon. Member has taken so much time on the previous day. He should conclude.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: If that is your ruling, I must bow to it, but so far as the rules go, they do not place any time-limit. However, I shall try to be as brief as possible.

My submission is that article 240 of the Constitution does not place any limitation upon the powers of Parliament to extend any form of reform that it desires to, because the powers, functions and constitution of the legislature or the Council of Ministers or Advisers are to be specified by law and Parliament can extend to them the same degree of reform as in Part A or Part B States.

Coming to my own Province, what is the ultimate solution in regard to Ajmer in the face of this declaration, or for that matter in regard to Coorg and even Bhopal? This question of merger was raised by me on the floor of this House on 17th March 1949 when the Greater Rajasthan was in the process of formation and I vehemently urged its immediate merger, so that Ajmer may be able to play its own part in shaping the new Rajasthan. What was the reply that was given by the then hon. Minister of Home Affairs? It was stated that the Government of India had no intention whatsoever that any part of the Union territory should be merged with the contiguous State which was ruled by a State Ruler. In March 1949 we had shaped all the essentials of the new Constitution and it was very well known that though the Ruler might be designated as the Rajpramukh in respect of the Part B States, his constitutional position and status was analogous to the Governor of a State. Still, that was the argument that was given. May I ask what has led the Government of India to take this decision after a period of two years, and is this decision of merger even now definite and certain? It is as vague, as indefinite and as uncertain as ever. We do not know what is the decision of the Government; when it wants to merge this territory; at what stage and on what condition. Nothing has been said about this. My respectful submission is that the attitude of the Government so far as Ajmer or Coorg is concerned has been from the beginning of a vacillating and halting character. It does not want to take a definite decision. The people of Ajmer are left in
12 Noon

the lurch. They do not know exactly where they stand, or what is the plan of the Government till the merger takes place. Government want to set up what they call a regime of Chief Commissioner-in-Council. This is a phraseology that I have not been able to find within the four corners of articles 239 and 240 of the Constitution. What does it exactly mean? We do not know. This scheme of creating a Chief Commissioner-in-Council is bound to lead to complications inas-

much as it is not clear as to what will be the position of the so-called Executive Councillors *vis-a-vis* the Chief Commissioner and the Chief Commissioner-in-Council *vis-a-vis* the Advisory Councils where they exist today. What is the plan and method by which the solution of the deadlock existing at present between the Chief Commissioner and the Advisory Council is going to be brought about? I hope that in the Bill that is going to be brought forward, all these points will be made clear so that there may not be any complications in future.

In respect of Coorg, the hon. Shri Gadgil in his remarks was pleased to say that Mr. Poonacha had made out a case for the immediate merger of Coorg. I was here in the House and had heard Mr. Poonacha's speech. I also went through the report of his speech. I found not a single word about merger uttered by him. This sort of remark by the hon. Shri Gadgil has created a great misgiving in the country.

My submission is that if this problem is to be solved on a democratic footing, then, it must be tackled in a way which will give satisfaction to the people of these States. The scheme which is sought to be introduced now is so vague and indefinite that it does not inspire any confidence and there is absolutely no possibility of its evoking any enthusiasm among the people. It is likely that the Chief Commissioner may continue. Unless the Executive Councillors are made responsible to the Advisory Council or to any other elected body, this scheme will be essentially autocratic and bureaucratic in working. I therefore suggest that the hon. Minister may be pleased to reconsider the matter and introduce democracy in the real sense in which we have understood it. The scheme as it is propounded is nothing but an effigy of dyarchy which under the guidance and inspiration of our leaders we fought against long before. The same Montagu scheme is being introduced in a new form and if our experience of the past can be any guide to us—and it should be a guide to our Ministers also—then we should realise that it is bound to prove a dismal failure. The question ought to have been dealt with in a more democratic way.

Since a declaration has been made and since it is now promised that a Bill is coming before the House incorporating the scheme envisaged in this declaration, I do not think it is proper for me to press the resolution. I, therefore, beg leave of the House to withdraw it.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Capt. A. P. Singh (Vindhya Pradesh): I was unfortunately absent last evening when some personal reflections were made against me by the hon. Minister in charge of States. I want to say something regarding it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That Demand is over. I do not think the hon. Member has taken part in the debate on this resolution, for him to say anything by way of personal explanation. This is a separate resolution, and a different matter altogether.

Capt. A. P. Singh: This also relates to the States; so I thought I might be permitted to speak.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member has missed the bus.

RESOLUTION RE MEASURES FOR INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION

Dr. M. M. Das (West Bengal): I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of ten Members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different States for increased food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose."

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): You will allow the amendments to be moved now or after the Mover of the resolution has spoken?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Mover of the resolution will speak first; then the amendments will be moved one after another; subsequently it will be thrown open to discussion.

Dr. M. M. Das: During the last three and a half years of Independence this infant democracy of ours has been called upon to face a multitude of difficult problems. Thanks to the great leadership, versatility and political sagacity of our departed leader Sardar Patel, we have been able to solve most of our internal problems.

In the external sphere our hon. Prime Minister has uptill now guided the destiny of this country along the right path and in the right direction. His independence of thought, judgment and action in matters of foreign

affairs has achieved for this country honour, sympathy and goodwill from the other nations of the world.

But of all the difficult problems, the one which has uptill now baffled all our attempts for its solution is the problem of food. This problem, this great responsibility of our Government to feed more than 350 million people of this country is becoming so baffling day by day, is assuming such a dimension day by day, that if our Government fails to tackle this problem successfully and satisfactorily, then there is every chance that it will lead us to the most dire and disastrous consequences.

Our problem of food is already threatening to influence our foreign policy. Our independence of thought, judgment and action regarding foreign matters is being threatened today by the urgency and seriousness of our food problem. It is high time that our Government cried a halt so far as this question is concerned. If we fail to do that, then our political freedom will be reduced to economic dependency and our country will be reduced to a satellite State.

The urgency and seriousness of this problem and the insignificant results of our attempts to solve them, have compelled the Government to hand over the portfolio of Food and Agriculture to Mr. K. M. Munshi about eleven months ago. A child of smiling fortune, with an unbroken record of success. Mr. Munshi at the beginning of his career as Food Minister of India took up this portfolio with great optimism and confidence. A man of legal acumen and great culture Mr. Munshi thought at the very beginning that the food problem of the country can be solved by cultural means, that is, by the celebration of *Vana-Mahotsava* and establishment of associations like the Forest Lovers' Association. But bitter experience soon convinced him that the disease is too serious to be cured by such quackery. Since that time, our hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture has put up a gallant fight to make this country self-sufficient in food and other agricultural products; and as he is one of the most fortunate few, who enjoys the full confidence of our Prime Minister, he has been able to carry the whole Cabinet with him in his attempts. But in spite of the herculean efforts made by Government and in spite of the expenditure of huge sums of money, the results obtained so far have not come up to our expectations, and there is no hope that they will do so in the near future.

More than once our hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture has expressed the view on the floor of the House that adequate response and cooperation are not forthcoming from the State Governments. Agriculture is a State subject and if the State Governments do not take keen interest in this matter to solve the problem of food, then nothing can be done. The Central Government have got the responsibility to feed millions of people of the States, but they have not got the authority to take active or adequate measures, or to induce the State Governments to take sufficient steps so that there may be an increase in our food production. It is a unique example of responsibility without authority.

As soon as the reins of administration of this country were taken over by the present Government from the hands of the Britishers, plans were chalked out and programmes made for the all-round development of the country. The different provinces pulled up their resources to the best of their ability and the Central Government also contributed huge sums of money for the carrying out of programmes of development, of which agricultural development formed an important integral part. We find that during the years 1946 to 1949, the total expenditure incurred by the nine Part A states for the all-round development of the country amounted to the fabulous sum of Rs. 230 crores. Out of this sum, the Government of India contributed 52.4 per cent. that is Rs. 120 crores. Of the Rs. 230 crores the provinces spent Rs. 30 crores for agriculture and grow-more-food, Rs. 16 crores for irrigation, that is Rs. 56 crores in all. East Punjab spent for all-round development of that province Rs. 14,89,00,000. Of this 99 per cent. was contributed by the Central Government. Two per cent. was spent on agriculture (27 lakhs) and 40 per cent. (597 lakhs) on irrigation. The province of Orissa spent Rs. 15,81,00,000 of which 86 per cent. was contributed by the Centre. Ten per cent. of this amount was spent on agriculture and 2.2 per cent. (36 lakhs) on irrigation. The Province of Assam incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 5,76 lakhs. Out of this 84 per cent. was contributed by the Centre. Assam spent 15.2 per cent. for agriculture and 2.5 per cent. for irrigation. The Government of West Bengal have spent Rs. 15 crores for development. Eighty-three per cent. of this was contributed by the Central Government, and the West Bengal Government has spent 30 per cent. for agriculture and five per cent. for irrigation. The Government of Bihar has spent Rs. 14,98 lakhs for their development programme. Sixty-five per cent.

of this amount was contributed by the Centre, and the Provincial Government has spent 15 per cent. on agriculture and 20 per cent. on irrigation, altogether 35 per cent. The Central Provinces, now Madhya Pradesh, Government has spent Rs. 23,57 lakhs for the co-ordinated development programme. Fifty-six per cent. of this sum was contributed by the Centre. Eight per cent. of the total expenditure was incurred for agriculture and only one per cent. for irrigation, that is altogether nine per cent. for development of agriculture. The Uttar Pradesh Government spent Rs. 46,97 lakhs in all for development purposes. Out of this amount 54.5 per cent. was contributed by the Centre. The U. P. Government spent 7.4 per cent. that is Rs. 3,13 lakhs for agricultural improvement and 13.5 per cent. for irrigation. The Madras Government has spent Rs. 43,83 lakhs for their development purposes. Out of this amount 36 per cent. was contributed by the Centre. The Madras Government has spent 23 per cent. of their total expenditure for agriculture and 17.8 per cent. for irrigation. The Government of Bombay spent Rs. 47,73 lakhs for their development. Out of this 22.8 per cent. was contributed by the Centre. The Bombay Government has spent 14 per cent. for agriculture and four per cent. for irrigation.

From the year 1946 to the year 1949 altogether Rs. 56 crores were spent for irrigation, grow-more-food campaign and agricultural improvement. During the year 1950-51, that is last year, a sum of Rs. 24 crores was spent for the grow-more-food campaign—given by the Central Government and spent by the different Provinces. From the procurement bonus another rupees eight crores has been spent for this purpose by the Provinces. The total sum spent for irrigation, agricultural improvement and the grow-more-food campaign during the last five years—1946, 1947, 1948, 1949 and 1950—has come to Rs. 88 crores. This has been spent by the nine Part A States, and during 1950 by the Part B and Part C States also, exclusively for agricultural improvement, the grow-more-food campaign and irrigation. This sum does not include the expenditure on river valley projects and multi-purpose schemes. But in spite of this huge expenditure of Rs. 88 crores the success we have achieved in the direction of food production I do not think is worth commending.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI in the Chair]

It has been said that our deficiency in food is only six to nine per cent.

[Dr. M. M. Das]

But in spite of the expenditure of Rs. 88 crores during the last five years we have not been able to bridge this small gap. I submit that there must be something wrong somewhere. The Central Government have given huge sums of money to the State Governments and the State Governments have spent that money according to their own plans and judgment. I submit that the plans of the State Governments lack co-ordination. The judgment of the State Governments betrays a lack of understanding of the real situation prevailing in the States and the real handicaps under which the States are suffering.

I may read a few lines from this report *Provincial Development Programme* published by the Government of India, Cabinet Secretariat Economic and Statistical Co-ordination Section. The foreword to this report has been written by our Prime Minister. In the beginning of it he says:

"Dr. Gyan Chand was asked to carry out a survey of the development programmes of the various Provinces on behalf of the Economic and Statistical Coordination Section of the Cabinet Secretariat. This book is the result of that survey."

The hon. the Prime Minister in this foreword speaks about the development programmes that have been carried out in the different States. He says:

"We had lived extravagantly and beyond our means. Whether this extravagance had produced any marked results in the way of development was not clear, because we lacked adequate statistics or other data which would give us some such indication... Before we can decide anything, we must know exactly where we are. We must have full information of what has been done by the Centre or the Provinces, what results achieved, what waste of effort incurred."

Then, about the irrigation programmes that have been carried out by the different States this report says:

"The provinces in which the expenditure on irrigation, absolutely and relatively speaking, has been low are the C.P., Assam and Bombay. Low proportion of expenditure in the C.P. is particularly striking. This province next to

Assam, has the largest area classified as cultivable waste, and its proportion of irrigated area is, Bombay excepted, the lowest among the Provinces. In its original development programme it provided for an expenditure of Rs. 3-4 crores on irrigation. In fact, however, it has spent (only) Rs. 23 lakhs in four years on development of irrigation (that is) 1 per cent. of its own total development expenditure. The desirability of giving the extension of irrigation in the province a high priority in the development plans is obvious, and the fact of its not being taken into account is another illustration of the ill-balanced character of the development programmes now in operation. Expenditure on irrigation both in Bombay and Assam has been also very low. The former had, for example, planned to spend nearly 10 per cent. of the total estimated expenditure in the original programme on irrigation, but in fact it has spent less than 4 per cent. for this purpose during 1946-1950; and though its total development expenditure is 20.9 per cent. of the development expenditure of all provinces taken together, the proportion of expenditure on irrigation is only 5 per cent. of the total for all provinces for the same purpose. Assam has spent only Rs. 14 lakhs on development of irrigation... only 2.5 per cent. of its own total development expenditure... The distribution of actual expenditure on irrigation in the period under consideration does roughly indicate the lack of relation between actual expenditure and the needs and possibilities of the various provinces."

About agricultural development programme, this report says:

"It is generally realised that the results from the experience of grow-more-food schemes have so far been disappointing and much more intensive and persistent effort is necessary to improve the position. It is, however, clear that the distribution of development expenditure on agriculture and grow-more-food schemes bears the impress of *ad hoc* decisions and does not correspond to any pre-determined pattern or a rational assessment of the needs of the country."

"Orissa, the C. P. and Assam, the three surplus provinces which provide scope for extension of cultivation and reclamation of land, must necessarily have a very important place in any scheme of planned

agricultural development of the country. During the last four years, expenditure on agriculture and grow-more-food in these three provinces has amounted to 15 per cent. of the total development expenditure in the country as a whole and it has not materially increased their exportable surplus."

"The fact that the total amount spent on agricultural and grow-more-food schemes in Madras, Bombay, the U.P. and West Bengal accounts for about 77 per cent. of the total expenditure may be taken to be justified owing to these provinces being deficit areas; but from the standpoint of results, it is open to general criticism of the grow-more-food schemes during the period under review—that is, their inadequacy as a means of reducing our food deficit."

This is the background of my resolution. It will be apparent from what I have said on the floor of this House just now that there is a real necessity for an investigation being carried out as to the different plans and programmes of the State Governments regarding agricultural development and their methods of implementation. I hope that my resolution will not fail to be accepted by the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture and by my hon. friends here in the House.

Mr. Chairman: Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of ten Members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different States for increased food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose."

I would like to ask hon. Members who have given notice of the amendments as to which of them would be moved.

Hon. Members: Every one.

Shri Rathnaswamy (Madras): On a point of order. The hon. Mover of the resolution has not given the names of such of those Members who should constitute this Committee to inquire into.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Mover is not required to give the names of the Members of the Committee because he wants the Committee to be appointed by the Government.

Now, if all the hon. Members want to move the amendments, I might take the amendments as moved. But it may be that some of the hon. Members who have given notice of the amendments are not present here. Therefore, I would like to call hon. Members one by one, so that I would know which of the hon. Members who are here would like to move the amendments.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi (Madhya Pradesh): I beg to move:

That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments for increased food production."

Salkh Mohiuddin (Bihar): I beg to move:

That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament preferably from each State and having some knowledge and experience of cultivation be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments and to establish co-ordination among the Central Government, the State Governments and the producers for increasing food production."

Shri Rathnaswamy: I beg to move:

That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee of at least twenty members consisting mostly of Members of Parliament and those who possess expert knowledge on food and agriculture be appointed to examine in detail the various steps taken by the States to step up agricultural production and to establish a machinery to co-ordinate these activities between the Centre and the States and also to explore the possibilities of encouraging private agencies to join this scheme of intensified agricultural production."

Shri S. C. Samanta (West Bengal): I beg to move:

That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri Theble Oraon, Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt, Shri Manilal Chaturbhai Shah, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Biswanath Das, Shri Satis Chandra, Shri Moti Ram Baigra, Shri Raj Bahadur, Shri V. S. Sarwate, Shri K. Hanumanthaiya, Chaudhari Ranbir Singh, Shri M. L. Gupta, Shri P. K. Lakshmanan, Shri M. L. Dwivedi, Shri Upendranath Barman, Dr. Mono Mohon Das and the Mover be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by the different States for increased food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose and to suggest effective measures *inter alia* to give incentive to actual tillers of land to make India self-sufficient in food by 1952 and that the Committee should submit its report within the first ten days of the next session of Parliament."

Shri Bhatt (Bombay): I beg to move:

That for the words "consisting of ten" the words "of the" be substituted.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Bihar): I beg to move:

That for the word "ten" the word "three" be substituted.

Shri Chandrika Ram (Bihar): I beg to move:

That for the word "ten" the word "five" be substituted.

Shri Bhatt: I beg to move:

That the words "in detail" be omitted.

Shri Munavalli (Bombay): I beg to move:

That after the word "detail" the words "and to report how for" be inserted, and after the words "food production" the words "have been effective" be inserted.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I beg to move:

That for all the words occurring after the words "food production" the following be substituted:

"and the total expenditure by them, including the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose".

Shri Munavalli: I beg to move:

That for all the words occurring after the words "food production" the following be substituted:

"and in what way the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose, have been spent by them".

Shri K. Vaidya (Hyderabad): I beg to move:

That the following be added at the end:

"and to suggest the methods of distribution of the said grants and loans and to recommend the ways and means for fully achieving the purpose of increased food production and further that the Committee should submit its report with its recommendations to the House in the first week of the next sitting of Parliament."

Shri Bhatt: I beg to move:

That the following be added at the end:

"and that the Committee should submit its report within three months of its appointment."

Shri S. N. Das (Bihar): I beg to move:

That the following be added at the end:

"with a view to suggest effective ways and means to attain self-sufficiency in matters of food."

Shri Chandrika Ram: I beg to move:

That the following be added at the end:

"and also to suggest ways and means how to improve the situation regarding these activities."

Shri Sidhva: I beg to move:

That the following be added at the end:

"and also to ascertain whether the country is self-sufficient in the production of cereals and whether present system of distribution and procurement is effective".

Shri Rathnaswamy: I beg to move:

That the following be added at the end:

"and also to collect statistics of the actual position of cereals in various States".

And.—

That the following be added at the end:

"and also to examine the possibility of creating a machinery to co-ordinate the activities of various States in respect of production, procurement and efficient distribution of food."

Shri Janal Ram (Bihar): I beg to move:

That the following be added at the end:

"and the Committee be requested to submit its report by the first week of the next session with its suggestions."

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

(1) That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments for increased food production."

(2) That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament preferably from each State and having some knowledge and experience of cultivation be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments and to establish co-ordination among the Central Government, the State Governments and the producers for increasing food production."

(3) That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee of at least twenty members consisting mostly of Members of Parliament and those who possess expert knowledge on food and agriculture be appointed to examine in detail the various steps taken by the States to step up agricultural production and to establish a machinery to co-ordinate these activities between the Centre and the States and also to explore the possibilities of encouraging private agencies to join this scheme of intensified agricultural production."

(4) That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of Sri Jit Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Prof. K. T. Shah, Shri Theble Oraon, Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt, Shri Manilal Chaturbhal Shah, Dr. P. S. Deshmukh, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Biswanath Das, Shri Satis Chandra, Shri Moti Ram Balgra, Shri Raj Bahadur, Shri V. S. Sarwate, Shri K. Hanumanthaiya, Chaudhury Ranbir Singh, Shri M. L. Gupta, Shri P. K. Lakshmanan, Shri M. L. Dwivedi, Shri Upendranath Barman, Dr. Mono Mohan Das and the Mover be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by the different States for increased food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose and to suggest effective measures *inter alia* to give incentive to actual tillers of land to make India self-sufficient in food by 1952 and that the Committee should submit its report within the first ten days of the next session of Parliament."

(5) That for the words "consisting of ten" the words "of the" be substituted.

(6) That for the word "ten" the word "three" be substituted.

(7) That for the word "ten" the word "five" be substituted.

(8) That the words "in detail" be omitted.

(9) That after the word "detail" the words "and to report how for" be inserted, and after the words "food production" the words "have been effective" be inserted.

(10) That for all the words occurring after the words "food production" the following be substituted:

"and the total expenditure by them, including the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose".

(11) That for all the words occurring after the words "Food production" the following be substituted:

"and in what way the Union Government's grants and loans to them for that purpose, have been spent by them".

(12) That the following be added at the end:

"and to suggest the methods of distribution of the said grants and loans and to recommend the ways and means for fully achieving the purpose of increased food production and further that the Committee should submit its report with its recommendations to the House in the first week of the next sitting of Parliament".

(13) That the following be added at the end:

"and that the Committee should submit its report within three months of its appointment".

(14) That the following be added at the end:

"with a view to suggest effective ways and means to attain self-sufficiency in matters of food".

(15) That the following be added at the end:

"and also to suggest ways and means how to improve the situation regarding these activities".

(16) That the following be added at the end:

"and also to ascertain whether the country is self-sufficient in the

production of cereals and whether present system of distribution and procurement is effective."

(17) That the following be added at the end:

"and also to collect statistics of the actual position of cereals in various States."

(18) That the following be added at the end:

"and also to examine the possibility of creating a machinery to co-ordinate the activities of various States in respect of production, procurement and efficient distribution of food."

(19) That the following be added at the end:

"and the Committee be requested to submit its report by the first week of the next session with its suggestions."

Now the general debate will follow both on the resolution as well as on the amendments.

Shri S. C. Samanta: On a point of order. There are substitute resolutions. So, I would request that those substitute resolutions should be given chances first.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Mr. Chairman: I do not think it is necessary to give priority to those Members who have moved amendments to substitute a resolution for the one originally moved. They will have an opportunity to place their points of view before the House.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: My amendment reads as follows:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments for increased food production."

Mr. Chairman: I would like to inform hon. Members that the time limit is 15 minutes and I would be happy if hon. Members make their submissions even within ten minutes.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: My amendment differs from the original

[Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi]

resolution in two respects. Firstly, it does not limit the membership of the proposed Committee to only Members of Parliament and secondly, it does not limit the scope of the proposed enquiry. I have been associated with the Ministry of Agriculture for the last three or four years as a Member of the Standing Committee and have closely followed the activities of the Ministry here as well as in the State to which I belong, namely Madhya Pradesh. It has been very painful to hear on the floor of this House discussions taking place which point to the fact that there is a section of opinion in this House which still refuses to believe that there is shortage of food in the country, basing its conclusions on statistics provided by Government. There is another section which believed for a long time and still continues to believe that there is a very great shortage of food and the shortage is appalling and grave. This shortage of food is almost chronic now. It came into existence as late as the twenties and since then has come to stay except for a brief period during the thirties. The imports of food during all these years have been steadily increasing in volume and value. The causes of shortage are, as have been made out from time to time, deterioration of the productivity of land, its functioning under uneconomic conditions, the separation of Burma, partition of India, and last but not the least, the apathy of the Government to agriculture and food, particularly agriculture, as the largest single industry in the country bringing an annual income of 5,000 crores of rupees. I have been painfully watching here during all these four years that in all that this Government proposes to do, its whole approach is urbanised and it has failed to see that if the economy of this country is to be stabilised, it could only be stabilised on the pivot of rural economy. Unfortunately, this Government has been following an economic policy which it calls mixed economy. This economic policy of the Government, as has been propounded by its spokesmen time and again, lays stress only on the production side, leaving apart the issue of equitable distribution and has created a psychology in the country in which, any appeal from the Government either does not reach the country-side or even if it reaches, has practically no appeal or does not touch it. This psychology has to be changed.

I may state, for example, the extent to which our approach to the problems of agriculture, even today,

is totally urbanised. Whenever we issue a control order, or pass a legislation, you find in the schedule of controlled articles blades, razors, bulbs and other things. It has never occurred to Governments to supply to the agriculturists at controlled prices, bullocks, implements of agriculture and those other things which go to make for increased production. Therefore, the first essential requisite for achieving increased production is to create a new atmosphere in the country in which the agriculturist on his own initiative takes to increased production and makes his land function under economic laws so as to yield better results.

To do so, the first essential necessity is to provide proper credit facilities in the rural parts. My hon. friend Ch. Ranbir Singh has, on the floor of this House, many a time raised this question; but it has been neglected. Last time, when this House was discussing an amendment of the Reserve Bank of India Act, he raised the issue of so amending the Act as to make a greater volume of credit available for the agricultural operations. That has not been taken in hand. Ch. Ranbir Singh and other Members of this House have often been requesting this Government to establish in this country an Agricultural Finance Corporation which could tackle the problem of rural credit. That question has also gone unheeded. I would like to read a few lines appearing in the Reserve Bank of India Bulletin, January issue, page 8, para 5, which runs thus:

"A study of the resources of selected cultivators revealed that inadequacy of credit facilities has hampered the progress of some of the schemes for expansion of production."

The agriculturist has not been able to finance the purchase of his cattle, his iron and steel and his farm requirements. The points that I wanted to make are firstly, to create a change in the atmosphere in the country, and in the psychology of the Government's approach to the rural problems and secondly, to make available to the agriculturists adequate finances to finance all his development programme as he plans it.

During the last eight years or so, Government has made efforts at increasing the food production through two different types of approach: one a short term plan and another a long term plan. The short term plan of

the Government limits itself to the grow-more-food campaign. This campaign was initiated as late as 1943. During these eight years, the amount of money spent on the campaign has been to the tune of 59 crores. The estimated result in additional production according to Government statistics has been to the tune of 35 lakhs of tons. This is a very sad commentary on the campaign. In a country where the population increases every year by 30 lakhs, where we need four lakh tons of more food grains every year, the production of 34 lakh tons of additional food during eight years is practically no approach to the problem. The problem remains where it was in 1943. In fact, it has become worse. It has sometimes occurred to me that the Central Government, as the hon. Mr. Munshi said some time ago, is today powerless to do something radical in the matter of agriculture. This weakness arises out of constitutional difficulties. The Constitution does not clothe the Central Government with sufficient powers to coordinate the development projects in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry. So as we propose to amend the Constitution shortly according to report in the press, I will draw the attention of the hon. Mr. Munshi to take up the matter of amending the Constitution in such a way (*Prof. Ranga*: Question) as to clothe the Central Government with adequate authority to coordinate projects and plans of agricultural development.....

Prof. Ranga (Madras): So that there can be more red-tapism and delay.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has already taken 17 minutes and I would request other hon. Members not to encroach on other's time.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: I am sorry I have very little time to speak on a subject which is so vast. I wish I had been given some more time but I shall obey the Chair.

Before I conclude I would make one appeal. The whole campaign of agricultural production should be planned and well organised from the Centre down to the village and all the work done should be coordinated.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I have given an amended resolution in substitution of the original resolution, in which I have suggested that the committee should consist of 21 members. The reason which led me to make this committee a huge one was that almost all the States of India should be represented on it. Though the committee may be large I have in mind

that it should be divided into three or four sub-committees, so that in a small amount of time the members will be able to survey the whole of India. That was my intention.

My friend Dr. M. M. Das has brought this resolution in time for the consideration of the Government. We, living in the interior villages, always feel that the tiller of the land, the peasants and cultivators have no incentive to grow more food. The Central and State Governments are trying their best in their own way to grow more food but to our utter hopelessness we find no incentive or enthusiasm in the minds of those who really produce the food. What is the cause? How to remove the causes that are responsible for this state of affairs? Though our government is a national Government, it is not a foreign government, still the men living in the villages do not follow faithfully, earnestly and sincerely the advice given by the officers appointed in those areas. Why is it so? We are today an independent people. After so many years of struggle we have gained our independence. It is the duty of the Government to improve conditions in all ways but why is it that there is no enthusiasm in the minds of the people? I am suggesting that the people at large, especially the tillers of land, do not take the officers to be their friends. Most of the officers have not been able to change their psychology in their approach to the public as their servants. They have not developed that state of mind up till now. What I am driving at is this. It is the tillers of the soil who make us eat and we cannot live without their help. They should be approached differently both by Government officials and such other philanthropic institutions as exist in the country. The philanthropic institutions in various parts of the country should be requested to help the Government in this matter. A nation cannot live by importing food from outside for years together. A nation should produce the food which it requires. The Government procures food from the rural areas. They buy food from abroad for feeding the millions of India. Why? Because we are deficit in food. Though we are deficit in food we should not import and this should have been the attempt of Government from the very beginning. Perhaps we may have had to import for a year or two but as soon as we began to import food from outside the incentive has disappeared from our people. They have no incentive to produce more. When Government goes to procure food from

[Shri S. C. Samanta]

the tillers of land they do not pay for the labour which they had applied for the production of this food.

They procure foodgrains and store them in rooms. You will be astonished to see from the Government figures available, that so many tons of foodgrains have been wasted due to bad storage during these years. On the other hand had that quantity not been procured but had been allowed to be available to the public of the land then that much grain need not have been imported. Now when Government goes to procure foodgrains, willingly or unwillingly the cultivators part with whatever amount they can, but at the same time they think that if they produce more, Government will procure it at low prices like seven or eight rupees a maund leaving the cultivators to buy their daily necessities at dearer prices. And the cultivator thinks, "Why should I go to produce cereals? Rather I shall grow money crops." This is the feeling which is by and by arising in the minds of cultivators. You should not be astonished if after a year or two Bengal begins to grow jute and cotton in all the food-growing areas. If this thing goes on in this way what will be our position? The tillers of the soil should be given due price for their product, they should be encouraged in this way by the officers—not in the official way but in a friendly way—and through philanthropic institutions so that they who are our saviours and the backbone of our country will continue to help the country. We are politicians, we are philanthropists, and we are so many other things, but we cannot live without the food which these tillers of the soil produce. Therefore, those who produce that food should be given first preference by the nation in all respects. This country cannot improve unless these village folks, these cultivators, these small artisans are looked after well by every section, by the Government, by the political parties and by everybody else. It is for this reason that I have moved this substitute resolution which I would request hon. Members and the hon. Minister to accept in order to enable the needful to be done so that we may be saved from the darkness that is threatening our future.

With these words I commend my resolution for the acceptance of the House.

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.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI in the Chair]

گھائی جی - ایس - مسافر -
مختوم صدر صاحبہ - یہ جو ریزولوشن
(Resolution) ڈاکٹر داس نے اس
(House) ہاؤس میں آج پیش کیا ہے
اور اس پر کچھ امینڈمنٹس (amend-
ments) بھی یہاں ہاؤس میں رکھے
گئے ہیں اور جو امینڈمنٹس یہاں رکھے
گئے ہیں ان کا بھی لگ بھگ وہی
مطلب ہے جو اس ریزولوشن کا مطلب
ہے -

Shri Poonacha: May I draw your attention to the fact that the Treasury Benches are absolutely vacant?

Mr. Chairman: The Chair also has noted the absence of the Ministers here.

An Hon. Member: The hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is here. He is sitting there in one of the back benches.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Somebody from here should go and occupy the Treasury Benches.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: You will not get the chance so long as one man is alive.

Mr. Chairman: It is a very bad practice that the Ministers concerned with this particular portfolio should be absent and not be able to hear the hon. Members when the debate is resumed. I think the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs may convey this to the hon. Ministers concerned.

گھائی جی - ایس - مسافر: آج فوڈ
شارٹج (food shortage) کی ہر
جگہ چرچا ہے اور اس کا اثر اس ہاؤس
پر بھی پڑا ہے -

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs may take notes.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The Deputy Minister has come just now.

کھانی جی - ایس - مسافر - صدر
صاحبہ - آج ہر جگہ فوڈ شارتیج کی
چرچا ہے اور یہ ایک بڑا بھاری مسئلہ
ہے کیونکہ بغیر فوڈ کے یعنی کھانے کے
کسی بھی انسان کا گزارہ نہیں ہو سکتا
اور اگر آج ہر ایک کو آرام سے روتی مل
جائے تو پھر گورنمنٹ کی بڑی نیک
نامی ہو سکتی ہے۔ صرف اسی وجہ سے
کہ لوگوں کو یہ بت بھر کھانا نہیں ملتا
کوئی بھی گورنمنٹ کافی بدنام ہو سکتی
ہے۔ پنجابی میں ایک کہاوت ہے :
پہت نہ پتیاں روتیاں - سبھے گلان
کہوتیاں - یعنی یہ بت میں روتی نہ
ہو تو کوئی بھی کام پورے طور پر نہیں
ہو سکتا۔

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): May I know whether there is already a committee in existence for this purpose?

Mr. Chairman: Let the hon. Member proceed uninterrupted.

کھانی جی - ایس - مسافر - اور جو
ریزولیشن زب بحث ہے اس میں
اس بات پر زور دیا گیا ہے اور جو
امڈمنٹس رکھے گئے ہیں ان میں
بھی یہی سچھاؤ دیا گیا ہے کہ
پارلیامنٹ (Parliament) کے اور ان
میں اسٹیٹس (States) کے بھی ممبران
ملائے جائیں اور ان کی ایک مشترکہ
کمیٹی اس بات کی اچھی طرح سے
جانچ پڑتال کرے کہ ان صوبوں کو جو
روپیہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا
(Government of India) کی طرف
سے دیا جاتا ہے اور لون (loan) دیا

ہے اس کو کس ڈھنگ سے کس طریقے
سے خرچ کیا جاتا ہے - یہ ایک بڑا
مناسب ریزولیشن ہے اور اس کی
طرف دھیان دینا بہت ہی ضروری ہے
بہت سے کام ایسے ہوتے ہیں کہ ان کا
تھیک سے سروے (survey) نہ کرنے
کی وجہ سے پوری جانچ نہ کرنے کی وجہ
سے نہیں ہو پاتے اور گورنمنٹ
ان کے لئے کوشش بھی کرتی ہے اور
روپیہ بھی خرچ کرتی ہے مگر اس کا
اتنا فائدہ نہیں ہوتا جتنا کہ اس
روپیہ کا فائدہ ہونا چاہیئے - تو اس
لئے ایک کمیٹی ضرور بنائی چاہیئے
اور اس کمیٹی کے سامنے ایک ایسی
تجزیہ بھی ہونی چاہیئے جس پر وہ عمل
کرے اور جلدی ہی فوڈ کا مسئلہ
حل ہو جائے۔

میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ہماری
سرکار نے بڑے بڑے پراجیکٹس
(projects) بنانے کی کوشش کی
جس سے اچھی طرح سے کمیٹی
بازی کا کام شروع کیا جا سکے لیکن
میں نے اس کے بارے میں پہلے ہی
اس معاملے میں عرض کیا تھا کہ
ان پراجیکٹس کے بنانے میں کافی
سے لکھنا - جیسے فارسی کی ایک مثل
مشہور ہے :

تا تریاق از مرق آورده بود - مارگڑیدہ
مردہ بود یعنی جب تک اس کا علاج ہوگا
اس وقت تک لوگ بھوکے مرجائیں گے۔
اس لئے چھوٹے چھوٹے جو کام ہیں
وہ جلدی کر دئے جائیں ان کے بارے میں

[کھیتی جی - ایس - مسافر]
 مہاتسا گاندھی کہا کرتے تھے کہ جو
 چھوٹے کاموں کی طرف توجہ نہیں
 دیتے وہ بڑے کام کو اچھی طرح
 سے نہیں کر سکتے اور چھوٹے چھوٹے
 کاموں کی طرف بھی توجہ دینا بڑا
 ضروری ہے - مثلاً پنجاب کے لئے ہم کہہ
 سکتے ہیں کہ وہاں پانی کافی ہے
 مگر وہاں پانی کے بغیر ٹھیک ٹھیک
 انتظام کے کھیتی نہیں ہو سکتی - پانی
 کھیتی کے لئے ایک ضروری چیز ہے
 مگر اس کا صحیح استعمال نہ ہونے
 کی وجہ سے کھیتی ٹھیک ٹھیک نہیں
 ہو پاتی - ہمارے پنجاب میں دسترکٹ
 ہوشیار پور ایک ایسی جگہ ہے جس
 کو دوآبہ کہتے ہیں وہاں پانی بہت
 ہے - لیکن وہاں اس پانی کا صحیح
 استعمال نہ ہونے کی وجہ سے کچھ ایسی
 جگہیں بن گئی ہیں جن کو چو کہتے
 ہیں - وہ پانی اگر ٹھیک طرح استعمال
 کیا جاتا - چھوٹے چھوٹے بلندہ لگا کر
 استعمال کیا جاتا تو وہاں بہت زیادہ
 اچھی کھیتی باڑی ہو سکتی تھی -
 اور جالندھر دسترکٹ میں جو پانی
 کی ایک قلت ہے وہ کسی پوری ہو
 جاتی - کلوں میں پانی سوکھ جاتا
 ہے باندھ لگنے سے بہت سا پانی
 استعمال کے لائق ہو سکتا ہے مگر اس
 طرف کسی نے کوئی توجہ نہیں دی -
 یہ ایک بڑی ضروری بات ہے ایک تو
 وہ پانی نقصان نہیں کرتا اور نقصان
 کے بجائے وہ پانی بہت سا فائدہ پہنچا
 سکتا ہے اگر باندھ لگا کر اس کا استعمال

اچھی طرح سے کیا جائے - کھور تھلہ کے
 پاس وٹھن ندی ہے اس ندی پر ایک
 خوبصورت سا چھوٹا سا ڈیم بن سکتا
 ہے جو اس سارے دوآبے کی زمین
 کو سیراب کر سکتا ہے اور اس سے
 کھیتی اچھی ہو سکتی ہے -

دوسری بات کھیتی کے متعلق یہ
 ہے - جو روپیہ سرکار امداد کے طور پر
 انہیں دیتی ہے اور اس کو جانچنے
 کے لئے یہاں ایک کھیتی بلانے کی
 بھی تجویز ہے جو یہ جانچ کر یہی
 کہ جو روپیہ ان کی مدد کے لئے دیا
 جاتا ہے وہ صحیح طور پر استعمال
 ہوتا ہے کہ نہیں - بجائے ان کو نقد
 روپیہ دینے کے کھاد مہیا کی جائے
 شہروں میں اور قصبوں میں ہم
 دیکھتے ہیں کہ کھاد کے ڈھیر لگے ہوئے
 ہیں یہ ڈھیر لوگور، کی صحت خواب
 کرتے ہیں - اگر روپیہ کی جگہ ان
 کسانوں کو کھاد دی جائے تو وہ اپنے
 کھیتوں میں ڈالکر اس سے اچھی فصل
 پیدا کریں تو وہ اس فصل کے تیار ہو
 جانے پر کھاد کی قیمت بھی ادا کر
 سکتے ہیں اس طرح سے کھاد کا بھی
 استعمال اچھا ہو سکتا ہے - اور جو یہ
 کھاد بھکر پڑی ہے لوگوں کی صحت
 کے لئے نقصان دہ ہے اس سے بھی شہر
 اور قصبے بن سکتے ہیں -

تیسری بات میں اس کے متعلق
 یہ کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ گورنمنٹ نے
 جو یہ ارادہ کیا ہے کہ کنسولہڈیشن

(consolidation) زمیوں کا کیا گیا جائے مگر جو ان کا طریقہ ہے وہ اتنا آدھلا ہے کہ کئی سال اس میں لگ جائیں گے۔ اس لئے کوئی ایسا قہلگ جلدی کا نکالنا چاہئے جس سے کسان کی زمیںیں اکٹھا ہو جائیں۔ اور پھر وہ کسان زیادہ فوہ پیدا کر سکتا ہے۔ اس کے سانہ ہی میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ رفوجہز (refugees) کو جو زمیںیں دی گئی ہیں ان کا جو کواسی پرمانہذت (quasi permanent) الاذمت ہے اس کو پرمانہذت الاذمت (permanent allotment) کر

دیا جائے اور شرنارذتہی کسان کے ذل میں یہ خیال پیدا ہو سکے کہ مہری زمیں مہرے پاس رہیگی اور اس طرح وہ اس زمیں کی زیادہ خدمت کر سکتا ہے اور اچھی پیداوار کر سکتا ہے کیوں کہ وہ جانتا ہے کہ وہ زمیں مہرے پاس رہیگی۔ کسی دوسری صورت میں وہ اتنی متحذت نہیں کر سکتا۔ اس کی طرف بھی ضرور دھیان دینا چاہئے۔

چوتھی بات یہ ہے کہ نہر کا پانی جو پاکستان گو دیا جاتا ہے وہ کم کر دیا جائے یعنی جو پانی وہاں چلا جاتا ہے اس سے ہمیں بہت نقصان ہوتا ہے۔ عارضی موہکوں کے ذیلے پر ایک دفعہ یہاں گورداس پور اور امرتسر میں اتنا دھان پیدا ہوا جو کہ سنبھالا نہیں جاتا تھا۔ اس لئے میں ایک تجویز کرتا ہوں کہ چاہے زمیںوں کو بھی عارضی

موہکوں کا پانی ضرور دیا جائے اس وقت وہ پانی ان کو نہیں ملتا اور کوئیں کا پانی کافی نہیں۔ اگر مہری تجویز کر مان لیا جائے تو اس طرح پنجاب کے ان ضلعوں میں بھی بہت دھان پیدا کیا جا سکتا ہے اور اس سے بہت حد تک فوہ کی پرابلم (problem) حل ہو سکتی ہے۔ اس کے علاوہ جو ٹریکٹرس (tractors) ہیں وہ سستے کرائے پر اگر کسانوں کو دئے جائیں تو کھیتی باڑی کا کام اور زیادہ ترقی کر سکتا ہے اور اس سے فوہ کا جو پرابلم ہے وہ حل ہو سکتا ہے۔

میں صدر صاحب کی اجازت سے صرف ایک مذمت میں ہی اپنی بات کو ختم کرتا ہوں کہ یہ فوہ کا جو مسئلہ ہے وہ بہت ضروری ہے۔ اگر اس طرف پوری طور سے دھیان دیا جائے اور کسانوں کو سہولتیں پہنچائی جائیں تو کوئی وجہ نہیں ہے کہ ایسے تھیک طرح سے ہم حل نہ کر پائیں۔ ہمارا دیکھ ایک کرشن پردھان دیکھ ہے اور ہمیں بہت شرم محسوس ہوتی ہے جب ہمیں دوسرے دیشوں کی طرف اناج کے لئے دیکھنا پڑتا ہے۔ اور یہ بات سچ سچ بڑی شرم کی ہے اور ہماری سرکار کے لئے ایک قسم کی بدنامی کا کارن بنتی ہے۔ ان چھوٹی چھوٹی باتوں کی طرف تھوڑا دھیان دیلے سے ہی حالت سدھر جائے گی۔ میں نے

[گھائی جی - ایس - مسافر]
 تو زیادہ تر پنجاب کا ذکر کیا ہے مگر
 کم و بھس ہر ایک پرانسی (Province)
 میں اسی قسم کا طریقہ برتا جا سکتا
 ہے - ان چھوٹی چھوٹی باتوں کی طرف
 تھوڑا سا دھیان دینے سے - پانی کی
 طرف - کھاد کی طرف اور کنوؤں کی
 طرف دھیان دینا ضروری ہے - آج کنوؤں
 کے لئے جو روپیہ دیا گیا ہے اسے دیکھنا
 چاہیئے کہ تھیک کنوؤں پر خرچ ہوتا
 ہے یا نہیں - ان کی تعداد بڑھائی
 جائے تو بھی بہت جلد یہ فوڈ کی
 پرابلم حل ہو جاتی ہے - تھوب روپ
 لگانے کے لئے ہر جگہ بجلی مہیا کی
 جائے -

ان الفاظ کے ساتھ میں اس
 ریزولوشن کی پورے زور کے ساتھ حمایت
 کرتا ہوں -

{English translation of the above
 speech}

Giani G. S. Musafir (Punjab): The Resolution moved here earlier today by hon. Dr. Das and the amendments moved subsequently to that Resolution are almost identical in their purport.

Shri Poonacha (Coorg): May I draw your attention to the fact that the Treasury Benches are absolutely vacant?

Mr. Chairman: The Chair also has noted the absence of the Ministers here.

An Hon. Member: The hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is here. He is sitting there in one of the back benches.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar): Somebody from here should go and occupy the Treasury Benches.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): You will not get the chance so long as one man is alive.

Mr. Chairman: It is a very bad practice that the Ministers concerned with this particular portfolio should be absent and not be able to hear the hon. Members when the debate is resumed. I think the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs may convey this to the hon. Ministers concerned.

Giani G. S. Musafir: These days food shortage is a subject of discussion everywhere. The problem has had its bearings on this House as well.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs may take notes.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The Deputy Minister has come just now.

Giani G. S. Musafir: I said that the shortage of food is now-a-days a subject of general discussion. It is a very big and intricate problem, because without food none can manage to keep body and soul together. If, therefore, everyone could get his food without inconvenience and hardship, it will considerably enhance the prestige of the Government. The position of any Government, on the other hand may become much awkward solely because of the fact that people are unable to get a full meal. There is a proverb in the Punjabi language meaning that it is absurd to talk or think of anything till there is no bread in the stomach. In other words, no work can be completed successfully if one is hungry and has no food.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): May I know whether there is already a Committee in existence for this purpose?

Mr. Chairman: Let the hon. Member proceed uninterrupted.

Giani G. S. Musafir: The Resolution under discussion and the amendments moved to it are all unanimous in their stress on the proposal that Members of the Parliament and representatives of States should also be taken on that Committee and that the Committee so constituted should undertake a thorough investigation into the manner in which the various funds and loans advanced to the States by the Government of India are being utilized. This is a very fair Resolution and it is to our advantage if we pay heed to it. A number of schemes and projects remain unexecuted for the very reason that a proper survey and investigation does not precede the actual execution work. The Government, no doubt, exert themselves and spend money as well. But all this does not result in so

much good as should be expected out of that labour and expenditure. A Committee, therefore, should be set up for this purpose and they should have a plan working on which this food problem may be solved at the earliest.

I quite realize that the Government have made genuine efforts to work huge projects to promote agriculture in this country. But as I have submitted earlier, their completion will require a fairly long time. There is a proverb in Persian that,—

Ta tiryag az Iraq avurda bavad,

Margazida murda bavad

(Till the time nectar is available the patient would have died).

That is to say till the time the situation is remedied, people will have died of starvation. Smaller projects should, therefore, be completed first. Mahatma Gandhi used to say it very often that those who show indifference towards smaller things, can never be expected to accomplish bigger tasks. For instance, we say it in the case of the Punjab that there is a plenty of water, but in the absence of any arrangements for a proper utilization of that water, the cause of agriculture has not been promoted. Water is an important factor in agriculture, and agriculture cannot be undertaken properly till arrangements for a proper use of water exist. In Hoshiarpur district a place is known as 'Doab'. There is plenty of water because of which many places have been converted into what is commonly known as *chu* (lakelets). Had a right use of that water been made and small dams or barrages constructed for this purpose, the agriculture there would have been conducted in a right manner and the scarcity of water in Jullundur district would have been removed. The wells get dried up in the summer but the barrages make it possible to utilise much of the water. None, however, seems to have paid sufficient attention to this matter. It is quite an important matter. In the first place much of the loss occurring because of floods etc. can be avoided and secondly should we construct dams for proper utilization of water, much good can be expected to result. There is a small stream known as wai near Kapurthala. A small attractive dam can be built over it which can have sufficient discharge capacity to irrigate the whole of the 'doab' and thus help in improving the agriculture there.

Secondly I have to submit that instead of advancing these subsidies in cash, for which we have just proposed the appointment of a Committee who

should investigate whether or not a correct use of these is made, the Government should supply States with manure. We find big heaps of this manure lying in towns and cities and which add to the insanitary conditions of those places and thus cause injurious effects on the citizens' health. But in case the agriculturists are provided with this manure instead of money, they can grow a good crop and at the harvest time can even pay back its price. This way not only this manure can be put to a proper use, but the cities and towns can also be saved from the injurious effects of the manure lying useless there.

Thirdly I have to submit that the procedure adopted by the Government to carry out their decision regarding the consolidation of holdings is so slow-working that I am afraid the completion of this task will take many years. A method, therefore, should be found immediately which should expedite the task of consolidation of peasants' holdings. The peasants can produce more food then. Along with I want that the quasi permanent allotments made to the refugees should be converted into permanent ones which fact shall give the holder a sense of security that the land with him at present will always be with him. This will prompt him to take initiative in improving his holding and producing more food. It is so because he will have the confidence of holding it at all times. Nothing else will make him toil so much. This aspect should also, therefore, receive their attention.

Fourthly, I would like the quantum of canal water that is being allowed to Pakistan at present should to be reduced. We stand to lose much on this account. Once temporary water outlets were allowed in Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts. This fact resulted in an abundant crop of rice. I, therefore, suggest that the temporary water outlets must also be allowed in the case of those lands also that depend upon wells for irrigation. They are not having this benefit at present and well water is hardly sufficient for their needs. The acceptance of any suggestion will help to grow abundant rice crops in these districts of the Punjab solving thereby the food problem to a large extent. Further much progress can be made in agriculture if tractors were given to the peasants on cheap rent. This will also serve as a positive contribution towards the solution of the overall food problem.

With your permission Sir, I would finish my speech within a minute's time. This problem of food is the most important one. If necessary facilities are provided to the agriculturists,

[Giani G. S. Musafir]

there is no reason why we should not be able to solve this problem. Ours is a predominantly agricultural country and it is much humiliating for us that we have to look to other countries for foodgrains. It is indeed much humiliating and can be a good cause for bringing bad name to our Government. Even if we pay some attention to these small things, an improvement in the situation will become possible. I have mainly referred to Punjab but the same methods can be used with benefit in other Provinces also. It is necessary that we pay some attention to these small things like manure, water and wells etc. We should see that the money, which being given now-a-days for the construction of wells, is actually utilized for that very purpose. An increase in the number of wells will greatly expedite the solution of the food problem. Electricity should be provided to all places for the operation of tube-wells.

With these words I extend my strong support to the Resolution.

Prof. Ranga: The first temptation for anyone who attempts to speak on anything concerning food is to find fault with the Food Department and the Food and Agriculture Ministry. There are plenty of points on which the Food and Agriculture Ministry can be criticised and even condemned. But I do not think this is the occasion when I should spare much time for that particular aspect, because the present resolution places before the House a constructive idea to which we should direct our attention.

I am generally in favour of the main principle underlying this, the main objective of this resolution, that there is need for the Union Government to develop such coordinative and cooperative relations with the State Governments so that it will be possible for all of them to give a much better account of their affairs in regard to the achievement of food-self-sufficiency than what has been possible till now. But at the same time, I must express my dissent from the view expressed by my hon. friend Mr. Tripathi who this morning wanted that more power should be given to the Union Government, whenever necessary, in order to force some of the State Governments to fall in line with their own overall policy. I cannot agree with this in view not only of the achievements of the Provincial Governments, but also on account of the failures of the Central Government till now. What is more, if we are to study these things in the light of experience of America and the Federal Government in its relations

with the State Governments, no other conclusion can be arrived at than this that the Provincial Governments should not be interfered with to the extent that my hon. friend the Food and Agriculture Minister might be thinking of interfering, or my hon. friend Mr. Tripathi would like him to interfere.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I explain my point? What I desire is proper co-ordination in the development projects. Today we find that in spite of powers being in the hands of the States, there is no increased production.

Prof. Ranga: So far as co-ordination is concerned, it can be achieved through co-operative means and not necessarily through legislative and compulsory means, as is meant to be suggested by my hon. friend Mr. Tripathi.

I wish in the very beginning to express my agreement with the point made by my hon. friends Messrs. Tripathi and Samanta that a new approach should be made to this particular problem. I am very glad for one thing that the new Minister of Food and Agriculture has given attention to one very important aspect of the work of the Government in the Food and Agriculture Ministry which has been neglected for a very long time and that is publicity. I also agree with Dr. Das when he congratulated the Minister for having conceived the excellent and romantic idea and also the phrase of *Vana Mahotsava*. I want several other *Mahotsavas* like that in regard to various other aspects of the constructive work of the Food and Agriculture Ministry. Having said that I would like the Food and Agriculture Ministry to take it a step further and make it applicable to such aspects of its work which would yield immediate results.

Vana Mahotsava has come in for so much of hilarious comment, because people who today plant the trees may not be able to live long to see the fruits thereof. But let them draw their own extension schemes, irrigation schemes and propaganda schemes in order to make the improved seeds popular among our peasants so that in the immediate future we may be able to see the results thereof. But then I am sorry to have to state once again—and this is a hardy annual so far as we are concerned—that Government has got to reorient its own attitude regarding the *kisan*. This morning Mr. Samanta was telling us that he is the backbone of our economy and that he should be given first priority. But what is the position today? He does not seem to be anywhere. We

talk of extension schemes; we talk only of the demonstrator's scale of pay, or the rate of allowances of the Deputy Directors or Directors, with the result that in the end the *kisan* does not seem to fare so very well. I wish to repeat again my oft-repeated demand that until and unless this Government realises the necessity to give the necessary incentive by way of price to the *kisan* and to the producers of food, it would be impossible for them, really speaking, to achieve self-sufficiency in this country, however eloquent my hon. friend Mr. Munshi may be in regard to achievement of self-sufficiency. Now, it may be impossible for them to allow the prices to soar up so high that there may be trouble in the cities with the professionals, as well as the proletariat. I would, therefore, like the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture to extend his own idea, a progressive idea, which he has applied to the sugar industry to the production of food also. Just as he has introduced what is known as 'partial decontrol', let him also introduce partial decontrol here. Let them say that they want that a particular proportion of the total foodgrains produced by our *kisans* should be handed over to Government at controlled prices. Let them take these foodgrains and supply them to the town-people, the professionals, to the proletariat and other people who are employed in the essential services to whom they are specially beholden. The rest of the production should be left free to be sold in the markets. Let not the *kisans* be made to feel—as they are being made to feel today—that they are thieves, when they are obliged, in order to make both ends meet, to sell their foodgrains produced under so many difficulties, after display of so much of sacrifice as well as courage, to sell them in a stealthy fashion contrary to control rules, but with the connivance of their host of control officers. If only they were to extend this particular policy that they have already adopted with regard to sugar, to the foodgrains. I assure them that the *kisans* will be induced to minimise their own consumption of food, and the loss that is sustained by the *kisans* in storing these foodgrains in a stealthy fashion will also be minimised. This will give an inducement to the *kisan* to produce more and more of foodgrains.

Again I want the Government to learn to treat the *kisan* in the same manner as they have learnt to fear the proletariat of the town and also the professionals. The moment the shop-keepers, the clerks, gazetted officers, or the proletariat begin to talk of strikes or demonstrate, the Govern-

ment begins to quake in its own shoes. Therefore, it wants to supply everything to them. While there was sugar control all over the country, in the city of Delhi it was removed, so that things might be quiet on their own front.

Similarly, I want them to give special attention to the *kisan* and treat the *kisan* who produces the largest quantity of foodgrains on one acre of land, as a national hero. I also wish to make an appeal to the editors of the newspapers that they should give more and more publicity to the *kisan* who produces the most—his photograph should be published and an account of his activities should be given.

Then, I am extremely anxious that the Ministry should be helpful to the other Ministries in working up our own river valley projects. Most unfortunately for us although quite a large number of river valley projects have been started in a romantic fashion in different parts of the country and so much of our finance, know-how and other resources have been directed to them, our press has not given as much publicity to the matter as is needed. In Russia, for example, for any sort of project the whole press takes it up as a sort of national campaign and from month to month, from six months to six months, from year to year, graphs, photographs, accounts and tables and all the rest of it are published in order to inspire the people to develop a special enthusiasm for these things and there people who make the best possible effort are praised as national heroes. I want my hon. friend Mr. Munshi—and he is an expert, as you all know, in publicity—to give his attention to this aspect of the question and win the co-operation of the press also. But at the same time I want the Food and Agriculture Ministry to carry on a tireless effort in starting more and more of these river valley projects. What has happened to the Ramapadasagar project? What has happened to the Krishna Reservoir project? Why is it that they have been delayed, not thought of at all, or abandoned? Some time ago my hon. friend Mr. Gadgil said that it would need so much money. (*Interruption*) But there is money for the Damodar Valley Project in which my hon. friend is interested because he is a Bihari.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I do not think like that. Do not judge us by those standards.

Prof. Ranga: They said they were prepared to place Rs. 50 crores or a little more for it. Now the estimates for it have gone up to Rs. 120 crores. And two or three days ago my hon. friend the Minister concerned was say-

[Prof. Ranga] —

ing that he was not quite sure what might be the final estimate. Now, when Government is prepared to place so much money at the disposal of a project like this why should they be not willing to go ahead with the Ramapadasagar project and the Krishna Reservoir project also? I have no grievance with Bihar. I want more money to be given. Let me also go ahead. My grievance with regard to this Damodar Valley Project is this. According to the original idea it was the irrigation side of it which had to be developed first. It would have helped us. Instead of that somebody took it into his head and he went ahead with the hydro-electric scheme. And they have already spent more than Rs. 16 crores—I speak subject to correction—on electricity, and till today we have not been assured of one more acre of land. Therefore I would ask the Government to be careful about their expenditure on existing projects. I want them to take on new projects. More and more money should be given to them.

It is most unfortunate for me that the hon. the Prime Minister does not happen to be here, because I want to join issue with the foreign policy pursued by our Government. Only yesterday one hon. Minister was saying that it was unfortunate that they could not induce foreign Governments to come and invest their money here. After all, we should be reasonable and businesslike. Why should foreign Governments come and invest their money in this country if we are not willing to assure ordinary friendship to them, ordinary courtesies to them. So I want Government to change their foreign policy and develop it in such a way that it may be possible for us to ask the foreign Governments to bring and sink their money and know-how here in order to develop our own river valley projects.

Shri Joachim Alva (Bombay): Where were you on the day when the discussion took place on foreign policy?

Shri Krishorimohan Tripathi: China has offered us one million tons of grains.

Prof. Ranga: All my hon. friends have laid stress, rightly, on the need for supplying more and more credit for our *kisans*. I say it is a pity that they have given up their subsidiary food development plans. I want the Government to take them up again. But my difficulty is this. When I was going round the countryside I began to ask the people whether they had proper marketing facilities for the sale of

their sweet potatoes. But their difficulty was they did not know where to sell, how to sell, at what prices, and how to store them. I want Government to develop that side of it especially the marketing facilities for subsidiary foods. Here I wish to pay a compliment to my imaginative friend Mr. Munshi in having started that new institution known as *Annapurna*. It has become very popular in the city. I have always found a big queue standing. Similar things have to be started in various parts of the country. When you start them, make them popular. After all, everything depends upon how you dress up your own food. You can understand it even better than my other friends. There is a way in which sweet food can be made to appear unpalatable and half-bitter food can be made to appear very sweet indeed. That depends on how the food articles which may be manufactured out of subsidiary food materials can be dressed up properly and nicely, and Mr. Munshi has made this contribution. However little it may be, to an imaginative mind huge prospects can be seen for the development of our self-sufficiency campaign in this country if only we were to know three things.

Mr. Chairman: This is Mrs. Munshi's contribution.

Prof. Ranga: They are to teach people how to take to the eating of new things, to dress them up nicely, and to make them. These three things have got to be developed and I hope the Ministry will take it up.

Another point I wish to make, and only in one minute, is this. We have been given a lot of information here about so many wells being sunk, so many tubewells and all the rest of it. But we have not been given any information as to how much of land is brought into additional cultivation under each head because of this, because of that, etc. That information is needed.

I want to end my speech today on this note of congratulation as well as a warning to this Ministry. Some hon. Members have been able to bring to the public notice a number of scandals, one of them being the tractors, the other fertilisers, and various other things. I wish to warn them that there are many more scandals to unearth, and I hope both the Ministers will go into the matter and see that their administration is made not only efficient but also honest, so that it will be possible for the public to have complete confidence in them.

Lastly, I want them to plead in the international world for an extension of the International Wheat Agreement which has helped us so far and which we would need very badly indeed. I want to warn them that it may not be possible, however much we may wish to have self-sufficiency, to achieve it within the next three or four years. Therefore, we must always have this nice scheme at our beck and call, that is ability to import from other countries foodgrains at prices which would be reasonable not only to us but to the producers in other countries.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: My amendments to the resolution of Dr. Das are very short and simple and I have very little to say about them. Everybody here in this House knows that India is primarily an agricultural country and more than 70 per cent. of her population works on land. Yet, there is food shortage; and ironically enough, it has become chronic. This year our food deficiency is of the order of about seven million tons on the assumption that one ton will feed six persons annually at the rate of one lb. per man per day.

No doubt our Congress Government had been tirelessly exploring many avenues for meeting this food deficiency. These avenues roughly come under three heads: firstly, import of foodgrains from foreign countries; secondly, agricultural development programme; and thirdly, procurement and distribution plans.

In regard to the first point I should like to say that the Government has been importing sufficiently large quantities of foodgrains from foreign countries. But the pity is that because of its own declarations of making India self-sufficient in food this Government is creating a scare among foreign nations who export foodgrains to this country. And because of the repeated declarations of the Government and also because of the unwise policy of the Government in devaluing our rupee, the import prices of our foodgrains have shot up very high, so much so that our Government has been compelled to beg favours from certain powers because of her shortsightedness.

Prof. Ranga: The International Wheat Agreement has prevented the rise of prices. -

3 P.M.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Secondly, for implementing agricultural development programmes it is true that our Government did embark upon many laudable schemes including the construction of river valley projects, chemical and

natural fertilizer factories, land reclamation and tenancy reforms programmes etc. Towering above all these is the grow-more-food programme which has not yet been able to grow more food; rather it has been able to grow more and more famine.

No one dare criticise the Government at least on one point and that is that our Government is spending sufficient money for making all these plans a success and yet none of these are succeeding. So far the Government has spent about one billion rupees on all these plans and this has proved very unnecessary.

There is about 180 million acres of land in our country under cultivation but this land is divided into numerous uneconomic holdings. The average farm in our country is 2·8 acres in densely populated States and about 11·2 acres in the less densely populated States on an average it comes to about seven acres per farm. Even this seven acre farm has been fragmented into small fields situated at different places and the process of fragmentation goes on continuing generation after generation. This makes it extremely difficult for a farmer to look after even his seven acre farm.

In these circumstances Government should have first attempted at consolidating the holdings and making them economic, say of ten acres each. This could have solved many of the farmer's difficulties and enabled him to learn and appreciate our development plans.

Thus these 180 million acres of land of numerous uneconomic holdings might have been reduced to 18 million farms. The Government could have easily given a subsidy of Rs. 20 to all these farms and the farmers would have generously utilised the subsidy and refrained from cursing the Government which they are doing today because all the aid given by Government in the name of farmers goes to big land owners. If this subsidy of Rs. 20 is to be given to each farmer, one might ask: How is he going to utilize it? I would say that even by hiring a bullock cart for carrying manure to his farm of ten acres, the farmer can easily grow about 20 maunds more per year on his farm and in this manner 18 million farms can easily grow about 360 million maunds of more food and this is much more than what we need today.

As regards the Government schemes of procurement and distribution of foodgrains I should say that they are lacking very hopelessly. There is no relation between procurement price

[Dr. Ram Subhag Singh]

and the sale price of foodgrains and the difference is about Rs. 15 per maund. Rice is procured in my district at Rs. 13 per maund and it is sold at one seer seven *chataks* per rupee; and this is a great difference....

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): Does the hon. Member mean the procurement price and the sale price in the black market or the free market?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In Government controlled shops rice is selling at one seer and seven *chataks* in my district.

Shri Thirumala Rao: You put it in terms of maunds and rupees.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: You can better calculate. It is very simple. It is about Rs. 28 per maund.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I should like to understand the exact way in which my hon. friend is putting it. You gave me the procurement price in terms of maunds and rupees. I should like to know the sale price in terms of maunds.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Rice is procured at Rs. 13 per maund—coarse rice—and fine rice at Rs. 14 per maund; and is selling at Rs. 28 per maund in Government controlled shops. The black market price is about Rs. 40 or 50 per maund.

This affects the producers as well as the consumers. The producers feel annoyed because the grains are procured from them at very unreasonably low prices whereas the consumers feel dissatisfied because the foodgrains are supplied to them at very unreasonably high prices. Thus there is no incentive for producing more food.

The other day the hon. Food Minister stated here that when they procure rice at one place, they take it to another district or another State. This also creates much trouble. Suppose they procure rice in one particular village they take that rice to another State, not even to another village of that State and they bring milo and other things from other States to that very village. This is a great contradiction. This causes harassment to all concerned except to Government officials who profit by them in the way of T.A. as well as Government agents and Ministers who talk so much but do nothing.

Huge amount of money is spent on all these three items, namely, import

of foodgrains from foreign countries, agricultural development programme, and procurement and distribution plans but not in a wise way. For instance, Government opened a dairy farm in Jubbulpore at the cost of about Rs. 50 lakhs and now the Government has closed that farm. I do not know what has happened to the officials of that dairy farm. I therefore suggest that a Committee of three persons be appointed to probe into the expenditure so far made by the Central and Provincial Governments on food front.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): While not minimising the importance of this resolution, I think, and the House will agree with me, that besides the discussion we have had already in this House today, there are two days set apart for the Food and Agriculture Ministry, Friday and Saturday, on which the subject matter of this resolution can again be discussed. Yesterday also when I tabled an adjournment motion, the Deputy-Speaker, who was in the Chair, remarked that the subject matter of that could be discussed on Friday and Saturday when the Demands of the Ministry will be under discussion. I therefore move that further discussion of this resolution be postponed.

An Hon. Member: Hear, hear.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I fully support Mr. Kamath.

Mr. Chairman: I do not think that a sufficient number of speakers have spoken on this resolution.

Shri Kamath: I only move that the further discussion of this resolution be postponed. Last time when my resolution came up a motion was moved by my hon. friend, Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta, that it should be postponed. I am only making a motion to the effect that this should be postponed.

Mr. Chairman: The Chair is allowed a certain amount of discretion regarding the debate whether the debate that has already taken place is adequate or not.

Shri Kamath: It is not a closure motion. It is only a motion for postponement.

Mr. Chairman: May I know what the hon. Minister has to say?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): I have no objection to the discussion continuing.

Shri Kamath: You may put it to vote.

Mr. Chairman: May I ask hon. Members to express their view with regard to the postponement of this resolution?

Shri Bharati (Madras): On a point of order. There must be a motion before the House for us to express an opinion. The motion cannot be suddenly sprung upon the House in this manner at all. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Chairman: There must be decorum in the House. When one hon. Member begins to speak, the other hon. Members should give him a hearing.

Shri Bharati: My point of order is this. There must be a motion before the House for Members to express their opinion on. Suddenly in the midst of a discussion some hon. Member makes a suggestion as it were. We must have notice of a motion and we must discuss upon that. Virtually, this amounts to what is called an adjournment motion because the regular course of business is sought to be interrupted by some motion. A resolution is now before the House. When a Member seeks to move that some more important matter may be taken up, two courses are open. One is a closure motion; another is an adjournment of the particular matter, not an adjournment of the House. It should come in the form of a motion. While the House can accept that, it will not be a good precedent. That is what I want to submit. The House by itself, by any decision, cannot do anything it pleases. That is my point of order.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member who has made the suggestion for postponement, has quoted a precedent in his support. But, having already invited the views of the House on this question I would like to consult the opinion of the House whether they would like to have this postponement or not.

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Several Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Chairman: I have the rules here. Rule 153 says:

"If the Speaker is of opinion that a motion for the adjournment of a debate is an abuse of the rules of the House, he may either forthwith put the question thereon from the Chair or decline to propose the question."

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I make a submission? No case has been made out by Mr. Kamath for the adjournment. He said that there are two more days for this subject, and therefore this question may be taken up on

the 6th and 7th. It is conceded that this question is an important one. There is a loud complaint from a large section of the Members that even two days are not sufficient for an exhaustive discussion of such an important subject like Food and Agriculture, which has been claiming the attention of the whole country. It is on that score that it has been agreed to by many Members who have given notice of the amendments that the whole of today should be devoted to the discussion of this subject, leaving the 6th and 7th free for the discussion of some other subjects, with regard to the fixation of procurement prices, with regard to distribution, with regard to animal husbandry, milk supply, and so many other items that are connected with this Ministry. Even if three days are allotted to this discussion, that would not be sufficient to give opportunity for all the hon. Members who are interested in this question, to have their say.

With regard to the second point, I want to draw your attention to this. Mr. Kamath has not told us what other more important item in the agenda for the day can be reached by postponing this debate. Before postponing this discussion so unceremoniously, I want the House to consider and also the Chair to consider whether the motion could be put to the House at all, and whether the Chair cannot give a ruling that sufficient discussion has to go on on an important matter like this.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members may resume their seats; I will call them one by one. Though I would like to decline to put this question under rule 153, I would do so not for the reasons stated by the Deputy Minister, that the hon. Member who proposed this postponement has not given any reason for his proposal. I do not agree in that respect with the Deputy Minister. Because, there is a precedent; when a resolution was sought to be postponed, no adequate reasons were given, and yet it was put. But, I would like to decline to put this question and rule it out on the ground that, in my opinion, there has not been sufficient debate and the rules are also not fulfilled. Therefore, the debate will continue.

Shri Kamath: This is not a closure motion.

Mr. Chairman: The ruling has already been given.

Shri Rathnaswamy: This is a very important issue and I entirely agree with the hon. Deputy Minister when he said that two days are not enough to have a full discussion of this question.

[Shri Rathnaswamy]

When freedom dawned on India, the common man thought that a free India would introduce the millennium in the country. But, I am sorry to say that our Government, whatever may be the reasons, has definitely failed to provide this very essential need of man. After all, food is the most essential thing that a man requires and it is very tragic that our Government has failed to give him this most essential thing.

As a commentator very humorously remarked, this grow-more-food campaign has been a campaign of grow-more-troubles. The report submitted by the Reserve Bank of India is an eye-opener as to how the subsidies and various kinds of financial assistance given both by the Centre and the States have not in any way produced spectacular results.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu (Madras): That report is confined to the Bombay province. It does not touch the general question.

Shri Rathnaswamy: I think it holds good, in my opinion, in regard to the grow-more-food campaign carried on in other States as well. That report has, beyond any doubt, demonstrably proved that in spite of so much of publicity and window dressing there have not been any appreciable results in the field of agriculture, in respect of increased production. I entirely agree with one or two speakers who appreciated the way in which the hon. Minister of Food has created some enthusiasm in the country by initiating this *Vana Mahotsav*. Also, I would like to take this opportunity of paying my humble tribute to Mrs. Leelavati Munshi, who has taken the initiative of starting the *Annapoorna* not only in Delhi, but I believe also in Madras under the auspices of the Madras Women's Association. As my hon. friend Prof. Ranga pointed out, this *Annapoorna* has become a sort of a pilgrimage to the citizens of Delhi. I can also say without any fear of contradiction that the places where supplementary foods are served in Madras have become very attractive. Where men have failed to solve the food problem, I am sure, the women are going to succeed. Although we have very much discredited the work done by women and although we have not given a due place to the women in this country, I am quite sanguine that the women are going to play a predominant part not only in the field of food, but also in many other useful activities of Indian national life.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): They will achieve their place in *Annapurna*.

Shri Rathnaswamy: The slogan in South India is, "Import food at any cost." I have heard it from very reliable sources that there are still cases of starvation and of suicides in many parts of South India.

An Hon. Member: No, no.

Shri Rathnaswamy: My hon. friend there may say, "no, no" but I have very confidential information to say that there are real cases of starvation and even of suicides in certain parts of the Madras State.

Dr. Deshmukh: Why "confidential?"

Shri Rathnaswamy: Therefore, I say this food issue has become a titanic issue in this country and unless the Government mobilises all the resources at its command, unless the Government creates a new psychology in the people of this country, and unless the Government does all that is necessary to be done to infuse a new enthusiasm in the minds of the agricultural masses, I am afraid, the day is still far off when we can think of solving this food problem.

There are many reasons why in spite of the very laudable efforts of our Government we are still far off from a solution of this problem. I am afraid our Government lays too much emphasis on other factors and too little on the factor of human material. Human material is the most essential material in this connection and whatever you may do in respect of improving the seeds, whatever else you may do to increase agricultural production, unless our Government directs its energy and its mind to improve the lot of the agriculturist, I am afraid the food problem is not going to be easy of solution in this country. There is not enough time for me to say all that I want to say in connection with this neglect of the human material in this country. What exactly is the condition of the poor peasant in the villages? He hardly gets five or six annas a day and he has at least half a dozen children to maintain, in addition to his aged parents and many dependants on him. How can we imagine that this paltry sum of five or six annas would be adequate to give him that amount of strength and that amount of energy and that amount of enthusiasm to rise up and solve this mighty problem? After all, he is the most important link in the chain of production that we have been talking of, and if you are not going to create enthusiasm in him, and if you are not going to do that, but to completely ignore the very existence of this human factor, how are you going to solve this food problem? After all, the poor

peasant does not lead a decent dignified life to-day. He does not, as a matter of fact, live, he simply exists. Such is the appalling and abject poverty in which he is caught.

There are very many things which I have to say on this occasion. Has the peasant any facilities to borrow the money that he needs so badly? After all, when he needs money he has to go to the Shylock in the village—the money-lender—who is prepared to demand his pound of flesh from him. What little he has, has to be mortgaged. I know of several such cases. A few months ago a certain peasant had a few acres of land; but he had to meet certain calamities—unforeseen contingencies—maybe he wanted to buy a pair of bullocks or arrange the marriage of his daughter or some such domestic developments, and then he had to mortgage all his land. There are hundreds—nay—thousands of such cases of peasants mortgaging all their lands and being reduced to abject poverty. Therefore, I should demand the immediate and wholesome attention of Government to be directed in the channel of improving the miserable lot of the peasant.

Have you done enough to solve this food problem? Have you done enough to give the necessary impetus to the various social organisations in this country which are very enthusiastic and bent upon co-operating with Government in this noble and very necessary work? Have you done enough to tap all the resources at the disposal of Government? Have you done enough to mobilise all the available labour in the land which is lying idle? Are we utilising all the talent and knowledge about agriculture available in this country? We are often apt to imagine that the officialdom is the reservoir of all knowledge and we seem to forget that there are many brilliant geniuses in the country whose advice and guidance would be very very useful at this juncture for the Government. To utilise such knowledge, have you made any effort? Therefore, I appeal to-day to the Government, not only to rouse enthusiasm in the peasant, but also to take advantage of very many organisations in the land which are bent upon and anxious to co-operate with Government in this work and to whom Government have not stretched out the hand of co-operation on their part.

I hope it would not be out of place for me here to mention what modern China with all the calamities and troubles that she has had to undergo has been able to achieve. In spite of all these calamities that she has had to

undergo, especially in recent years, she has been able to fully solve her food problem, and not only has she done that, she is now even in a position to offer one million tons of rice to our country. That is what she has done, though she has had to undergo much more trouble and travail than we have had to undergo in our own history. I cannot understand why our Government cannot do the same thing in our country. If our Government is not able to do that then there must be something intrinsically wrong in our methods. We do not seem to have any plan or any programme to mobilise all the resources at our disposal and to mobilise the endeavours of the millions and millions of labourers in this country. Unless we do that, how can we solve this food problem?

Shri Munavalli: I take this opportunity to discuss the various problems that lie before us connected with agriculture. The grow-more-food campaign which was started in 1943 is still going on and the success or otherwise of this campaign can be seen from the results that have been achieved. The amount that has been spent on this campaign during this period, as stated by Mr. Tripathi is about Rs. 59 crores and the achievement during this period was about 34 lakh tons of food grains. When we probe into the various measures that have been adopted by the various States we find that really speaking, these measures have not enthused the cultivator as they ought to have. If that be the case, where is the error and what is it? In many of the States, the Government has undertaken short-term measures of irrigation. They have been sinking wells and they have been repairing tanks so that some more areas of fields may be irrigated. For this purpose the State Governments are helping the agriculturists with money. But you will be surprised to know that in many cases the money that has been given to the agriculturists for purposes of sinking wells or repairing tanks was not used for such purpose but had been wasted. Why? Because the Government is not watchful. They do not see whether the amount advanced to the agriculturists has been properly spent for the purpose. In spite of this financial help to the agriculturists, though on paper we get figures that so many acres of land have come under irrigation, really speaking, they have not come under irrigation. There are so many instances that whenever an agriculturist takes money to sink new wells, instead of sinking new wells he simply repairs the old ones that are already existing there. In certain cases the money advanced was so little that the

[Shri Munavalli]

peasant is not in a position to sink new wells. So the money which the Government advances to the agriculturist is sometimes wasted by him, because there is no proper supervision over that or the money advanced is so inadequate that he is not in a position to achieve the purpose for which the money was advanced by Government. That is the reason why we have not been able to achieve more production as we desire.

The resolution moved by my friend Dr. M. M. Das wants to appoint a committee of the Members of this Parliament to go through the various measures adopted by the States and also to see how the money has been spent. It is really in the fitness of things that we should go into this matter in detail and find out whether the measures have been effective in achieving more production of food. If the measures adopted are really the proper ones and if they have really enthused the people, why should there not be more production? There are not only natural calamities but artificial calamities also. The peasant is suffering from both the calamities natural as well as artificial. There are people to look after the various sections of the people in one way or another but as regards the peasants or cultivators there is nobody to guard their interests. The very fact that the price of procurement is so low that there is no incentive whatsoever in the minds of the agriculturist to be enthused about the grow-more-food campaign is quite sufficient to show that the Government and the public have not been caring for the peasants as much as they should.

We are crying every day that we are deficit in foodgrains; we are crying daily that without importing food from outside it is hardly possible to prevent starvation in the country. Still we do not want to encourage the agriculturist by giving him proper incentives, so that he may grow-more-food. Some encouragement in the form of prizes etc. is not sufficient to enthuse the agriculturist. What he wants is proper prices for food grains in the circumstances.

If we take into consideration the various industries we are giving the industrialists proper prices for their products. We take into consideration the prices of raw materials, the cost of labour and other factors in fixing the price of the commodity, so that the industrialist who produces the goods does not suffer or is not put to any loss and has a good margin of profit. But in the case of the agriculturist we

do not take into consideration the various circumstances but simply fix some price without considering whether it is adequate or not.

Sometime ago I had an occasion to discuss this matter with the hon. Minister of Agriculture of Bombay. In our discussion we came to the understanding that the procurement price was low and he also had to admit that the question of the price of labour was not taken into consideration because there was no standard of efficiency in that regard. It was disclosed to me in our discussion that in the sugarcane area the cultivator was enthused and particularly in one instance he said that on one acre of land a cultivator had grown nearly 100 tons of sugarcane and thus had broken the record. If such an enthusiasm could be brought about among sugarcane growers, why should the same enthusiasm be not brought about in the case of the growers of food crops? If proper prices are given to foodgrains we will not have the trouble of shortage of food, because the agriculturist being enthused will grow more and more food and thus help self-sufficiency programme. And the public will be saved of the trouble of seeking food in the Black Market.

Thus what I want to impress upon the Government is that the measures adopted by the various States have not sufficiently enthused the cultivators and this matter should be gone into by appointing a small committee of the Members of this House. If it is found that the measures adopted by the States are not adequate to give an incentive to the agriculturist, the proper remedies as suggested by the committee may be adopted by the Government, so that the deficit which we are suffering from may be made good.

Shri Kamath: On a point of procedure and conduct of business of this House, I request you for a little clarification. When I moved a motion a little while ago, you were pleased at one stage to suggest that you would put it to the vote of the House or get the sense of the House. And when there was a good number of Members present here who said "Aye" and approved of the motion and the hon. Minister—not the Deputy Minister—had also no objection, you were pleased to rule it out of order. When once a motion has been placed before the House for vote, is it in the interest of rules of procedure or the conduct of the business of the House.....

An Hon. Member: Is it a point of order?

Shri Kamath: I said point of procedure.

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member want to re-open a question on which a ruling has already been given?

Shri Kamath: It was revised by you once, and it can be revised again.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma (Uttar Pradesh): The matter has been closed. It was placed for the opinion of the House. The final decision was by the Chairman and the Chairman has given a ruling and therefore the question cannot be re-opened.

Mr. Chairman: The matter cannot be allowed to be re-opened again. To cut short the discussion I would like to say that I only stated that I would like to put the question to the opinion of the House. But then I felt the sense of the House was against closing the debate and therefore I used my discretion in allowing discussion to continue.

Sanku Mohiuddin: My amendment reads as follows:

"That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament preferably from each State and having some knowledge and experience of cultivation be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments and to establish co-ordination among the Central Government, the State Governments and the producers for increasing food production."

में देहात का रहने वाला हूँ, खेतीबाड़ी का अनुभव है और मैं अच्छी तरह से जानता हूँ कि अनाज की कमी के क्या क्या कारण हैं ? और इसी वजह से मैं यह एमेंडमेंट (amendment) लाया क्योंकि मुझे यह मालूम देता है कि सेन्ट्रल और प्राविंशियल गवर्नमेंट्स (Central and Provincial Governments) के बीच में मतभेद हैं और ऐसे मतभेद हैं जिनकी वजह से प्राविंशियल गवर्नमेंट्स काफी तीर से इस फूड के मसले पर ध्यान नहीं देती हैं और प्रोड्यूसर (Producer) और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट (State

Government) के बीच में ठीक से कोआर्डिनेशन (Co-ordination) न होने के कारण, मशीनरी (machinery) की होच, पीच (hotch-potch) के कारण और उन के अजीब अजीब प्रोग्राम की वजह से गवर्नमेंट जितनी कोशिश कर रही है, वह नाकारा हो रही है और बरबाद हो रही है। मैडम मैं किसान हूँ, मैंने एग्रीकल्चरल प्रोग्राम (Agricultural Programme) में कुछ दिनों तक भाग लिया है और एडवाइजरी कमेटी (Advisory Committee) की मम्बरी की हैसियत से भी मुझे कुछ तजुर्बा हो चुका है कि गवर्नमेंट चाहे जितनी भी कोशिश करे सब व्यर्थ है जब तक कि प्रोड्यूसर के अन्दर उस काम को करने के लिये उत्साह नहीं पैदा होता, जब तक किसान के दिल में उस के लिये जोश नहीं होता, तब तक गवर्नमेंट की फूड पालिसी (Food Policy) कामयाब नहीं हो सकती। अब हमारे सामने जो गवर्नमेंट के आफिशियल्स (officials) हैं और हाई डिग्री (high degree) पाने वाले लोग हैं और इस काम के करने में एक्सपर्ट (expert) समझे जाते हैं, लेकिन वे भी एक किसान के मुक़ाबिले में खेतीबाड़ी का काम नहीं जानते और इस सिलसिले में मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि हाल ही में सरकार की तरफ से एक पम्फ्लेट (Pamphlet) निकला है जिसमें यह लिखा गया है कि फार्गून महीने में पटुवा बोओ और जेठ महीने में उसको काटो, तो उन हमारे डिग्री वाले अफसरान और एक्सपर्ट्स को यह मालूम नहीं कि जेठ महीने में पटुवा काटने से पानी कहां मिलेगा जो उसको सराया जाये। दूसरे यह कि जेठ महीने की गरमी में दो एक रोज़ में पटुवा सड़ जाता है

[Saikh Mohiuddin]

आज कल्टीवेटर्स (cultivators) और गवर्नमेंट के बीच कोओपरेशन (Cooperation) नहीं है और उन्हें गवर्नमेंट के प्रोग्राम पर विश्वास नहीं हो पाता।

और यह बहुत जरूरी है कि स्टेट्स गवर्नमेंट्स और कल्टीवेटर्स और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट में पूरा कोओपरेशन हो और सेंटर को हर वक्त मालूम होता रहे कि किस तरह उनके प्रोग्राम पर अमल हो रहा है और हमने इस लिये उसमें कल्टीवेशन का अनुभव रखने वाले मेम्बरों को लेने की तजवीज की है ताकि ऐसे लोग इस कमिटी में आयें जिन्हें देहात की जिन्दगी का आइडिया (idea) हो और कौन कौन फसल किन किन इलाकों में किस किस समय होती है इसका आइडिया उनको होगा। इसलिये मैंने यह तजवीज हाउस के सामने पेश की है कि इसमें ऐसे मेम्बर्स लिये जायें जिन्हें खेती बाड़ी के सम्बन्ध में पता हो और उसके साथ साथ मेरी तजवीज है कि हर स्टेट के लिये जायें क्योंकि यह भारतवर्ष एक क्वांटिनेन्ट (Continent) है और उसमें तरह तरह की ज़मीनें हैं और जहां तरह तरह की फसलें पैदा होती हैं और उन में तरह तरह के मौसम भी रहते हैं। इसलिये अगर हर जगह और स्टेट के मेम्बर इस कमिटी में लिये जायेंगे तो हमें यह आइडिया हो सकेगा कि अमुक स्थान में खेती बाड़ी किम तरह होनी है और वहां पर काहे की फसल होती है ? और इसलिये मेरी तजवीज थी कि हर स्टेट से मेम्बर्स लिये जायें और दूसरे यह ध्यान रखना जाय कि उनको कल्टीवेशन का अनुभव हो और खेती बाड़ी के सम्बन्ध में जानकारी हो।

उसके बाद मुझे यह कहना है कि

यह बड़े अफ़सोस की बात है कि बचपन से हम लोग ऐसा पढ़ते और सुनते आये हैं कि भारत सोने का देश है और उस स्वर्ण देश में आज इतनी गरीबी और अनाज की कमी आ गई है, उस को देखकर हमें बहुत दुख और अफ़सोस मालूम होता है। और खासकर मुझे बहुत दुख होता है क्योंकि एक तो मैं खुद खेतियार हूँ और हमारे देश में इतनी खेतीबाड़ी के होते हुए हमें दूसरे देशों का दरवाजा अनाज के लिये खटखटाना पड़ रहा है। और हमका अनाज प्राप्त करने के लिये दूसरे देशों के जागे अपना सिर झुकाना पड़ता है। हम कहते हैं कि हमारी पालिसी दुनिया में सब से अच्छी है और हिन्दुस्तान एक महान देश है और सम्पूर्ण एशिया का भारत लीडर बनेगा और संसार में भारत की आवाज का बड़ा महत्व है, यह सब ठीक है, लेकिन जब हम यह सोचते हैं कि हम भिखमंगों की तरह कभी चीन के पास, कभी अमरीका के पास, कभी ब्रिटेन के पास और रूस तक पहुंच जाते हैं, तो हमें बड़ा खेद और दिल में अफ़सोस होता है और हमारा सिर नीचे हो जाता है। तो यह काम हम कैसे पूरा कर सकते हैं और अनाज की कमी को कैसे पूरा कर सकते हैं ? इसके लिये हमें कल्टीवेटर्स का अपने कौन्फिडेंस (Confidence) में लेना होगा और उनकी जो तकलीफें और दुख हैं उनको सुनना होगा और निवारण करना होगा। और जैसा कि सेंट्रल इरीगेशन बोर्ड (Central Irrigation Board) की ट्वेंटियथ एनिवर्सरी (Twentieth Anniversary) में चीफ़ मिनिस्टर पंजाब ने कहा था कि हमारे भारत में हर चीज मौजूद है, सिर्फ़ हमारे आदमियों में काम करने की तत्परता और स्फूर्ति नहीं है। इसलिये

भाज ज़रूरत इस बात की है कि हम बह उत्साह पैदा करें और एक कोओरडिनेशन (Coordination) सेन्टर स्टेट्स और कल्टीवेटर्स के बीच में पैदा करें और एक ऐसी लिंक (link) बना लें ताकि कल्टीवेशन के काम में तरक्की हो और हमारा देश सेल्फ़ सफिशियेन्ट (self-sufficient) बन सके। इस तरह अगर हम कर सकें, तभी हमारे देश की अनाज की कमी पूरी हो सकती है, तभी हमारे देश में सहयोग आ सकता है और देश में शान्ति तभी हो सकती है जब लोगों को खाने के लिये गूला और बहिनने के लिये कपड़ा और रहने के लिये मकान मिल सकें। यह तीन चीजें आदमी के लिये बड़ी ज़रूरी हैं और इन में सब से ज़रूरी चीज़ गूला है ताकि लोग अपना पेट भर सकें और शान्ति बची कायम रह सकती है जब लोग बूले न रहें।

(English translation of the above speech)

Saikh Mohiuddin: My amendment reads as follows:

"That for the original resolution, the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee including Members of Parliament preferably from each State and having some knowledge and experience of cultivation be appointed to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments and to establish co-ordination among the Central Government, the State Governments and the producers for increasing food production."

I am resident of a village, I have experience of agriculture and know very well as to what are the various reasons of food scarcity. This is why I have brought forward this amendment, because I feel that there is difference of opinion between the Central and Provincial Governments, due to which the Provincial Governments do not pay sufficient attention towards the food problem. As a result of lack of proper co-ordination between

the producer and the Government, the hotchpotch management of the agricultural machinery and their peculiar programmes, all the efforts which the Government are making to increase food production are meeting with failure. I am a cultivator, I have taken part in the agricultural programme for some time, and I have gained this experience also being a Member of the Advisory Committee that whatever efforts the Government may make all that will prove useless and the food policy of the Government will not be successful unless enthusiasm is aroused amongst the producers and peasantry. The Government officials who have obtained high degrees in agriculture and who are supposed to be experts in this matter, even they cannot be compared with a cultivator for purposes of practical cultivation. In this connection I would like to tell you that a pamphlet has been published by the Government in which it has been suggested that jute should be sown in the month of *Fagun* (February-March) and harvested in the month of *Jeth* (June-July). These officials and experts though having degrees in agriculture do not know that if jute is harvested in the month of *Jeth*, from where the water would be available to wet it, secondly, Jute rots within one or two days in the month of *Jeth* due to excessive heat.

Today there is lack of co-operation between the cultivators and the Government and the cultivators do not have faith in the programmes of the Government. It is very essential that there should be co-operation between the States Governments, cultivators and the Central Government, and the Centre should always be kept informed how these programmes are being carried out. This is why we have made provision to include such Members in this Committee as have experience of cultivation, so that the persons who have the idea of village life and also have the idea about the particular crops of different areas may be available for advice. I therefore submitted this scheme before the House that such members should be included in this Committee who possess knowledge of cultivation. Along with it my scheme is that members of all States should be selected, as India is a sub-continent having variety of land producing different kinds of crops and in various seasons. If, therefore, the Members of all the States are included in that committee then we can have an idea of the cultivation conditions and crops of particular areas. This is why I have suggested that only such members of all the States should be taken on committee who have experience of cultivation and are acquainted with agricultural matters.

[Saikh Mohiuddin]

Now I want to say that it is a matter of regret that though we have been hearing from our childhood that India is an extremely prosperous country but today what we find is that there is too much poverty and scarcity of grains in the country and we are very much pained when we see her present condition. I am specially very much pained as I am myself a cultivator and in spite of the fact that India is predominantly an agriculturist country it has to depend on others to meet its food requirements and we have to submit to others. We acclaim that ours is the best policy in the world, and India is a great country and it will be leader of the whole of Asia, and her views are respected in the world over. That is right, but when like beggars we ask for foodgrains from China, America, Britain and even Russia, we are extremely pained and our prestige is lowered. How can we meet this scarcity of foodgrains? For that purpose we will have to take the cultivators into our confidence, will have to give due consideration to their sufferings and grievances and will have to alleviate them. As the Chief Minister of Punjab stated on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Central Irrigation Board that we have everything in our own country but we lack enthusiasm and capacity to work. Therefore the need of the hour is to create a new enthusiasm and we should have co-ordination between the Centre, States and the cultivators and we should have such a link so that progress can be made in cultivation and our country may become self sufficient. If we work accordingly, only then the deficiency of foodgrains can be made up and there can be co-operation in the country. We can have peace only when people have ample food to feed themselves, cloth to clothe themselves and houses to live in. All the three are very essential for man and the most important of them all is foodgrains, so that people may feed themselves, and we can have peace only when people are not hungry.

Mr. Chairman: Shrimati Uma Nehru.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I want to make a submission. I want to know whether you are calling out speakers from a list or according as the speaker may catch your eye. I have been trying to catch your eye. As a matter of fact, I caught your eye several times, but I have not been allowed to speak. This is not my experience only of today but this has been the experience for the last two days. Even if Members had not stood up you were pleased to call them, but you do not call me although I have been standing up several times.

If I know you are calling out from a list, I shall not indulge in these acrobatics of rising frequently at this time of my life.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. Member was not allowed to speak so far, it means that he had not caught my eye.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: That is not a fact. I have caught the Chair's eye.

श्रीमती उमा नेहरू : अब आजादी के बाद हम देखते हैं कि वास्तव में आजाद तो हम हुए, लेकिन जो हमारी हालत शांशाही हुकूमत में थी, आज वह हमारी हालत उससे भी बदतर है। हम को इस का दुःख तो है लेकिन अगर हम आज समझते हैं कि हम उस को सुधार सकते हैं तो बुरा नहीं है। लेकिन जिस वक्त हम इसकी जांच करने लगते हैं तो हमारे सामने कई चीजें आती हैं। अभी हाल ही में जिस वक्त में अपने ५० पी० के देहातों में गई तो वहां जो हमारी देहाती बहनें हैं वह मेरे पास आईं। उन्होंने कहा कि शहर की बात नहीं है, तुम आकर देखो हमारे पास, हमारे मटकों में अन्न नहीं है। वहां भी अन्न नहीं था। उनके बच्चों को मैंने देखा वह सरसों के साग को उबाल कर खाते थे। वह शकरकन्द खाते थे। उन के पास अनाज नहीं था। यह देख कर दुःख तो हुआ लेकिन साथ ही यह ब्याल भी हुआ कि आखिर हमारी सरकार है, कांग्रेस की सरकार है, हमने क्या क्या वायदे किये थे, हमने क्या क्या कहा था? हम ने यह कहा था कि जिस वक्त हम आजाद होंगे, जब राम राज्य होगा, तब हमारे यहां खाना पीना और कपड़ा हम को मिलेगा। लेकिन आज हमारे सामने दिक्कतें हैं, मैं उन दिक्कतों को भी जानती हूँ। इस के साथ जिस वक्त हम इस को सोचते हैं कि क्या क्या दिक्कतें हैं; आज हमारे फूड मिनिस्टर साहब (hon. Minister of Food) को क्यों इतनी परेशानी हो रही है वह इस काम की तरफ जितनी कोशिश करते हैं लेकिन फिर भी यह काम

जल्दी होता नहीं। आखिर यह गाड़ी क्यों अटक अटक जाती है। तब हम देखते हैं कि प्रोक्वायरमेंट (procurement) जिस को कहते हैं यानी अन्न को हासिल करना वह क्यों नहीं होता है। अगर मैं देहरादून चली जाती हूँ देहात में तो मुझे देहरादून के देहाती भाई देहरादूनी चावल खिलते हैं। लेकिन अगर मैं चाहूँ कि मैं इलाहबाद में देहरादून के चावल खाऊँ तो मुझे नहीं मिल सकते हैं। ब्लैक मार्केट (black market) में तो अवश्य मिल सकते हैं, परन्तु और कहीं नहीं। जब मैं ने अपने देहाती भाईयों से इस के बारे में कहा तो उनका जवाब यह था कि अगर आप का चावल खाने को जी चाहता है तो हम यहां दे सकते हैं, बाकी यहां से बाहर हम नहीं भेज सकते हैं। मैं ने सोचा इस का कारण क्या हो सकता है। तो सब से पहला कारण यह है कि हमारे यहां पर किसान जो होते हैं, जो कास्तकार होते हैं, वह सबसे पहले यह कोशिश करते हैं कि साल भर के लिए अन्न जो वह पैदा करते हैं, वह साल भर के लिए अपने और अपने कुटुम्ब के वास्ते अन्न रखते हैं, उसके बाद जो सरप्लस (surplus) अर्थात् ज्यादा अनाज होता है वह जरूर प्रोक्वायरमेंट में जाता है, लेकिन यह भी गवर्नमेंट के लोग नहीं पाते हैं क्योंकि जो भी सरप्लस अन्न किसानों के पास होता है वह महाजन ले जाता है। देहात से ही वह महाजन ले जाता है। और वह महाजन ले जा कर अपने पास उस अन्न का ब्लैक मार्केट करता है। मेरा गवर्नमेंट को यह सजेरेशन (suggestion) है कि सबसे पहली चीज जो आप को करनी है वह यह है कि अगर आपको प्रोक्वायरमेंट करना है तो उन महाजनों के यहां से प्रोक्वायरमेंट कीजिए जिनके यहां अनाज भरा है। यह जितने अमीर महाजन हैं, जितने कैपिटलिस्ट (Capitalists) हैं, जो हमारे यहां के पूंजीपति हैं जो देहातों से अन्न ले

आते हैं उन से प्रोक्वायरमेंट कीजिये। फिर मुझे यह कहना है कि यह सब देखने के बाद भी मुझे ऐसा मालूम होता है, मैं यह नहीं कहती कि ऐसा ही है, लेकिन ऐसा मालूम होता है, कि जो मशीनरी (Machinery) है गवर्नमेंट की जिस मशीनरी से वह काम ले रही है, देहात में जो मशीनरी गवर्नमेंट की है, मैं समझती हूँ कि वह ठीक नहीं है, वह बसूली ठीक नहीं करते। वह खाली गांव में अपना पेट अवश्य भर लेते हैं, लेकिन वह नहीं देखना चाहते हैं कि उन के नाक के आगे क्या हो रहा है। तो मैं समझती हूँ कि इस मशीनरी को भी थोड़ा दुरुस्त करना है।

यह सब देखने के बाद मुझे यह अयाल आता है, कि आखिर वह दशा क्यों हुई। मैं ने यह देखा कि अन्न सब पूंजीपतियों और महाजनों के पास है। मैं ने देखा कि पूंजीपति और महाजनों पर वह प्रोक्वायरमेंट का कानून उतने जोर से लागू नहीं होता है जितने जोर से बेचारे किसानों पर। फिर बाद में मैं ने शहर के गोदामों में जाकर देखा और मुझे बड़ा दुःख हुआ। जब मैं ने गवर्नमेंट के गोदामों को देखा जहां अन्न रखा जाता है वहां पर हजारों मन सड़ा अनाज था। मैं ने कीड़ा भरा अनाज देखा। मैं ने उसे सड़कों पर फटकते हुए देखा और वही अनाज हमें कंट्रोल (Control) से मिलता है। उस वक़्त मेरे दिमाग में यह आया कि मैं सरकार से कहूंगी कि इनकी सलत चीजें देखने के बाद जितनी जल्दी आप कंट्रोल को उठा दें उतना अच्छा होगा।

दूसरे मैंने अनाज को गोदामों में सड़ते हुए देखा क्योंकि जो लोग इस के चार्ज (Charge) में हैं उन की हालत यह है कि जब वह गोदामों में अनाज रखते हैं तो बेफिक्री के साथ बोरे पर बोरे लादते चले

[श्रीमती उमा नेहरू]

जाते हैं और नीचे का अनाज सड़ता जाता है। इस के साथ ही साथ मैंने देखा कि अनाज को एक जगह से दूसरी जगह ले जाने के लिये बैलगाड़ियों को इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। वह धीरे धीरे जाती है और उस में काफी टाइम (time) वेस्ट (waste) होता है।

इस के बाद तो मेरी समझ में यही आता है कि इस सब को ठीक करने की जरूरत है। मैं गवर्नमेन्ट से प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि वह हमको सही फिगर्स (figures) बताये कि हमारा कितना अनाज असल में वेस्ट (waste) होता है। आज हम को वेस्टज (wastage) का ठीक ठीक पता भी नहीं है।

फिर मुझे गवर्नमेन्ट से यह कहना है कि चारों तरफ 'ग्रो मोर फूड' (Grow more food) की चर्चा है। आज मेरे एक आनरेबल (honourable) भाई ने इस की बहुत तारीफ की। अन्नपूर्णा, के बारे में भी कहा। मैं भी एक स्त्री हूँ और एक स्त्री की हैसियत से जो कि रात दिन घर में रहती हूँ और जिस का काम है अपनी गृहस्थी में अन्न रखना और उसे ठीक तरह से बरतना, उस हैसियत से मैं यह पूछती हूँ कि आज भले ही ग्रो मोर फूड की चर्चा है लेकिन ग्रो मोर फूड में कितनी सफलता हुई है? इस सिलसिले में मैं इतना कहना चाहती हूँ कि मुझे काश्तकारों में काम करने से बालूम हुआ है कि काश्तकारों को तीन चीजों की जरूरत होती है। अगर आप इस का विचार करेंगे तो मैं समझती हूँ कि ग्रो मोर फूड में आप की कामयाबी होगी। मेरी तरफ से यह सजेशन है कि पहले तो काश्तकार के पास काफी जमीन होनी चाहिये जिस से कि वह अपने परिवार के लिये काश्त कर सके और साल भर के लिये अन्न रखने

के बाद फिर जो बचे वह गवर्नमेन्ट को दे सके। दूसरे यह कि वहाँ पर अगर आप उन के जानवरों को देखें तो वह बिल्कुल मरे हुए हैं, सूखे साखे जानवर हैं। उन के बास्ते भी चरागाहें आप को बनानी हैं ताकि वह जानवर जिन्दा रह सकें। तीसरी बात उन के खेतों को सींचने के लिए पानी का इन्तजाम काफी होना चाहिए। अगर गवर्नमेन्ट यह करेगी और उसकी मर्शनिरी भी इस का विचार करेगी तो ग्रो मोर फूड कैम्पेन जो है उस में अवश्य कामयाबी होगी। लेकिन हाँ, एक भूखे घोड़े पर, एक अधमरे घोड़े पर आप सवार हो कर चाबुक पर चाबुक ही मारते जायें और कहें कि ग्रो मोर फूड, ग्रो मोर फूड, तो इस तरह से यह घोड़ा नहीं चल सकता है। घोड़ा तभी चलेगा जब उसके पेट में अन्न होगा इतनी बात कह कर मैं समझती हूँ कि जो कुछ मैंने कहा है उस का विचार किया जायगा।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shrimati Uma Nehru (Uttar Pradesh): Although, we feel today that India has achieved independence, yet there is no concealing the fact that the conditions now are worse than what they were during the British rule. No doubt it is a matter of regret, still if we can hope to improve the things, it is not so bad. When we begin examining this fact, many things have to be taken into consideration. Recently during my tour of U.P. villages many women from adjoining rural areas met me and said that it was not in the cities alone that there was scarcity of food, in villages also they had no food-grains and their earthen pots were empty. I found their children living on sweet potatoes and boiled stalks of mustard. They had no grains. I was much grieved to see all this, but, all the same, I was reminded of the pledges that were made by us and our Government—the Congress Government. We had declared that India's independence would mark the advent of Ram Rajya and then we would be getting food and clothes to our entire satisfaction. Now I am also aware of the difficulties with which our country is faced today. Why is the hon. Minister of Food so puzzled? In spite of his hard endeavours to solve this

problem, he is not getting success. What clogs the wheel after all? Why does the procurement of food not yield any results? If I go to Dehra Dun, the cultivators of that place entertain me with Dehra Dun rice; but if I desire to eat that rice at Allahabad, it will not be possible. It is not available there except in the black market. I enquired of my fellow villagers about this and they replied that they could give me rice to eat there but as far as the question of sending it out was concerned they were helpless. I thought as to what could be the reasons for this. The first reason is that the cultivators who grow food want to keep such stock of it with themselves as may suffice for them and their families for the whole year. Whatever remains after keeping that quantity is, of course, procured; but even that does not reach the Government because the surplus foodgrain stocked with the peasants is snatched from them by the *mahajans*. The *mahajans* (money-lenders) take the grain from the villages and sell it in the black market. My suggestion to the Government is that if they really want to procure food, they should first procure it from these *mahajans* and the capitalists who bring huge stocks from the villages and hoard them. Next, I have to say that taking all these things into consideration it so appears to me, I do not say that it is so, that the machinery which the Government has set up for this purpose in various villages is not working satisfactorily. These people do not procure the grains properly. They certainly feed themselves at the expense of those villages but do not mind what is taking place under their very noses. I am, therefore, of the view that such a machinery requires a little overhauling.

Having seen so much I tried to find as to why the conditions deteriorated. I see that the capitalists and *mahajans* have got the foodgrains and that the law of procurement is not so strictly enforced on these people as on poor peasants. I was much grieved to see the conditions of food godowns in the cities. In the Government godowns, where the foodgrains are stocked, I found that thousands of maunds of grain was rotting. I saw there worm-eaten grain. I also saw it being sifted on the streets. The same foodgrain is given to us in ration. At that time I thought that I should request the Government that in view of these defects in the system of controls they should better lift the controls as early as possible.

I saw the foodgrain rotting in the godowns, because they go on putting one bag over another caring in the

least that the grain in the lower bags usually becomes rotten. Besides, the grain is transported from one place to another by means of bullock-driven carts whereby much time is wasted.

I think all these things should be set right. I would like the Government to intimate to us the exact figures of the total wastage of foodgrains as we are not aware of this.

The 'Grow More Food' campaign has been a much-talked subject all round. An hon. Member spoke very highly of this scheme today. He also referred to Annapurna. I am also a woman who remains in the house day and night and looks after all domestic problems. I have to keep grain in my household and use it in a proper manner. Being a woman I want to know whether this 'Grow More Food' campaign has yielded any good result in spite of its vast propaganda. By working among the peasants I have come to realise that they require three things. Should the Government take these three things into consideration, success will be theirs. My suggestion is that in the first place a cultivator should have sufficient piece of land where he may grow as much food as may be sufficient to be given to the Government after keeping aside such quantity as may meet his family's requirements for one year. Secondly, the animals of the peasants are very thin and lean. Pasture grounds have to be provided for such animals so that they may easily feed themselves. The third thing is that arrangements should be made for providing them with enough water to meet their irrigation needs. If the Government and the machinery set up by them for this work take these things into their active consideration, there is no reason why success in respect of 'Grow More Food' campaign may not be achieved. If one rides on a weak horse and goes on whipping it, it will never move. The horse will be able to run only when it will be properly fed. What I mean by citing this example is that unless we make some substantial efforts to this effect, mere crying for 'Grow More Food' campaign will not bear fruit. Having said so much I would like to see that whatever I have said will be taken into consideration.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: With my fullest appreciation of the parliamentary activities of the Mover of this resolution, I am constrained to say that this resolution, even if passed, will have no practical effect. Government is not suffering from want of advice from non-official sources, but it is suffering from a confirmed disinclination on the part of their officers to

[Shri R. K. Chaudhuri]

listen to non-official advice. Government is also suffering from a very serious type of hesitancy in accepting any new proposal. With due respect to the House, I should have much preferred that we quickly disposed of this resolution and came to the next one which aims at finding out a way whereby thousands of sufferers—sufferers from the effects of partition, sufferers whose families became destitute as a result of their giving their life blood for independence—would have been helped and their crying need met.

4 P.M.

Dr. M. M. Das: The hon. Member is making a speech on the other resolution.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I want to bring to the pointed attention of this House as well as the Government that the grievances of those very persons who had given their very life for the attainment of freedom are gradually and slowly, but surely accumulating and on the day of judgment Nemesis will catch us and the effect of this indifference to the sufferings of these people will prove disastrous not only against the present Government with which we may not be concerned six months later, but against the great party which has brought into being the present Government.

I would like to take this opportunity of saying a few words about the conditions in Assam. I had given a hint by supplementary question to a point which is seriously agitating the mind of the people in Assam. It is this. In order to please the capitalists and mill-owners, Government wanted more jute to be produced in Assam, as otherwise the mills would have to close down. For this purpose Government had issued, if my information is correct, a sort of a directive that more jute should be produced, even at the cost of restriction of acreage of foodgrains. The Government had given a further assurance that if the province suffered in any way for want of requisite quantity of foodgrains, Government would supplement it by imported foodgrains.

What has been the experience of my province in this matter? Not only were they not supplied with any larger quantities of imported foodgrains, but the people who grew jute did not get the proper price, on account of certain controls which were imposed for the sake of the capitalists and jute mill-owners of Calcutta. The result was the people of Assam lost in both ways.

I consider this a case of breach of faith on the part of the Government. I would rather go a step further and say that this is a case of complete betrayal of the interests of the people of one province.

I have also to bring to the pointed notice of the Government the havoc which the so-called procurement policy of foodgrains is creating in my province. I welcome the suggestion which has been made by my esteemed friend Prof. Ranga that the Government should make up its mind at the time when the food crop is gathered what percentage of crop they are going to take from the growers. If once that percentage is established and the rest is allowed to be consumed or sold by the growers as they like, they would have brought some kind of relief. But, on the other hand what is done today is that Government take whatever quantity they like at any season of the year. They commit nothing but sacrilege in the granaries. Granaries in our part of the country are considered a place as sacred as a temple and they are worshipped like gods in a temple. They are regularly washed with cowdung. But what do the agents of the Government do? They go to the granaries in boots with mud and soil sticking to them and seize whatever they could lay their hands on.

The result is that in the villages you cannot get foodgrains even if one is prepared to pay for it. What happens? The communists come to those owners of granaries, take away grain from them and distribute them among the people who have no food or insufficient food. On the other hand what are the Government agents doing? They take away the food-grains and distribute them, not in the villages where there is acute shortage of food, but give it to the mill-owners. This is the position in the country. On the one hand the communists are taking away whatever food there may be in the granary because police measures are not strong enough to protect the people; on the other hand Government take away promiscuously whatever grain is left. Is this the way to encourage the grow-more-food campaign? May I ask the hon. Minister whether this compulsory procurement will give an impetus to the peasant to grow more food? He would rather grow as much as is necessary for him and sit idle for the rest of the year. Would it not be the natural impulse of that man? (An Hon. Member: Quite right.) I want to make a specific suggestion in this matter.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has two minutes more.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I want equality of treatment.

Mr. Chairman: Just equality.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: I want to make a specific suggestion to the hon. Minister to remove the control on rice and paddy in my province. It may be said that if it is removed in one province the other provinces may suffer. But I submit that such a removal will not affect any other province. It has been clearly stated by the Government that nothing will be taken out of Assam in order to supply to other provinces. That being the case why not try an experiment in my province and find out whether after removal of control the prices or availability of food-grains is affected. If controls are removed, I can assure this much that production will increase; people will have the impetus to produce more and prices will be regulated according to the condition of the market. I therefore, suggest that if the hon. Minister is not prepared to make that experiment with regard to other provinces, he may at least begin with my province and I have no doubt that they will be convinced that the system of control does not help people at all. On the other hand it goes against the character of the people. By that policy, you may probably be giving people an additional morsel of food, but at the same time you are creating a class of people who are dishonest, who are corrupt, and who are absolutely useless so far as moral standards are concerned. I would much rather have a little less of my food than have a set of people who are dubbed as corrupt, who are dubbed as dishonest and who are dubbed as selfish. That is a point which has got to be considered. How do you expect to build your future generations by just sparing a little more morsel of food but spoiling the character of the whole people? You are making them immoral, you are making them lose their trade intelligence. Now a trader has not got to exercise his intelligence. He has merely to exercise his power of flattery. If he can flatter the officials more he can get permits, and permits get him the money. Is it the way of creating a nation or improving a nation?

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity, even at the fog end of the day. Long tales of woe and misery have been related in this House, but I wish to put one question. Is the question of famine before the country for the first time? Has this unfortunate land of ours never heard of famine,

starvation and death before? If it has had, it must have also had something to depend upon, some remedy there must have been. There was the alternative that whenever famine took place, people took to what are called subsidiary foods. The village man, the village woman and the village child used to go to the field, irrigate, and short-term crops such as *gajar*, *mooli* and other things used to come for feeding the people. The question of famine is not for the first time before the country. What is lacking is this that during the war as great a number as seventy lakhs of people were engaged in the military and in the war industries. Those people have returned to the villages, but they refuse to work in the field. That is one question. Another difficulty that has arisen is that our people have got a wrong sense or notion of prestige about working in the field. They do not want to work in the field. That is the position you find in the village. In the city. You cry, and one of our hon. sisters was crying the other day that there are fifty thousand people in the streets of Hyderabad. May I put the question as to what these people in the streets of Hyderabad are doing? Have they no hands to work in the field? Have they no bones, no flesh, to walk down and find out work and do something? Who is responsible to feed a useless people? After all there is such a thing.....

Shri M. L. Gupta: (Hyderabad): Will the hon. Member provide work or land to them? Will he do that?

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: If my friend will take those fifty thousand people to U.P. I will find work for them. They are human beings, you have got communications. Why do you not send them? Am I expected to go and pick them up from the streets of Hyderabad? If a man does not move for his food, for his subsistence, for his life, he is not worth the life he seeks to preserve.

Shri M. L. Gupta: Do you give a guarantee of work?

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: They will be lying in the bed like children, and I must work for them? It is an impossible proposition. May it be known to everybody that India is a great country. It has a great future. It has got to feed the people, but only those people who are willing to work and not idle ones. There is no place for them.

An Hon. Member: Have you worked in the field?

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: I work in the field when time permits. I make other people work in the field. So the question is this. The first thing is to create a stimulus for the people to work. We have often talked of taking up this food problem and setting it on a war basis. What does this 'war basis' mean? When the war was going on, every district magistrate, sub-divisional officer, *tehsildar*, and every *kanungo*, *patwari*, and schoolmaster was dealing with the war problem. They were asking the people to go to the war to safeguard the frontiers of the country, to save civilization, to fight for the future generations to come, for humanity, for our own hearth and home. But what are they doing now? My point is that just as there is a bible for the soul let us have a 'bible' for the food and health of our people. Let every schoolmaster go to the village *chaupal*, let every *patwari* go to the village *chaupal*, let every sub-divisional officer go and call the *zamindars* and the cultivator to work for the people. Then there would be food for tomorrow. But my hon. friend runs away to Bombay and talks of culture and talks of art and literature! Where is the room for them for a famished people, I want to know.

An Hon. Member: He is a barrister.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: He may be a barrister, but food problems are not solved by logic and arguments. They are solved by taking up the job and working at it, making people work.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Ordinary commonsense will show that even when a farmer goes to work he just pats his bullocks and then the bullocks pull. But the hon. Minister does not go to the peasant. He goes to the millionaires and talks of sweetness and light. Where is sweetness and light for a famine-stricken man who is starving to death? They are giving the people 1,000 calories and at 800 calories death begins. Our people are on their way to death, and you talk of culture, literature and light and sweetness. I say there might be corruption, bribery and black-market as is reported to so often. But this is the worst thing—the Minister talking of light and sweetness and not going to the villagers and asking them to work. It is an impossible proposition. These are bitter words, they are strong words. But this is a painful story. When a crisis comes only a strong man, a man of character and determination can stand the tide. Rivers flow, the floods wash away villages and crops. But there arises a man at whose finger even a river stops.

The Minister talks of the distress and the shortage. If he takes courage into both hands, if he goes to the village; calls the men to the field, calls them to work on the field and raises subsidiary food, if he asks the people not to take grain alone but along with the grain something else also, people will respond. But they will respond only when one will not talk of light and culture, of art and sweetness, but when one talks of food and health. People are dying of starvation. What is one thousand calories of food that they are giving? Are they not starving the people? Are they not half-dying already? But why should you go and talk of light and sweetness. Sweetness and food do not go together.

Shri Raj Bahadur (Rajasthan): Does my hon. friend mean to say that bitterness and food go together?

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: I do not understand your objection. The question is one of subsidiary food, of short-term food.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whom the hon. Member is addressing as "you, you"?

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: I am addressing the House through the Chair.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it parliamentary to address the Minister as "you"?

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: I have been enough in this House to know the parliamentary procedure much better than my hon. friend.

There are many long-term plans. They are all right. But what I respectfully submit is that there is such a thing as a short-term and expedient way of doing it. If we take the subsidiary food, if we take the short term crop and if we approach the people and make a strong effort to utilise the Government machinery, I think we are capable of doing the job and I am sure the job will be done.

Finally I want to say a word about corruption. I do not agree with this cry of corruption, this cry of inefficiency and this cry of negligence and unwillingness to do the job. I have got enough experience of procurement. We owe the success of this to those officers who have been running from village to village procuring the grain and it is due to their hard work that this system of rationing has been going on. It may not be going on as efficiently as we might have wished. All the same it has been going on

My only advice is that we should make a plan, put it into action and make strong and consistent efforts, strenuous efforts to tap all the possibilities in our country. There is no end to the human element, the human material to work on the fields. There are vast lands. There is availability of manure and there is enough of water. Ways and means should not be found wanting to harness all these possibilities and all these resources and get the job done. Once we take up courage and do our job, well, others will follow and cooperate.

श्री एस० ऐन० दास : हमारे दोस्त डाक्टर मन मोहन दासजी ने जो प्रस्ताव संसद् के सामने पेश किया है उस का आशय यह है कि अधिक अन्न उपजाओ का जो आन्दोलन शुरू हुआ और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पाँच छः साल के अरसे में जितनी रकम इस के लिए खर्च की है और विभिन्न राज्यों को खर्च करने के लिए दी है उस के अनुसार उस का जो फल हुआ है उस से न जनता सन्तुष्ट है और न संसद् के बहुत से सदस्य सन्तुष्ट हैं। इसलिये प्रस्तावक का उद्देश्य है कि एक कमेटी बनाई जाय जिस में संसद् के सदस्य हों और वह इन तमाम बातों की जांच कर के इस स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए सुझाव दें। मैंने भी एक संशोधन इस प्रस्ताव में दिया है। उन के प्रस्ताव में यह बात स्पष्ट नहीं है कि इस जांच का क्या उद्देश्य होगा। क्या जांच का यह उद्देश्य होगा कि केन्द्रीय सरकार की तरफ से जो रुपये विभिन्न राज्यों को दिये गये हैं उन का सदुपयोग हुआ है या नहीं और सदुपयोग नहीं हुआ है तो क्यों नहीं हुआ है क्या इस ख्याल से जांच करने का उन का मंशा है ? या मंशा यह है कि जिन उद्देश्यों को ले कर ये रुपये विभिन्न राज्यों को दिये गये हैं उन उद्देश्यों को पूरा करने के लिए कमेटी सोचें, विचारें और एक योजना देश के सामने या सरकार के सामने रखें। मेरा ख्याल है कि पिछले उद्देश्य को लेकर कमेटी बनायी जाय। इसलिये मैंने इस प्रस्ताव

में संशोधन पेश किया है कि इस में यह जोड़ दिया जाय :

"with a view to suggest effective ways and means to attain self-sufficiency in matters of food."

मेरे ख्याल से अगर इस प्रस्ताव की आवश्यकता है तो इस प्रस्ताव में इस संशोधन की भी आवश्यकता है।

मैं इस सभा के सामने यह बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि अधिक अन्न उपजाओ का जो आन्दोलन है यह किसी योजना के मुताबिक चलाया हुआ आन्दोलन नहीं है। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज का युग नारे का युग है। नारे लगाये जाते हैं और उस के पीछे काम बहुत थोड़ा होता है। यह बात सही है कि देश में अन्न की कमी है और अन्न की कमी को पूरा करने के लिए कुछ उपाय करना चाहिये। पहले जो हमारे देश में सरकार थी उसने खेती विभाग को इसलिये नहीं खोला था कि हिन्दुस्तान में किसी तरह से खेती का सुधार हो। उस ने इसीलिये नाममात्र के लिए एक खेती का विभाग खोल रखा था कि सरकार का एक खेती का महकमा होना चाहिये। उस विभाग का कृषकों से कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं था। आज की बदली हुई परिस्थिति में भी, आज की सरकार ने भी उस पुराने तरीके से ज़रा भी हटने की कोशिश नहीं की। आज भी वह उसी पुराने तरीके को लेकर—उसी पुरानी लकीर पर चलकर—उसी पुराने ढंग से इस विभाग का कार्य संचालन कर रही है। तभी तो आज यह कहना पड़ता है कि करोड़ों रुपये खर्च करने के बाद भी देश में अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन सफल नहीं हुआ है। इस आन्दोलन को सफल तभी समझा जाता जब कि खेती में जितने एकड़ जमीन देश में लड़ाई के पहले या दो साल पहले जब इस आन्दोलन ने ज़ोर पकड़ा

[श्री एस० ऐन० दास]

है उस के पहले खेती के काम में आती थी उस में कोई वृद्धि होती। या ऐसे कहा जा सकता है जितनी ज़मीन पहले जोती जाती थी और उस से जो उपज होती थी वह अब उस से बढ़ गई है। या यों कहा जा सकता है कि लड़ाई के पहले के ज़माने में जमीन की जो उपज-शक्ति थी उस से अब अधिक शक्ति पैदा हो गई है। इन तीनों दृष्टियों से देखा जाय और हमारा अधिक अन्न उपजाओ का जो आन्दोलन है उस को इस कसौटी पर कसा जाय तो यह आन्दोलन इन तीनों तरह से असफल हो जाता है। इस का परिणाम तो यही है कि आज इतने करोड़ों रुपये के खर्च होने पर भी हम को अनाज हर साल दूसरे देशों से मंगाना पड़ता है। आज देश में, इतना करने पर भी, करोड़ों आदमी ऐसे हैं कि जिनको बिना अन्न के रह जाना पड़ता है। इतना ही नहीं, ऐसी खबरें अखबारों में छप रही हैं जिन से पता चलता है कि आज देश के विभिन्न भागों में बहुत से लोग अन्न के बिना मर रहे हैं। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जिस देश में करोड़ों रुपये अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन में खर्च होके हों और वहां आज भी करोड़ों आदमी भूखे रहते हों, इससे बढ़ कर आश्चर्य की बात क्या होगी? मैं समझता हूं कि इस बात को समझाने के लिये किसी व्याख्यान की ज़रूरत नहीं है कि अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन पूर्ण रूप से सफल नहीं हुआ। मैं समझता हूं कि सभी इस बात को मानते हैं कि अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन असफल रहा है, और वह इसलिये कि सरकार ने जो नीति अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन के सम्बन्ध में बरती है वह नीति किसी विचार के अनुसार, किसी योजना के अनुसार, किसी समन्वय के आधार पर नहीं है। अगर उसने इस आन्दोलन को वैज्ञानिक

ढंग से, भारत की दशा को सामने रख कर और यहां के किसानों की हालत को अपने सामने रख कर चलाया होता और इस आन्दोलन के चलाने वाले जो सरकारी महकमें हैं, चाहे वह केन्द्रीय महकमें हों चाहे राज्य के हों,—इन दोनों ने बराबर पुराने अफसरों को ही न अपना कर नये ढंग से मिशनरी-स्पिरिट में काम किया होता तो आज इस योजना की सफलता निश्चित थी। इस आन्दोलन का जितना सम्बन्ध देहात की जनता से होना चाहिये था उतना सम्बन्ध, उतना संसर्ग देहात की जनता से नहीं हो पाया है। अगर यह आन्दोलन ठीक ढंग से चलाया गया होता तो यह अन्न की समस्या हल हो गयी होती। आज जो सरकार के अफसर हैं, चाहे वे केन्द्रीय सरकार के हों चाहे राज्य की सरकार के हों, वह अफसर अपने को अफसर समझते हैं। वह किसानों के साथ मिलने में, उन के साथ बातचीत करने में, उन के गांव के अन्दर जा कर रहने में अभी भी संकोच करते हैं। इसीलिये करोड़ों रुपये खर्च करने के बाद भी यह सवाल संसद् के सामने, और संसद् के सामने क्या सारे देश के सामने, उपस्थित है कि अधिक अन्न उपजाओ का आन्दोलन असफल रहा है।

इसलिये मैं खाद्य मंत्री से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि वह नारे के पीछे न जाय। वह शान्त हो कर शान्ति पूर्वक सारे प्रांतों से और इस सम्बन्ध में दिलचस्पी रखने वाले जो लोग हैं उन से इस आधार पर बात करें, इस आधार पर विचार विमर्श करें, कि अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन विफल होने के क्या कारण हैं। मेरी समझ में गलती यह हुई है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने यह समझ लिया है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा रुपया वह राज्यों को सबसिडी (Subsidy) के रूप में, ग्रांट (Grant) के रूप में, या लोन

(loan) के रूप में दे देगी और यह आन्दोलन आप से आप सफल हो जायगा। उन्हें इस बात का ध्यान नहीं था कि राज्य का जो सरकारी खाद्य विभाग है वह अभी भी पुरानी लकीर पर ही चलने वाला है। उस में परिस्थिति के अनुसार कोई नया पन नहीं आया है, उस में नयी परिस्थिति के अनुसार कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है। इसलिये इतने करोड़ों रुपयों के खर्च करने के बाद भी आज यह नानना पड़ता है कि यह अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन सफल नहीं हुआ। मेरी राय में इस आन्दोलन को अच्छी तरह से विचार कर चलाया गया होता, एक अच्छा प्रोग्राम थोड़े अरसे का बना कर अगर यह आन्दोलन चलाया गया होता तो मेरी समझ में हमें काफ़ी सफलता हुई होती। लेकिन सरकार ने ऐसा नहीं किया। ग्रांट पर ग्रांट देती गई है और इसके संचालन और निरीक्षण की ओर कुछ भी ध्यान नहीं दिया है। मैं संक्षेप में यह कहूंगा कि इस आन्दोलन के असफल होने के दो मुख्य कारण हैं। एक मुख्य कारण यह है कि यह विचार किया गया कि केन्द्र से करोड़ों रुपये मंजूर हों और वह राज्यों में बांट दिये जायें। तो इस तरह वह रुपया आखिर राज्य को गया। वहां से वह रुपया राज्य के जिलों में गया। और फिर जिले जिले में पहुंच कर वह रुपया जिले के थाने थाने में बांटा गया। और अन्त में थानों से वह रुपया गांव गांव में बांटा गया। यह देखने की कोशिश नहीं की गयी कि किस जगह इस आन्दोलन को केन्द्रित करने से, किस तरह से इस आन्दोलन को ढंग से चलाने से ज्यादा लाभ हो सकता था। जो हमारे यहां लम्बी योजनायें बनाई गयीं वह तो अच्छी योजनायें थीं और उनको जो अस्तित्व दिया

क्या वह ठीक है। लेकिन वह बहुत लम्बे अरसे की योजनायें हैं। लेकिन इस अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन के लिये यह देखना चाहिये था कि इस देश में किस जगह सिंचाई का ठीक प्रबन्ध है, किस जगह पैदावार अधिक हो सकती है, कहां की ज़मीन उपजाऊ है, इन बातों को देखकर सहायता देनी चाहिये थी। इस तरह उस साहयता का अच्छा उपयोग हो सकता था। लेकिन इन्होंने तो यहां रुपया सैक्शन कर दिया, मंजूर कर दिया। उसके बाद न तो इन्होंने कोई निरीक्षण किया न कोई देखभाल की कि कहां क्या काम हो रहा है। इसरी गलती यह भी हुई है कि जिस समय जिस बात का इन्तजाम करना चाहिये था उस समय उस बात का प्रबन्ध नहीं हो सका। समय पर खाद्य, लोहा, कोयला, तथा दूसरे सामान खेती करने वालों को नहीं मिलते रहे।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप को शायद मालूम न हो कि बिहार के प्रान्त में कोयला अगर किसान को मिल गया होता तो वह उस कोयले से ईंटें बना कर कुआं खुदवा सकता था। अब सरकार के विभाग से जो रुपया मिला तो कोयला नहीं मिला। अगर कोयला मिला भी उसके लाने के लिये इन्तजाम नहीं हुआ। उनको खेती करने के लिये लोहे की जरूरत है तो समय पर लोहा नहीं मिला। जब खेती करने वालों को अपनी जरूरत के लिये लोहा और कोयला ब्लैक मारकेट (Black Market) में खरीदना पड़े तो उस देश में आप क्या उम्मीद कर सकते हैं कि खेती का सुधार हो या खेती की उपज अधिक हो। सिर्फ कागज़ में स्कीमें सैक्शन करने से या लोन देने से तो दस वर्ष भी इस आन्दोलन को चलायें तो सुधार होने वाला नहीं है।

[श्री ऐस० ऐन० दास]

मैं तो महसूस करता हूँ और देहात की रहने वाली जितनी जनता है वह महसूस करती है कि सरकार का यह आन्दोलन एक नारा है, यह कोई योजना नहीं है। एक काम करने का सिलसिला नहीं है बल्कि एक नारा है कि अधिक अन्न उपजाओ। अंग्रेजी में प्रोड्यूस और पॅरिश (Produce or Perish) का नारा दिया गया है। सबाल प्रोड्यूस और पॅरिश का नहीं है बल्कि अन्न पैदा करने का है। उन को अन्न उपजाने के लिए जिन जिन सुविधाओं की जरूरत है चाहे वह लोहे की हों या काँच की हों, चाहे रुपया कर्ज देने की हों, यह सुविधायें देने पर इस आन्दोलन की सफलता निर्भर होगी। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज हिन्दुस्तान में खेती में जो सबसे अधिक बाधा है वह यह है कि किसान को कम सूद में रुपय नहीं मिलता जिससे कि किसान अच्छे बँल खरीद सके, जिससे किसान अच्छा बीज खरीद सके। यह सबसे मुख्य कारण है। लेकिन सरकार इस काम के लिये अभी तक कोई प्रवन्ध नहीं कर पायी है। कृषकों को सुविधा से कम सूद पर रुपये मिल सकें इसका जल्द प्रवन्ध अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन के लिये जरूरी है। जब हम अन्न की कमी देखते हैं तो हम एक प्रस्ताव पास कर देते हैं जैसे कि ग्रे मोर फूड का आन्दोलन चले। लेकिन ग्रे मोर फूड नहीं हो, किस प्रकार हो, किस योजना के अनुसार हो, इसका सुपरवीजन करने की क्या व्यवस्था हो इन सभी बातों पर विचार नहीं होता, खेती के विभाग के अधिकांश अफसरों को हिन्दुस्तान की खेती का कोई तजुर्बा नहीं होता। इसलिये आज अनुभव का, तजुर्बे का अभाव है जिस से यह हमारी करोड़ों रुपयों की बर्बाबी हुई है। मैं समझता हूँ

कि यह एक ऐसी क्षति है कि जिसके लिये जो खेती विभाग का चलाने वाला महकमा है, चाहे उस में हमारे माननीय मंत्री हों, चाहे सरकारी अफसरान हों, चाहे यहां केन्द्र के हों या राज्य के हों, सब जवाबदेह हैं कि इस आन्दोलन की विफलता के बड़े ही कारण हैं।

इसलिये अन्त में मैं यह कहूंगा कि अधिक अन्न उपजाओ आन्दोलन को जो सफल करना है तो इस देश की जो स्थिति है उसका ठीक से अन्दाजा कीजिये। अभी जो प्लानिंग कमीशन (Planning Commission) बैठा है, मैं समझता हूँ कि वह केवल उद्योग धन्धों की तरफकी के लिये नहीं बैठा है। वह सारे हिन्दुस्तान की जो आर्थिक स्थिति है, हिन्दुस्तान में जो खेती के साधन हैं, उसका जो महकमा है, उन सभी बातों को सामने रख कर एक ऐसी योजना प्लानिंग कमीशन हमारे सामने रखे जिससे कि हमारा ग्रे मोर फूड का जो आन्दोलन है वह सफल हो।

अन्त में मैं उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि मुझे इस विषय पर कहने का आपने मौका दिया। लेकिन मैं फिर माननीय मंत्री जी से कहूंगा, जैसा कि हमारे भाई ने अभी कहा कि यह सचमुच एक ऐसी समस्या है कि जिसके संचालन के लिये पूरा ध्यान इसी पर देना चाहिये। मैं खाद्य मंत्री जी से निवेदन करता हूँ और यह कहने के लिए आप माफ़ करेंगे कि आज हिन्दुस्तान की खाद्य की बिगड़ती हुई स्थिति चाहे भूख से लोगों के मरने की बात को सरकार स्वीकार करे या न करे पर यह बात स्पष्ट है कि अन्न के बिना करोड़ों आदमी दिन ब दिन कमजोर पड़ रहे हैं।

उपवास करते करते उनका स्वास्थ्य कैसा हो गया है यह आप स्वयं समझ सकते हैं। जो चिट्ठियाँ और तार हमें मिल रहे हैं, उनसे जो भ्रमण स्थिति पैदा होती हुई मालूम पड़ती है उसको सामने रखते हुए इस विभाग के संचालन करने वाले की नजर खाद्य की स्थिति को सुधारने की ओर ही अधिक होनी चाहिये। दूसरे बिषयों पर ध्यान ले जाना मैं समझता हूँ उनके लिये आज की स्थिति में उचित नहीं है। आज अपना सारा ध्यान इस विषय पर ही दें तभी यह सवाल हल हो सकता है। देश में खाद्यस्थिति और चीजों के बढ़ते हुए दामों को लेकर जो असन्तोष बढ़ रहा है और जनता में जो भूख की ज्वाला धधकती जा रही है यदि जल्द से जल्द इस समस्या का हल नहीं निकाला गया तो आप भी इस बात का अन्दाजा कर सकते हैं और मैं भी करता हूँ कि देश में इसका क्या परिणाम होने वाला है।

(English translation of the above speech).

Shri S. N. Das: The main purport of the resolution that has been moved by our friend, Dr. Mono Mohon Das, is that the people and most of the Members of the Parliament are not satisfied with the 'grow-more-food' campaign sponsored by the Central Government as also with the amount that has been spent by them over it during the last five or six years or paid over to the various States for such expenditure. The mover accordingly wants that a committee which should have on it Members of this Parliament be appointed which should enquire into all matters connected with it and make suggestions with a view to the improvement of the situation. I have also tabled an amendment with regard to this resolution. His resolution does not make it clear as to what is the object of this enquiry. Does he want to ascertain as to whether the sums advanced by the Central Government to the various States have been utilised properly and, if not, why not? The intention behind the resolution is

that the committee should think out the ways and means how best to implement the objectives that were in view at the time of the allocation of funds to the various States and to evolve and place before the country or the Government a plan to that effect. I am of the view that the Committee should be appointed with that object in view. Accordingly, I have tabled an amendment which is to the effect that the following be added to the resolution:

"with a view to suggest effective ways and means to attain self-sufficiency in matters of food."

In my opinion if the resolution is deemed necessary this amendment is also equally necessary.

I wish to submit that this 'grow-more-food' campaign does not happen to be a properly planned affair. Sir, the present age is the age of slogans. Slogans are raised but they are not backed by action. It is true there is shortage of food in the country and something must be done to remove that shortage. The former regime in this country had not founded the Department of Agriculture with the object of improving this country's agriculture. They had established this Department in name only—just for the sake of having such a department—for it had no connection, whatsoever, with the agriculturists. Nor has the present Government made the slightest effort to cut away from the old path. Even today this Department is being administered on the same old lines and by the same old methods. That is the reason why we have to say today that in spite of crores of rupees having been spent the 'grow-more-food' campaign has not been a success. We might have regarded this campaign as successful if there had been some increase in the acreage under cultivation as against the pre-war acreage or the acreage that existed two years back, before this campaign gathered force, or if we could have said that there is an increase now in the quantity of produce per acre as against the previous years, or that the fertility of the soil is greater today as compared to the fertility before the War. When we view this movement from those three angles and test its efficacy by that criterion we find it wanting all round. The result is that today, even after the expenditure of crores of rupees, we are obliged every year to import foodgrains from other countries. With all this, today there are crores of people in the country

[Shri S. N. Das]

who have to go without food. That is not all, for we have news in the papers which tell us that in various parts of the country lots of people are dying of starvation. Sir, can there be anything more surprising than this that crores of people should have to go without food in a country where crores of rupees are spent on the 'grow-more-food' campaign? I think no speeches are required to bring home to us the fact that this 'grow-more-food' campaign has not been much of a success. I feel it is admitted on all hands that 'grow-more-food' campaign has been a failure, and this because the policy which the Government has pursued in this behalf was not guided by or based upon any thinking, any planning, any co-ordination. Had they conducted this movement on a scientific basis, keeping in view the conditions in this country and the plight of the peasants and had the Departments which are responsible for the conduct of this movement, whether at the Centre or in the States, proceeded to their task not in that old bureaucratic fashion but worked in the new missionary spirit the success of this movement would have been assured. Moreover, this movement has not been able to establish that degree of contact and co-ordination with the rural public as was called for. Had this movement been conducted in the proper spirit the food problem would have been solved by now. Today, the officers of the Government, both at the Centre and in the States, regard themselves as officers. They hesitate even how to mix with the peasants, to talk to them or to go and live with them in the country. That is why even after the expenditure of crores of rupees the Parliament, nay the whole country, is faced with the fact that this 'grow-more-food' campaign has been a failure.

I would accordingly appeal to the Minister of Food not to go after slogans. Let him calmly consult all the States and all such persons as are interested in the subject and find out what have been the causes of the failure of the 'grow-more-food' campaign. In my opinion the error that was made on the part of the Central Government was that they came to think that all that they had to do was to pay the maximum amount to the States in the form of subsidy or grant or loan and that the movement would succeed automatically. They lost sight of the fact that the Food Departments in the States were followers of the old traditions still, that they had not changed according to the changed

times nor adapted themselves to the new surroundings. That is the reason why in spite of crores of rupees having been spent we have to admit that the 'grow-more-food' campaign has been a failure. In my opinion had this movement been started after careful consideration, according to a pre-arranged short-term programme, we would have achieved a good measure of success. But the Government failed to act that way. They went on paying the grants but paid no attention to the work of direction and supervision. Briefly stated, there are two main causes of the failure of this movement. In the first instance, it was decided that the Centre should sanction crores of rupees which should be divided among the States. The sum thus allotted went to each of the States, from where it passed on to the districts of the State, from the district to every *thana*, from where it came to be distributed among the villages. No care was taken to determine if the movement could be best conducted by being centralised, by being pursued according to some set plan. The long-term plans that were drawn up were good plans and they were rightly adopted. But they were rather long term plans. For the purposes of this 'grow-more-food' campaign care should have been taken to see as to which places offered better irrigation facilities, which places could yield greater produce and which places had more fertile soil. In granting subsidies all these factors should have been taken into consideration. The subsidy would in that case have been put to the best advantage. All that they did, however, was to sanction the money and they did not bother thereafter either to carry out any supervision or to see what work was being done at what places. Another mistake that was committed was that things could not be done and provided at their proper time. The agriculturist was not supplied in time with manure, iron, coal and other implements.

Sir, it is not known to you perhaps that if in the State of Bihar the farmer could have been supplied coal he would have had bricks made and a well sunk. Now that he got money from the Government but he failed to get the coal. Even if he did get coal he was unable to make any arrangements for its transport. Iron is required for purposes of agriculture but they do not get it in time. Where agriculturists are obliged to purchase iron and coal for their needs in the black market you cannot expect improvements in the farming methods or an increase in the rate of production. Sanctioning of paper schemes or granting of loans would not result in any

improvement even if you were to push on with this campaign for a period of ten years. I feel, and so do the people living in the villages, that this Government sponsored movement is a mere slogan and not a plan. It is not a plan of work but just a catch phrase like the English slogan 'Produce or Perish'. It is not a question of 'Produce or Perish' but a question of production of foodgrains. The success of this campaign would depend upon the provision of all necessary facilities to the grower, in the form of iron, in the form of coal, or in the form of money loans. Sir, the greatest handicap from which agriculture suffers in this country at the present moment is the non-availability of loans at low rates of interest to the farmer with the help of which he might purchase good bullocks and good seeds. This is the main factor. But the Government have not been able to do anything in that direction. It is essential for the success of the 'grow-more-food' campaign that arrangements be made whereby the farmers should be able to get cheap credit. We just pass a resolution, let there be a 'grow-more-food' campaign, but we give no thought to the details, viz., which place should serve as the sphere for this 'grow-more-food' campaign, what should be the *modus operandi*, according to what plan should it be conducted, how should the work be supervised and so on. A majority of the officers of the Agriculture Department lack experience of Indian agriculture. This lack of experience has today cost us crores of rupees. This is a loss for which the entire Agriculture Department, including the hon. Minister and other officers, whether belonging to the Centre or the States, is answerable for they are responsible for the failure of this movement.

Hence, I would say in the end, that if the 'grow-more-food' campaign has to be made successful we have to make a proper study of the conditions prevailing in this country. The Planning Commission that has been appointed is not required to limit its field of activity to the achievement of industrial progress alone. They should consider and examine the overall economic situation in India, her agricultural resources and the Agriculture Department and evolve such a plan as might help to make a success of the 'grow-more-food' campaign.

Finally, Sir, I thank you for having allowed me an opportunity to express my views on this subject. Before I conclude, however, I must urge once again upon the hon. Minister to treat this problem as one of top priority. I may be excused for asserting that whether or not the Government accepts

the truth of the stories of starvation deaths it is a fact that crores of people today are growing weak for want of sufficient food. It is obvious that their health has been sorely affected by continual fasting. The letters and telegrams that we daily receive from Bihar throw a lurid light on the critical situation that appears to be developing there and in view of this it becomes all the more necessary for those responsible for the working of this Department to turn all their attention to the finding of a solution to the food problem. They had better do so in preference to all other matters. The food situation and the rising spiral of prices have created serious discontent in the country. Hunger is driving people to desperation. Unless a speedy solution is found to this grave problem we can all very well realize what the consequences are going to be for the country.

Shri Kamath: May I make a submission to you, Sir? I submit that this resolution has been sufficiently discussed. In view of the fact that two more days are allotted for the discussion of this subject of Food and Agriculture, Friday and Saturday, and as you also observed yesterday on my adjournment motion that that question could be taken up on Friday and Saturday, I submit for your consideration that this resolution may be postponed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I know what the hon. Minister has to say?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It was ruled by your predecessor in the Chair that this discussion should go on. This motion was ruled out. Again, within an hour, it is being re-opened by my hon. friend.

Shri Kamath: It was then ruled out on the ground that there had not been a sufficient debate. Now, there has been sufficient debate. I would request you therefore to hold that further discussion may be postponed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would like to know from the hon. Minister how long it would take for him to reply?

Shri K. M. Munshi: This matter was raised about an hour ago, when you were not in the Chair, and the House expressed its opinion.

Shri Kamath: No: the House was in favour of postponement.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I would naturally take about half an hour or 45 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Well, this is not going to be concluded today. There are two or three Members who want to speak.

Shri Sidhva: No, no. There are other hon. Members who have moved amendments. They have not yet spoken.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right; Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt.

Shri Kamath: The House was for postponing the discussion. You may put it to the House, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not find any particular urgency for any other resolution to pass over this. This is a very important subject. Its postponement has also been already considered. A number of hon. Members want to speak. No postponement could be made by sheer majority even if the majority should be in favour of that.

Shri Kamath: Last time it was done by the House and carried, but not unanimously.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the Member himself is willing to have it postponed. One hon. Member cannot dictate to the rest of the House.

Shri Kamath: Last time, the motion done by the House and carried, but to the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House was inclined that way.

Shri Kamath: There is a precedent, and I would request you to put this motion to the vote of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not propose to put it to the vote. I am able to gather the sense of the House. Mr. Bhatt.

Shri Kamath: I accept your ruling but under protest.

श्री भट्ट: यह सवाल बहुत ही ज़रूरी है और इस पर जो यहस हो रही है और हम जो समय खर्च कर रहे हैं वह बहुत काम का है। आम तौर से मेरे चन्द मित्रों ने कई बातों की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित किया है। हम जानते हैं कि "भूखे भजन न सूझे गोपाला" और हिन्दुस्तान में अन्न की कितनी कमी है और उस को पूरा करने के लिए हमें क्या क्या करना चाहिये, इस के लिए अधिक अन्न उपजाने वाला आन्दोलन हम ने शुरू किया है। कई साल से यह

आन्दोलन चल रहा है और अभी इस की तीन साल में जो कुछ प्रगति हम देख रहे हैं उस प्रगति से जरूर यह आशा होती है कि हम अपने लक्ष्य को पहुंच सकेंगे। तब भी यह सवाल हमारे सामने इस रूप में आता है क्योंकि हम देखते हैं कि हमारे किसानों में जितना उत्पाद अधिक अन्न उपजाने का होना चाहिये वह उत्पाद हमें नहीं मालूम होता है। हम लोगों में उस का प्रचार करने का जो उत्पाद होना चाहिये वह नहीं मालूम होता है। तो इस के मूल में क्या है यह देखना ही चाहिये। अहलकार और अफसर लोग अपनी दृष्टि से उस को देखते हैं। हमारे माननीय मंत्री महोदय के सामने जो सामग्री आती है उस को सामने रख कर उस का क्यास करते हैं, और हम लोग जो गांव गांव में फिरते हैं, लोगों के सम्पर्क में आते हैं और हम में से जो कृषि का उद्योग करते हैं और कृषि के बारे में जानते हैं वे लोग भी आज इस चीज को महसूस करते हैं कि हम में कहां कमी है जिस से कि जितना काम होना चाहिये वह नहीं कर पाते हैं। इस के लिए कोई कमेटी बनानी चाहिये। बाप को यह मालूम है कि हमारी योजनायें बहुत अच्छी अच्छी बनती रहती हैं। योजना बनाने में कोई कमी नहीं है। अभी कई किताबें हैं मेरे सामने और उन किताबों में जो कुछ लिखा गया है अगर उन किताबों के मुताबिक और इन योजनाओं के मुताबिक हम चलते रहे होते तो मैं मानता हूँ कि हमारी समस्या कब की ही हल हो गयी होती। तो भी हम देखते हैं कि हमारे सामने एक राक्षस खड़ा है जो आज भूख के रूप में है और हम उस राक्षस का मुकाबला नहीं कर सकते हैं। तो कई चीजें हिन्दुस्तान

में ऐसी ही कि जिन के बारे में हम को विशेष रूप से सोचना होगा। योजनायें हैं लेकिन कामयाबी नहीं होती है। जिनसे हम काम कराना चाहते हैं, उन में काम करने की शक्ति और उत्साह नहीं है। तो आखिर क्या बात है? उस के लिए हमें अपनी पॉलिसी में आमूल परिवर्तन करने की आवश्यकता है और ऐसी स्थिति आ जाय, अभी मालूम नहीं है कि अधिक अन्न उपजाने की योजना में हमें आमूल परिवर्तन करने की आवश्यकता कौन सी आ पड़े। और वह स्थिति एक कमेटी बनाने से आ सकती है या और कोई दूसरे तरीके से आ सकती है। लेकिन मैं जानता हूँ कि हमारे माननीय मंत्री महोदय उन की तरफ ध्यान रखते ही हैं और हम लोग भी बराबर उन का ध्यान उस तरफ दिलाते रहते हैं। आज किसानों को अपना काम करने में उत्साह नहीं होता है, आखिर इस का कारण क्या है? कभी कभी मझे यह लगता है कि हम लोग जो उन के पास से यह ग्रेन का प्रोक्योरमेंट (Procurement of Grain) करते हैं वह अगर उन की स्वेच्छा और मरजी पर छोड़ दिया जाय, तो शायद हम उन से ज्यादा काम ले सकेंगे। आज तो हम उन से जूझ के साथ काम ले रहे हैं और कम्पलसरी प्रोक्योरमेंट (Compulsory procurement) कर रहे हैं और इस कारण यह सम्भव है, कि जितना काम होना चाहिये, उतना नहीं हो पाता है। मैं तो समझता हूँ कि अगर किसान को कह दिया जाय कि हिन्दुस्तान के भूखे भाइयों को खाना खिलाना है, इस लिये धाप जितना अनाज दे सकें, उतना सरकार को दीजिये, तो मेरी यह धारणा है कि भारतवर्ष के किसान ऐसे हैं जो

अपने भाइयों के साथ हमदर्दी करते हैं और वह ऐसे हृदयहीन नहीं होंगे कि वह अपना अनाज उन भाइयों के लिये न दें। और जिस तरह आज अनाज ज़बरदस्ती से वसूल किया जा रहा है, उस को बदल कर आमूल परिवर्तन कर के यह कह दिया जाय और उस को किसानों की भलमनसाहत पर छोड़ दिया जाय कि वह जितना चाहें अनाज हम को दें और शायद वह हमें थोड़ा कम भी दें, लेकिन जितना वह देंगे वह अपनी खुशी से देंगे, उस में दिक्कत कम होगी, और यह जितने सारे अफसरान उस की लेबी के लिये लगाये जाते हैं, वह सब कम हो जाते हैं, रिश्वतें कम हो जाती हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री को याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस देश के किसान हैं और इस देश के बासी हैं, उनकी इच्छा पर छोड़ दिया जायगा तो वह स्वयं हमें अनाज देंगे। आज होता क्या है जिस भाव पर हम उन से ले रहे हैं, उस भाव पर उन को देते नहीं हैं और जिस भाव से उन से ले रहे हैं, उस से कई गुना ज्यादा भाव पर हम उन को देते हैं। तब उन के दिल में अहसास होता है कि हम से सरकार ने किस भाव में अनाज लिया और किस भाव में देती है। उन के साथ कितना दुर्व्यवहार होता है, इस से भी उन लोगों के मन में सरकार की योजना को सकल बनाने के लिए उत्साह नहीं होता है और काम करने के लिये जितना दिल चाहिये, वह नहीं होता है।

और दूसरी कई बातें मेरे मित्रों ने बतलाई हैं, और मंत्री महोदय को भी मालूम है। मैं एक और चीज की तरफ उनका ध्यान दिखाना चाहता हूँ। अब यह जो आप का वनमहोत्सव है, अच्छी चीज है। एक तरफ तो आप इसे मना

[श्री भट्ट]

रहे हैं और दूसरी तरफ आप जंगलों को साफ कर रहे हैं। बनमहोत्सव में तो आप नये नये पेड़ उगा कर पेड़ों की तादाद बढ़ा रहे हैं और दूसरी तरफ जंगलों की कटाई कर रहे हैं और उन पर हमारा कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है और जिन किसानों को लकड़ी की जरूरत है, वह अपने पास की लकड़ी इस तरह खो बैठते हैं और उन को दूर दूर से लकड़ी अपने लिये लानी पड़ती है। उनको इस में बड़ी दिक्कत महसूस होती है। एक तरफ तो आप बनमहोत्सव मनाते हैं और दूसरी तरफ जंगल काटते हैं, इन दोनों में आपस में कोई मेल नहीं बैठता। पानी आता है एक छोटे नल से और बरबाद होता है नहरों से। और इसलिये हमारा जो काम करने का तरीका है, उस पर हमें ध्यान से सोचना पड़ेगा और उसे बदलना होगा। मैं और बातों पर ज्यादा ध्यान दिलाना नहीं चाहता, लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप मशीनों से कलों से खेती करवायें, लेकिन जब तक बैल को कि सबसे बड़ा ट्रैक्टर है खेती के बाम्बे हिन्दुस्तान में, उस की तरफ आपका ध्यान नहीं गया है—हमारे कृषि व्यवसाय का आधार वह बैल है, उस की तरफ जब तक हम खास तबज्जह नहीं दें, तब तक हम कामयाब नहीं होने वाले हैं और हमारी बरबादी ही होने वाली है।

एक मिनट के लिये मैं आप का ध्यान खींचता हूँ। हम एक कमेटी बना रहे हैं, खुराक की कमी कैसे दूर हो, उस सरकारी पुस्तक में इस के लिये जो योजना रखी गयी है। हर गांव में पांच, पांच सात सात कृषकों की एक कमेटी

बनाई जाये और उन के जरिये यह व्यवस्था चलाई जाये। लेकिन आप जानते हैं कि सचमुच में होता क्या है? यह दुखस्त है कि हम प्रायः पंचायतों के जरिये इस दिशा में बहुत काम कर सकते हैं, लेकिन हमारी वह मान पंचायतें आज निर्जीव सी हैं, उनमें जान नहीं है, और हमें इस का कारण जानना चाहिये कि हमारा वह सब काम क्यों नहीं हो पा रहा है और शायद इसी कारण डाक्टर मन मोहन दास ने एक कमेटी बिठाने का सुझाव रक्खा है। दूसरा कारण इसका यह हो सकता है कि माननीय मुन्शी जी ने नवम्बर की बहस में एक जगह कहा हुआ है कि :

"Part of this (manure) may not have been used for grow-more-food."

"and part of the money spent may have been wasted."

मुन्शी जी बड़े अच्छे वकील हैं, मेजर पार्ट हैं, या माइनर पार्ट हैं, इस के बारे में वह बात वे नहीं कहते।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : क्या मैं पूछ सकता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार ने फूड का मसला हल करने के सिलसिले में एक पैसा भी जानवरों की तरक्की के वास्ते या बैलों की तरक्की के वास्ते खर्च किया है ?

श्री भट्ट : कई बातें ऐसी हैं कि हम को कोई चीज चाहिये वह मिलती नहीं है, यह पूछना चाहिये कि क्यों कई दिन लग जाते हैं, हमारे पास यह सब आंकड़े नहीं हैं, हम सब बना रहे हैं, इस का जवाब मैं क्या दूँ, उस का जवाब तो माननीय मंत्री जी देंगे और मेरी जो जानकारी है, वह श्री ठाकुर दास जी की जानकारी से ज्यादा नहीं है।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : आप भी कह सकते हैं कि कुछ नहीं दिया है।

श्री भट्ट : ऐसा आप कहिये, मैं तो अभी नहीं कहना चाहता। और डाक्टर मन् मोहन दास जी ने जो एक कमेटी बनाने का सुझाव दिया है, उसमें यह संशोधन होना चाहिये कि सिर्फ दो, तीन, या चार आदमी होने चाहिये और इस कमेटी को अपने कार्य की रिपोर्ट तीन महीने में पेश कर देनी चाहिये, यह मेरा इन में सुझाव है। इस कमेटी की जरूरत इसलिये भी गौर है क्योंकि श्री मुन्शी जी की उक्त बात से जो संशय पैदा होता है, उस का इस कमेटी के द्वारा हम पार्लियामेंट के सदस्यों को अवसर मिल जायगा कि हम खद अफसरों की रिपोर्ट पर गौर कर सकें और असली हालत तक पहुंच सकें और इन तीन महीनों में यह जांच सकें कि अलग अलग सूबों में कैसे काम चल रहा है और सेक्टर की हिदायतों पर अमल किया जा रहा है या नहीं। सचमुच क्या हुआ है यह उन 10 देखने को मिलेगा। इसलिये अगर वह इस में एतराज न समझें तो इस कमेटी की आवश्यकता है। इस से फायदा होने वाला है। इतना ही कहते हुए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने जो प्रगतिपत्र हमारे सामने रखा है अगर उस को मान कर उस को आगे बढ़ायेंगे तो हम जरूर स्वास्थी बन जायेंगे और हमारा काम बहुत हल्का हो जायगा लेकिन मुझे मालूम नहीं है कि इन आंकड़ों पर किचना आधार वे रखेंगे और हम रखेंगे

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Bhatt: The problem we are discussing now and spending much time over is a very urgent one and is of very much importance. Some of my friends have drawn our attention to several points. We know a hung-

ry man cannot even worship God. In view of the food shortage in our country we are trying our best to remove it. For instance we started the 'Grow More Food' Campaign. This Campaign was started a few years ago. In view of the progress made in this respect during these three years it is hoped that we have all chances of getting an objective. Yet we have to face this problem because we see our cultivators have not enough enthusiasm regarding this campaign and we also are not taking enough interest to popularise it. What is the root cause then? The officers and their subordinates look at this problem through their own angle of vision. The hon. Minister has to form his opinion from the material he gets. But we people who go to various villages, come into contact of the people and other friends who themselves cultivate the land and have much knowledge about the cultivation, also know where we are lacking and why we are not getting the best out of the land. A Committee should be set up for this purpose. You know we have a number of grand schemes. There is no defect in them. Here I have got some books before me. Had we worked according to the instructions given in them and adhered to our schemes, I think our problems would have been solved long ago. We see that a demon in the form of hunger is standing before us and we fail to face him. There are many other problems we have to consider over. Why our schemes are failure? Why our working people have no initiative and enthusiasm in them? To cure all these maladies we have to change our policy altogether, especially the policy regarding our scheme of grow more food. We are not sure when we may stand in need of this altogether changed policy. We may bring that change by setting up a Committee for this purpose—or we may bring this change by some other ways. I am sure the hon. Minister is always careful about that and we will also draw his attention to that. Why our farmers feel no enthusiasm today in their work? Sometimes it comes to my mind that had we not compelled them to give us food grains and left it with them, then we may succeed in getting more work from them. Today we are doing compulsory procurement and are compelling them against their will to give us food-grains. We can get more food-grains if we leave the question of procurement on their own sweet will. I think it would be better if we clearly inform them

[Sbri Bhatt]

that we are procuring these grains only to feed the hungry population of India. I cannot think that Indian farmers are so heartless that they would not show any sympathy towards their brethren and would not like to give the needed foodgrains for them. The policy of compulsory procurement of foodgrains should be changed altogether, and leaving this matter to the good will of the farmers we should be satisfied on the quantity of foodgrains they are pleased to give us. That quantity might be somewhat less. But whatever they would give, they would give with pleasure and we would have very little difficulty in procuring the foodgrains. The number of officers appointed for this purpose would be considerably reduced and perhaps we would get rid of a major portion of corruption. I like to remind the hon. Minister that those people are farmers and inhabitants of this country. They on their own accord would give us the foodgrains if we leave this matter to their will. What is happening today? We purchase the foodgrains at different rate from them and give them at quite different rate. Many times we give them food grains at far higher prices than we purchased from them. Then they begin to think and feel that Government are not treating them fairly and are purchasing the foodgrains at different rate and selling them back the same at higher rates. This also is the reason why they do not take much interest to bring the Government schemes to success and so do not work whole-heartedly.

My friends have told many things here. The hon. Minister knows them well. I want to draw his attention to a different question. The *Vana Mahotsava* you are advocating is a good thing. On one hand you are celebrating this *Mahotsava* and on the other you are cutting down the already existing jungles. Here in *Vana Mahotsava* you are increasing the number of trees by planting new ones but on the other hand jungles are being cut down. We cannot check this practice. Thus our farmers are deprived of the fuel that lies within their easy reach and have to bring it from far off places. They have to face many difficulties in this. What is the reasonable relation between planting and cutting trees? It is just like water coming through a pipe and going away through a canal! Therefore we should think over this method of working and change it. I

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do not like to draw your attention to many other questions. You perhaps like to plough the farms by means of machines. You may do that. But you must not forget in this connection the greatest Indian tractor bullock. Our entire cultivation depends upon him. Unless we take care of him we cannot dream of any success, but will surely head towards destruction.

I want to draw your attention for only one minute. We are going to set up a Committee. A Government publication named *खुराक की कमी कैसे दूर हो (Khurak ki kami kasey dur ho)* contains a scheme for this purpose. For a group of five or seven villages a Committee of farmers should be set up, and through that Committee this work should be got done. But you are aware of the actual position. Of course we can go a long way in this direction with the help of our Village *Panchayats*. But today we see our Village *Panchayats* are lifeless. We must find out the reason of it. We must find out why our purpose is not being achieved by them. Perhaps that is why Doctor Monc Mohan Das has suggested that a Committee for this purpose should be set up. Probably the other reason finds its reference in hon. Shri Munshi's statement made during the debate in the month of November.

"Part of this (manure) may not have been used for grow-more-food."

"and part of the money spent may have been wasted."

Shri Munshi is a very capable vakil. He does not make any mention whether that was a major part or minor one.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): May I know whether the Government in the connection of solving the food problem have spent any money for the improvement of cattle or bullocks?

Shri Bhatt: There are so many things we need but cannot get. The question to be asked should be why they take so much time. We have not got the required statistics. We are preparing them. How can I answer this question? The answer is to be given by the hon. Minister. Shri Thakur Das should know that I do not possess any more information than him.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: You too can state that nothing has been spent so far

Shri Bhatt: You may say so, but I do not want to say so at present. As regards the suggestion made by Dr. Mono Mohan Das regarding the setting up of the Committee it should be amended. In my opinion the Committee should consist of three or four members and should submit its report within a period of three months. One more reason may be given in the favour of the setting up the Committee. Hon. Shri Munshi's statement mentioned above creates a doubt in our minds. Through this Committee we the Members of Parliament may have a chance to look into the report submitted by officers and get the actual position and may see how during these three months the various States have been working and following the instructions issued by the Centre. They may have a chance to see what actually has been done. Therefore the Committee is needed if there be no objection to it. It would certainly prove beneficial. Stating this much I would like to submit that accepting the progress report laid before us if we would proceed ahead we certainly would become self sufficient and our task would be made easy. But I cannot say how far this work would have to be done by us and how much by them.

Dr. Deshmukh: There has been a fairly long discussion on this resolution. Perhaps there has been some irrelevance, but that irrelevance in which we might have indulged has been probably due to the fact that we attach the highest possible importance to food. Actually the resolution is a very limited one and its scope is very specific. The resolution intends that a committee should be appointed out of the Members of Parliament to examine in detail the measures taken by different State Governments to increase food production and the expenditure by them of the Union Government's loans and grants for that purpose. Therefore the issue is that there should be an investigation by a specified number of Members of this House as to how far the expenditure incurred by the different States out of their own funds or out of the grants and loans given by the Union Government has been properly done. It necessarily assumes that the expenditure has not been proper, that there has been wastage and there have been appropriations which were not justified. I think many hon. Members who strictly confined themselves to the limitations of the resolution have given instances of the wastage that

has occurred and in any case it is a matter of general belief that the country has not derived that benefit which was expected out of that expenditure. My hon. friend Mr. Gokulbhai Bhatt read from the speech of the hon. Minister himself to show that he also is inclined to the view that the expenditure was not altogether proper and there have been misuses of the money advanced to them. If we take into account the expenditure by the different States and also the activities indulged in by the Centre so far as the grow-more-food campaign is concerned, it has been pointed out by a friend of mine that the total expenditure comes to something like 59 crores. One of the items of expenditure is the costly experiment of the Tractor Organisation. I think it has been admitted by most people that the expenditure incurred for the purpose of grow-more-food campaign and on this Tractor Organisation has been a considerable waste.

As a member of the Standing Advisory Committee on Agriculture I have received a note on the way in which the Tractor Organisation has worked. There are many figures which are not totalled and in many places the totals were not made at all. It appears that a sum of Rs. 3,48,00,000 has been spent on a group of these tractors. A good many of them could not be worked because of mechanical difficulties as a portion at least was obtained from Disposals. But even so far as the tractors obtained from America are concerned, out of the loan taken by us, it is found that there have been many apologies and excuses advanced. It is stated again and again that there were insuperable difficulties and that the average that a tractor has ploughed comes to only 250 acres in a year. I do not think that is a very satisfactory figure.

The report also gave me the impression that even in the current year the figures are not likely to be very much more impressive, because the song about difficulties which is there is still being sung and the whole report is full of these complaints about difficulties including the difficulty of obtaining technicians and trained personnel.

Prof. S. L. Saksena (Uttar Pradesh): What is the total sum and how many tractors?

Dr. Deshmukh: The sum is three crores and 48 lakhs and the number of tractors is 180. Some of them are old and some are new. The new ones come to 180.

[Dr. Deshmukh]

So far as the question of grow-more-food is concerned the House is asking for an investigation and therefore the purpose is quite clear. First of all the House is satisfied that the campaign is not carried on well, that there has been wastage and that we have not derived the benefit expected. Secondly, if the whole thing goes on in the way it does, there would be more waste of money and energy. I agree with the purpose of the resolution that this should really be investigated to find out to what extent our impression is well founded and to what extent we are wrong in assuming that the grow-more-food campaign has been a failure. At the same time I would like the whole system to be examined and there should be some reorientation of policy also.

It has been stated in so many words to us that ever since Mr. Munshi took charge of the Agriculture Ministry he has been trying to reorganise the whole Ministry. This is a very big Ministry from the point of view of the expenditure it incurs. I am also constrained to say that this is also one of the Ministries which does undertake very huge and colossal schemes without thinking them out in all their details. That is one conclusion that one can arrive at from a perusal of the note to which I made a reference.

With regard to tractors one of the complaints is that when the tractors arrived there were only small bits of land to be ploughed and unless there is a minimum area of 600 acres in one plot of land you cannot make the tractors work economically. When a huge scheme of 100 crores worth of tractors were to be.....

Shri Thirumala Rao: The maximum is ten crores.

Dr. Deshmukh: Hundred million dollars. I thought. That was the original proposal. In any case we need not quarrel over that figure. The figure is certainly very large. But when the tractors arrived here we did not plan out to have fields or areas of the proper size and therefore there has been so much wastage. The wastage will come to about four to six annas in the rupee. So it is apparent that before we ordered the tractors we did not make ourselves ready. After its work for two and a half years we are now trying to request the State Governments to see that they get ready fields measuring 600 acres. If that is the way in which the Ministry works one can see that it is not likely to succeed very much.

These schemes always run into crores and lakhs of rupees. They are never satisfied with thousands of rupees. It is considered as nobody's money. Anybody can make out a plan and the bigger it is the more is the facility of its going through all the stages. That is the reason why as a member of the Standing Committee for Agriculture I have to say that there is tremendous wastage and there is cause for investigation not only in this particular instance but in others also. Two instances have already been pointed out—the mismanagement of the fertiliser business and the Tractor Organisation. These can be separately investigated. Along with this I would ask the Minister, even if he does not agree to the appointment of a committee, to see that the wastage in which his Ministry indulges very often is really curtailed.

Hon. friends have complained that the Minister in charge of Agriculture is busy more with culture than with agriculture. It is probably also correct to say that he is trying to create a fine synthesis, a sort of a noble compost, by mixing in different proportions culture with agriculture and agriculture with culture, so that no one on earth can really distinguish one from the other. I am also happy to know that the hon. Minister has the support of Mrs. Munshi in this grand venture of his.

I do not agree with my hon. friend Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma that Mr. Munshi should divorce himself completely from culture and devote himself exclusively to agriculture. Even agriculture can be improved with the assistance of culture. In any case from the point of view of the importance which this House attaches to the food problem it is pertinent to tell the Minister in charge that if he lessens his activities so far as culture is concerned and devotes more energy to agriculture it may benefit the whole nation to a greater extent.

My friend Mr. Gokulbhai Bhatt referred to one more matter and there has been repeated reference to it. Although, I am not a convert to the view expressed by Prof. Ranga on the *Vana-Mahotsava* I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the actual fact that a good many of these forests are being prematurely cut and there is destruction of the trees on a very large scale all over India. This is also the consequence of the abolition of the *zamindari*, *jagirdari* and the *malguzari*

systems. Although we know that sugarcane which requires to be planted and watered and so on sells at Rs. 1-10-0 per maund, fuel which requires nobody to plant and water it is selling at Rs. three per maund. When we are living in a condition of this sort where sugarcane sells for less than half the price that fuel fetches, it is quite natural that the importance of the whole thing may not be realised, and these *malguzars* and *jagirdars* should try to make the utmost of the fuel they can obtain from their landed property—which they have been threatened they would lose—and try to fell as many trees as possible. It is therefore necessary that the hon. Minister's attention should be drawn to this.

5 P.M.

I would not like to take any more of the time of the House. I would support the resolution with only one remark. This investigation should be carried out at the earliest possible date, as summarily as possible, so as to be useful for the laying down of a policy for the future and not merely to pick holes in regard to things that have already been done.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now we have the half-hour discussion scheduled for today.....

Hon. Members: It has been postponed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has it been postponed? Has the postponement been announced?

Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. Deshbandhu Gupta who sought to raise the discussion has written to me saying that he is unwell and has therefore requested that the half-hour discussion may be postponed. I think we may postpone it to some other date when the hon. Member may be present—it is only a question of fixing a later date.

Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Tomorrow the Demands relating to two Ministries will be discussed—Home Affairs and Labour. There is no Question Hour for tomorrow, therefore from 10-45 in the morning we will discuss the Home

Ministry. How much time will the hon. Minister require for reply?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): Half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister wants half an hour.

Shri Rajagopalachari: I may say half an hour without knowing what I have to answer to.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Anyhow this Ministry will take up till 3-30 P.M. whenever the Minister might start. Labour Ministry Demands will then start at 3-30 P.M. and we will go on till five, and if there is a general demand for more time, till 5-30.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): In view of the fact that the Agriculture Ministry has been discussed for the whole of today, it may be desirable that only a day and a half—Friday and the morning of Saturday—should be fixed for the Food and Agriculture Ministry, and the afternoon of Saturday be devoted to Labour, so that the whole of tomorrow, till five o'clock, is available for the Home Ministry which is a very important one.

Shri Sidhya (Madhya Pradesh): Today it was merely a general discussion on the Committee proposed. Things like the food problem, what should be the function of the Ministry in the future, etc. are very serious questions, and therefore two days were allotted to this Ministry after great consideration. As far as I am concerned, I do not want any curtailment of the time allotted.

Prof. S. L. Saksena (Uttar Pradesh): We have had a full day today on food (*Interruption*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Food is a day-to-day affair, therefore I do not think hon. Members are agreeable to the proposal. We may have to allot the two days for food. I am not in a position to curtail it. Therefore, the programme stands as it was.

Shri Kamath: How long will the House labour tomorrow?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will sit till five.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, on Thursday, the 5th April, 1951.