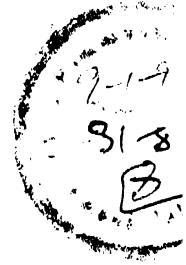
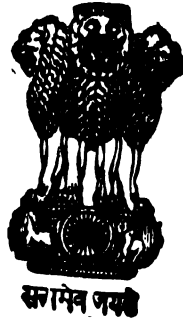


Friday, 6th April, 1951



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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VOLUME VII, 1951

(2nd April to 16th May, 1951)

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Third Session (Second Part)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

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

2895

2896

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

*Friday, 6th April, 1951*

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

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

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**TRADE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICES**

\*2869. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that offices of the Trade Commissioners in Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands and Italy are located in the headquarters of the respective Embassy?

(b) Is it a fact that in these countries the commercial centres are in places other than the headquarters?

(c) Is it a fact that a reference has been made by Indian merchants and others that they are at a great disadvantage in not having the Trade Commissioners at business centres?

(d) Do Government intend to shift their offices to trade centres in these countries?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The offices of the Indian Trade Representatives in Switzerland and Italy are located at the headquarters of the Embassy in those countries. The office in Belgium was also located at the headquarters of the Embassy at Brussels, but it has been decided to close it in pursuance of Government's economy drive. There is no Indian Trade Representative in the Netherlands.

(b) There are a number of commercial centres in the countries including the places where the headquarters of our diplomatic missions are situated.

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(c) Government are not aware of any references of the nature referred to by the hon. Member.

(d) No, Sir.

**Shri Sidhva:** Am I clear in understanding that there are no Trade Commissioners on our behalf in Switzerland and Netherlands?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think the hon. Member is clear on that point.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether we have a commercial attache on behalf of the Commerce Ministry in Switzerland? My point is this. The commercial Centre in Switzerland is Zurich. May I know whether the Government intend to post that gentleman who is now in Berne, to be located in Zurich so that the commercial people may come in contact with him?

**Shri Karmarkar:** There are two parts in my hon. friend's supplementary. One is whether there is a commercial attache. In most Embassies, there is a commercial attache. With regard to the centre of his activity, it is always considered convenient wherever a commercial attache is attached to an Embassy, for him to function from the place where he is situated, that is, at the headquarters of the Embassy. I am sure, my hon. friend knows that the distance between Berne and Zurich is only three hours' journey. In this particular case, it is not inconvenient.

**Shri Sidhva:** Is it not a fact that in the other Embassies, the commercial attaches are in the commercial centres? May I know why we are not keeping our commercial attache in the centre where the other Embassies have?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Where a commercial attache is attached to an Embassy, the usual practice is to have him situated in the headquarters itself and not in a separate place, normally, though in Canada the place

of the commercial representative was different from the headquarters. Normally, the commercial attache functions from the place where the Embassy has headquarters.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether it is a fact that the commercial attache of the U.K. is in Zurich?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I would like to have notice of the question.

#### IMPORT LICENSING PERIOD

\*2870. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have decided to extend the import licensing period from six months to a year?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** The question of introducing annual licensing has been under the consideration of Government for some time now and while in general the scheme was considered to be desirable, owing to various reasons including the difficulties of preparing a long-term budget of foreign exchange, the scheme of long-term licensing could only be made effective for a limited number of items during July-December, 1950 *vide* the Ministry of Commerce Public Notice No. 14-ITC(PN)/50, dated the 15th June, 1950. During the current licensing period a special arrangement has been made whereby subject to a few stated exceptions import licences to cover the entire requirements of 1951 will be issued during January-June this year. Government are therefore trying progressively to replace six monthly licensing by annual licensing for as large a range of items as possible.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know what is the effect of this extension on our general trade?

**Shri Karmarkar:** This change in the period of licensing will not have any effect on our trade as such. But, the scheme has been devised with a view to give convenience to the importers so that they can be sure of two six-monthly imports. There will be no uncertainty. Especially, industry will be sure of its raw materials for both the periods.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I ask if the Commerce Ministry has doubled the licences issued over the period July-December, 1950, for the current year irrespective of the quotas that the importers might have earned

and which will be available for the period July-December, 1951?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The policy for January-June, 1951, was fixed a little earlier than our decision to have the licences issued for both the periods. The policy for January-June, 1951 was fixed after considering all necessary things. So, it could not be the same as that for the period July-December, 1950. After this policy was fixed, in fact, after licensing had commenced, we decided that the same licence should hold good for the next period also. In a large number of cases, what will be done is, the licence will be issued for the first half, January-June, 1951 and the same licence will be validated for a further period.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Ministry consider applications from importers who have been adversely affected by reason of this *ad hoc* arrangement?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am not sure about what my hon. friend calls an *ad hoc* arrangement. Surely the case of the people who have suffered any difficulty on account of the change in the policy will be considered.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Is it a fact that the imports for the first six months of 1951 will be of the same order as the imports for the last six months of 1950, and will include the same commodity and approximately the same ceiling?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should say off-hand that the policy for January-June, 1951 has been substantially the same as that for July-December, 1950. If my hon. friend compares the policy statements for both the periods, he will find precisely in what matters the policy statements differ.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Next question: 2871.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** There is another question on the same subject, No. 2875. That may also be taken up together.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Both may be answered together.

#### CEMENT

\*2871. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirements of the Indian Union in respect of cement; and

(b) the value and quantity of cement imported into India from

Pakistan and other foreign countries separately during the years 1949 and 1950?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) About 4 million tons.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Year	The value and quantity of cement imported from Pakistan		The value and quantity of cement imported from other countries	
	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity
	(Rupees)	(Tons)	(Rupees)	(Tons)
1949	62,47,087	54,823	2,89,43,037	3,16,937
1950	35,894	315	19,27,744	17,275

#### DECONTROL OF CEMENT

\*2875. Shri B. B. Bhagat: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have decided to decontrol cement;

(b) if so, the reasons for it; and

(c) how decontrol will affect production and prices of cement?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) No, Sir.

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

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether the production of cement so far as Rajasthan factories are concerned, has gone down on account of disputes between capital and labour?

Shri Mahtab: I have no definite information. On the whole, production of cement has gone up. With regard to Rajasthan, I shall make enquiries. At present, I have no information.

Shri Chattopadhyay: May I know when India is going to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of cement?

Shri Mahtab: This has been discussed many times. As soon as the new plants go into production next year, it is hoped that we will attain self-sufficiency. But, in the meantime, I must inform the House that the demand for cement also is increasing by leaps and bounds.

Shri B. B. Bhagat: May I know how the allotment of cement to the

various States is made? What is the system of distribution?

Shri Mahtab: I am sorry the detailed list is not with me. But, Cement quotas are fixed thus. India has been divided into several zones and zonal allotments are made. Each State is given a quota according to its requirements.

Shri Kamath: Is there any institute for testing the standard and quality of cement, and have any complaints been received about the inferior quality of cement manufactured in certain factories?

Shri Mahtab: No such complaint has been received. There are many institutes to test the specification of cement.

Shri T. T. Krishnanachari: May I ask the hon. Minister if he could recollect having made a statement in Madras that Government propose to decontrol cement and if so has the matter been examined and an adverse decision taken contrary to the statement made by my hon friend?

Shri Mahtab: This point has been referred to more than once in this House and I have also made it clear more than once that I made no such statement in Madras or anywhere else. In the course of discussion I said that cement could be de-controlled if it would not affect the South Indian industries. Subsequent to that, because of the international situation, the supply of cement from other countries has been stopped to the Middle-east countries. Ceylon and some of the South-eastern countries and therefore the demand for the export of Indian cement is considerable. And if you want to regulate the export and if you want to regulate the internal supply of cement, control for the time being must go on.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: Does the Government of India make any specifications with regard to the release of cement by the States as to what quantity of it should be used for construction purposes and what for other purposes?

Shri Mahtab: The system at present is that the allocations are made to the States and the State Governments distribute their quotas according to what they consider is proper.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know, Sir, whether there has been any signs of a go-slow or stay-in strike attitude on the part of labour in Rajasthan and as a result of that the production of cement has gone down?

Shri Mahtab: I shall make enquiries.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister had already answered the question.

**Shri Poonacha:** Sir, is it not a fact that the present shortage in cement is also due to large quantities of it being requisitioned by Government for its own use and these quantities being allowed to deteriorate completely without being made use of?

**Shri Mahtab:** If the hon. Member refers to any Government Department, I have to say I have no information of such cases, at the present moment.

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** The hon. Minister said that control on cement is necessary for regulating our cement exports. May I know why it is also necessary to control our internal consumption of cement?

**Shri Mahtab:** Necessarily, if we want to regulate exports, we have to regulate the internal consumption of that commodity. The two things go together.

**Shri J. N. Hazarika:** Are Government sure that our supply of cement is quite adequate to meet all our requirements?

**Shri Mahtab:** As a matter of fact, our demand is considerably higher than the actual supply. So I am not sure whether our supplies are adequate to meet all our requirements. But so far as essential requirements are concerned, I think adequate supplies are being made.

**Shri Ramaswamy Naidu:** Due to the new export of cement to Pakistan, what will be the percentage by which our internal consumption of cement will be reduced?

**Shri Mahtab:** I do not know the exact percentage of the reduction in our internal consumption; but a certain quantity of cement has to be exported to Pakistan.

#### CALCUTTA PRINTING PRESS

\*2872. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign firm was employed to investigate into the working of the Calcutta Printing Press and the stock of stationery;

(b) if so, the name of the said firm and the emoluments or fees paid to them;

(c) what their recommendations are;

(d) whether any consignment of paper was not cleared from the Fort Trust, Calcutta, for a very long period; and

(e) if so, who was responsible for it and whether any loss was sustained by Government thereby?

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain):** (a) and (b). The Eastern Bedaux Company, Bombay which is an Indian Company, associated with the Bedaux Organisation of the U.S.A. was employed to investigate into the working of the Government of India Stationery Office, Calcutta. An all inclusive fee of Rs. 7,500 is payable to the firm for investigation and report.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to give the recommendations made by the firm, whose report is under examination.

(d) Yes.

(e) A detailed departmental enquiry has been made in the matter and certain officers *prima facie* responsible for the loss will be asked to explain the case against them shortly. An independent enquiry on the audit side is also in progress and it is proposed to take a final decision in the case as soon as a report is received from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The net loss caused to Government is expected to be of the order of three lakhs of rupees.

**Shri Sidhva:** Sir, may I know whether the officers connected with this loss have been suspended or are they still on duty?

**Shri Buragohain:** Five officers were found to be concerned in this matter, and out of them one has been, I believe, placed under suspension.

**Shri Sidhva:** When five officers were concerned with this matter, why is it that only one has been suspended?

**Shri Buragohain:** As I have already stated in reply to part (e) of the question, although an official enquiry had been conducted and completed, we had also asked the Comptroller and Auditor General to make an independent enquiry and that report is awaited.

**Shri Sidhva:** What is the demurrage that the Government had to pay to the Port Trust on account of this gross negligence on the part of these officers?

**Shri Buragohain:** Rs. 14.41 lakhs were originally paid by the Deputy Controller of Stationery as demurrage to the Port Trust, Calcutta, out of which a sum of Rs. 11.25 lakhs was expected to be refunded, thus reducing the loss incurred by Government to Rs. 3.16 lakhs.



**Shri Sidhva:** May I know, Sir, whether the Port Trust have agreed to refund this amount or is it that only a suggestion has been made by Government?

**Shri Buragohain:** I believe, Sir, that it has been agreed to.

**Shri Sidhva:** In part (c), the hon. Minister has said that it is not possible to place the recommendations before the House now. May I know the reasons why they cannot be made known to the House?

**Shri Buragohain:** I have already stated that the report is under examination. It is a big voluminous report and it needs careful examination, and at this stage it may not be helpful to place it before the House or to publish it.

**Shri Sidhva:** Sir, may I know what necessitated the Government in instituting this enquiry?

...**Shri Buragohain:** Government were aware that the Stationery Office in Calcutta had not been going on right lines for the past few years, and it was for this reason that a utility audit was instituted.

**Shri Sidhva:** When is this enquiry likely to be completed?

**Shri Buragohain:** I have already said that the enquiry has already been completed and the report received and it is being studied.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Sir, out of the five persons suspected, is the Head of the Department or section concerned, one of them and if so, has any action been taken against him?

**Shri Buragohain:** Out of the five, two are Deputy Controllers, two are Assistant Controllers and one is a Head Assistant and I believe that branch was in charge of a Deputy Controller.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** What action has been taken against him?

**Shri Buragohain:** He is under suspension.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** When was the question of the payment of demurrage brought to the notice of the Government and how long has the matter been under consideration?

**Shri Buragohain:** This matter actually arose out of the fact that several thousand tons of paper ordered from the U.K. and U.S.A. in 1946-47 started coming sometime towards the end of or latter part of 1947. They came almost in a flood

towards the end of that year and the accumulation was too much to be cleared properly. That is how this led to this heavy demurrage charge.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** When were these stocks of papers removed from the godowns finally?

**Shri Buragohain:** With regard to the exact dates when it was cleared, I would require notice. I may say that it was spread over several months.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** Sir, am I to understand from the reply of the hon. Minister that the report will not be published and made available to Members until Government have formulated their decisions on those recommendations?

**Shri Buragohain:** A summary probably may be placed before the House and may also be circulated for information of hon. Members.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** Sir, that does not answer my question. Will this House have an opportunity of studying those recommendations and making its own recommendations on them?

**Shri Buragohain:** If that is the desire of the House, certainly at least a summary will be placed before the House, and also circulated among the Members.

**Shri Sidhva:** But when?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The hon. Minister has said in reply to a question that Rs. 11 lakhs and odd would be refunded by the Calcutta Port Trust; but if my recollection is correct, the Port Trusts Act does not permit of such refund of demurrage. Is the hon. Minister quite sure that his expectation in this respect would be realised?

**Shri Buragohain:** Much of it will be by book adjustment and there should be no difficulty.

**Shri Sidhva:** How book adjustment, Sir? The Port Trust is a separate body absolutely...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am afraid the hon. Member is entering into arguments.

**Shri Sidhva:** But, Sir, the hon. Minister said there will be book adjustment. But in what way will this book adjustment be made?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Well, that is the opinion of the hon. Minister.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** When was this amount paid?

**Shri Buragohain:** More than a year ago.

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Sir, May I know whether this is merely a case of negligence or whether there were criminal intentions also?

**Shri Buragohain:** It is just to fix this kind of responsibility that the enquiry was instituted both by the Department and by the Auditor General.

**Shri Sidhva:** Sir, is it a fact that some merchants told the Government officials that there were so many bales of paper lying in the godowns and that they should be cleared, but then the officers did not clear them but intentionally kept them where they were? Is that the fact?

**Shri Buragohain:** Certain causes led to this heavy demurrage. That is exactly the purpose of the enquiry.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No more questions.

#### SERICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS

\*2873. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the annual expenditure incurred by the Union Government on the Sericultural Research Station at Berhampore in West Bengal during the years 1949 and 1950;

(b) how many other Sericultural Research Stations there are in India, run and maintained by the Union Government or the Central Silk Board; and

(c) the amount spent annually by Government on each one of those stations?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** (a) The expenditure incurred was as follows:

1948-1949 ...	Rs. 84,707/-
1949-1950 ...	Rs. 109,420/-

(b) None. The Government, however runs a sub-station at Kalimpong as an integral part of the Central Sericultural Research Station, Berhampore.

(c) Does not arise.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the expenditure mentioned by the hon. Minister has been incurred as capital expenditure or was the whole amount treated as recurring expenditure?

**Shri Mahtab:** The break-up of this expenditure is as follows: Pay of officers, establishment, allowances,

honoraria and other charges. He will find that all these are recurring expenditure.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether there exists any machinery for conveying the results of the research work done in these stations to the producers of silk?

**Shri Mahtab:** Yes, the Central Silk Board does that work.

**Maulvi Wajed Ali:** May I know if any research stations are maintained by any States and if so, does the Central Government give any aid to the States for this purpose?

**Shri Mahtab:** There is a research institution maintained by the Madras Government and another is proposed by the Kashmir Government. So far as the Madras Government is concerned some help is given by the Government of India but I cannot give the hon. Member the exact figure.

**Maulvi Wajid Ali:** Is there any research station in Assam, where silk is produced?

**Shri Mahtab:** So far as I know there is no research station in Assam.

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** In spite of the research institute being there for a number of years and in spite of so much expenditure on the part of the Government of India, is it a fact that the production of cocoon and also the acreage under mulberry cultivation have gone down?

**Shri Mahtab:** If we compare the figures of 1939 with the present figures the cultivation of mulberry has gone down. When I went to Berhampore I made personal investigation into the matter. Apart from research there are various other reasons also. So far as the research station is concerned, admittedly it is doing good work.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Is it a fact that the number of cocoons has also gone down?

**Shri Mahtab:** That was my information when I went there.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** What are the main features of the research carried out and what results have been achieved so far?

**Shri Mahtab:** They make research into various aspects of sericulture such as various types of silk worms, worm diseases, growth of mulberry and other kinds of crop, the Japanese system of sericulture and reeling of silk, etc. All these are experimented.

EXCHANGE OF MENTAL DISEASES  
PATIENTS

\*2874. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the numbers of Indian mental diseases patients left in Pakistan and Pakistani mental diseases patients left in India just after the partition of the country and the respective numbers that were exchanged recently;

(b) the percentage of deaths in each group of patients that occurred between partition of the country and exchange; and

(c) the reasons why the exchange did not take place at a much earlier date?

**The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) The exact number of non-Muslim Mental patients in Pakistan at the time of partition is not known. In December 1948, the Pakistan Government gave this number as 513. 359 of these were in Lahore, 48 in Peshawar and 106 in Hyderabad (Sind). The number of Muslim patients in various hospitals in India was 240.

In the exchange we have received 450 patients from Pakistan and handed over 233 patients to them. Before this, 32 patients were cured and transferred to India in February, 1949.

(b) If the number given by the Pakistan Government is taken to be correct, the percentage will work out to about six in Pakistan and about three in India.

(c) The exchange could not be completed earlier because we could not persuade the Pakistan Government to agree to the exchange at an earlier date.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** Is it a fact that during the time of the exchange, those who were handed over to India were found in tattered clothes and the officer on our side had to change the clothes of the patients to new ones?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** I have no knowledge of it. If they were given good clothes it is a good thing.

**Sardar Sochet Singh:** Did these gentlemen understand that a partition of the country had taken place and how did they exercise their option in the matter of nationality?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Those who have that mental capacity alone can better understand their choice.

GROUNDNUT AND GROUNDNUT OIL

\*2876. **Shri B. R. Bhagat:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have prohibited the export of groundnut and groundnut oil;

(b) if so, why; and

(c) the quantity of groundnut and groundnut oil exported in the financial year 1950-51 till the date of the ban?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) There is no total ban at present on the export of groundnut and groundnut oil. Shipments are allowed upto a certain percentage of the sales made by the exporters.

(b) Restrictions on shipments of groundnut and groundnut oil had to be placed as the sales made by exporters were in excess of the quantity available for export.

(c) Question does not arise as there is no total ban at present.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** How much is the export to hard currency areas?

**Shri Karmarkar:** According to the latest position as we fixed it on the 27th March the following exports are being permitted:

Switzerland: Exports of groundnuts will continue to be allowed against registration already made for shipments up to June, 1951.

Canada: Exports of groundnut oil and H.P.S. groundnuts to Canada are to be allowed up to 60 per cent. of sales registered for shipment during the months of March-June, 1951.

U. K.: Export is to be allowed up to 30 per cent. of the sales registered for shipments during the months of March-June, 1951.

Other destinations: Export is to be allowed up to 25 per cent. of the sales registered for shipments during the months of March-June, 1951. This is inclusive of Italy.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** If the prohibition is not total, on what basis is the export regulated?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Quantitatively or country-wise?

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** I ask country-wise.

**Shri Karmarkar:** The exports were fixed as required, partly by our agreements with them and partly as per demand from them in respect of

the quantity. What was intended to be sent out was 80,000 tons plus 14,000 tons brought over from last year. Up to the middle of February, 1951, 61,000 tons were sent out and the remaining quantity is probably to be sent out during the current year.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** May I know whether priority is being given for the issue of permits in the case of export of groundnut to hard currency areas?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The position is precisely as I mentioned just now and I cannot make it clearer.

**Dr. V. Subramaniam:** What is the quantity of oil used for hydrogenation purposes in this country?

**Shri Karmarkar:** According to the estimate of a committee recently the approximate requirement for *Vanaspati* manufacture has been found to be 4,50,000 tons.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I know if a ban on the export of groundnut oil was imposed for a week prior to the Budget day, namely the 28th February? Was it in anticipation of the export duty which was going to be levied as per the budget proposals?

**Shri Karmarkar:** My information shows that there was no active ban as such either before or after the Budget.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** There may not be a notification about it but the Customs people were given definite instructions not to allow any export of groundnut oil during the week prior to the Budget day. I would like the Minister to verify that.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I would like to have notice of that to make the enquiries.

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** May I know whether there is any ban on the inter-State movement of groundnut oil and cakes?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

**Shri M. L. Gupta:** What is the policy of the Government regarding the export of groundnut, which is an article of food and is allowed to be exported, whereas castor seeds and castor oil are not allowed to be exported?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How does castor oil arise out of groundnuts?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I agree with you, Sir, that castor oil does not come out of groundnuts, and even so a sup-

plementary question on castor oil cannot come out of a question on groundnuts.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Is it a fact that the export of groundnut or oil-seeds and their regulation has to be done on the recommendation of the Agricultural Department or does the Commerce Department do it on its own in view of the barter agreements?

**Shri Karmarkar:** As my friend rightly observed we do it largely in consultation with the Agriculture Ministry in so far as our internal requirements are concerned. In respect of barter agreements we have also to take them into consideration and whenever we consider the matter we in the Commerce Ministry always consult the Ministry concerned, in regard to the particular commodity.

**Shri Sarangdhar Das:** May I know if the Government has considered this aspect of groundnuts at all that the cake which goes out with the groundnut when groundnut is exported is useful for cattle and for manure and should be returned to the soil?

**Shri Karmarkar:** All these things are taken into consideration.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Is it a fact that in the matter of non-edible oils and oilseeds restriction is imposed by the Agriculture Ministry?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

#### CENTRAL COTTAGE INDUSTRIES EMPORIUM

\*2877. **Babu Gopinath Singh:** (a) Will the Ministry of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what profit, if any, has accrued to the Central Cottage Industries Emporium during the year 1949-50?

(b) What is the value of goods sold monthly by the Emporium?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** (a) Nil.

(b) Rs. 10,000 on an average.

**Babu Gopinath Singh:** May I know what expenditure is incurred by the Government on the pay and allowances of the Emporium staff?

**Shri Mahtab:** The total expenditure for 1949-50 is Rs. 41,267/4/-, that is to say it comes to an average monthly expenditure of Rs. 3,438/15/- and mostly it is on allowances and salary.

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** What is the rent paid for the Emporium?

**Shri Mahtab:** I am sorry that information is not with me here. I can give it later.

**Babu Gopinath Singh:** What is the value of the goods received and what commission was charged by the Government on the goods sold?

**Shri Mahtab:** The total commission received in 1949-50 comes to Rs. 12,958/10/3. It comes to a monthly average of Rs. 1,079/14/2.

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** Is it a fact that even without paying any rent the Emporium is running at a loss?

**Shri Mahtab:** There is no doubt that the Emporium is running at a loss of about Rs. 2,000 a month.

**Shri Shiv Charan Lal:** What steps are Government taking to run it in such a way that it does not run at a loss?

**Shri Mahtab:** So far as I can foresee there is bound to be some loss because apart from the sales this is also a publicity organisation. Recently we have appointed a small sub-committee to take charge of this Emporium. The Committee consists of Shri Patil, member of the Planning Commission, Shri Lakshmidas Purushottamdas and Shrimati Kamaladevi, and they are looking after the Emporium.

**Sardar B. S. Man:** May I ask whether the atmosphere in the Emporium is official or commercial?

#### MILK PRODUCTS

\*2878. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total value of milk and milk products such as butter, cheese and milk-powder imported during the financial year 1949-50 and the value of cows, buffaloes and milch cattle exported from India during the same period?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** The value of milk and milk products imported into India during the year 1949-50 was approximately Rs. 3,80,36,287. No cows or buffaloes were exported out of India during the same period. Sheep and goats valued at Rs. 24,81,231 were, however, exported in the said year.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** यह जो आयात इन चीजों का हुआ है, यह १९४८-४९ से ज्यादा है, या कम है ?

**[Seth Govind Das: Do the imports of these commodities exceed those made in 1948-49?]**

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am afraid I have not got the information with me here.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** यह आयात का जो सामान है, वह सबसे ज्यादा किस देश से आया है ?

**[Seth Govind Das: From which country have we imported the largest quantity of these commodities?]**

**श्री करमार्कर :** वह भी मेरे पास मौजूद नहीं है, लेकिन मैं हर्ष से वह इतला माननीय सदस्य को पढ़ा सकता हूँ ।

**[Shri Karmarkar: That information too is not available with me just at present but I could gladly supply it to the hon. Member.]**

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या गवर्नमेंट को इस बात का विश्वास है कि जो मक्खन दूसरे देशों से यहाँ पर आता है, वह ख़ालिस मक्खन आता है और उसमें कोई मिलावट नहीं होती है ?

**[Seth Govind Das: Do the Government believe that the butter received here from other countries is pure butter and that it does not contain any adulteration?]**

**श्री करमार्कर :** हमारे ख़्याल से वह बिल्कुल शुद्ध होता है ।

**[Shri Karmarkar: We take it to be quite pure.]**

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** इसको मानने में, क्या गवर्नमेंट ने कुछ प्रयोग कर इस बात को देखा है ?

**[Seth Govind Das: Have the Government verified that fact with the help of some experiments?]**

**श्री करमार्कर :** इसका यही काफ़ी सबूत है कि खाने वाले उससे लुभा हैं और उसकी शिकायत नहीं करते ।

**[Shri Karmarkar: It is enough proof that those who eat it are satisfied with it and have no complaints to make.]**

**श्री जांगड़ :** जमी माननीय मंत्री ने कहा है कि कुछ भेड़ और बकरियाँ यहाँ से भेजी जाती हैं, तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वह कौन से देश में भेजी जाती हैं ?

**[Shri Jaagde: The hon. Minister has just stated that some sheep and**

goats are sent from here. I should like to know to which country are they sent?]

**श्री करमार्कर :** वह सीलोन में भेजी जाती हैं।

[Shri Karmarkar: They are sent to Ceylon.]

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** अभी माननीय मंत्री ने जो जानवर यहां से बाहर भेजे जाते हैं उनका एक आंकड़ा दिया, वह मैंने पूरा सुन नहीं पाया, कि आया गाय, या भैंस भी भेजी जाती हैं, या बुरारे जानवर ही जाते हैं ?

[Seth Govind Das: The hon. Minister just now gave a figure with regard to the cattle exported from India but I could not hear him properly. Are cows or buffaloes also sent or only other cattle are sent?]

**श्री करमार्कर :** मुझे यह बतलाते हुए संतोष होता है कि गाये नहीं भेजी जाती हैं।

[Shri Karmarkar: I am glad to say no cows are exported.]

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that there is a firm called the National Nutriment, Ltd. with two factories in India manufacturing milk powder which supplied to the Government during the war, and has there been any attempt on the part of Government to obtain supplies from this firm and cut down imports?

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

**Shri Kamath:** But on a previous occasion, his colleague the Food Minister admitted knowledge of the existence of this firm, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** In this case the Deputy-Minister does not know it and he may have to enquire.

**Shri Kamath:** Colleagues ought to keep each other informed.

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह :** समापति महोदय, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि मक्खन पवित्र है या कैसा है, यह खाने वालों से पूछा जाय पूछिये, तो मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि कोई चीज जब हमारे देश में आती

है, तो यह जानने का काम कि वह पवित्र है, अपवित्र है, या कैसी है, क्या यह गवर्नमेंट के जानने का काम नहीं है और अगर अपवित्र है, तो उसके रोकने का काम क्या इस सरकार का नहीं है ?

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, the hon. Minister has just stated that the question whether the butter is pure or not should be addressed to those who eat it. I wish to ask is it no job of the Government to ascertain as to whether any stuff imported into this country is pure, impure or possessed of some other qualities and if it is found to be impure is it not a duty of the Government to ban its import?]

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :** दूसरा क्वेश्चन।

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.]

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह :** समापति जी, हमको कोई जवाब नहीं मिला ?

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Sir, I have not received any reply to my question.]

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :** आप जानते हैं।

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You know it already.]

#### COMPULSORY PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

\*2882. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Compulsory Provident Fund Scheme for industrial workers is popular among workers?

(b) What are the industries where the workers are allowed the benefit of Provident Fund?

(c) How many workers have subscribed to the Provident Fund account?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) Under the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948 a compulsory Provident Fund scheme has been introduced for employees in coal mining industry. The scheme is steadily gaining popularity. The question of undertaking legislation for institution of compulsory Provident Funds for employees in other industries is under consideration.

(b) The reports of the Labour Investigation Committee show that Provident Fund schemes are in existence in Cotton Mill, Engineering, Chemical, Sugar and Cement industries.

(c) Up to the 15th March, 1951, 3,10,514 colliery employees have subscribed to the Coal Mines Provident Fund.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** May I know what is the amount the Government has to contribute towards this Provident Fund?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Government has to contribute nothing. It is a compulsory contributory fund contributed by the employers and the employees.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Is not a certain portion contributed by the Government?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** No, not at all.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Are the workers allowed the option to contribute or is it compulsory.

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I will refer my hon. friend to the Act. It is a compulsory contributory provident fund.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Have all the collieries adopted this Provident Fund system?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** As I have already said it is compulsory.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** For all the collieries?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Yes, for the entire industry.

**Shri Sonavane:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether this scheme has been extended to the textile workers in Bombay, and, if so, what classes of workers are covered, and, if not, whether the scheme under consideration will be finalised and by what date?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I am afraid my hon. friend has not listened to the reply that I gave. The question of undertaking legislation for institution of compulsory Provident Funds for employees in other industries is under consideration. As regards the textile industry, there are in existence in certain units—not in all—voluntary Provident Funds, but it is not under any Act but under the model rules framed by the Government. It is not compulsory.

**Shri Syammandan Sahaya:** If an employee gives up service in one company and joins another, is the Provident Fund transferred from the old company to the new company which he joins?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** That is the advantage of this scheme. So long as

the employee continues in that industry in any part of India, his Provident Fund continues and the contribution made by the previous employer ceases and the new employer has to contribute.

**Shri Jnani Ram:** What is the total amount in deposit up till the end of the last financial year in this fund?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I have not got the total figure of collections here.

#### WORKS COMMITTEES

\*2883. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how are the Works Committees working among labour?

(b) In what industries have such Committees been started and what are their functions?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) According to the report received by Government on the working of Works Committees in different industrial establishments, it appears that such Committees have, on the whole, been functioning satisfactorily.

(b) Works Committees have been set up in industrial establishments of the following industries:

Mining, plantations, textiles, engineering, electrical, sugar paper, glass and printing.

The main function of a Works Committee is to promote measures for securing and preserving amity and good relations between the employer and the workmen.

**Babu Gopinath Singh:** Is it a fact that Works Committees have been abolished in U.P.?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I have no information on the point.

**Thakur Lal Singh:** Are Works Committees working in the factories in Bhopal?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** I want notice, but I think that in some of the establishments they are working.

**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Are these committees helpful in maintaining the solidarity of labour organisations also?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** They are meant for that.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that Works Committees in several factories did not function for a long time after their constitution because there was no directive from the Centre about

the status and functions of the representatives of the employees on the Works Committees?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** That is not a fact, because as soon as the Industrial Disputes Act was passed the rules under the Act were framed, but in some establishments the Works Committees did not function effectively due to lack of encouragement on the part of the employers and sometimes due to the attitude of indifference taken by the Unions.

**Shri Kamath:** What was the time lag between the passing of the Industrial Disputes Act and the constitution of these committees?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** It has taken different times in different States. As my hon. friend knows, the enforcement of the Acts in most industries is the responsibility of the State Governments.

लोहा

\*२८८४. श्री जांगड़े : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) वर्ष १९४९-५० तथा १९५०-५१ में मध्य प्रदेश को कृषि कार्यों के लिये आर्बिट्रिट किये गये कच्चे लोहे और इस्पात की मात्रा; तथा

(ख) क्या कृषि कार्यों के लिये प्रयोग में आने वाले लोहे पर से नियंत्रण नहीं हटाया जा रहा है ?

IRON

[\*2884. **Shri Jangde:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the block allotments of pig iron and steel meant for agricultural purposes that were made to Madhya Pradesh in the years 1949-50 and 1950-51; and

(b) whether the control on iron, used for agricultural purposes, is not being removed?]

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** (a) Steel: 4,754 tons in 1949-50 and 8,131 tons in 1950-51.

**Pig Iron:** No separate allotments are made for agricultural purposes. Total allotments made to Madhya

Pradesh were 390 tons in 1949-50 and 1680 tons in 1950-51.

(b) No, Sir.

**श्री जांगड़े :** क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि मध्य प्रदेश के देहातों को बैलगाड़ियों में प्रयोग किये जानेवाला लोहा पर्याप्त मात्रा में नहीं दिया जाता ?

[**Shri Jangde:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state if it is not correct that the rural areas in Madhya Pradesh are not supplied sufficient quantity of iron to be used in the manufacture of bullock carts?]

**Shri Mahtab:** That is not only the case with regard to Madhya Pradesh, but that is the case with regard to all the States because we have got no adequate supply of both pig iron and steel.

**श्री जांगड़े :** क्या यह सही नहीं है कि भारत के लोहे के कारखानों में कृषि कार्य के लिये अधिक मात्रा में लोहा तैयार नहीं किया जाता है ।

[**Shri Jangde:** Is it not correct that Iron in sufficient quantity is not produced in the iron factories of India for the purposes of agriculture?]

**Shri Mahtab:** They are producing as much as they can, but the total demand is much higher than the total supply.

**श्री जांगड़े :** क्या कृषि कार्य के लिये उपयोगी लोहा विदेशों से आयात किया जाता है ? यदि हाँ, तो सन् १९४९-१९५० में कितना आयात किया गया ?

[**Shri Jangde:** Is iron required for agricultural purposes imported from foreign countries? If so, how much of it was imported in the year 1949-50?]

**Shri Mahtab:** I am sorry I have not got these import figures here, but I can supply them later.

**Shri M. C. Shah:** May I know the total amount of pig iron that India produced in 1950 and the quantity that was exported outside India?

**Shri Mahtab:** There was a question on that point and I gave the figures some time ago. I have not got them here now.



श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि कृषि कार्य के लिये उपयोग किये जाने वाले लोहे की कीमत २० प्रतिशत बढ़ गई है, यदि हां, तो क्यों ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister state if it is not correct that the price of iron used for agricultural purposes has increased by 20 per cent. and if so why?]

Shri Mahtab: I have said that it is in short supply everywhere, but the agricultural quota of, not pig iron, but steel, is given to the Agriculture Ministry and they distribute it to all the States according to their requirements.

श्री जांगड़े : मैंने पूछा कि कीमत अधिक बढ़ जाने का कारण क्या है ?

[Shri Jangde: I have asked what is the cause of the rise in price?]

Shri Mahtab: If the price is higher than the control price then I shall draw the attention of the State Governments to it. But I have reasons to believe that the price is within the control price.

श्री जांगड़े : मैंने यह कहा कि गत वर्ष प्रायः नियंत्रित भाव कम थे, इस वर्ष वह क्यों अधिक हो गये हैं ?

[Shri Jangde: What I have said is that last year the controlled prices were lower, why have they gone up this year?]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why has the control price itself gone up?

Shri Mahtab: The control price has not been raised.

#### CITIZENSHIP OF INDIANS IN MALAYA

\*2885. Shri Rathnaswamy: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian citizens have not yet taken up Federal Citizenship of Malaya; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Federal Citizenship law does not apply to Indians in Singapore?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Only 5,482 Indians had applied for and obtained Federal Citizenship certificates, by

the end of November, 1950. The latest figure is not yet available. However, about 50 per cent. of the total Indian population in Malaya are eligible to become Federal citizens automatically by operation of law. They are free to register themselves as such at any time they wish.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know as to what concessions have been given to Indian citizens in Malaya who enrolled as Federal citizens before 31st January of this year?

Dr. Keskar: There are no concessions available on becoming Federal citizens. There were concessions available for those who chose to become voluntarily Federal Citizens in the matter of getting Citizenship. What I mean to say is that there is no special concession for citizenship rights that they get by becoming citizens up to a particular date.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Am I correct in understanding that certain concessions were withdrawn for such of those who enrolled themselves as Federal citizens after 31st January?

Dr. Keskar: Yes. I think certain concessions of eligibility were withdrawn for those who did not enrol up to a particular date.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that more stringent qualifications have to be satisfied by such of those who want to become Federal citizens in Malaya now?

Dr. Keskar: I do not think it would be right to say "more stringent". There are some general rules for all, whether Indians or non-Indians, who want to become Federal Citizens and we cannot say that special rules have been enacted for Indians as such.

...Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that this Federal Citizenship does not confer nationality on Indians in Malaya?

Dr. Keskar: Federal Malayan citizenship does not confer nationality on any citizen, whether Indian or non-Indian.

Shri Rathnaswamy: What is the reason why nationality is not conferred on anybody in Malaya?

Dr. Keskar: It is a very complicated question, because Malaya not being a country with international status, it is not in the power of the Malayan Federation to confer nationality as long as it has not got international status.

### FRIENDLY AGREEMENTS WITH ASIAN COUNTRIES

**\*2886. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether talks for agreements for mutual help and co-operation in matters of common interest are proceeding between India and any Asian countries and if so, which are those countries?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar):** Negotiations are in progress for the conclusion of Treaties of Friendship, Trade and Commerce with Syria, Muscat and Oman, Yemen, Iraq, Philippines, Burma and Thailand.

### TRIPARTITE LABOUR CONFERENCE

**\*2887. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before Government to hold any Tripartite Labour Conference to ensure increasing production?

(b) If so, when do Government propose to hold such a conference?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** (a) and (b). A conference between representatives of industry, labour and Government, at which members of the Planning Commission were also present, was held in New Delhi on the 17th and 18th February, 1951, when general agreement was reached on certain points...affecting rationalisation in industry.

### INDUSTRIAL LABOUR HOUSING SCHEMES

**\*2888. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how the progress made in connection with Industrial Labour Housing Schemes during the year 1950-51 compares with that achieved during 1949-50?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** During the year 1950-51 a project of 1,268 houses was undertaken and almost completed for factory workers in Bombay. 750 houses were constructed and 184 houses were under construction for coal-miners in the various coalfields. 4,146 houses for plantation labour have been constructed by the end of October, 1950 and 22,798 were expected to be constructed before the end of March, 1951. During the year 1949-50, 750 houses were constructed for the coal-miners, but no houses were constructed for the Factory workers as the

scheme had not then been finalised. Information regarding the houses constructed for Plantation Labour during 1949-50 is not available.

**श्री किशोरीमोहन त्रिपाठी :** क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जान सकता हूँ कि क्या ऐसे भी कोई प्रान्त हैं जहाँ यह स्कीम अभी नहीं शुरू की गई है।

[**Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** May I know if there are any States where this scheme has not been introduced?]

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** जी हाँ, ऐसे बहुत से प्रान्त हैं।

[**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Yes, there are several of them.]

**श्री किशोरीमोहन त्रिपाठी :** कौन से प्रान्त ऐसे हैं।

[**Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Which are those States?]

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** बम्बई, बिहार और पंजाब को छोड़ कर प्रायः सभी प्रान्त।

[**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** Almost all the States barring Bombay, Bihar and the Punjab.]

**Shri Kamath:** What portion of the expenditure incurred over this housing scheme was met by the employers?

**Shri Jagjivan Ram:** In the plantation industry the whole cost was met by the employers. The housing scheme envisages that 50 per cent. of the cost will be advanced by the Central Government at interest free loans and 50 per cent. by the State Governments or by a sponsored employer.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** जिन जिन प्रान्तों में अभी यह योजना आरम्भ नहीं हुई है उनमें से कितने ऐसे हैं जिन में यह योजना इस वर्ष आरम्भ करने का विचार किया जा रहा है।

[**Seth Govind Das:** Out of the States where this scheme has not been introduced as yet how many are such as are going to have it introduced this year?]

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** मध्य प्रदेश में तो यह योजना कुछ आरम्भ हो गई है। वहाँ अधिक रुपया खर्च नहीं किया जा सका,

बिर्फ वस लाख पहले साल खर्च किया जा सका। अगले साल शायद हम ज्यादा मदद कर सकें।

[Shri Jagjivan Ram: The scheme has been introduced partially in Madhya Pradesh. It has not been possible to incur sufficient expenditure there; an expenditure of ten lakhs only could be made in the first year. We may be in a position to render greater help next year.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : इस प्रान्त के सिवा और भी कोई ऐसे प्रान्त हैं जहाँ यह योजना इस वर्ष आरम्भ होने वाली है ?

[Seth Govind Das: Are there any other States besides this one where this scheme is intended to be introduced this year?]

श्री जगजीवन राम : उम्मीद है कि उड़ीसा और आसाम में भी आरम्भ होगी।

[Shri Jagjivan Ram: We hope it would be started in Orissa and Assam as well.]

श्री किशोरीमोहन त्रिपाठी : जिन प्रान्तों में यह कार्य शुरू नहीं हुआ है उन प्रान्तों के सामने कौन सी कठिनाइयाँ हैं जिन के कारण यह काम शुरू नहीं हो सका।

[Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: In the case of the States where it has not been possible to start this work what are the difficulties which have stood in the way of their being able to do so?]

श्री जगजीवन राम : मुख्य कठिनाई तो आर्थिक ही है।

[Shri Jagjivan Ram: The main difficulty is financial.]

Shri Syammandan Sahaya: Is it a fact that the Central Government in certain cases have not been able to give half of the amount, required, as indicated by the hon. Minister when asked for?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is not a fact. Though in the last year's budget the provision was only of rupees one crore, even that money was not utilised by the States to whom it was allotted and some of the money allotted to the different States had to be trans-

ferred to Bombay which utilised more. So, it cannot be said that we did not provide half of the money demanded by this scheme.

Shri Syammandan Sahaya: Is it a fact that one of the reasons why the States were not able to utilise the amount, was the condition that the buildings when ready would be owned by the Central Government?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It was never the intention that the buildings will be owned by the Central Government. The whole scheme is that the buildings will be owned by a Housing Board on which the States Governments, representatives of employers and representatives of workers will have seats.

#### SCARCITY OF SALT IN DELHI

\*2889. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salt is selling in Delhi at several times the usual price and the people of Delhi are experiencing great hardship in getting salt;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to meet the situation; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to make salt available to the people through ration shops?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) to (c). There was a temporary shortage of salt in Delhi during early February, 1951, due mainly to shortage of wagons at Sambhar and export of salt from Delhi to neighbouring areas. However, supplies were rushed up by special train, and the export of salt from Delhi has been prohibited. Salt is now being sold at the controlled price of one anna per seer through the ration shops.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, how long it had taken the Government to introduce this system of selling salt in the ration shops?

Shri Gadgil: Sir, inasmuch as this question is of wider significance, you will permit me to reply in detail.

The system is that through the nominees orders are placed and a programme is given. Unfortunately, the Delhi nominees did not keep up to the programme and thereby created an artificial scarcity. This fact came to the notice of the Salt Controller on the 9th February, 1951. It was pointed out to the Delhi Administration that as against the quota of 1,105 wagons already 1,105 wagons were made available. But the scarcity

arose for two reasons: one, as I have said, because the nominees did not act promptly and the other the Delhi State allowed export. However, a special train was rushed and the difficulty was got over. To ensure that such a thing does not happen in future, we requested the Delhi State to ban export from the Delhi area. That has been already done and the quota for the Delhi State has been increased by 75,000 maunds, for this year, in other words 300 wagons more.

**Shri Sidhva:** May I know whether the hon. Minister has got an assurance from the Railway Ministry that they will give him wagons at Sambhar from where this salt is transported to other parts?

**Shri Gadgil:** In this particular instance the scarcity of wagons arose because of the Delhi nominees not following up their programme. If they had followed up that programme, then the supply would have been staggered and there would have been no scarcity.

We are seriously thinking as to whether we should continue the nominee system or not.

**Shri Sidhva:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that in other parts of the country where the district nominee system exists, they corner the salt and then do not sell it? May I know whether his attention has been drawn to this and when is he going to take steps in this matter? Has the Advisory Committee also decided that the system of nominees should be abolished?

**Shri Gadgil:** That is the case in the areas referred to by my hon. friend and it is one of the points that is under consideration—whether the wholesale aspect of distribution should not be given over to the States who will directly indent from Government and private factories.

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** Is it a fact that in the ration shops in Delhi salt is being sold at one anna a seer? What is the quantity that is sold to a card holder? For any additional requirements has one to go to the black-market?

**Shri Gadgil:** There is no black-market; one can have it from the ration shops. As regards limitation of quantity, I require notice of the question.

#### POPULATION CONTROL

\*2890. **Shri M. P. Mishra:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has considered the desirability of

controlling the population of the country; and

(b) whether they have formulated any scheme on the subject?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) The Planning Commission has been engaged in considering the population question.

(b) The subject is under consideration.

**Shri M. P. Mishra:** Has the Planning Commission considered the desirability of exporting population from densely populated areas to other areas in India or outside?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** So far as I know, the Planning Commission has thought of population in human terms and not as exportable commodities.

**Shri M. P. Mishra:** What has been the increase in our population since 1941? 5

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** The hon. Member can wait for the census results: I do not know definitely.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Is it a fact, Sir, that in certain States measures have already been taken to popularise family planning, but nothing has been done in Centrally Administered Areas? Is the Government thinking of doing something?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Government would welcome such steps being taken by every State and Municipality in India.

#### Short Notice Question and Answer

##### VISIT OF A TEAM OF OBSERVERS TO FRENCH POSSESSIONS IN INDIA

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state: -

(a) whether it is a fact that the French Government have sent a team of observers to their possessions in India for reporting on the conditions prevailing there;

(b) whether the Government of India have made any agreement regarding this visit and if so, what are its terms; and

(c) whether Government will clarify their attitude regarding their visit and any consequent report made thereon?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) Yes.

(b) No. The French Government have taken this action unilaterally as they consider it to be their sole responsibility.

(c) The Government of India had agreed that the referendum in the French Settlements in India should be supervised by a team of observers, appointed by the President of the International Court of Justice. The present team, consisting of M. Holger Anderson, M. Francois Perreard and Prot. Manuel Chan, has arrived in Pondicherry at the request of the French Government in order to see whether the conditions prevailing there are suitable for the holding of a referendum. The Government of India repeatedly represented to the French Government that this visit should not take place unless the political prisoners in the French Settlements in India had been released. Until this was done, it would not be possible for the observers to accomplish their object properly. The Government of India also asked that there should be at least two Asian observers, corresponding to the two European. Moreover the terms of reference to the observers should have been settled in consultation with the Government of India. Representations on all these points were made but not accepted by the French Government. In the circumstances, the Government of India wish to make it clear that they do not regard themselves as bound to accept any findings that may result from the visit of the observers.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know whether one of the two Asian observers said to have been selected by the International Court has not come along with this team and, if so, what are the reasons for his not coming?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am not sure to whom the hon. Member is referring. Perhaps he refers to the Burmese. Well, he could not come because he was not given enough time to come, if I may say so. He is at the present moment at Peking, in China. He was prepared to come. But it takes time to come, and adequate time was not allowed to him to come.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know whether any representation was made by the Government of India regarding the unsuitability of conditions prevailing in Pondicherry with respect to a fair and free referendum?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** In the answer which I have just read before the House it is pointed out that we have been referring to such matters.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** May I know whether any representation has been made by the Government of India in regard to the Mahe prisoners detained in Mahe?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes, Sir. I think more than one representation was made.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** And what has been the result, Sir?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** For the moment I cannot say what the last result was. But generally speaking our representations did not achieve any result.

**Shri Alagesan:** What are the countries from which these observers have been drawn?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am not quite sure, unless I guess from the names. Perhaps the Deputy Minister may have some information.

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar):** There is one Swiss, one Swedish and one Phillipine.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether this party will visit Chandernagore also?

**Shri Kamath:** Is it not a fact that as late as November last the Prime Minister or the Deputy Minister of External Affairs stated in the House that the modalities of the referendum were under discussion between the Government of India and the French Government, and are we to understand from the Prime Minister's answer today that all the modalities of the referendum have been unilaterally settled by the French Government?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir. The question of the referendum does not immediately arise. The question is of somebody going there to find out if conditions are suitable for fixing a date for the referendum. That is, this is a preliminary procedure before the referendum.

**Shri Kamath:** Is the question of the date and the modalities still open?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Absolutely.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### IMPORT CONTROL ENQUIRY COMMITTEE (REPORT)

\*2867. **Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted certain recommendations of

the Import Control Enquiry Committee which submitted its report in October, 1950; and

(b) if so, the recommendations accepted and implemented so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the late Ministry of Commerce Resolution No. I.C.E.C.-14/51 dated the 3rd January, 1951 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary of the 4th January, 1951, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Para. 5(A) of the Resolution contains the recommendations of the Committee which were accepted for implementation from the 1st January, 1951 and these have been given effect to. Para. 5(B) of the Resolution indicates the recommendations which have been approved for implementation with effect from the 1st July, 1951. Some of the procedural changes recommended by the Committee have been already introduced while others which involve long-term reorganisation can only be effected when the bulk of the licensing work for January-June, 1951 has been completed. Moreover, in view of the subsequent amalgamation of the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Industry and Supply the position in respect of some of the recommendations is being examined afresh.

#### IMPORT OF RAW COTTON

**\*2868. Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks regarding the import of raw cotton were recently held in Delhi with the representatives of United Kingdom and Uganda; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION (TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES)

**\*2879. Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the amount spent on account of travelling allowances in India and outside India separately by the Planning Commission for (i) the hon. Minister, or his Deputy, if any, in the Commission; (ii) the public servants or officials of the Commission; and (iii) members of the non-official public travelling in

connection with the work of the Commission in the years 1950 and 1951?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Total expenditure incurred on travelling allowance during the years 1950 and 1951 (upto the end of February, 1951) is Rs. 45,491/- as shown below:—

#### In India

For the Prime Minister	Nil
For Deputy Chairman—	
Tour—2610/-	} 3572/-/-.
Transfer—962/-	
For Staff.	30404/-/-.
For non-officials.	11515/-/-.
Total:—	45491/-/-.

#### Outside India

Minor expenditure (roughly about £125/-) incurred in connection with the study by an officer of the Planning Commission of planning techniques in certain European countries.

#### BOOK VALUES OF STORES

**\*2880. Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total value, as recorded in the Ministry's books, (i) of the various kinds of stores, installations and equipment maintained in the Ministry (as then constituted), as on the 31st December, 1950; (ii) of the live-stock for carriage of goods or personnel or vehicles for that purpose, as on the 31st December, 1950; and (iii) of the total Capital Cost of the Buildings, factories and other structures as well as for plant and machinery, tools and implements, fixtures and furnitures and stock of materials maintained by the Ministry as on the 31st December, 1950; and

(b) the provision made for the proper maintenance of the Stores, Installations, plant machinery, and Equipment, as well as for the proper housing and care of the animals, or vehicles maintained by the Ministry, as on the 31st December, 1950?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** (a) and (b). The time and expense involved in the collection of the information will not be commensurate with the result.

#### CONTRACTS

**\*2881. Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) how many different forms of contracts have been in use in the

Ministry since 15th August, 1947 (i) for carrying out constructional work; (ii) for supply of stores and provisions; (iii) for operating canteens; and (iv) for contract appointments;

(b) how many contracts involving a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs or more have had to be (i) cancelled or rescinded because of disputes with contractors, or for other reasons; (ii) revised in material particulars during the currency of the contract, by mutual consent, for or against Government; (iii) disputed, and referred to arbitration; (iv) disputed and taken to court for adjudication or appeal from 15th August, 1947, to 31st March, 1950; and

(c) whether any attempts have been made to co-ordinate the terms and conditions of such contracts in the several departments or branches of the Ministry?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** (a) (i) 6 (ii) 19 (iii) Nil. (iv) 4.

(b) The information is not readily available and the time and expense involved in collecting it will not be commensurate with the result.

(c) It is not possible to devise one standard form for all contracts. To the extent that there is similarity in circumstances and conditions, the contracts also follow the same pattern.

#### CEYLON NATIONALS

**\*2891. Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Ceylon Nationals in India?

(b) Are they entitled to acquire property in India?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar):** (a) No figures are available.

(b) Yes.

#### ZINC CHLORIDE (IMPORT)

**\*2892. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how much Zinc Chloride was imported in the years 1949 and 1950;

(b) in which industries this chemical is largely used;

(c) the number of indigenous firms that produce this chemical; and

(d) the amount produced in India in 1949 and 1950?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):**

(a) 1948-49 ..... 832 tons.  
1949-50 ..... 552 tons

(b) (1) Textile Industry  
(2) Manufacture of dry batteries  
(3) As an ingredient of soldering fluxes.

(c) Two.

(d) 1949.....166 tons.  
1950.....426 tons

#### SULPHUR

**\*2893. Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether sulphur is a controlled commodity and if so, what is the nature of the control?

(b) What is the indigenous production of India in sulphur and what is our requirement?

(c) What are the countries from which it is imported, if any?

(d) Is it a fact that there is a great dearth of sulphur now in India and that if immediate imports are not made, some industries especially Fertiliser Industry will have to be closed down?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** (a) The possession, disposal and sale of sulphur is at present controlled under the Supply and Prices of Goods Act, 1950 (LXX of 1950).

(b) The country's minimum requirement of sulphur for essential purposes is estimated at 60,000 tons a year. The entire amount has to be imported, there being no indigenous production.

(c) Mainly the U.S.A. and Italy.

(d) Government are aware of the shortage of supplies of sulphur in the country and have been able to secure an allocation of 8,000 tons of sulphur from U.S.A. for the first quarter of 1951. This will be distributed to the essential consumers including Fertiliser factories, as soon as it is received.

#### AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS

**\*2894. Shri Ramaswamy Naidu:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural implements are allowed to be imported into India;

(b) if so, what is the value of such items; and

(c) what help Government are giving to the indigenous manufacturers of these implements?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** (a) Yes.

(b) On an average about Rs. 30,00,000/- per annum.

(c) Assistance in importing plant and machinery from abroad, and in securing raw materials, transport, etc.

#### MANUFACTURE OF AGRICULTURAL PUMP-SETS

\*2895. **Shri Ramaswamy Naidu:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of companies and institutions, that are manufacturing agricultural pump-sets coupled with electric motors;

(b) what is the number of companies that manufacture oil engines for pump-sets; and

(c) how many of the oil engine manufacturing companies are completely Indian-owned and how many of them have got foreign interests?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** (a) Four.

(b) Five.

(c) There are completely Indian-owned and two have foreign interest.

#### EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

\*2896. **Shri Balmiki:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how much amount has been spent on the salaries of (i) Officers, (ii) Ministerial establishment, and (iii) Class IV establishment of the Directorate General of the Employees State Insurance Corporation?

(b) What is the expenditure on the travelling allowances of these Classes of Officers?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) and (b). The amount spent upto the 28th February, 1951 is as follows:

Categories of Officers	On Salaries including allowances	On Travelling allowances
1	2	3
	Rs.	Rs.
Officers	4,51,259 3 0	32,485 13 0
Ministerial establishment.	3,94,789 6 0	2,537 5 0
Class IV establishment.	80,929 12 0	296 10 0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,26,978 5 0</b>	<b>35,319 12 0</b>

#### BONUS AND PROVIDENT FUND SCHEMES

\*2897. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend the bonus and Provident Fund Schemes for coal-miners to other industries like jute, cotton textiles, iron and steel, etc.; and

(b) what benefits have been derived by the coal miners by these Schemes so far?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) The proposal of introducing a Provident Fund Scheme on the lines of the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme for industrial employees other than coal miners is under consideration. There is at present no proposal of extending the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme to other categories of industrial labour.

(b) The introduction of the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme has minimised the number of illegal strikes and reduced absenteeism among colliery employees. From the information available, it appears that since the introduction of the scheme in 1947 to the end of September, 1950, a sum of Rs. 1,53,79,831 has been paid to the colliery employees as bonus. This quarterly bonus is mainly utilised by the employees on the everyday necessities of life, to meet such intermittent liabilities as marriages, deaths, etc. and so save them from borrowing from the money lender at exorbitant interest rates. The Provident Fund Scheme is bringing much needed monetary help to the colliery employees when they retire or to their dependents in the event of their early death.

#### DELHI AND AJMER MERWARA RENT CONTROL ACT

\*2898. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases instituted in Delhi under the Delhi and Ajmer Merwara Rent Control Act (Act No. XIX of 1947) since the enforcement of the said Act upto 28th February, 1951;

(b) how many of these cases are pending;

(c) the number of cases, (i) decided within 1st year by the first court; (ii) decided in two years; and (iii) decided in three years or more;

(d) the number of cases, in which (i) orders for eviction of tenants were passed; and (ii) in which these orders were carried out;



(e) the number of cases, (i) which were instituted before the Rent Controller for fixation of rent during the period under Section 7(a) of the Act; and (ii) the number of cases which are still pending;

(f) the number of cases in which appeals were filed against the orders of the Rent Controller by (i) private persons; and (ii) by Government; and

(g) the number of cases in which decisions of the Rent Controller were reversed?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** (a) to (g). I place on the Table of the House, a statement giving the figures asked for. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 42.]  
1

#### ASSISTANCE TO COLLIERIES

**\*2899. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state what collieries are proposed to be given assistance in the year 1950-51 for stowing and safety under Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Act?

(b) What is the amount of assistance so far granted to each colliery?

(c) Is the work of stowing and safety done by Government departments and if not, what agency undertakes this work?

(d) What are the considerations under which such assistance is sanctioned?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** (a) and (b). A statement showing the names of the collieries to which assistance was proposed to be given during 1950-51 for (i) Voluntary stowing (ii) Compulsory stowing and (iii) Protective Works, and the amounts actually paid upto the 20th March, 1951, as assistance to each of the collieries, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 43.]

(c) The Protective Works and the Voluntary and Compulsory stowing operations are generally carried out by the collieries concerned and are inspected and supervised by the Board's Officers. In some cases the Protective Works are carried out by the Board under its direct supervision.

(d) Assistance is given for stowing and other measures undertaken to prevent crush of pillars, premature collapse of any part of workings, spread of fire and in-rush of water into the Coal Mines from rivers or dykes on the surface.

#### PETROLEUM REFINERY

**\*2900. Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether it is proposed to instal a petroleum refinery in India?

(b) If so, at what place and at what cost?

(c) What is the likely production from this refinery?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration.

#### TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRES

**\*2901. Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government propose to increase the number of Vocational and Technical Training Centres under the Ministry?

(b) If so, how many new Centres will be opened in the year 1951-52?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### BUILDINGS REQUISITIONED IN DELHI

**\*2902. Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state how many buildings (Private) requisitioned in Delhi are in the occupation of Government?

(b) What is the rent that has to be paid yearly?

(c) Do Government propose to release some of them in the near future?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** (a) 433.

(b) Rs. 7,38,627-15-0.

(c) The policy of progressive de-requisitioning of requisitioned premises was announced in the press communique dated the 24th January, 1951, which is being followed by Government.

#### ECONOMIC ADVISER, INDIAN MILITARY MISSION, HAMBURG

**\*2903. Shri Chandrika Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what are the precise functions and duties of the Economic Adviser to the Indian Military Mission at Hamburg?

(b) Do Government propose to set up an office of a Trade Commissioner there?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the

House. [See Appendix XX, annexure No. 44.]

(b) Does not arise, since the Economic Adviser is a full-fledged trade representative of the Government of India.

#### TIMARPUR QUARTERS

\*2904. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new quarters built in Timarpur according to different types;

(b) the total cost incurred in building these quarters;

(c) the cost of repair, if any, since their construction; and

(d) the number of quarters under each type so far allotted?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** (a) (i) Peons' Quarters: 72. (ii) Work-charged staff (C.P.W.D.) Quarters: 96. (iii) Clerks' Quarters: 344.

(b) The accounts for all the three works have not yet been closed and accordingly, the figure of total cost incurred on these quarters is not available. The total estimated cost and the total expenditure incurred upto the end of February, 1951 are Rs. 32,43,385/- and Rs. 24,20,563-1-3 respectively.

(c) A sum of Rs. 33-2-0 has been spent on repairs upto February, 1951, on the clerks' quarters.

(d) All these quarters have been allotted with the exception of one quarter which is being used by the Central Public Works Department as Enquiry Office.

#### TROOPS IN FRENCH INDIAN SETTLEMENTS

\*2905. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Government keep India informed from time to time of the number of troops, and the quantity of arms and ammunition which France is allowed under the Treaty of 1814, to keep in the French Indian settlements for the maintenance of internal order; and

(b) if not, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar):** (a) No. But the Treaty of 1814 provides that the French will place in these establish-

ments troops only sufficient for police requirements.

(b) Does not arise.

#### GOENKA COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

\*2906. **Shri Ramaswamy Naidu:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether the Goenka Committee on Government Printing has submitted its report?

(b) What are the main recommendations of the Committee?

(c) Has the report been published?

(d) What action have Government taken upon the report?

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** (a) The report of the Expert Committee has been received by the Ministry in draft form and has not yet been finalised by the Chairman.

(b) The main recommendations of the Committee relate to replacement of the worn-out machines in the Presses, expansion of the existing presses and establishment of certain new ones, setting up of a printing school, appointment of technical men in the key posts and appointment of a technical Adviser.

(c) No.

(d) Pending submission of the finalised report, the recommendations of the Committee are being examined and necessary action is being taken wherever possible.

#### PRICE OF PAPER

\*2907. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Paper Makers Association and the Indian Paper Mills Association in a joint meeting on the 7th March, 1951 increased the price of paper and board including white printing paper by 6 pies per lb.?

(b) If so, were the Government of India consulted before enhancement of price?

(c) What are the causes of enhancement?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab):** (a) Government have received reports that the prices of Indian paper and paper boards have recently been increased by 6 pies per lb.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government are not aware of the exact reasons which prompted the Associations to increase the price by 6 pies per lb.

## COAL MINES

\*2908. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Coal Mines which have stopped working during the last three months;

(b) the number of labourers involved;

(c) whether any arrangement was made for their absorption in other coal mines; and

(d) if so, what and how many of them have been employed till now?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) (1) Standard Colliery of Messrs Bird and Company; (2) Kuju Colliery.

(b) 1650 and 150 respectively.

(c) Yes.

(d) About 525 workers were offered employment in other coal mines but only two accepted alternative employment.

## PROPAGANDA ON KASHMIR ISSUE

\*2909. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, following the Cease Fire Agreement or 1st January, 1949, India and Pakistan agreed to suspend all propaganda abroad on the Kashmir issue;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that, in pursuance of that agreement, India drastically revised certain films on Kashmir already produced;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the London County Council decision to exhibit the documentary film "Kashmir Conflict" which represents the Pakistan slant on the subject; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken, or are being taken, by Government to counter such hostile propaganda abroad, on Kashmir?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). No such assurance was given, but it was agreed that nothing should be done which might worsen the situation.

(c) Yes.

(d) The normal methods of placing the Government of India's viewpoint and of correcting wrong and tendentious statements have been employed.

## DIS-ENFRANCHISEMENT OF INDIANS IN CEYLON

\*2910. **Shri Alagesan:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the editorial of the *Hindu* dated the 14th March, 1951, wherein it is stated that 18,000 Indians resident in Ceylon in the constituency of Balangoda alone, who were entitled to vote on the last occasion, have now been dis-enfranchised and they will not be able to vote in the by-election that is to be held there shortly; and

(b) if so, what Government propose to do in the matter of bringing their names and the names of others similarly placed on the electoral register?

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

(b) The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the reply given by me on the 15th March, 1951 to part (d) of Starred Question No. 2242 asked by Shri Rathnaswamy on the same subject.

## HARIJANS VISITING PAKISTAN

\*2911. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Harijans who visit Pakistan and fail to return within the stipulated time or period, are being detained there; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). Information asked for is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

## RICE FROM INDO-CHINA

\*2912. { **Shri Nadimuthu Pillai:**  
**Shri Bharati:**  
**Shri R. Subramanian:**

(a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Consul at Saigon visited Delhi recently?

(b) If so, did he give any concrete proposal about rice from Indo-China?

(c) What was the nature of his proposal?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes. He came on a short holiday.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. On return to Saigon, he will send his proposals on the prospects of purchasing Viet Nam rice and the best mechanism for its purchase and payment.

### भोपाल स्ट्रा प्रोडक्ट्स फैक्टरी

\* २९१३ ठाकुर लाल सिंह : (a) क्या बणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि भोपाल नगर में स्ट्रा प्राडक्ट्स फैक्टरी (Straw Products Factory) कब से स्थापित है ?

(b) इस फैक्टरी के कितने अंशधारी भोपाल राज्य के कर्मचारी हैं तथा कितने ऐसे हैं जो भोपाल राज्य के कर्मचारी नहीं हैं ?

(c) इस फैक्टरी में पठ्ठा बनाने के लिए प्रयुक्त होने वाले बोल (Solution) में जो विभिन्न रसायन प्रयुक्त होते हैं वह क्या हैं ?

(d) क्या यह सत्य है कि जब यह बोल फैक्टरी से बाहर नाले में चला जाता है तो यह नाले के पानी को तथा उसके पश्चात् नदी के पानी को, मीलों तक खराब तथा स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक बना देता है ?

(e) क्या इस गन्दे पानी के नाले तथा नदी के आस पास रहने वाले लोगों की ओर से इस पानी द्वारा होने वाली हानि के विषय में भोपाल सरकार को कभी कोई अनुयोग प्राप्त हुए हैं ।

(f) इस कष्ट के निवारण के लिए भोपाल सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किए जा रहे हैं ।

### BHOPAL STRAW PRODUCTS FACTORY

[\*2913. Thakur Lal Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state since when the Straw Products Factory was established in Bhopal City?

(b) How many of the share-holders of this factory are Bhopal State-employees and how many of them are non-State employees?

(c) What are various chemicals used for the preparation of the solution used in the manufacture of strawboard in this factory?

(d) Is it a fact that, after this watery solution passes out of the factory into the *nullah* outside, it makes the water of the *nullah* and again that of the river, for miles together, useless and injurious to health?

(e) Have complaints been made, at any time, to the Bhopal Government by the people living alongside the *nullah* carrying this polluted water and alongside the river about the harm caused by this water?

(f) What steps are being taken by the Bhopal Government with a view to redress that grievance?]

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### YARN SHORTAGE IN BOMBAY

183. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Bombay Handloom Industry has sent a representation to the Government of India stating that they are short of yarn?

(b) How many people are engaged in the Handloom Industry in Bombay State and how many looms exist?

(c) Has yarn been supplied to meet this demand?

(d) How much yarn has been supplied during the year 1950?

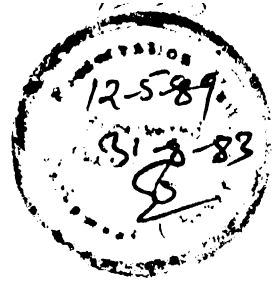
The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a). Yes.

(b) There are about 1,61,255 Handlooms in the Bombay State and it is estimated that about 4,83,768 persons are engaged in the Handloom Industry in the State.

(c) For purposes of distribution of yarn Bombay State is linked to the textile mills in that State. The Textile Commissioner allots a quota every month to such State depending upon the available, supplies of yarn. The internal distribution of yarn is the responsibility of the State Government.

(d) 78,726 bales of yarn of 400 lbs. each were supplied to the Bombay State during 1950. It is estimated that about 60 per cent of this quantity was supplied to Handloom Industry.

Friday, 6th April, 1951



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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VOLUME X, 1951

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

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Third Session  
of the  
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51

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**ANTI-INDIAN ARTICLES IN BRITISH PAPERS**

184. Shri Sidhva: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to continuous false and malicious articles in British papers against India on the question of alleged conspiracy by certain military officials of Pakistan to overthrow Pakistan Government; and

(b) if so, whether our High Commissioner in London has contradicted such false statements?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). The hon. Member is presumably referring to the speculation in the British Press about the motives behind the alleged conspiracy by some military officers of Pakistan. Some responsible newspapers in Great Britain considered that the conspiracy was an index of impatience and dissatisfaction which the delay in the solution of the Kashmir problem had produced in Pakistan. Unfortunately sections of the British press have repeatedly expressed opinions in regard to Kashmir which appear to us to be misconceived and at variance with many of the admitted facts of the case.

I might add that it has been officially stated in Pakistan that India has had nothing to do directly or indirectly with the alleged conspiracy of military officers in Pakistan.

Members of Parliament will appreciate that the United Kingdom has the tradition of a free press. The policy of our Government is well known and has been clearly stated in this House and elsewhere. In the circumstances we do not think any useful purpose will be served by our High Commissioner issuing any statement in regard to certain speculations in the British Press.

**TRADE WITH U. K.**

185. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total value of trade between India and the U. K. during 1938, 1939, 1947 and 1950?

(b) What is the total value of British investments in India now as compared with that in 1946 and 1939?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) According to the Census of India's Foreign Liabilities and Assets on the 30th June, 1948 recently made by the Reserve Bank of India total British investments in India in 1948 amounted to Rs. 642 crores. Exact comparison with the British investments in India in 1939 and 1946 is not possible as no figures for these years corresponding in scope and extent with the Reserve Bank's Census are available. Bank of England's estimates of U.K.'s Overseas Investments, however, show British investments in India in 1939 as Rs. 505 crores and in 1946 as Rs. 103 crores.

**STATEMENT**

*The total value of trade between India and U. K. during 1938, 1939, 1947 and 1950.*

(Value in lakhs of rupees)

	1938	1939	1947	1950
<b>Exports and Re exports</b>	55,14	58,70	1,01,61	1,32,21
<b>Imports</b>	48,12	40,61	1,14,47	1,17,49
<b>Total trade</b>	103,26	99,31	2,16,08	2,49,61

**THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

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

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

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6106

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

Friday, 6th 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)

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11-51 A.M.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** Sir, before we proceed with the Demands for Grants, may I make a submission? Yesterday you were pleased to rule that the failure of Government to lay on the table of the House the Report, or the findings and conclusions of the Ganganath Committee of inquiry into the import of sugar last year was contrary to the canons of parliamentary etiquette. I find that no action in implementation or in pursuance of your ruling has so far been taken by the Ministry, and I submit that the Minister or the Ministry has disregarded your directive given yesterday, and it is a question for the House to seriously consider whether there has not been committed contempt of the House.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The terms of my ruling yesterday were quite clear. A question of breach of privilege of the House was raised by the hon. Member. I said that there was no breach of privilege inasmuch as the Committee was not appointed by the House and it was not directed to make a recommendation or a report to the House. Thus there is no breach of privilege. I said incidentally that when in pursuance of some desire on the part of Members here an assurance in general terms was

57 PSD.

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given by the Prime Minister that all those matters would be looked into—and this was one of the matters—while the House is sitting we ordinarily expect, and it is a matter of etiquette, that the Report should first be intimated to the House. That was all my ruling.

**Shri Kamath:** But it has not been laid on the Table so far.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** Sir, I bow to your ruling, and hereafter in a case where a matter has been referred to in the House this will be borne in mind. There was no question of keeping the House in ignorance of the Report. But as you will remember, Sir, and as you rightly held, the hon. the Prime Minister gave an assurance that not only this matter but any other matter which might be brought to his notice, he would have it enquired. On that assurance I appointed a Committee of Enquiry. It was purely an executive act, as you rightly held, and the Cabinet took the view that being an executive matter they were perfectly justified in putting it before the public in the form they did. There is no question of disrespect to the House or of breach of privilege or of any disregard of the wishes of any Member of the House. I am quite willing to lay it on the table of the House.

**Shri Kamath:** Today?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** As soon as possible.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Today. Immediately you return from lunch you will get it here.

**Sardar B. S. Man (Punjab):** Sir, I have to make a submission. We have already discussed the food situation a day earlier. Now we are having two days. In view of the time available if you could raise the time-limit for speeches from ten minutes to fifteen, that will be helpful.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have already got twentythree names before me and there are in the waiting list another twentyfive. So I intend reducing the time-limit from ten minutes to eight.

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

**Shri Kamath:** May I remind you, Sir, that the Army Demand—one of the big Demands of the Defence Ministry has been held over. As far as the schedule shows, the guillotine will be applied on Tuesday, the 10th, at five o'clock. Therefore we would like to know when that Demand will be brought up before the House again.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. the Leader of the House will make a statement about it later on, though not now, after considering it.

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Sir, it will be brought up on the 10th, in any case.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Some day before the 10th.

#### ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

##### STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS AND STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have to inform the House that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and the Standing Committee for Roads, eleven nominations in the case of the first and 15 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 for Railways.*—1. Shri B. B. Varma, 2. Srijit Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, 3. Shri Naziruddin Ahmad, 4. Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt, 5. Shri Jagannath Das, 6. Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, 7. Shri Satish Chandra, 8. Shri O. V. Alagesan, 9. Shri S. Nijalingappa, 10. Shri S. K. Ahmad Meeran and 11. Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.

*II. Standing Committee for Roads.*—1. Shri S. R. Naidu, 2. Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung, 3. Thakur Krishna Singh, 4. Shri V. Kodandarama Reddy, 5. Shri J. N. Hazarika, 6. Shri Ram Sahai Tewari, 7. Shri V. Ramalah, 8. Dr. Y. S. Parmar, 9. Shri P. Kunhiraman, 10. Shri Theble Oraon, 11. Shri V. J. Gupta, 12. Shri Chandrika Rani, 13. Shri Radhelal Vyas, 14. Shri Arigay Ramaswamy and 15. Shri Beni Singh.

#### GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS.—contd.

##### SECOND STAGE

##### DEMAND No. 40—MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 40,29,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Ministry of Food and Agriculture’.”

##### DEMAND No. 41—FOREST

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,39,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Forest’.”

##### DEMAND No. 42—SURVEY OF INDIA

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,56,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Survey of India’.”

##### DEMAND No. 43—BOTANICAL SURVEY

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Botanical Survey’.”

##### DEMAND No. 44—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,62,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Zoological Survey’.”

##### DEMAND No. 45—AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,35,59,000 be granted to the

President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

**DEMAND No. 46—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,25,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

**DEMAND No. 47—INDIAN DAIRY DEPARTMENT**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,38,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Indian Dairy Department'."

**DEMAND No. 106—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS**

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,54,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

As already pointed out to the House there are as many as 50 Members desirous of participating in the discussions. I would, therefore, like hon. Members to limit their speeches to ten minutes each.

**Hon. Members:** Fifteen minutes.

**Shri Bharati (Madras):** Fifteen minutes is absolutely essential.

**Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh):** We have two days.

**Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh):** It is not possible to deal with the subject in ten minutes.

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** I suggest I should be given five minutes for every speaker.

**Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar):** Such of those Members who participated in the food discussion day before yesterday should be excluded from today's discussion.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I shall ring the bell in time with respect to every one of the speakers. May I also suggest for the consideration of the House one thing more? I have received notice of a number of questions relating to the Food and Agriculture Ministry. Those hon. Members, instead of tabling these questions and waiting for an answer later, may send these questions to the hon. Minister. I am sure the hon. Minister will reply to those questions in his reply.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I shall be willing to do so if the questions are sent to me.

**Pandit Maltra (West Bengal):** What is your final ruling with regard to time limit for speeches?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Ten minutes is my ruling.

**Hon. Members:** Fifteen minutes, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Ten minutes is the rule.

**Shrimati Durgabai (Madras):** Under the rule it is 15 minutes.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member who is also a Chairman knows too well that it is up to 15 minutes. It is open to the Speaker to restrict it to ten minutes. The upper limit is 15 minutes. It is left to the Speaker to decide from time to time.

May I know which hon. Members want to move their cut motions?

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal):** My cut motion is No. 6 in the Supplementary List.

12 Noon.

**Sardar Hukam Singh (Punjab):** Mine is No. 7 in the Supplementary List.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Very well, — I will call the hon. Members in time.

**Shri Kala Venkatarao (Madras):** The hon. Mr. Munshi is in charge of two portfolios. He is in charge not only with the production of more food, but also of channelling it into empty stomachs. In as much as logic is not life, statistics are also not correct facts and the food statistics are such supple things that they yield a surplus to my hon. friend, Mr. Sidhva and a deficit to my hon. friend, Mr. Munshi. Once a boy was asked whether fish will grow

[Shri Kala Venkatarao]

rapidly and he answered: It all depends. The fish that father caught this year grows one foot longer, each time he mentions it. In the same manner, each time we are having a food debate, the deficit is growing by at least two digits and this is resulting in a fear complex throughout the country and therefore procurement is falling, black marketing is increasing and we are facing so many ills, that it is becoming difficult both for the Government and to the public workers to meet this fear complex in the country and create a situation which will give scope for the enforcement of a real programme so that our idea about having food sufficiency can be achieved.

Our present position has very much deteriorated. After the partition we have 3/4th of the population and only 2/3rds of the land and this country which was exporting foodgrains to the tune of 25.4 crores in 1898-99 is now having a great net deficit. This tendency of a deficit is not a postwar phenomenon. As a matter of fact in the decade 1930-40, we find that the increase in cultivated area was 1.5 per cent, but the decrease of the outturn in foodgrains was 4 per cent, and it is only this deficit which has intensified itself in the postwar years.

Norman Angel said that in India, Britain has enormously diminished the famine risk but in 1943-44 the country was awakened to one of the worst famines this country had ever seen, namely, the Bengal famine. Thirty lakhs of people died and the railways, the telephones and all the benefits conferred by the British Government on India came to nothing when lakhs of people had to die not only in the mofussil but in the city of the palaces,—in the streets of Calcutta. The country was rudely shocked and the grow-more-food campaign and procurement business and the rationing schemes came into effect and we find that from then onwards every year we have been importing a lot of foodgrains. In 1946 we imported 1½ million tons, in 1947 two million tons, in 1948 three million tons, in 1949 4½ million tons, in 1950 2½ million tons and in 1951 we have programmed to import 3.7 million tons. All these we are not getting free. Even those that are promising a free gift are not very enthusiastic about it. We have paid more than Rs. 600 crores for all these food deficits during the last four or five years and we cannot afford this amount, either from our reserves or out of our revenues.

The Central Government is also incurring a lot of expense by giving subsidies to the States and this amount in recent years has come to Rs. 100 cores. These subsidies have got a snow-ball tendency and as the ball rolls on it increases in size and therefore if you offer a subsidy it goes on increasing and the Central Government is unable to bear this kind of subsidy. It is very good that this year Government have restricted this grant of subsidy to the States.

Then I come to the question of procurement. Our procurement targets are unrealised all these years. In 1950 the target was 5.16 million tons and the procurement was 4.63 million tons. In 1951 the target is believed to be 4.5 million tons and I think that in spite of the natural calamities that have faced this country, we will be able to achieve our object and restrict our imports to the figure above given. While speaking of procurement, I would also like to state two things. Firstly the disparity in prices as between the States is very large. In the figures supplied to us in the annual report, we find that the price of rice in the Punjab, U.P., Madhya Pradesh etc. is very much more than the price offered in the State of Madras and certain other areas. I think the hon. Minister sometime ago promised to go into this question and bring about a parity last year and I think that he will exert his influence to see that almost a uniform rate will be paid to the cultivators throughout the country. Then, I come to the grow-more-food campaign. India must achieve an agricultural revolution within the fraction of a life time so as to raise herself from the morass of poverty in which she is placed. The grow-more-food campaign has been there for six years now; but in no year, I am sorry to state, has the target been reached. In 1947-48, we estimated nine lakh tons, but got only seven lakh tons. In 1948-49, we estimated 17.5 lakh tons but got only 25 per cent out of it. The hon. Minister of Food, attributes this to "lack of enthusiasm and hesitancy." The President of the Indian Republic has attributed it to the relationship between red-tape and the cultivator which he has called "wooden." There is a right way and a wrong way and an official way also. If it is wooden as in the eyes of the President of the Indian Republic, the first citizen of India, I think much has to be done in order to loosen this kind of restriction or maladministration, whichever it is. I think the appeal of our President that where ten maunds are produced at present,



eleven maunds should be produced is very much to the point. I do not think that if we have got a "decision and edge" to our programme, this increased production is not beyond our capacity.

With reference to the present grow-more-food campaign, I would like to suggest two or three things which would go a long way to increase our production. In the first instance, I would like to say a word about increased irrigation facilities. There are 51 billion cubic feet of surface water in India flowing every year and we are only utilising 6½ billion cubic feet. The great problem in this country is one of the control of the rain drop. We are not properly controlling it. Then, a sick river valley is more complicated than a sick person, and unless we bring to bear all our intelligence, it is not easy to solve this problem. I am very glad that our Government have undertaken a large number of river valley schemes. As one born practically in the bed of the Godavari, I really have got a love for water and irrigation. My place has been benefited by the Godavari irrigation. Of course, a large number of improvements are required; nonetheless, I know what irrigation is and I feel sure that these big river valley schemes will, in the long run, solve the food problem to a very great extent. But, I would like to submit, that while we are proceeding on those lines, we will have to touch some immediate problems. I would like just to mention the case of Godavari which has been neglected for some time. The Godavari is a mighty river. If a few things are done, like, a small reservoir on one of its tributaries, raising the anicut shutters by 1½ feet and allowing early transplantation, the ten lakhs of acres under the Godavari system will yield 25 per cent more which will go a long way to eradicate the present deficit in the province of Madras, and this will not cost much. My request to the hon. Minister is to take up this profit yielding project immediately in preference to certain other protective projects.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI in the Chair]

There are 41 lakhs of zamindars in this country, 380 lakhs of cultivating owners, 360 lakhs of tenants and 335 lakhs of agricultural labourers. I feel that incentive and ownership cannot be divorced completely. If you want to have increased production, you must bring in legislation stipulating maximum permissible rent, security of tenancy, non-transfer to non-agriculturists, maximum optimum

limit to owned land and minimum limit to a holding. If these reforms are brought into being, I feel that the grow-more-food campaign will get the required revolutionary spirit.

My next point is about Government schemes. Only credit worthy schemes come under the pale of Government schemes. Mr. R. H. Tawney said:

"It is idle to preach the doctrine of improved agricultural methods to cultivators so impoverished by the exactions of parasitic interests that they do not possess the resources needed to apply it."

Therefore, you have to solve the problem by not only growing more food, but by growing it more efficiently and at less cost.

You know hungry people are angry people. You have to realise that and carry out the programme of the Government to the door-step of each kisan in this country. I would like to tell the hon. Members of this House that it is their duty that before June end, themselves and the legislators in the State legislatures must visit each village in their constituency and explain to them our food programme. Else, we will not succeed in the next General Elections. Votes are won not on the polling day, but in the interval between now and then. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Members of the House to voluntarily take up this work of propaganda, of carrying the Government programme to the door-step of the cultivators. If they fail to do so, it will be to their disadvantage. (Interruptions).

Dr. M. M. Das (West Bengal): Why not raise the procurement price?

Shri Kala Venkatarao: My hon. friend is a doctor in a town; I am a villager though not a kisan of the Ranga type. I must tell him that the difficulty is that there are people in this country who are sinister, pervasive, with an underground force working by unknown methods to undermine all loyalties and decencies. On account of the food position, it is the duty of every legislator and popular representative of the Congress organisation or other political organisations who believe in the prosperity of this country, to reach the kisan in his home and explain to him the problem and eradicate from his mind the fear complex which I have mentioned in the beginning of my speech.

Sardar B. S. Man (Punjab): And give false promises.

**Shri Kala Venkatarao:** My hon. friend may make false promises if he is interested in them. But, I am prepared to give real promises. On behalf of my party, I assure this House and the world that we will achieve the target of self-sufficiency and create *Ram Rajya*. After all the people who are taking advantage of our position to propagate false ideas today do not know that when America won her independence, when the French Revolution was there, when Russia established the Soviet Government, the people felt that that was not a boon, but a curse to the country. But, America has improved, France has become big and Russia has become great. India also will become great in the same way and our achieving *Swaraj* will certainly bring about prosperity in this country. My last prayer to you is that the peasant has seen the light of modern ideas and nothing can blind him again. Therefore, take stock of the situation, frame your programme in that light and bring about relief.

Nothing has ever been achieved except by those who have dared to believe that something inside them was superior to circumstance. Hon. Minister was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi. If he had imbibed that spirit into himself, the Food Minister, I am perfectly certain will solve this problem. The Food Minister has given us a slogan in English: "Freedom from foreign bread". Then, being a man of culture, he gave us a slogan in Sanskrit, the *Vana Mahotsav*. We have had one such and we hope to have another shortly. On behalf of the people of this country I appeal to him to give us another slogan, in Sanskrit, *Bhojan Mahotsav*,—not of the *Annapoorna* variety. Then, India will be great. I wish the Food Minister and the Deputy Minister of Food well in this critical year.

**Shri T. N. Singh (Uttar Pradesh):** After what we have heard from the hon. Member who has just spoken I may not be in a position to put before you with that strength and that courage and that conviction what I feel about our food problem. As the previous speaker very rightly described this problem, it has grown and increased in intensity as we have tried to solve it. Our Agricultural Minister is a poet and a writer, and he is a reputed author also of various romantic novels, and it may not be improper if I quote a single line from an Urdu poem which says:

दास्ताने ददं उलझी और सुलझाने के बाद ।

And that in English means: As we have tried to resolve the problem of our pain and sorrow, so has it become entangled and involved. Similarly, this problem of food has increased in volume and intensity.

We have been told that there is a deficit of only three million tons in our food supplies and this should be made good by 1952 through the grow-more-food campaign; and in the meantime we should meet the immediate deficiency by importing food from abroad. But, these imports have not been found sufficient, though the imports have increased year by year. It is also said that we have increased our production of food in our own country. But at the same time the gap between our needs and production has also gone up. Therefore, it is time we took stock of the situation and try to do exactly what should be done to solve this very immediate and urgent problem on which depends the very stability of the State and the prosperity and the life of our people.

In approaching this problem, I will refer to its two main aspects. There is first the aspect of meeting the immediate requirements of the people by methods of procurement and by proper distribution of the stocks and by necessary imports. The second aspect is that in the meantime we should concentrate more and more on increasing the production of food till we attain self-sufficiency. With respect to the first aspect which is no doubt our immediate problem, we have to consider whether all the methods that we have employed for procuring food grains and for their distribution and also for imports have met our needs or not. We have left the different States free to procure their foodgrains in the manner in which they like best. In this I am in perfect agreement with the policy of the Government, because you cannot force a uniform system of procurement all over the country where conditions differ so much from province to province or from State to State. There are different circumstances in different areas and you have got different methods of work and even the methods of collecting and maintaining the data differ from province to province. Therefore it is not possible to have a uniform method of procurement for all the States. Therefore the system of permitting the States to have their own methods of procurement according to their circumstances and conditions is quite good

and our Food Minister has done well in not interfering with the various methods in the various States.

Then comes the question what to do when some States procure more and others less. How should those States improve their methods of procurement? Barring some exceptions, I feel that almost every State has tried to profit by its past experience in this matter and has changed and improved its methods accordingly. There are several methods of procurement and if some have adopted one in preference to others and later improved on that method as a result of experience, there is nothing wrong about it. It is not right to have the same old red-tape method of doing things. That would be playing with the lives of the people. Therefore I say we have done the right thing in allowing each State to function just as it likes in this matter of procurement and fashion its methods according to its own experience. It does not matter if we make mistakes here and there. After all we are a young nation recently freed and we will make mistakes and commit errors. But the principal thing is to profit by such errors or experience and not to be caught repeatedly in the same mistakes. We should learn by our past errors. It is the duty of the Minister at the centre to see that every State profits by its experience and learns from its errors, without impinging on the initiative of the State. Too much interference or.....

**Pandit Maltra:** If the salt itself hath lost its flavour, wherein shall it be re-salted?

**Shri T. N. Singh:** That is why I began by saying that this is a very urgent problem and I welcome the feeling of urgency which the hon. Member has shown in the short interruption he has made.

Then, I will refer you and the House to a few figures. The total figure of procurement in all the States comes to about 4½ million tons. In addition to that we have been importing about, on an average 3½ million tons of foodgrains from abroad. Together they make a total of about eight million tons which are considered enough to meet the requirements for our rationed population of 90 millions. That means that for our total population of 360 millions we would require food grains four times that quantity, that is to say, about 32 million tons. It has also been said that our production has gone up and it is now as much as 45 million tons. This figure has been given by the Government. If that be so, then we must have been having a surplus

of about ten million tons every year, in addition to what we have been importing every year? I am just taking this up to show that we cannot rely on these figures which have been officially produced and placed before us. If there has been such a continuous surplus of this perishable commodity for the last five years or so, how is it that we are still having this deficit? Therefore, I feel there is something wrong with these figures.

If I am given one minute in addition to the remaining two minutes, perhaps I may be able to conclude. As I was saying, our figures are not reliable. But all the same the fact remains that we are deficit in food and have to import about three million tons of foodgrains every year. Whether the deficit is due to certain merchants, certain traders or speculators who corner the foodgrains in the country or whether it is due to some other causes, is not the point. We have been importing about three million tons of foodgrains during the last five years and have spent Rs. 524 crores on the imports of foodgrains from 1947 to 1951. This is indeed a question which should, therefore be examined carefully.

My humble suggestion in this connection is that you should continue to subsidise the sale of foodgrains at cheap rates. Now you spend about Rs. 20 crores on such subsidies and this has to be continued. In distributing the eight million tons that you supply by way of ration. The procurement may improve if higher price is paid to the cultivator and sold at lower rate through a system of subsidy costing in all about Rs. 20 crores. The balance the cultivator should be at liberty to sell at whatever price he can realise so that through the normal trade methods we may have some evidence as to the real position, and within a certain time we may be able to minimise control and fight the artificial deficit which appears to exist now.

**Shri Bharati:** On a point of information. When the Deputy-Speaker was in the Chair he said that every Member may be allowed 15 minutes and in fact the first speaker was allowed 15 minutes and it was understood as such. I now find that the time allowed is only ten minutes. I put a question to the Deputy-Speaker and he definitely said that the maximum time allowed would be 15 minutes.

**Mr. Chairman:** It is not a question for a point of order.

**Shri Bharati:** I raised it as a point of information.

**Mr. Chairman:** Are you giving information to the Chair or do you expect information from the Chair?

**Shri Bharati:** I enquired whether that understanding has been changed.

**Mr. Chairman:** The Deputy-Speaker told me that the time-limit would be ten minutes; though under the rule it is 15 minutes, he has reduced it to ten minutes.

**Shri Satish Chandra** (Uttar Pradesh): I respectfully submit that the Deputy-Speaker said that the time-limit would be 15 minutes (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Chairman:** The Chair is unable to hear anything.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Food is a very important subject. We had in previous years two days for the two Ministries of Food and Agriculture. This year they have been combined. Previously every Member had two opportunities to express his views, one on the food debate and another on the Agriculture debate. I think you may allow 15 minutes to every Member; otherwise it is not possible to make any points whatsoever.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members should understand that realising the importance of this Ministry as they do the Government has set apart two days. Also one more day was given on the private Member's resolution relating to this Ministry. It means altogether three days and I do not know what the complaint could be.

With regard to the time-limit, when the Deputy-Speaker said that it was ten minutes I myself raised the question from my seat that the rule was 15 minutes. He said that the time-limit he has put is only ten minutes and therefore I am bound to observe it.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I respectfully submit that it is not so; it may be seen from the records.

**Shri Bharati:** The maximum time-limit was 15 minutes.

**Mr. Chairman:** Hon. Members are aware that the Chair is left with a certain amount of discretion.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** That is a different matter.....

**Shri T. N. Singh:** On a point of order.....

**Mr. Chairman:** If hon. Members are anxious to conserve time for the debate on the Food Ministry they are taking away time by raising points of order and questions like this.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee** (West Bengal): It is an irony of fate that in this land of proverbial plenty, chronic conditions of scarcity should prevail today and in spite of the efforts made by Government during the last few years there seems to be no possibility of an early solution of this very difficult and complex problem.

Food is the most vital problem facing the country today, affecting not only the happiness.....

**Shri Raj Bahadur** (Rajasthan): On a point of order. Is it in order for a Member to approach you (*Interruptions*).

**Mr. Chairman:** It is not in order for hon. Members to raise points or give information to the Chair when an hon. Member is actually on his legs.

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** Food not only affects individuals but also affects the very stability and security of the State and we must be able to deal with this problem in a manner which will enable the country to come safely out of the present critical times.

Our present Food Minister is a person of restless energy, though sometimes it becomes somewhat fruitless. He has made efforts, big and small, during the last one year and yet I would like to raise a discussion on some of the basic aspects and ask him whether the policy which the Government is following today will ultimately lead to a solution of this problem.

I do not wish to take up the time of the House on a technical discussion as to the total shortage that exists in the country. In fact our statistics are imperfect. During the last few years arrangements have been made to improve them but yet one cannot arrive at any correct result, although the situation has somewhat improved so far as the availability of information is concerned.

What is the total shortage that the country has to meet? If we take the population of India as it stands today and compare it with the population that existed when we had an undivided India we find that undivided India used to import a little more than two million tons every year. On that basis perhaps the shortage will come to about seven million tons a year. Let us take the figure given by Lord Boyd Orr, namely, that the shortage will be somewhere about 4.5 million tons, which is the figure he gave for the period up to 31st December 1951. Meanwhile the imports have been increasing and they have increased tremendously. This year we propose

to import six million tons. Four millions we expect to purchase and two millions we expect to get as a gift from America. This is going to cost us 160 crores and if we give subsidy at the rate we gave last year there will be an addition of about Rs. 40 crores. If we do not get the two million tons from America as a gift and we have to purchase it, it will mean another 100 crores. So it comes to nearly Rs. 300 crores. What is this import for?

I think our basic approach to this problem is wrong. We do not take into calculation the total requirements of the country and then deduct what we will get from out of the country itself. Imports really depend on the capacity of the country to procure in order to meet the rationing responsibility of the Government.

We are rationing today for about 30 per cent. of India's population. Seventy per cent. of the people of India are left to their fate. The States have been called upon to procure certain quantities. If the States say that they are unable to procure the quantity fixed then our responsibility for finding the balance from import arises. This in itself is a most imperfect and unscientific way of determining the food requirements of the country.

So far as procurement is concerned the figures given by the Food Minister indicate that every year the procurement is going down. I do not wish to discuss the reasons why that is happening. We received a long and elaborate memorandum from the Ministry which is of an informative character. But the fact remains that whatever the reasons may be procurement is not as satisfactory as was originally expected.

What about production? The Food Minister has given certain figures, that last year there was an increase in production by 17 lakh tons. The most amazing way of calculating the additional production through the operation of the grow-more-food campaign has of course been modified to some extent. There is no scientific way of calculating production—so much fertilisers should give so much more production and so many wells being dug should produce so much more foodgrains. That is the way in which calculations were made so long. Only this year some sample checking has been made which has indicated that the shortage will be to the extent of 15 per cent. less than what is indicated by the official yardstick. Whether that is completely dependable or not is a matter which is very difficult for us to say. In any case, the total increased production through the grow-more-food schemes

on which the country has spent for the last three years about Rs. 60 crores, including what has been spent by the States, would not be more than about three million tons. But where have those three million tons disappeared? Can we make any visible account of this additional production? It is not reflected in additional stocks which are procured, it is not reflected in the stocks which are available in the open market. That is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs.

How does the Government propose to meet the situation? So far as the long-term schemes are concerned, as the hon. Minister has himself said, if the river valley projects succeed, in the course of the next ten or fifteen years we may be able to get about one million tons—not more than that. So far as land reclamation is concerned, there also in the course of the next seven years if we succeed in reclaiming about six million acres of land we will be able to get one million tons. So far as actual performance goes in respect of reclamation, it was difficult for me to get the exact figure because in one place I could get a figure of only about 70,000 acres which have been reclaimed and in another case the figure was only somewhat higher. In any case the total additional production of food through land reclamation has been very scanty. It has not been anything like what we need for the purpose of meeting our present situation. So far as the grow-more-food campaign of intensive cultivation is concerned there also the actual production has gone down. The hon. Minister in his note circulated this morning has indicated that production has been steadily going down and for this year he estimates the production at about 40 million tons due to abnormal reasons. But even last year's was lower than the previous year's. One alarming trend is that the yield per acre in India has been going down steadily. I have not the time to go through the detailed figures, but it appears in respect of rice while in 1938-39 the average yield per acre was 787 lbs., in 1949-50 it came down to 685, and in the case of wheat while it was 671 lbs. in 1938-39 it has come down to 579 lbs. in 1949-50. In respect of *jowar*, *bajra*, maize, barley, gram, every commodity the yield per acre has gone down during the last ten years. The only commodity in respect of which the yield has increased to some extent is sugarcane.

That in a nut-shell is the present picture. You cannot expect to meet your deficit from the big schemes because that will take years. So far as your present schemes are concerned,

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

in spite of the way in which you are spending crores and crores, you are not getting results which would be considered satisfactory. What will be the solution of the problem? Obviously, the solution of the problem can only be through intensive cultivation. In other countries that has happened. In America after the first war there was a shortage of food and they increased it to the tune of about ten per cent. in one year without adding any additional acreage practically, and in the course of the next two years they added by about 20 per cent. more. The hon. Minister knows the same thing happened in Japan, in Java, in Italy and in other countries where the yield per acre is at least four or five times higher than in India. Researches are being conducted in various directions under the auspices of Government, but unfortunately the results which are obtained by such researches are not carried to the grower or the farmer. There is a big gap between the Government and the farmer. I know so far as extension services are concerned a method of organisation has been adopted in other countries, particularly America, with tremendous success. Something like that is being contemplated by Government. Well, that is the only means through which we can proceed if we expect to carry to the door of the farmer the results of the investigations which have been made in our research institutions or for passing on information for increasing the yield per acre. It will not do to merely deliver lectures—the organisation must be such that the farmers must feel that if these new instructions are carried into effect they will actually yield results. Not only that. There must also be an organisation for the purpose of carrying supplies to the doors of the farmers. You want them to be provided with more water, you want them supplied with better manure, better seeds and also better appliances. Now these are things which must be able to be carried straight to the door of the farmer in accordance with a well-thought-out and co-ordinated plan.

Now, I come to the most important aspect of the problem, and that is about control and de-control. Government is following the present policy of control for whose benefit? You are practically benefiting, according to the papers, about 30 per cent. of India's population; 70 per cent. as I said are left to their own fate. You are giving them rice and wheat at subsidised prices which may come to about seventeen or eighteen rupees a maund. According to your own figures the average market rate at which 70 per cent. of India's

population are getting their foodgrains will be somewhere between twenty and twenty-five rupees or a little higher in some areas. So, whom exactly are you serving by spending crores and crores on this control machinery?

**Shri Bharati: Officers.**

**Dr. S. P. Mookerjee:** If you go on keeping this structure, if you go on having the present policy of imports depending on the capacity or the incapacity of the States to procure what you expect them to procure, you may take it from me that you will never be able to do away with control or do away with imports. For various reasons the States will be unable to procure what you consider is essential and if you take the responsibility for purchasing from any part of the world at any price then obviously you will be landed in disaster.

You talk of an integrated plan of production. What have you done with regard to cotton and jute? You gave us figures that you will be producing six lakh bales of cotton. That is the figure given in the printed book circulated to us, but only a few days ago a note which has been circulated to us tells us that this amount of six lakhs has dwindled into three lakhs! We do not know the reason. Mr. Munshi, of course, is a pastmaster in inventing reasons whenever necessary and some reasons will be forthcoming from him. With regard to jute the promise was that we are going to get twelve lakh bales of jute. Now the figure has come in and we are going to get the magnificent amount of two lakh bales! The reason given is that the large areas of land in West Bengal which were vacated by the Muslim refugees who went away to East Bengal were occupied by Hindu refugees who came from East Bengal. If you had not threatened them that they would have to vacate the land and go back again, this would not have happened. They were experts in producing jute. If only you had given them the assurance that you would not interfere with their production of jute I am sure you would have got all the jute you wanted. That is the net achievement of Government whatever the explanations that may be forthcoming with regard to this co-ordinated plan of production of jute and cotton.

With regard to this control and de-control, I know very well the dangers of a sudden policy of de-control. I do not want that there should be famine conditions prevailing in the country. I do not want that the country should be in the grip of any panicky atmosphere. At the same time we have got to decide once for all whether the

present policy which we are following will at all be able to solve this very difficult problem. I would suggest that we follow a policy of de-control. You have followed a policy of de-control with regard to jute. Here again, you have not been able to make up your mind. You have de-controlled jute, prices of jute have shot up and as soon as prices of jute shot up all the huge quantities of jute which were lying in the country have now come out. The hon. Minister will give us exact figures, but I saw some figures in newspapers—nearly ten lakh bales have come out into the open suddenly. You were goaded into accepting the Indo-Pakistan agreement because you were told that the jute mills would close if that agreement was not reached. You did it, you accepted it; you accepted it practically bartering away your rights, you sold national honour and national prestige for a mess of pottage, for a few lakh bales of jute. And within your country today ten lakh bales of hidden jute have reappeared in the market. If you have a policy of control in respect of some commodities and a policy of de-control in respect of some other commodities, you will never be able to arrange for a coordinated production of agricultural commodities in the country. I would therefore suggest that you follow a policy of gradual de-control in a way which will not create panic in the country and at the same time give the fullest freedom and opportunity to the farmers to produce whatever is necessary.

So far as prices are concerned, as the Government knows, the jute prices have gone up by 100 per cent. Prices of ground-nuts have gone up by 18 per cent. Prices of pulses have gone up by 14 per cent. Prices of castor seeds have gone up by 24 per cent. Prices of linseed have gone up by 17 per cent. How does Government expect that there will be more production of food when prices of these de-controlled agricultural commodities are steadily going up? You may pass laws, but those laws will not be practically implemented. I would therefore conclude by saying that we should not make the mistake that was committed in 1947, we should start with having a reserve. Why is it that the de-control of 1947 failed? One of the chief reasons given in the note that was circulated by the then Food Minister Dr. Rajendra Prasad was that the decision that there should be a reserve of at least half a million tons was never implemented in fact. The first thing therefore that we should do is to keep a reserve stock. If we get these two million tons from America, let us keep them as reserve stock and let us announce to the country that

Government will not allow famine conditions to prevail in the country and if there is any scarcity or possibility of famine food will be rushed to that area.

One important aspect of this matter is that you should be careful about storage. So far as this matter is concerned, I know from bitter experience during the time of the Bengal famine how lakhs and lakhs of tons of rice and wheat were destroyed because they were kept in a most miserable condition and they had to be thrown in the Ganges while thousands were dying in the streets of Calcutta and other places. If you want to have such huge stocks of foodgrains coming from foreign countries, obviously satisfactory and proper arrangements have to be made for stocking them.

The food imports should be put on the O.G.L. and if that is not possible, free licence should be given. Free and unfettered movement should be guaranteed by the Railway Department. You should cordon off big cities, coalfields and other vulnerable areas. I am not suggesting that you should de-control in respect of the entire area, but these specified areas should be fed on imported stuff. I see no reason why all persons living in these areas should get foodgrains at subsidised prices. People who could afford to pay ought to be able to pay prices which people outside the rationed areas are paying. Then there should be a vigorous pursuit of the policy of extension service, so that whatever facilities Government can and should give to the farmers should be given on the widest scale possible. The bulk of the money which is now being placed at the disposal of the Food Minister by the Finance Minister may be utilised for these constructive purposes. Then there should be a co-ordinated plan for the production of cash crops. Lastly, there should be a ruthless plan for dealing with profiteers and hoarders. The hon. Minister has said in his note today that there are many hoarders in many parts of the country and at the same time he says that he has been armed with strong powers for the purpose of dealing with them. By all means do so. Once you allow free movement to take place in the country; once you cordon off certain areas—do not apply it with regard to the whole country but you make an experiment; you take a certain surplus zone and tag it with a deficit zone—once you do that in one or two areas, you will see how success is achieved. Lastly, we are faced today with a crisis which may become extremely serious and almost unmanageable. Food of course is a thing which can never be made a plaything of politics.

[Dr. S. P. Mookerjee]

It is a matter on which all parties, all groups, all people throughout the country must unite. But Government also must realise that this is not a matter which Government alone can tackle and Government cannot aimlessly follow a policy which is not producing results. Government must take the people into their fullest confidence and prepare a plan which the people voluntarily will accept as something which is consistent with their highest interests. You will then get the fullest support of the people. Today the people's mind is almost dead and inert. They have no confidence in the Government. They do not know that whatever Government announces today will not be changed tomorrow and something else will be done the day after tomorrow. Therefore a full survey should be made of the achievements and failures of the policies of Government and the policy of de-control which was so vigorously supported by Mr. Munshi as he then was should be adopted even on a modified scale and in a manner which will help us to solve this very difficult problem.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : आज कल हम में एक प्रवृत्ति हो गई है कि हम सब के अब आलोचक हो गये हैं। आलोचना के अतिरिक्त यदि कहीं कोई काम हो रहा है तो उसे भी देखना चाहिये। इस समय जो कठिनाइयाँ हैं वह हम सब जानते हैं परन्तु उन कठिनाइयों का कारण क्या है यदि हम उस की ओर न देखें और जो हमारी सरकार है उस की आलोचना ही करते रहें तो हमारा काम चलने वाला नहीं है।

अब यदि हम कठिनाइयों की ओर दृष्टिपाल करें तो हमें मालूम होगा कि सबसे पहली कठिनाई ज़मीन की कम उपज है। इस में सन्देह नहीं कि अभी भी बहुत सी ज़मीन बंजर पड़ी हुई है और उस को हमें जोतना है। पर जितनी ज़मीन हमारे पास है उस में से भी हम को उतनी उपज नहीं मिलती जितनी मिलनी चाहिये। इस के लिये कई उपाय हैं। में

मुख्तसर में न उपायों को आप के सामने रखना चाहूंगा पहली बात जिस की तरफ हमें ध्यान देना है वह यह कि उस ज़मीन में आज बहुत कूड़ा कचरा हो गया है उसे हमें साफ करना है। यह काम केवल ट्रैक्टरों से ही नहीं हो सकता। ट्रैक्टरों पर हम हर साल करीब छः करोड़ रुपया खर्च कर रहे हैं। परन्तु यहां पर भूमि का जिस प्रकार बंटवारा है उसे देखते हुए यह ट्रैक्टर जो ज़मीन बंजर पड़ी हुई है उस को साफ करने में तो उपयोगी हैं पर जो ज़मीन इस समय बंजर नहीं है और जिस ज़मीन में अभी भी अनाज बोया जा रहा है उस ज़मीन में इन ट्रैक्टरों से काम नहीं चलेगा। उस के लिए बैलों की जरूरत है और मैं इस बात को एक बार नहीं अनेक बार कह चुका हूँ, कि इस ओ मोर फूड कैम्पेन, (Grow More Food Campaign) अधिक अन्न उत्पादन करने की योजना में हमारे यहां बैलों का स्थान क्यों नहीं है यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता। जहां तक इस प्रश्न का संबन्ध है, वहां तक सारे देश में अनेक बार इस विषय में कहा गया है। माननीय मंत्रीजी ने अभी जो गोशाला बोर्ड की एक बैठक हुई थी उस में इस संबन्ध में कुछ करना भी स्वीकार किया था, जो कुछ उन्होंने कहा था उस की जो सरकारी रिपोर्ट मेरे पास आई है उस सरकारी रिपोर्ट में से पढ़ कर मैं उन्हें बतलाना चाहता हूँ। उन्होंने कहा था :

"The hon. Minister further stated that he would consider the suggestion of the Members, that special attention should be given by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to improvement of cattle and production of milk and their inclusion in the Grow More Food Campaign."

मुझे आशा थी कि इस आश्वासन के बाद माननीय मंत्रीजी अपने बजट में इस



अधिक अन्न उत्पादन करने की योजना में गाय और बैल को स्थान देने की कृपा करेंगे। मुझे दुःख है कि वह मेरी बात सुन नहीं रहे हैं, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, और जोर दे कर कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम जब तक बैल और गाय के प्रश्न को हल नहीं करते हैं तब तक हमें अपने अधिक अन्न उत्पादन करने की योजना में सफलता मिलने वाली नहीं है और उन को इस प्रश्न को अपनी अधिक अन्न उत्पादन की योजना में स्थान देना चाहिये। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि जब कल वह इस वादविवाद का जवाब देंगे तो वह इस बात का आश्वासन देंगे कि वह इस को कर रहे हैं।

अधिक अन्न उत्पादन करने के लिये और भी अनेक बातें हैं। हमें अच्छा बीज चाहिये, हमें आबपाशी चाहिये, हमें खाद चाहिये। खाद का प्रश्न भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे बैलों और गायों पर निर्भर है दूसरी कठिनाई यह है कि हमारे यहां पर आबादी बढ़ती जा रही है। अभी एक प्रश्न का उत्तर देते हुए माननीय प्रधान मंत्रीजी ने एक बड़ी अजीब बात कह दी। जब मेरे एक मित्र ने उनसे पूछा कि क्या इस अधिक आबादी को अन्य देशों में नहीं भेजा जा सकता ...

मिस्टर चैम्बरमैन : यहां बहुत आवाज निकलती है, मैं चाहती हूँ कि आनरेबल मेम्बर बाहर जा कर बातें करें।

सेठ गोबिन्द दास : तब उन्होंने यह कहा कि आगदी कोई एक्सपोर्ट (Export) करने की चीज नहीं है। आबादी एक्सपोर्ट करने की चीज नहीं है यह सही है, लेकिन हमें इस आबादी को माल की तरह से एक्सपोर्ट नहीं करना है, जिस प्रकार से माल का निर्यात करते हैं उस तरह से

नहीं करना चाहिये। हम यह देखते हैं कि इस संसार में ऐसे अनेक देश हैं जिन की आबादी बहुत ज्यादा है, अनेक ऐसे देश हैं जहां आबादी बहुत कम है। मैं आस्ट्रेलिया गया, न्यूजीलैंड गया, आस्ट्रेलिया और कनाडा में एक मील के पीछे केवल चार आदमी रहते हैं, न्यूजीलैंड में केवल आठ आदमी रहते हैं, हिन्दुस्तान में एक मील में तीन सौ के ऊपर आदमी रहते हैं। अपने पड़ोसी पूर्वीय अफ्रीका को मैं ने देखा, वहां मैं ने टांगानियाका, युगंडा और केनया को देखा। केनया में ज़रूर हाईलैंड्स (highlands) का सवाल है। वहां लोग आबादी नहीं चाहते, लेकिन टांगानियाका और युगंडा में काफ़ी ज़मीन पड़ी है जहां हम अपनी आबादी भेज सकते हैं। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि जब हम कामनवेल्थ (Commonwealth) में हैं, तब भी कामनवेल्थ के ही दूसरे देशों में जिन में अधिक आबादी नहीं है, और जिन्हें और आबादी को ज़रूरत है, वहां हम अपनी आबादी क्यों न भेजें। हम इस प्रकार की योजना क्यों न बनायें जिस में हम अपनी आबादी को वहां भेज सकें। मेरा विश्वास है कि अगर भारत सरकार अपनी नीति में परिवर्तन करे, और इस सम्बन्ध में योजना लाये तो जितना रुपया हम यहां लोगों के पुनर्वास में खर्च कर रहे हैं उस से कम रुपये में हम अपनी आबादी को बाहर भेज सकेंगे। आबादी का प्रश्न भी हल हो जायेगा और जो अन्य देश में जायेंगे वे अधिक अच्छी तरह से रह सकेंगे।

श्री वैशम्पथु गुप्ता : संततिनिग्रह के बारे में आप की क्या राय है ?

सेठ गोबिन्द दास : तीसरी कठिनाई हमारी ज़मीन का बटवारा है। हमारे यहां

[सिठ गोविन्द दास]

पर ज़मीन का बटवारा इस प्रकार का है जिस से ज़मीन बहुत उपजाऊ नहीं हो सकती। हम को सहकारी फार्मों के सम्बन्ध में लोगों को अधिक उत्तेजन देनी चाहिये। यदि हम केवल सहकारी क्षेत्रों की बातें सोचते रहे या आन्दोलन मात्र करते रहे और इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ करें नहीं तो इस से हमारा काम नहीं चलेगा। इन सहकारी फार्मों को हमें विशेष सहूलियतें देनी पड़ेंगी। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं एक विशेष बात कहना चाहता हूँ जो मैंने पहले भी कई बार कही है। हमें फसलों के बीमे की योजना निकालनी होगी। इस देश में फसलें कई प्रकार से नष्ट हो रही हैं। कई बार उन में गेरुआ लग जाता है, कई बार ओला पड़ता है, कई बार पाला पड़ता है, इस देश में फसलों के बीमे की जितनी आवश्यकता है, उतनी बहुत कम देशों में होगी। इस विषय में और देशों में प्रयत्न हुए हैं, जहां तक मुझे मालूम है हमारे यहां देवास में भी इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ प्रयत्न हुए थे। मुझे नहीं मालूम उस का क्या नतीजा हुआ। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह प्रयत्न बड़े परिमाण में हो सकता है और यदि इन सहकारी फार्मों में हम फसलों के बीमे की योजना करें तो हमारे किसान बड़े हर्ष से इस प्रकार के सहकारी फार्म स्थापित करने का प्रयत्न करेंगे। हम उन को और भी सहूलियतें दे सकते हैं। पर मेरा प्रधान सुझाव यह है कि इन सहकारी फार्मों की फसलों के बीमे का प्रयत्न हो।

कंट्रोल की बाबत बहुत सी बातें कही गईं और इस सम्बन्ध में मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे यहां जो अनाज की कमी है उस का एक कारण यह भी है कि कंट्रोल रहने के कारण हमारे देश का पूरा अनाज बाहर नहीं आता। मैं इस विषय में अपने मित्र श्री श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी से

सर्वथा सहमत हूँ। उन्होंने जो बातें सरकार के सामने रखीं, मैं समझता हूँ कि यदि सरकार उन के उपर अमल करने का प्रयत्न करे तो वह बहुत हद तक सफल होगी।

मैं बराबर एक बात सुनता हूँ कि हम नै जो कंट्रोल हटाने का काम किया था वह गलती की थी। मैं इस बात को मानने को बिल्कुल तैयार नहीं हूँ कि हम ने उस वक्त किसी तरह की गलती की थी, और मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि यदि बापू जीवित होते तो हम देखते कि यह कंट्रोल फिर से किस तरह लगाये जाते हैं। गांधी जी हमारे बीच में नहीं रहे और उतनी बड़ी कोई दूसरी हस्ती हमारे बीच में नहीं है, इसीलिये आज यह कहा जाता है कि जो हम ने गांधी जी की आज्ञा से काम किया था वह गलती की थी, और उस का अनुसरण करने को हम तैयार नहीं हैं। मैं कहता हूँ कि चाहे आज हमें कुछ दूर तक कंट्रोलों की जरूरत हो, लेकिन हम को एक ऐसी योजना बनानी ही चाहिये जैसा कि मेरे मित्र डाक्टर श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी ने कहा, कि हम अन्त में कंट्रोल जल्द से जल्द हटा सकें।

जहाँ तक भविष्य का सम्बन्ध है मैं बड़ा आशावादी रहा हूँ। सन् १९२० से जब तक हम को स्वराज्य प्राप्त नहीं हुआ हम कई बार अपने आन्दोलनों में असफल हुए परन्तु हमारी आशा कभी नहीं गई। इस देश का बड़ा भारी भविष्य है इस में मुझे जरा भी सन्देह नहीं है। आज हमारे सामने कितनी ही कठिनाइयां क्यों न हों, मैं यह मानता हूँ कि वह समय आने वाला है और शीघ्र से शीघ्र आने वाला है कि यह कठिनाइयां दूर होंगी और यह देश फिर वैसा ही हो जायगा जैसा कि किसी समय था। स्वराज्य सब मे अधिक आवश्यक बात थी, वह हो गया, अब

इन कठिनाइयों को भी हम दूर कर सकेंगे, बशर्ते कि हम विश्वास को न खोवें, हम केवल आलोचना न करें, हम कुछ विधायक काम भी करें, और इस प्रकार प्रयत्न करें जिस से इस देश का जो अन्न का सब से बड़ा प्रश्न है उसको हल कर सकें।

मैं ने आप के सामने कुछ सुझाव उपस्थित करने का प्रयत्न किया है जिन में से सब से बड़ा सुझाव है इस 'ग्रो मोर फूड कैम्पेन' में गाय, बैल के स्थान के प्रश्न पर यदि ध्यान न दिया गया तो अधिक अन्न उत्पादन का सवाल हल होने वाला नहीं है। मुझे आशा है कि जिस समय माननीय मंत्री जी उत्तर देंगे उस समय हमें इस विषय पर ज़रूर आश्वासन प्राप्त होगा।

(English translation of the above speech).

**Seth Govind Das (Madhya Pradesh):**

It is our tendency now a days that we are all becoming critics. Criticism is not a sin, but we should also look at achievements also. All of us are aware of the difficulties before us. But if we do not see the reasons thereof and continue to criticise our Government in a blind manner, no problem can be solved. If we were to look at the difficulties that are facing us we find that our first problem is the reduced productivity of our land. I admit that many of our lands are still lying barren and we have to bring them under cultivation. But even those parts which are under cultivation at present, are not yielding enough crops. There are many ways of solving this problem. I would like to cast some light upon them briefly. The first thing we have to pay our attention is the dirt and filth that has accumulated in huge quantities in our lands and that we have to remove. Only tractors cannot do this work. We are spending about six crores of rupees per year over these tractors. These tractors can be useful only for barren lands and not for the lands under cultivation. For them only bullocks can be useful. I cannot understand why the improvement of cattle has not been included in the 'Grow More Food' Campaign? I have spoken about this thing more than once. So far as this question is concerned it has been discussed on

many occasions. The hon. Minister has made some mention about it in a meeting convened recently by the Goshala Board. I would like to read out a passage from the official report I have received. That passage runs as follows:

"The hon. Minister further stated that he would consider the suggestion of the Members, that special attention should be given by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to improvement of cattle and production of milk and their inclusion in the 'Grow More Food' Campaign".

Having got this assurance, I had hoped that the hon. Minister would be pleased to include the question of the improvement of cattle in his Budget proposals as a part of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign. I am sorry he is not listening to me but I like to state and that also with great emphasis, that unless we solve the problem of cattle we cannot achieve success in our scheme of grow more food. The Government should give a proper place to this scheme in the 'Grow More Food' Campaign. Tomorrow when he would reply to the Debate I hope he would give us some sort of assurance that he is doing accordingly.

Many other things are required for growing more food. We require better seeds, better irrigation facilities and good manure. The question of manure too depends upon cattle.

Another difficulty is that our population is increasing. While answering a question the hon. Prime Minister just now stated a curious thing. This reply was given when one of my friends asked him whether the surplus population could not be sent to other countries.....

**Mr. Chairman:** There is much noise. I would like the hon. Members to go out and talk there.

**Seth Govind Das:** To this question he replied that the population was not an article of export. It is true. But we have not to export our population as other goods or commodities are exported. We find that many countries have a vast population while others have very scanty population. I have been to Australia and New Zealand. In Australia and Canada there live only four persons in a square mile. In New Zealand the population is only eight per square mile. In India we have 300 persons living in a square mile. I saw the same thing in East Africa. There I visited Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya. In Kenya of course they have

[Seth Govind Das]

the problem of highlands. People of that country do not want any more population. But in Tanganyika and Uganda vast tracts of land are available where we can send our surplus population. When we are in the Commonwealth I do not see any reason why we should not send our surplus population to those member countries of Commonwealth where there is not very much population and which require more population. Why should not we make a plan in this respect, so that we could send our population there? If our Government were to change their policy and make some such plan in this respect, I am sure, we could manage to send our surplus population there spending less money than we are spending today over the rehabilitation problem. Thus we would not only solve the problem of population but the people also would live there in better condition.

**Shri Dashbandhu Gupta (Delhi):** What is your opinion regarding birth control?

**Seth Govind Das:** Our third difficulty is about the distribution of land. Our method of the distribution of land is not very helpful towards the productivity of the land. We should encourage our people for co-operative farming. Simply thinking or launching campaigns regarding co-operative farms without any constructive plan would not solve our problem. We have to provide some special facilities to these co-operative farms. I like to state a particular thing regarding this, which I have stated many times before. We should prepare a scheme of crop insurance. The crops are destroyed in this country for so many reasons. Our crops are destroyed in many cases due to mildew, hail, and frost. There are very few countries which require such crop insurance scheme more than our country does. Efforts have been made in this respect by other countries. As I know such efforts are being made in Dewas also. I do not know what came out of it. But I like to state that such efforts should be made on a large scale. If we were to introduce this scheme of Crop Insurance, our farmers would gladly take up to co-operative farming. We can provide some other facilities too. But my main suggestion is that we should try to insure the crops of these co-operative farms at first.

Many things have been stated regarding the controls. My submission in this respect is that enough food grains are not coming to the

market due to this imposing of control. This also is one of the reasons responsible for the shortage of food in this country. I agree with my friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee in this matter. If our Government would try to act according to his advice they can surely achieve the success to a great extent.

I hear constantly that we had made a mistake when we removed the controls. I by no means can admit that we made a mistake at that time in removing controls. Had our Bapu been alive today we would have seen that it would have become impossible to re-impose controls. As Gandhiji is not among us today and we have no other personality equal to him, so we can dare say that we had made a mistake in doing the thing asked by him and so we are not prepared to follow him. It is just possible that we require controls to some extent but we must make some scheme, as our friend Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee has said, so that we may be able to get rid of these controls at an early date.

As regards the future I am always hopeful. Since 1920 till we did not attain independence, many times we failed in our campaigns but we did not give up hopes. I have no doubts regarding the bright future of this country. In spite of all the great difficulties before us, I am sure the day will come soon when these difficulties will disappear and the country will again achieve the same position as it had before. Independence was the first thing we needed and that has been attained. We will succeed in getting rid of these difficulties also if we do not abandon our hopes, do not indulge ourselves merely in criticism, do something constructive, and try in such a way so that we may be able to solve the greatest problem, the problem of food shortage of this country.

I have tried to make some suggestions. The most important of them is about the inclusion of the question of the improvement of cattle wealth in the 'Grow More Food' Campaign. If we do not pay any attention to this question we would not be able to solve the problem of shortage of food. I hope when the hon. Minister would reply to the Debate he would give us some assurance of the kind.

*The House then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty-five Minutes Past Two of the Clock.*

The House re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-five Minutes past Two of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI in the Chair]

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE  
GANGANATH COMMITTEE REPORT ON

PURCHASE OF SUGAR

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Ganganath Committee Report on the transaction of the purchase of sugar, which I promised this morning to lay on the Table. [Placed in Library. See No. P-151/51].

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF  
DEMANDS.—contd.

SECOND STAGE

**Shri Sidhva:** The question of food is so acute, it is of such a magnitude and importance and is becoming so grave every year that despite our effort and the effort of the Ministry concerned and of the hon. Ministers, my hon. friends Mr. Munshi and Mr. Thirumala Rao both combined, the situation has not improved but has worsened. Despite our spending crores of rupees on tractors, modern system, antiquated system, all kinds of systems, despite our spending crores of rupees on tractors, on fertilizers, on grow-more-food campaign, we have not been able to achieve the object for which we are all striving. What is the reason for this, I want to know? Why is it that the Government fails? The question of money is no consideration. Crores after crores of rupees are being sanctioned in the anticipation that the position may improve. But on the contrary, instead of improving, the position gets worse. I want to know what is the reason for this. It seems to me that there is something wrong somewhere. And it must be wrong with the Government and with none else. The system, according to me, is bad; the communication system is bad, the procurement is bad, the policy is bad. What is it that the Government of India is doing? My hon. friend Mr. Munshi is merely a purchasing and selling agent, nothing more than that. He runs from one place to another to purchase grain and supply it to the deficit area which wants it. They have not gone into the bottom of it to see what is the reason for this state of affairs. Although I know that Agriculture is a purely provincial subject we have taken certain responsibility over this matter. To that extent what have we done, I really fail to understand.

I would like to quote just a few figures—I have got an abundance of 57 P.S.D.

them with me, but there is no time— from which it will be proved that even today, with the natural calamity that has befallen in the shape of floods in the famine areas, we have sufficient food. (Some Hon. Members: Question). I make bold to state that. Do not say 'question'. Please present the figures against the figures I put, then say 'Question'. There is no use just saying 'Question'. You have not even heard me, you have not heard what I am going to state. That shows you have one fixed policy in your mind which you do not want to change. If that is the attitude of the Government also, then they are not going to solve this food problem for years to come. The hon. the Prime Minister has stated that the Government is not going to import food after March 1952. I beg to say that you may be compelled to import if this policy is not changed. The point therefore is where is your limit. So long as you continue to import I have come to this conclusion that there will be demands from the States despite the availability of food in those States. They will not procure as they ought to do. They fail in their duty and look upon the Central Government to give food from the import.

I will give some of the figures to show what was the condition in 1950. These are Government figures, not my figures. I have culled them from the Agriculture Ministry Report. The net production of cereals, including gram, was 44,32,52,000 tons. The net imports of cereals were 25,47,000 tons. The net exports were 5,90,000 tons. The carry-over held by Government at the end of the year 1950 was 7,46,000 tons.

Let me give the quantity available for consumption. I am giving the figures for the entire population. Where our Ministry is erring is that they look only to the rationed area. They have not found out what is required by the whole country. After all, have you to supply only to the rationed area people? Should the people of the non-rationed area not eat anything? They have not calculated what is the requirement of the whole country. They have imported on the basis of the rationed area.

**Shri Bharati:** No, no.

**Shri Sidhva:** My friend Mr. Bharati will have his right to speak and let him not interrupt me. The requirements of the population, according to them, are for 86 per cent. adults—70 per cent. farm population at 16 oz. and non-farm population at 12 oz.—and the requirements are 44,43,32,000 tons, whereas I said that the production for 1950 was 44,32,52,000. So the balance—

[Shri Sidhva]

I will not say surplus, I will come to it later on—is 10,80,000 tons.

I have got a statement here giving the position State by State, from which it will be seen that Part A States are self-sufficient and surplus. Part B States are deficit, bad, I should say. Part C States are somewhat mixed.

Now, if you calculate at the Government rate of 12·5 oz. a person will require 290 lbs. of food per head per year. Assam consumes 407 lbs. against this 290. The highest in Part A States is Madhya Pradesh with 428 lbs. The second comes Assam with 407 lbs. Then comes Punjab with 400 lbs. Then comes West Bengal with 340 lbs. Then comes 329 lbs. for Bombay which is clamouring that it is not getting sufficient food. Then comes U.P. with 303 lbs. Thus all States get more than 290 lbs. excepting Madras which gets 270 lbs. and Orissa which gets 280 lbs. They are less by 20 and 10 lbs. The rest of them get more than what they ought to.

Coming to Part B States, Hyderabad is the worst. It gets 182 lbs., that is about 100 lbs. less. The highest is Jammu and Kashmir with 422 lbs. Then comes P.E.P.S.U. with 361 lbs. Rajasthan is bad, getting 155 lbs. Saurashtra gets 193 lbs., that is about 100 lbs. less. Travancore-Cochin is very bad, it gets 145 lbs. So, if you total them up, the Part B States are bad.

When you come to Part C States, Tripura gets 660 lbs., the highest of all. Bhopal gets 310 lbs. Delhi gets 354 lbs. Bilaspur gets 330 lbs.

I crave your indulgence in this matter and I hope you will be good enough to give me a little more time. From this it will be seen what the real picture of the whole food situation is. In Part A States we are surplus by 13,87,000 tons as per the statement that I have just now given. I want to know from my hon. friend Mr. Munshi as to what has become of this surplus. I know it will be required in the Part B States. But I will come to the Part B States later on. He has supplied this to them from imports despite the fact that the Part A States were surplus. But he has supplied this to the Part B States from the imports. Although we have given the surplus of 13,87 thousand tons to Part B States they are short by 2374 thousand tons. Only 48 thousand tons were supplied from imports. Despite that they pulled on and they did not ask for more just as the Part A States. The additional quantity of 131 thousand tons were used for carry-over stocks and that was also given to the Part B States. The real deficit is 2913 thousand tons

in Part B States. Actually, however, the quantities made available to the populations of Parts A and B States were 319 lbs. and 212 lbs. per head per year, that is 14 oz. and nine oz. per head per day.

The average availability of foodgrains of nine oz. per head per day in Part B States does not obviously represent a true picture of the food situation there. It is clear from the statistics that I have just now mentioned and from their own figures of Part B States that the production is substantially underestimated. Because against that shortage they were able to pull on with very small quantities that were given from the surplus States. It will be seen from the above that the quantities made available to various States vary from 660 lbs. per head per year in Tripura the highest, to 145, 147 and 155 lbs. per head per year minimum in Travancore-Cochin, Kutch and Rajasthan respectively. That is the position and I want Mr. Munshi to apply his mind on this. Has he made such calculations as to understand what is the real food situation? The populations of the three latter States together number 23,820 thousand persons. This population had only 6·5 oz. per head per day in 1950. Similarly nearly 17,690 thousand persons of Hyderabad State had 182 lbs. per year that is eight oz. per day.

Therefore, I submit that from statistics of oftakes of foodgrains it is found that in the year 1950, 45,360 thousand under statutory rationing consumed about four million tons of foodgrains according to Mr. Munshi's reply to Starred Question No. 1578 by Pandit Bhargava. Calculating from the above we find that the overage oftake per head per year amounted to 198 lbs. in the statutorily rationed areas. I want an explanation from the Government as to how does it work out from their own figures. It comes to this. According to the quantity fixed, viz., 12 oz. per adult per day and taking the adult equivalent at 86, we get the average requirement as 235 lbs. per head per year. The difference of 37 lbs. shows very clearly that the adult equivalent is wrongly presumed to be 86. Again the other presumptions upon which this adult equivalent depends is also incorrect. These figures show that 86 is also not correct.

I shall not go more into the details of the whole matter, although I take a serious note of this, for the simple reason that I am not going to remain content by making a speech for ten or 15 minutes here; I am going to pre-

sent these figures to Mr. Munshi in writing and to the Planning Commission. I am convinced that we are wasting our good money on imports and the Ministry is not applying its mind to find out what really is the real position about the food deficiency.

I would like to suggest two things. Firstly the production of foodgrains in the country should be determined satisfactorily. Up to now there have been various food policy committees. There was Shri Purshottamdas Thakurdas Committee. But who placed the figures before these committees? It is the Ministry and these committees proceeded to investigate on that basis. This is the condition of the food situation in India. They also stated that within five years time you can make your country self-sufficient. They made their report in April 1948 and the conditions have become worse afterwards. After that there was Pandit Lakshmikanta Maitra's report. Then, Mr. Thirumala Rao was the Chairman of a Committee. My hon friend, Mr. Thirumala Rao may swear by his report. I do not know what his views are today. I shall be pleased to hear him but if he swears by his report and says that his report is final and control should remain, then, I can tell you, you are not going to improve conditions. I am glad that Mr. Munshi takes a little more liberal view. When he came into the Ministry his opinion was that there should be decontrol and immediately thereafter he said that there should be control. In both the judgments he was wrong. In this he certainly followed the decision of the Ministry and he did not really find out what the real position is. Otherwise, while coming into the Ministry he would have found that out and would have said: Why should I change my view, from decontrol to control now? I am glad the hon. Minister is open-minded.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member has taken 17 minutes already.

**Shri Sidhva:** With regard to sugar he has adopted a policy which is liked by everybody. In the controlled area the small as well as the big people get sugar and by making sugar free we are able to get it in the free market. Control has been existing since 1940. I think control is good and control is bad. It is a double-edged weapon. It is good because the common man gets at a particular price and a particular quantity but it becomes bad when there is black marketing, hoarding, and there is no effective check by the Government. Therefore, my point is that I am for control I have lived all

these years for the control. The other day when Government brought forward the Rent Control Bill, they wanted to extend it for two years. I had an amendment for ten years. I want to show my *bona fides* as to why I want control.

I want to tell you that unless you change your policy, you are not going to solve your problem. Keep an open mind and say whether you can continue the control. I am not for decontrolling today absolutely. I say in the cities and industrial areas, you continue your control but keep the other places free. Mahatma Gandhi was for decontrol. But decontrol without any programme was adopted and within six months everybody clamoured and it was lifted with the result that we know. I want a firm and definite policy to be taken by the Government and if they take a definite policy on this matter, I am sure that we can stop importing and we shall be able to stop black marketing and hoarding. To such of those people who were asking me where is the surplus and where is the import, I ask a counter-question: From where are the people in the cities getting grain at the black market prices? Where do you get it from? That is the answer to those people who ask me: why do we import if we have surplus and my reply is: From where does the city people every time get whatever quantity of food they require at whatever price?

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Bharati.

**Shri B. K. P. Sinha (Bihar):** There is a convention that whenever a new Member gets up for the first time, he is usually given preference. But I find that a certain Member, Mr. Anirudha Sinha from Bihar is getting up all the time but unfortunately he has not been able to catch your eye.

**Mr. Chairman:** If hon. Members have some little patience, I think they will have some chance.

**Mr. Bharati** rose—

**Mr. Chairman:** The Chair is trying to see that the points from each province are brought out here. So on a Demand like this on the Food Ministry instead of four or five Members speaking about the needs of the same province, the Chair is trying to see that one or two Members from each province are heard here.

**An Hon. Member:** What about the chits issued?

**Mr. Chairman:** There are 100 chits.

**Shri Bharati:** Much as I would like to answer Mr. Sidhva, I feel that the time at my disposal is so short that I

[Shri Bharati]

shall not attempt it, nor I agree with him in the matter of control. With regard to the question of sufficiency of food in India, I am not able to accept his point of view. I have gone through carefully the many reports, starting from the Gregory report, 1943, Shri Purshottamdas Thakurdas report of 1948 and Pandit Maitra's report and lastly Mr. Thirumala Rao's report. I am convinced that India.....

**Shri Ramaswamy Naidu (Madras):** May I ask the hon. Member if Mr. Thirumala Rao's report has been published?

**Shri Bharati:** I have seen that, and India, in my view, is short of foodgrains.

Firstly, as you very rightly observed, I want to make my observations with special and particular reference to my home state of Madras. So far as rural rationing is concerned, the earlier report of 1943, that is the report of the Gregory Committee, which consisted of very eminent people and which was more or less in the nature of a high power commission, was unanimously of the view that it will be totally impracticable to attempt rural rationing. That was the unanimous view of 17 or 18 members, including representatives from the States. Ignoring this view, the Madras Government launched upon the scheme of rural rationing and they have found it to their terrible cost that they could not get on with it. We about 24 members of Parliament sent a telegram to the Food Conference at Bombay to say, 'For heaven's sake, lift rural rationing'. I want to bring to the notice of this House, though it is particularly a matter for the State Government that the way in which rural rationing is being worked is not satisfactory. I shall not go into the details at length.

I want to make a constructive suggestion so far as Madras is concerned. It will be best to remove all kinds of procurement and control and, as Mr. Sidhva suggested, give Madras a certain quantity of foodgrains, particularly to the vulnerable areas, the industrial areas, so that they alone may be under control.

I want to advert to another important point which was being very much agitated on the floor of the Madras Legislative Assembly, that is, the question of allocation of food grains from the Centre to the States. As I said, I propose to speak only with reference to my State; but that certainly does not mean that it must be at the cost of other States. It should not be

understood in that light at all. All that I can say is, from my point of view, there must be equality of sacrifice between the States, and the Centre must see to it that there is equitable distribution of the availabilities in hand. I am fairly in close touch with Mr. Munshi and I must take this opportunity of thanking him for the very courteous way in which he has always obliged me with particulars. I should say that we are meeting almost every alternate day and discussing the food question. I am glad he has been able to give me a lot of useful material with reference to this question also. I have worked on these figures with some difficulty and care; I have not been able to understand how the allocation between one State and another is made. I tried to ask a question on the floor of the House; but getting no satisfactory reply, I wrote to him. He was kind enough to give me a long reply. I hope the House will be interested to know the principles on which allocation to the States are being made. Briefly, the principle is this. The Gregory report made a very useful observation when they said that much of the trouble arises from the statistical monstrosity of applying different yardsticks to different provinces and the sooner that kind of statistical monstrosity is ended, the better for India. I have gone very carefully through these figures and I would like to be enlightened how the figures have been arrived at.

This morning, I tried to get some figure which the Deputy Minister said is top secret; but luckily Mr. Munshi was more obliging and he was able to give me that information. That letter, the House will be interested to know, shows how to get at the correct figure of the requirements of a particular State. Eighty per cent. of the total population is considered to be adult population. Of this adult population, 70 per cent. is taken to be the farming population, that is producers and 30 per cent. as non-farmers. Farmers are to be given at the rate of 16 oz. per day and non-farmers at the rate of 12 oz. per day. Working on these figures, I have reached a very interesting figure. Taking the population at 100 as the basis, you require 29,043.5 lbs. or in terms of tons, 12,965 tons per year. That is to say, for 100 people, on the basis of 80 per cent. as adults, and 70 per cent. as farmers and 30 per cent. as non-farmers, it works to 12,965 tons per annum or roughly 13 tons. It is very important for hon. Members to have this as the basis. Roughly, the total requirement could be taken as 1/8th of the population; that is, whatever is the population, if



you divide it by eight you get the total requirement in terms of tons.

3 P.M.

Mr. Munshi's letter also says that there is a kind of cross verification as to how the figures are arrived at. I have prepared more or less a chart showing the particulars for Madras and Bombay alone for comparison. There are two or three interesting things. One is population. That figure is there, and we can easily work out for any State. The Home Ministry has estimated the population of Madras as on 31st March 1951 as 54.78 million. Worked on the basis of 12,965 tons for 100 persons, per annum, Madras requires 71,022 lakh tons per year. The estimated production, according to the advance forecast for the year 1951, in Madras is 61.50 lakh tons, as per statement made by Mr. Roche Victoria, Food Minister of Madras. Mr. Munshi's figure is 64 lakhs; there is a small difference; it does not matter. I have taken 61.5 lakh tons. Deducting from that ten per cent. for seeds and wastage, etc., which is allowed, the net availability from internal production comes to 55.35 lakh tons. Therefore, the total deficit on this basis is 17.672 lakh tons.

There is another interesting factor. This estimate is worked on the basis of the estimated population of 54 and odd million. We have now got the census figures, and we know the population is 56:50 million. The excess of 1.72 million population is actually there, according to the latest census. I have calculated for this also on the same basis of 80 per cent. adults, 70 per cent. farmers, and 30 per cent. non-farmers, and 12,965 tons per 100 per annum, and the requirement comes to 2.29 lakh tons. Therefore, on this basis the net deficit is 19,901 lakh tons, for Madras. These are, as I said, irreputable figures. The population is there; your formula is there. There is a deficit of 19,901 lakh tons on this calculation.

There is another calculation, by way of check, what I would call the pre-1942 method. That is to say, what was Madras consuming before 1942, and what was the average import annually before 1942. Luckily, the memorable Gregory report is very useful and illuminating. They have said that the internal production before 1942 was 67 lakh tons and the average import was 8.48 lakh tons. We get the figure 75.48 lakh tons.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

The increase of population since 1941 has been of the order of 66.6

lakhs. Their requirement comes to 8.53 lakh tons. Adding this also, we get in all 84.01 lakh tons. Deduct the availability of 55.35 lakh tons; the deficit comes to 28.66 lakh tons.

Then, there is another interesting and actual way of finding out the actual requirements of the State of Madras. What was it actually consuming in the years preceding 1951?

These are the figures of the total internal production plus what the State could get from the Centre, for the past five years. This works out to an average of 76.42. Deducting the available quantity of 55.35 lakhs we get the figure of 21 lakhs. All these three methods give about the same figure. By the first method we get the figure of 19.90 lakhs, by the second method we get 28.66 lakhs and by the third method we arrive at the figure of 21.07 lakhs. Adopting the same methods of calculation, the corresponding figures for the State of Bombay are— 11,523, 26.67 and 5.98. I would have very much liked to go into the details of these figures, but I am afraid I do not have the necessary time now. I would only request the Food Minister to enlighten me where I have gone wrong, if I am wrong at all, in these figures that I have arrived at, I am prepared to discuss the figures and learn where and how I have gone wrong. Madras was given an initial allotment of only four lakh tons, though it was subsequently raised to five and then to six lakh tons. But Bombay is given seven to eight lakh tons. I would like to know why this is so.

Just two minutes, and I will finish as I have only one small matter to point out, and that is about prices. I do not want to take more time of the House and encroach upon the time of other hon. Members. I would only refer to an answer of the hon. Minister of food to starred question No. 1470 asked on the 15th February, 1951— quite recently. It is interesting reading and I am sure hon. Members will sympathise with the State of Madras in the position she is in. Madras and Orissa, I am afraid, have been neglected, totally neglected in this respect. These are the figures of procurement prices in the various States as given by the hon. Minister in his reply: Assam Rs. 21-1-9 per maund, Bihar Rs. 24-1-4, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 14-0-0.

**An Hon. Member:** No, no. These figures are wrong.

**Shri Bharati:** Uttar Pradesh has the procurement price of Rs. 24-10-8, West Bengal Rs. 17-11-0 and Madras Rs. 12-6-8 only, according to the answer given by the hon. Minister,

**Shri Chattopadhyay (West Bengal):** These figures are entirely wrong.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Why tell the hon. Member? He is only quoting a reply given by the hon. Minister.

**Shri Bharati:** I am only quoting the figures given by the hon. Minister in reply to starred question No. 1470. How do I know what prices are ruling in Assam and other places? And Orissa gets a procurement price of Rs. 10-12-9 per maund.

Sir, I shall complete in two minutes.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The two minutes never seem to come.

**Shri Bharati:** And prices have risen since 1948. They have gone up in 1950 from what they were in 1948. I take exception to the treatment given to Madras. From 1948 to 1950, the increase is Rs. 4-13-9 for Assam, for Bihar it is Rs. 4-12-0, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 1-11-5 and for Madras it is almost the same, the figures being Rs. 13-13-0 and Rs. 12-6-0.

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** The whole basis of what you state is wrong. What is the use of arguing?

**Shri Bharati:** I am not arguing at all. I am only giving the figures given in the statement. U. P. gets a price of Rs. 24-12-8 and West Bengal Rs. 17-11-0. I want the hon. Minister to enlighten me about these figures. The V. T. Krishnamachari Committee's report wanted and the Thakurdas Committee also wanted that the prices should be increased and the cultivator given an inducement to produce more. The Madras prices are far too low and the reply that it is a matter left wholly to the State is totally wrong. Actually some officials told me recently that though they advised an increase of ten per cent. in these procurement prices the Central Government sat tight on this suggestion. The price in Uttar Pradesh, for instance, is hundred per cent. more than that in Madras. There it is Rs. 24 and odd and in Madras it is only Rs. 12 and odd. Of course, I do not grudge the prices in Uttar Pradesh. They must have had good reasons for that price. But I want the hon. Minister to go into the question and say why Madras has been so lightly treated and leave the whole question to the Madras State if they so feel called upon.

**श्री अनिरुद्ध सिन्हा :** माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का अत्यन्त कृतज्ञ हूँ कि आप ने मुझे आज इस संसद में पहली बार

बोलने का मौका दिया है। मुझे अपने ३० वर्ष के राजनैतिक जीवन में ऐसी सभा में बोलने का आज तक कभी अभ्यास नहीं था और मैं उस के तरीकों से भी परिचित नहीं हूँ। मुझे से गलती भी हो सकती है और आशा है मुझे अपना नया सहयोगी जान कर माननीय सदस्यगण मेरी गलतियों पर ध्यान नहीं देंगे।

अभी मुझे बिहार की खाद्य स्थिति, और वहाँ के अकाल के बारे में और उस के निदान के बारे में कुछ अपन माननीय खाद्य सचिव से निवेदन करना है और मैं उनके पास उन के आंकड़ों के आधार पर नहीं, बल्कि मुझे जो आज तीस वर्ष से गरीब किसानों और मजदूरों के बीच काम करने का सीमाग्य मिला है, उस के अनुभव के आधार पर मैं उन्हें बता सकता हूँ कि कहां कहां खामियां हैं। मैं अभी दस दिन भी नहीं हुए कि बिहार के उन अकाल ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों का दौरा, भ्रमण कर के आया हूँ और खास कर उन क्षेत्रों का जहाँ की स्थिति सब से दयनीय है, और मेरा घर भी वहीं पड़ता है जहाँ की परिस्थिति सब से खराब और शोचनीय है। आप ने अखबारों में भी पढ़ा होगा कि दरभंगा के मधुबनी सब डिवीजन में हंगर मार्च (hunger march) सत्याग्रह हो रहा है और उस सिलसिले में गिरफ्तारियां भी हुई हैं, मधुबनी के कोर्ट कम्पाउण्ड (Court compound) में सोशलिस्टों (Socialists) ने हंगर मार्च कराया और सत्याग्रह करने वालों को गिरफ्तार भी किया गया। मैं खाद्य मंत्री साहब से कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह ठीक है और वहाँ की जनता दूसरी दूसरी राजनैतिक पार्टियों के बहकावे में आकर ऐसा कर रही है और वहाँ भी कुछ स्थिति ऐसी खराब है कि वह मजबूर हो कर ऐसी कार्र-

वाही कर रही है। नहीं तो मेरा दावा है कि बिहार और खास कर दरभंगा मधुबनी के लोग अभी भी कांग्रेस के सिद्धान्तों में, तथा कांग्रेस के नेतृत्व में तथा कांग्रेस सरकार के नेक इरादों में विश्वास रखते हैं। और यह सम्भव हो सकता है कि भूख की पीड़ा में आ कर, और भूख की ज्वाला न सहन कर पाने के कारण वे लोग बहुकावे में आ गये हों। लेकिन हमें तो देखना यह है कि ऐसी स्थिति आज क्यों पैदा हो गई है और उस का निदान क्यों कर सम्भव हो सकता है। मैं आंकड़ों की बात नहीं करता हूँ, लेकिन मैं भी जानता हूँ और वह भी जानते हैं कि इस मुल्क में अनाज की कितनी कमी है। १५ लाख टन लोग कहते हैं कि इस देश में पहले ब्रह्मा का चावल आता था, लेकिन ब्रह्मा के भारत से अलग हो जाने पर और वहाँ का चावल भारत में न आ पाने के कारण यहाँ की खाद्य स्थिति पर बहुत ख़राब असर पड़ा और फिर उस के बाद देश का विभाजन होने पर ३२-३५ प्रति शत जो धान और गेहूँ के खेत थे और जिन की नहरों से सिंचाई होती थी, वह पाकिस्तान में पड़ गये और इस का भी असर हमारी खाद्य स्थिति पर विपरीत पड़ा और ऐसा पड़ा कि इस को हमारा देश सम्हाल न सका। जहाँ तक बिहार का सवाल है, उसका मुझे निजी अनुभव है कि जुलाई १९५० में अकाल के लक्षण दीखने लगे और जहाँ चाहिये था कि हमारे केन्द्र के खाद्य मंत्री हवा का दखल देख कर अपनी स्थिति सम्हालने की कोशिश करते, मुझे अफ़सोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि समय रहते चेता नहीं गया। बिहार के किसान बहूँ किसान हैं जो हवा से, बाढ़ से, धूप से, और सारी आफ़तों से लड़ना जानते हैं और जल्दी से वह अपना साहस और धैर्य खोने वाले नहीं हैं, लेकिन आखिर में सरकार की भी लोगों को खिलाने की

एक जिम्मेदारी होती है। वहाँ किस प्रकार भदई की फ़सल मारी गयी और फिर अक्टूबर में आ कर अकाल के लक्षण दिखने लगे और वहाँ हमारे खाद्य के मंत्री साहब और हम लोग भी वहाँ उस कान्फ़ेन्स में बुलाये गये और मैं बहुत जोर के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि बिहार के एक ज़िले में लूले, लंगड़े और अपाहिजों को खाना देने के काम के आंकड़े तैयार करने का काम ग़ैर सरकारी संस्थाओं ने अपने हाथ में लिया और दरभंगा ज़िले में ज़िला कांग्रेस कमेटी के प्रेसीडेंट तथा ज़िला मैजिस्ट्रेट ने हस्ताक्षर कर के पब्लिक बांटे और लोगों को आश्वासन दिलाया कि उन के लिये भारत सरकार अन्न भेज रही है और इस आश्वासन के दिलाने से लोगों में कुछ साहस आया लेकिन बहुत दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि यहाँ से अन्न नहीं गया और जहाँ बिहार के लिए सन् १९५० में एक लाख, उनचास हजार टन गल्ला मंजूर हुआ था, वहाँ केवल एक लाख, एक हजार टन गया। लेकिन वह भी कब पहुँचा, जब कि हालत काफ़ी ख़राब हो चुकी थी और लोगों का धैर्य और साहस टूटने लगा था।

मैं भी उन्हीं क्षेत्रों से आता हूँ जहाँ की भूमि शस्य दयामला कहलाती है। आप जानते हैं कि तिरहुत डिवीजन (Division) जिसे आप नार्थ बिहार (North Bihar) कहते हैं, ग्रेनरी आफ़ बिहार (Granary of Bihar) कहलाती है। उसी के साथ साथ दरभंगा ज़िला है। मैंने खुद वहाँ जा कर देखा है कि कहीं भी हरियाली नहीं है। वहाँ के लोगों के सूखे गाल और पीठ से लगे पेट ही नजर आते हैं। इतनी भी शक्ति उन में नहीं है कि वह अपना काम कर सकें। ऐसी हालत में अगर हम उन की ज़रूरतों को नहीं समझते, उन के

[श्री अनिरुद्ध सिन्हा]

दुःख दर्द को नहीं समझते, और उन को तिलांजली देते रहें तो यह वाजिब नहीं है। इस साल उन की क्या हालत है। जो कुछ वह बोते हैं उन को नवम्बर तक खाते हैं किसी किस्म से। लेकिन इस साल उन के पास कुछ नहीं है। शुरू के तीन महीनों में एक लाख २३ हजार टन अन्न देने का वायदा किया गया था सेन्टर (centre) से। लेकिन यहां से अभी तक केवल ९७ हजार टन अन्न गया है। इन ९७ हजार टनों में से अगर आप ४८ हजार टन निकाल दें तो बाकी कितना रहता है ५० हजार के करीब। तो अगर ऐसी ही हालत रही तो समस्या कैसे हल होगी यह मैं नहीं जानता हूँ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि उत्तरी बिहार जहां अकाल पड़ा है, जहां तीन करोड़ आदमी रहते हैं वह गंगा के उस पार पड़ता है लेकिन उस के लिए रेल का कोई रूट (route) नहीं है। आप को जो भी अन्न देना हो उस को बरसात के पहले ही उस पार पहुंचा देना होगा नहीं तो आप कितना ही अन्न दें, करोड़ों मन दें, सब बेकार होगा, वह बरसात में उन के पास नहीं पहुंचाया जा सकता और किसी एक आदमी की भी जान आप नहीं बचा सकेंगे। दरभंगा, सहरसा, भागलपुर आदि कहीं पर भी यातायात के साधन नहीं रहते हैं, सभी सड़कें पानी में चली जाती हैं, आखिर तब वह अन्न कौन लायेगा अगर डेर में पहुंचेगा? क्या मुर्दा लायेगा? अतः अगर आप को अन्न देना है तो मई के अन्दर अन्दर बिहार में पहुंचाना होगा क्योंकि जून के पहले सप्ताह में वहां घनघोर वर्षा आरम्भ हो जाती है। का वर्षा बब कृषिसुखाने"। उत्तरी बिहार की और यदि ध्यान न दिया गया तो लोग

भूखों मर जायेंगे। आप जन की दिक्कतों को समझें और देखें कि उन को क्या जरूरत है। जब घर में आग लगती है लोग उस वक्त कूआं खोदने नहीं बैठते हैं हमें उस का पहले ही प्रबंध करना चाहिये।

इस के बाद में बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि अब का जो एस्टिमेट (estimate) है उस से मालूम होता है कि बीस लाख टन गल्ला कम उपजेगा। जैसा ऐग्रीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट (Agriculture Department) की रिपोर्ट (report) में लिखा है नवम्बर के बाद में बिहार तीन लाख टन गल्ला बाहर से मंगाता था। जितने जिलों में अकाल है सभी नेपाल की सीमा पर हैं। मुझे ठीक अन्दाजा तो नहीं है लेकिन ७५ हजार से १ लाख टन तक गल्ला नेपाल से आता था। सब मिला कर चार लाख टन के लगभग गल्ला उन जिलों को अक्टूबर के बाद चाहिये। इस प्रकार से बीस से चौबीस लाख टन गल्ला देना चाहिये, उस में से वेते हैं ६ लाख। मुना है ९ लाख टन गल्ला आप के यहां विदेशों से पहुंच गया है, उस में से हमें केवल ९७ हजार टन मिला है। भगवान ही जानें कि अगर उन के पास अन्न न पहुंचा तो उन की क्या हालत होगी। लेकिन फिर भी बिहार के किसानों में आत्मसम्मान है, वह आप से भीख नहीं मांगते हैं, वह आप से काम मांगते हैं। उन के पास भंग गया तो वह कहते हैं कि हमें काम दिलाओ। कुछ लोग वहां गये तो आ कर कहा कि वहां मुद्रा स्फीति है, जिस को आप इन्फ्लेशन (inflation) कहते हैं। लेकिन जहां पर एक सौ से एक सौ पच्चीस रुपये कट्टा जमीन बिकती थी वहीं अभी साठ रुपये कट्टा बिकती है आप ही बताइये कि वहां इन्फ्लेशन है या क्या है। वहां की हालत यह है कि किसानों के माल मवेशी बक

बिक गये हैं। इस लिये अगर आप चाहते हैं कि उन को वर्क (work) दिया जाय तो इस के लिए कोई प्रबन्ध कीजिये। वहां १२८१ फसली जिसे आप १८७६ या १८७३ ऐसा कुछ कहेंगे, मैं अकाल पड़ा था। उस वक्त वहां रेलें नहीं थीं, फिर भी ११ लाख टन अनाज सरकार ने वहां पहुंचाया और लोगो को काम दिया। लोग काम आज भी चाहते हैं। मैं इस के लिए कुछ कंस्ट्रक्टिव सजेरेशन (constructive suggestion) देना चाहता हूं। जिसे आप उत्तर बिहार कहते हैं वहां चम्पारन जिले को छोड़ कर किसी जिले में नहरें नहीं हैं। वहां छोटे छोटे तालाब होते हैं। जो गर्मी में सूख जाते हैं। अगर आप वहां के लोगों को काम देना चाहते हैं और परमानेंट (permanent) इलाज भी करना चाहते हैं पानी का तो आप उस का प्रबन्ध कर सकते हैं। अकाल पीड़ित किसानों को उन के आत्मसम्मान की रक्षा के लिए रोजी दे सकते हैं। पोखरों का जहां तक सवाल है उन की हालत यह है कि वह सूख गये हैं, मवेशियों को पीने के लिए पानी नहीं मिलता है। खेती कैसे होगी? अगर भारत सरकार कोशिश करती है तो हम लोगों को इस से मछली मखाना सिंहड़ा वगैरह की किस्म के पूरक खाद्य मिल जायेंगे जिस में प्रोटीन (protein) इतना होता है जितना गेहूं और चावल में भी नहीं होता। यदि इस किस्म के खाद्य मिल जायेंगे तो आप के ऊपर भी भार कम पड़ेगा नहीं तो अकाल परमानेंट फीचर (permanent feature) बिहार का हो जायगा। आप कहेंगे कि यह प्राविन्सल गवर्नमेन्ट (Provincial Government) का काम है। मैं इस को मानता हूं लेकिन जिस दायरे और निम्न पैमाने की यह

स्कीम (scheme) है उसे कोई भी प्राविन्सल गवर्नमेन्ट अपने रिसोर्सेज (resources) से नहीं पूरा कर सकती है। चाहे वह कितना ही दावा करे। अगर सेन्टर की मदद न मिलेगी तो किसी भी सरकार का यह दावा गलत होगा।

तीसरी बात मेरे कहने की यह है कि बिहार की हालत आज ऐसी हो गई है कि यदि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने ध्यान न दिया तो वह बच नहीं सकता है। आप ने पारसाल वन महोत्सव किया। लोग कहते हैं कि वहां इस वक्त लोग बहुत बरेशान हैं। वहां पानी के कंजर्वेशन (conservation) की जरूरत है भगवान जाने उस के लिए क्या कुछ हो रहा है। मैं ने तो अपने बचपन में देखा है कि आम और जामुन दो प्रधान वृक्ष वहाँ होते हैं। शायद सभी आनरेबल मेम्बर्स (hon. members) को मालूम होगा कि दरभंगा, भागलपुर से सारे देश में आम जाता था। मैं सच बोलता हूं कि मैं ने अपनी आंखों से देखा है कि हमारे गांव में आज लकड़ी का सवाल है। आप सुन कर आश्चर्य करेंगे कि दस बरस से वहां कोई हिन्दू का मुर्दा लकड़ी के अभाव में जलाया नहीं गया है, उन को गाड़ा जाता है। सन् ३९ की लड़ाई में सारे जामुन के वृक्ष काट कर लड़ाई में चले गये। उत्तरी बिहार में शूगर तथा जूट मिलें हैं, सारी आम की लकड़ी उन के ब्वायलर (Boilers) में झोंक दी गई। मोकामा से कोयले का निर्यात वहां नहीं था; जूट तथा चीनी की मिलों के लिये कोयला नहीं था, कहाँ से लायें, नतीजा यह हुआ कि आम और जामुन के गाछ काट डाले गये। आप ने तीन करोड़ पेट वन महोत्सव में लगाव। यह ठीक है इस को मैं मानता हूं

[श्री अनिरुद्ध सिन्हा]

लेकिन मैं यह कहूंगा बिहार के खिला में आम और जामुन का एक गाछ तक नहीं है। आप वन महोत्सव मनाते हैं, खूब शोक से मनाइये लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार की तरफ देखना आप का पहला काम है। कोयला रूड मिनिस्ट्री (Food Ministry) का काम नहीं है लेकिन इस कम्पोस्टिटी (commodity) का फूड (food) पर असर पड़ा है, बिहार आज अन्न के बिना मर रहा है; आप सोचते हैं मर जायेंगे तो क्या हुआ। मगर मैं कहता हूँ कि आप जल्दी से जल्दी मोकामा और पटना के बीच पुल बना कर रेल चालू करें जिससे भारत के एक बड़े भूभाग को गल्ला दिया जा सके। इसलिये मैं कहता हूँ कि जहाँ तक वन महोत्सव का तवाल है वह अपनी जगह पर ठीक है, सिद्धान्ततः ठीक है। लेकिन मैं कहता हूँ कि हमारे यहाँ की हालत यह हो गई है कि हमें कोयला नहीं दिया जाता है और आप कहते हैं कि कम्पोस्ट (compost) बनाओ। कम्पोस्ट कहाँ से बन सकती है, लकड़ी हमारे यहाँ है नहीं, कोयला मिलता नहीं, जितना गाय और भैंस का गोबर होता है उस से कम्पोस्ट बनाया था, मगर वह हम चूल्हे में जलाते हैं उस से कम्पोस्ट कैसे बनायेंगे। इसलिये अगर आप चाहते हैं कि हम भी कुछ कर सकें तो आप को इन चीजों के लिये इन्तजाम करना होगा।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Anirudha Sinha (Bihar): Sir, I thank you for having granted me this, my first, opportunity to speak before this Parliament. Never before during the thirty years of my political career have I had an occasion to address such an audience. I am also

not familiar with the practice of this House. I am therefore liable to err but I hope the hon. Members would overlook the failings of a new colleague.

I have to say a few things to the hon. Minister of Food with regard to the food situation and the famine conditions in Bihar and my diagnosis of that situation. I am going to tell him where the weak points lie not on the basis of statistics on which he relies but on the strength of the experience that I have gathered by having the privilege of working among the poor peasants and labourers for thirty years. It is hardly ten days since I returned from a tour of the famine stricken areas of Bihar, particularly those areas where the conditions are most pitiable. My own home also happens to be situated in the area where the situation is most critical and distressing. You must have read in the papers that a hunger march or *Satyagraha* is being staged in the Madhubani Sub Division of Darbhanga and that arrests have also been made in that connection. A hunger march was got staged by the Socialists in the court compound of Madhubani in the course of which some of those who offered *Satyagraha* were placed under arrest. It is true the people there are doing this under the instigation of some other political parties. They are forced to resort to such tactics as the situation is rather bad, for, otherwise, I hold that the people of Bihar and those of Darbhanga and Madhubani in particular still retain their faith in Congress principles, Congress leadership and the good intentions of the Congress Government. It is possible that, driven by the torments of hunger and starvation, they have allowed themselves to be misled. But, we have to see why such a situation has come to arise and how it can be remedied. I am not talking on the strength of statistics but we all know what a great shortage of foodgrains exists in this country. It is said that 15 lakh tons of rice used to be imported from Burma into this country formerly but that import ceased with the separation of Burma from India, which affected us very adversely. Again, with the partition of the country, 32 or 35 per cent. of the rice and wheat fields which used to be irrigated by canals came to fall in Pakistan which too had such an adverse effect on our food position as could not be counter-balanced. So far as Bihar is concerned I can say from personal experience that even in July, 1950, signs of approaching famine had manifested themselves but whereas the Central Minister of Food ought to have

read the sign of the times and tried to save the situation I regret to say that proper action was not taken in time. The Bihar peasants are made of tough metal and know how to fight the storm, the floods, the sun and other calamities. They do not lose heart so easily, but then the Government too have the responsibility of feeding the people. The *Bhadai* crop having been ruined signs of a famine appeared as early as in October. The hon. Minister of Food visited the place. A conference was held to which I too was called. The work of preparing statistics for the distribution of food among the maimed and the disabled was taken over by non-official institutions. In Darbhanga District the President of the District Congress Committee and the District Magistrate distributed leaflets signed by them and assured the people that the Government of India was going to send foodgrains for them. This assurance did hearten up the people a bit but I am very much grieved to say that no foodgrains were sent from here. Whereas, out of one lakh and forty-nine thousand tons of foodgrains sanctioned for Bihar only in 1950 one lakh and one thousand tons were sent actually and even that quantity arrived at a time when the situation had already deteriorated to a great extent and the patience and the fortitude of the people was at the breaking point.

I too come from an area which is rich in crop. You know Tirhut Division, i.e., North Bihar, is called the granary of Bihar. The district of Darbhanga is adjacent to it. I have been there myself and have seen that there was not a single green spot anywhere. One can see the reduced cheeks and the empty bellies of the people of that area. They have lost strength and are unable to do their work. Under these conditions it is not proper if we do not understand their needs, do not feel their pains and troubles and leave them to their own fate. What is the condition of these people this year. Whatever they produce they consume it and somehow sustain upto the month of November. But they have nothing with them this year. Only 97 thousand tons of foodgrains have been allotted to them by the Centre. A quota of one lakh and twenty-three thousand tons of foodgrains for the first three months was promised to them, and if you deduct 48 thousand tons from this quantity only fifty thousand tons or so are left. If the things continue to remain the same, I do not know, how our problem would be solved.

Secondly there is no direct rail route for the famine-stricken areas of North Bihar which lie on the other side of

the river Ganges and where three crores of people live. You will have to send all the foodgrains that you want to send before the rainy season begins as it would be useless to send it afterwards. It cannot reach them during the rainy season and in this way you cannot save the life of even a single man. All the means of transport in Darbhanga, Saharsa, Baghalpur and other places remain disrupted, all the roads remain submerged in water in that season. Who will use that food if it were to reach there late? Will the dead persons eat it? So if you have to give any food to them it should reach Bihar during the month of May because heavy rains begin there from the first week of June; "Ka varsna jab krishi sukhane" (What is the use of the rains when the crop has dried up). People will die of hunger if we do not understand their difficulties, do not see to their needs and do not pay heed to the conditions prevailing there. It is no use to sink a well at the time when the house catches fire. You should make arrangements beforehand.

After this I would like to say that according to the present estimates it seems that the production of foodgrains would be less by twenty lakh tons this year. The report of the Agriculture Department shows that Bihar used to import three lakh tons of foodgrains after the month of November. All the famine stricken areas lie on the borders of Nepal. Although I have no exact estimates with me yet I can say that something between 75 thousand to one lakh tons of foodgrains used to be imported from Nepal. In brief these districts generally required about four lakh tons of foodgrains in all after the month of October. In this way twenty to twenty-four lakh tons of food grains should have been allotted to them now but as against this they have been given only six lakh tons. We hear that nine lakh tons of foodgrains have arrived from abroad but only 97 thousand tons have been allotted to us from this quantity. Only God knows what will happen to these people if food would not reach there in time. But even then the Bihar peasants have the sense of self-respect. They do not beg from you but they ask for work. I went to them and they asked me to give them work. Some people had gone there and on their return they remarked that there was a great deal of inflation there. But land which previously used to sell at the rate of rupees one hundred to one hundred and twenty-five per *Katha* now sells at the rate of sixty rupees per *Katha*. Under these conditions you can yourself say whether there is any inflation

[Shri Anirudha Sinha]

or not. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that the peasants have sold off their cattle etc. So if you want to provide them with work you should make arrangements for the same. Famine visited that area in the *Fasli* year 1281 that is sometime during 1876 or 1873 A.D. There were no railways at that time but even then the Government arranged to send 11 lakh tons of foodgrains there and people were provided with work. People want work even today. I would like to give some constructive suggestions with regard to this thing. With the exception of the Champaran district there are no canals in any district of North Bihar. There are small ponds which dry up in summer. If you want to give some work to the people of that area and at the same time want to make some permanent arrangements for water supply there you can do so by improving the irrigation system. This would provide the famine stricken peasants with some means of livelihood and they would be able to retain their sense of self respect. So far as the question of ponds is concerned they have dried up. When water is not available even for drinking purposes of the cattle, how can cultivation take place? If the Government of India would make some efforts we would be able to get supplementary foods like fish, water-nuts and *makhana* etc. too, which contain more proteins than wheat or rice. If such foods are available your burden too would lessen, otherwise famine will become a permanent feature of Bihar Province. You will say that it is the work of the provincial Governments. I agree with you but at the same time I would like to tell you that the resources of a provincial Government do not permit to launch a scheme of such a magnitude. No provincial governments will be able to undertake this scheme unless and until the Centre were to come to its aid.

Thirdly I want to submit that the conditions in Bihar have deteriorated today to such an extent that it will not survive in case the Centre will not come to its rescue. The Vanmahotsava was celebrated here last year, but the people there are much embarrassed. Water conservation is badly needed there. Only God knows what is being done with regard to this thing. I have seen in my childhood that there were two principal kinds of trees in our area; one was the mango and the other blackberry. Perhaps the hon. Members know that Darbhanga and Bhagalpur are such areas as used to supply mangoes to the whole country. I tell you a fact that we are faced with

the problem of scarcity of fuel in our villages today. You will be surprised to know that no dead body of any Hindu has been cremated there for the last ten years for want of fuel; they are simply buried. All the blackberry trees were cut down and wood taken away during the war days of 1939. There are sugar and jute mills in North Bihar and all the wood of these mango trees has been consumed as fuel in the boilers there. There was no export of coal from Mokamah, no coal was available for sugar or for jute mills. Wherefrom could it be obtained? The result was that the mango as well as the blackberry trees were cut down. You planted three crore trees during the Vanmahotsava. This is good, but at the same time I would say that there is not a single mango or a blackberry tree existing in the district of Bihar. By all means you may celebrate the Vanmahotsava here, there is no harm in doing so, but what I want to tell you is that it is your primary duty to pay attention to the Bihar situation. It is true that coal does not form an item which comes under the sphere of the Ministry of Food, but nevertheless it is a commodity which has affected food production to a great extent. Bihar is starving today for want of food. You may take the whole situation lightly and may think that it is no matter if the people die there. But I urge upon you to open a new railway line there by constructing a bridge between Mokamah and Patna so that food could be supplied to a greater part of the areas lying beyond. So far as the question of Vanmahotsava is concerned, I may tell you, it is all right in its own place. It is good in principle. But condition in our part of the country is such that we are not being supplied with coal and at the same time we are being advised to prepare compost manure. Wherefrom can we prepare compost manure, when no coal or fuel is available to us? Whatever cow dung is available we use it for fuel purposes. How is it possible to make compost then? So if you want to make us do something you too will have to make arrangements for all these things.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I am pleasantly surprised at the fact that Mr. Sidhva has begun to place some reliance on Government statistics.

**Shri Sidhva:** So far as they exist. What else am I to do? But of course not relying on them.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** So far he has been condemning all these figures, but today he brought forth a statement



from the Government statisticians and tried to prove that the country is surplus in foodgrains.....

**Shri Sidhva:** That has always been my contention. I am not saying it for the first time.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** But not on the basis of Government statistics. From the same statement the hon. Food Minister draws the conclusion that we are deficit by 3.7 million tons. This year owing to special reasons and natural calamities—floods, earthquake and drought—we shall require another 2.7 million tons, making a total of 6.4 million tons. I fail to understand how such diverse conclusions can be drawn from the same set of statistics. There must therefore be something wrong either in the calculations of the hon. Food Minister or of Mr. Sidhva. For my purpose today I would proceed on the assumption that there is a food deficit, and that we must import sufficient quantity of foodgrains in order to overcome our present difficulties and to create a buffer stock to meet any future exigencies.

[SHRI HIMATSINGKA in the Chair]

Coming next to my two other hon. friends from Madras, Mr. Kala Venkatarao and Mr. Krishnaswami Bharati, they have complained that the procurement price of rice in Madras is much lower than the procurement price in other States. Mr. Bharati has quoted certain figures in support of his contention. According to the report of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture which I have in my hand now, the procurement price of rice in different States is as follows:

Punjab—Rs. 13-8-0.

Uttar Pradesh—Rs. 12-0-0.

Madhya Pradesh—11-8-0.

Madras—Rs. 8-14-9 (for paddy).

In the case of Madras it is Rs. 8-14-9 for paddy which if converted into rice will come to about Rs. 14-0-0.

**Shri Bharati:** I gave only the rice price as Rs. 12 odd.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** But I am giving you the rice prices of all the States and the paddy price in the case of Madras. There are other superior qualities of rice which may cost more but these are the procurement prices of ordinary qualities.

**Shri Bharati:** May I say.....

**Shri Satish Chandra:** These are the procurement prices from the Government's report.

**Shri Bharati:** Is it not a fact that it is fifth-grade?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** I am giving you corresponding figures for the lowest quality of rice grown in each State.

**Shri Bharati:** May I tell my hon. friend that there are five grades of rice and this is the fifth-grade?

**Mr. Chairman:** Let the hon. Member continue.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Anyway these are Government figures which I have in my possession. I have referred to these figures because Mr. Kala Venkatarao and Mr. Bharati said something about this matter. I find different facts here in the report and want to clear any misapprehension that might have been created in the House.

The procurement prices for rice at least, in most of the States, are at par with each other, except perhaps in the case of superior qualities of rice.

Mr. Bharati also took great pains to prove that Madras is a deficit State on the basis of figures supplied to him by Mr. Munshi, though Mr. Thirumala Rao considered them top-secret.

**Shri Bharati:** On a point of personal explanation. I never said he supplied me any figures. He only gave me the formula. He cannot make a wrong quotation like that. I repeat he did not supply any special figures to me.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** According to figures supplied to me by Mr. Munshi, the availability of foodgrains in various Part A States.....

**Shri Sondhi (Punjab):** Supplied privately?

**Shri Satish Chandra:** No, publicly but not in this House.

The availability of foodgrains per head of population in different States is as follows:

Assam—23 oz.

Madhya Pradesh—24.5 oz.

Bombay—17.4 oz.

Punjab—18.3 oz.

West Bengal—18.8 oz.

Madras—14.9 oz.

Bihar 14.9 oz.

Uttar Pradesh—14.5 oz.

These figures have been given to us by Mr. Munshi. Mr. Bharati also has got these figures as he noted them along with me when Mr. Munshi was explaining the food position to us.

**Shri Bharati:** The hon. Member took it from me and not along with me.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** It would be seen that among all the Part A States, the availability of food per head of the population is the lowest in Uttar Pradesh. The States of Madras and Bombay are much more fortunate than the densely populated poor Uttar Pradesh which is generally a target of attack in this House from many quarters.

**Shri Bharati:** On a point of explanation, Sir. Because the hon. Mr. Munshi gave these figures, in fairness to him it must be stated that it was definitely understood not to mention them. I want that to be understood. He told me, "All right, take it, but do not create any difficulties." The hon. Member took them from me and he is placing me in an embarrassing position.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Mr. Bharati presumes too many things. Now, Bombay has been allotted a quota of seven lakh tons for 1951, Madras four lakh tons, and Uttar Pradesh only two lakh tons. I do not know what the reason is for complaint and bitterness against a State where the comparative availability of food is the lowest according to Government's own figures. I may make it clear that this does not include Part B States many of which are acutely deficit. The allotment to Madras and Bombay is greater than Uttar Pradesh. Madras has been allotted double the quantity of Uttar Pradesh. I may say that in the matter of food policy Bombay and Madras have been the favoured children of the Central Government.....

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

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

**Shri Satish Chandra:** Due to the fact that their Governments have been very vocal, and the Members representing those States have been equally vocal in this House, they have received a treatment of distinct favouritism from the Food Ministry.

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

**Shri Satish Chandra:** And that is so not only in the matter of allotment of foodgrains but also in respect of the grant of food subsidy and the procurement bonus. I do not wish to go into those details. I would only draw the attention of the House to the reports of the two committees submitted to the Government last year, one presided over by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra and the other by Mr. Thirumala Rao. Their reports are now before the Government. There was a doubt expressed on behalf of Government that the

Maitra Committee had exceeded its jurisdiction. It may be so and I do not propose to go into the technicalities of the terms of reference. Since this Committee has reported on matters relating to procurement and distribution its recommendations may be examined with a view to find out if they offer an alternative solution to the complicated food-problem. The Government have now found the recommendations of Thirumala Rao Committee as quite impracticable for the following reasons— I am quoting from the report on the work of Food Ministry during the year 1950-51:

"The overall supply position in the country deteriorated owing to damage to crops by natural calamities and the outbreak of the Korean war. It became impossible to find the large additional stocks that would have been required according to the recommendations of the Committee to start a uniform system of monopoly procurement and rationing all over the country."

There is some indication now of the fact that the Government of India has begun to feel that the recommendations of the Maitra Committee are more sound and correct. I suggest that their report should be examined *de novo* and such of the recommendations regarding procurement policy and the distribution system as are practicable should be given effect to as early as possible.

I now turn to one important matter relating to my State, and it is the effect of the decontrol of gram on procurement of other foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh. On 16th November last, I had drawn the attention of the hon. Food Minister to the deterioration of the already difficult food situation in U.P. on account of that step. The procurement of gram in U.P. last year was only 39,000 tons as against 1,40,000 tons in the previous year. Gram is an item of staple food in U.P. It is not only an animal food as in other States, but in that unfortunate State it is also human food. Gram and barley are mixed in the proportion of 50 : 50 and the mixture is the staple food of millions of people in the rural areas. Whatever wheat or rice they produce is transported to urban areas for the consumption of the well-to-do people. Because gram is a horse food, and is consumed in some quantities as a pulse in other parts of the country, the Central Government thought that it could be de-controlled. The price of gram in U.P. today is Rs. 20. The ceiling price of gram which has been fixed at Rs. 12 to Rs. 13 cannot be

enforced because there is no controlled price for split gram. The gram after being split is being transported in huge quantities outside the State at a fancy price of Rs. 22 to Rs. 23 per maund resulting in depletion of available food-stocks for local consumption. Wheat which is procured at a cheaper rate is being withheld by the producer for his own consumption, and the price equilibrium has been disturbed. The prices of all foodgrains have gone up and there is a tendency towards a further rise in their prices. It will be impossible to procure wheat in the coming season if the U.P. Government is not allowed to re-impose control on the price and movement of gram and its products. I can understand a policy of complete de-control. Gram stands on the same footing as wheat and barley. If the hon. Minister thinks that there should be gradual de-control, I would welcome it and the U.P. Government also may welcome it. But in a matter like de-control of foodgrains there can only be one integrated policy. It is no use taking *ad hoc* decisions in respect of certain grains alone without considering repercussions on other foodgrains which continue to be controlled. On 16th November last, while replying to points raised by me during the debate, the hon. Minister in his eloquent manner emphasised the necessity of controls, but in the same speech he justified the de-control of gram. You cannot have it both ways. The area under gram in U.P. is one-fifth of the total area under foodgrains and the Government and the people of Uttar Pradesh would welcome a uniform policy in respect of all foodgrains. The re-imposition of control on gram is absolutely essential for procuring wheat and other foodgrains and to save the rationing machinery from complete breakdown.

Finally, I had raised the question of *khandsari* sugar during a debate in the earlier part of this session. I do not wish to cover the entire ground again. Unfortunately, the Minister's reply did not convince me or the House. (An Hon. Member: Talk for yourself and not for the House.) I only request him to re-examine the whole matter and see if something can be done to save that important small-scale industry which manufactures an essential commodity. If it is possible to do something, it will be a great relief both to the industry and to the sugar consumer all over the country. I unfortunately have the feeling that the case of *khandsari* sugar has not been fully understood by the hon. Minister.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I fully understand.

**Shri Satish Chandra:** He may try to understand it well and then I would not hesitate to accept any decision that he takes. I would be satisfied if I feel that due consideration has been given to the problems of this cottage industry.

**Shrimati Jayashri (Bombay):** I congratulate the Government on their programme of achieving self-sufficiency in food by 1952. I wish it could be done earlier, because we cannot say that a country has got real *Swaraj* unless it has achieved self-sufficiency in the two important things of life, namely, food and clothing. *Swaraj* is achieved in various ways. The Father of the Nation taught us one method—*Kalyanmarg*. Other countries try to achieve it through various other methods such as *Samajmarg*, *Samayamarg*, Fascism and so on. But we have been given only one way—*Kalyanmarg* or *Sarvodaya*. Gandhiji has given us this word.

सर्वेभ्यः सुखिनः सन्तु सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद् दुःखमाप्नुयात् ।

We all know how our venerable leader, Vinoba Bhaveji, on his journey to the *Sarvodaya mela* is also preaching the *Sarvodaya* and how people in the villages are flocking to him, and are trying to follow his preachings. In the same way, our Government should try to have the co-operation of villagers.

We are proud of our States Ministry which achieved one united India by doing away with the princely States. Similarly, I would congratulate the Food Ministry for doing away with absentee landlordism. But mere abolition of the *zamindari* system is not enough. We must also try to help the small cultivators. At present, there is fragmentation of holdings by which food production suffers. Government should organise farmers' co-operatives. Fertilizers, tractors and other expensive machineries could then be obtained by these co-operatives. For this purpose, farmers' associations are very necessary. I hope our Government will achieve this also.

Now to have control over these co-operatives I would suggest that we should aim to have village *panchayats*. Formerly in our country all the villages were having their *panchayats* and through these *panchayats* Government was able to collect the levy. The procurement programme of Government can be successfully achieved through

[Shrimati Jayashri]

these *panchayats*. At present I am sorry to say that Government sometimes has to use police measures which antagonise the cultivators. So I would suggest that if we want to take the cultivators with us, if we want to have their co-operation, it can only be achieved by the establishment of village *panchayats*.

These *panchayats* can also have food grain banks. We know that it is very difficult for small farmers and cultivators to have big stores in which surplus grain can be kept. But if these food-grain banks can collect the grain from the villagers and after distributing them to the villages round about a particular area hand over the rest to be distributed in the cities, that will partly solve the question of food control. At present it is working in a vicious circle. It is very difficult to do away with control; at the same time controls bring about a number of evils like blackmarketing, etc. A scheme of foodgrain banks would obviate all this. In Bombay some time back there was a proposal to start such banks. I do not know how far it has progressed.

Another difficulty of our peasants is that they are not occupied throughout the year. I would suggest that they should be provided with some sort of supplementary industry such as *Charkha*, weaving and to keep them occupied, Government should encourage their cottage industries. I know that Government are trying their best to open showrooms at various places. But I think more effort is necessary, especially in regard to *khadi* and dairy industries. The village dairy industry requires encouragement from Government. Our smaller tillers, cultivators, cannot afford to buy good cattle. Here also if Government help them it will help in raising our milk production as well as good *ghee*.

I would like to come to the question of population. This morning a paper was distributed to us in which it is shown that our population is increasing at a very rapid pace. We are told that every year one lakh more of population is added. I would like to say in this connection that our All India Women's Conference is doing its best in this. They have taken up this problem. They have started various family-planning clinics. But unless the Government also give them support it is very difficult for all the villages to be covered by this organisation. Government should advise all the village doctors, especially the maternity homes where the women come for child birth. They can be given advice there. In

this way I think we can solve this problem also.

Then I would like to say something about our Women's Food Council. I am one of the members of that Council, though not very active, and I would here congratulate Mrs. Munshi who is a very active member of the Council. She has taken upon herself to make the supplementary food popular. Our people are still sticking to the old habit of having only one or two foodgrain articles for their daily use, but there are so many other supplementary food articles. From these we can prepare such delicious things. If some of our Members go to the cafeteria, *Annapurna*, they will be able to find out what nice things can be prepared from these supplementary articles. In this way we will be able to achieve some good results with regard to our food problem.

The last thing about which I would say something is milk. I think a few days back our Prime Minister said something about the Arey Milk Colony, Goregaon. If our cultivators are helped in the way in which some of the owners of the cattle in Bombay are helped by this Arey Milk Colony I think we will be able to solve our cattle problem also. Instead of sending our cattle to the *pinjrapole*, if such colonies were started we will be able to save so many of our cattle and that also will be some achievement to our credit.

Shri S. N. Mahtha (Bihar): I would say a few words on the food situation in India with particular reference to the Province of Bihar. It is difficult to speak of the food situation in India lightly now, or with the requisite amount of calmness. I also feel that it is not much use indulging in mere criticisms. We have, however, seen for some time the sad spectacle of the Centre trying to lay the blame at the door of the Provinces and the Provinces returning the blame with due compliments. In a statement issued to us by the Food Minister this morning—a signed statement—referring to the triennial years after partition, that is, during the period of three years after partition, he says that according to the figures supplied to him by State Governments the production of cereals has declined by 3.4 million tons. The *per capita* production, if these figures are right, has, therefore, fallen by 18 per cent. Mr. Munshi is inclined not to rely on these figures. He says that the reporting agencies in this case the State Governments, who want to build up a claim for additional supplies from the Centre have their own bias.

This creates a very serious situation for us. Mr. Munshi openly invites us to disbelieve the figures sent to him by the States. This leads us nowhere. This controversy results merely in confusion. When the trouble started magnifying itself some years ago, we put down before us as our target, self-sufficiency in twelve months. To say the least, the target was wholly unrealistic. It was also self-delusive. We deluded ourselves and deluded the people of India. In that state of self-delusion we happily cut down our imports. I have not got the figures here, but I think they were materially cut down. This was done at a time when we should have been most sensibly building up a reserve which could have stood us well in bad times. We actually not only maintained but increased our deficit month after month and in the result we have brought ourselves to the present plight. Thus, partly, the present crisis is man-made. The present position is that we have had to cut down ration by 25 per cent. And we have guaranteed food to only twenty-five cities whose ration we have subsidised. The rest of the country is left in gloom. The present position seems to be that India's famine may be rendered chronic. The position is already extremely difficult in some parts of the country. Bihar is a land today of chronic suffering and famine. The countryside is starving for want of food and for want of employment. There is no food in Bihar, and for such as there is, people have no money to buy food with.

4 P.M.

I should now like to give some figures in particular relation to the problem as it presents itself in the State of Bihar, which is at the present moment the most affected part of the country, although from previous speeches made by two Members, everyone got the impression that perhaps Bihar was much better off than many other Provinces in India. I shall therefore, proceed to examine the food position in Bihar with reference to some Government reports.

When the Gregory Committee reported, it was found that the annual average net import in Bihar was three lakh tons of foodgrains in a normal year. This year, to the best of estimates, the loss in foodgrains is believed to be in the neighbourhood of 20 lakh tons as a result of drought and other causes. Thus, to restore only normal conditions in Bihar, Bihar needs at least 23 lakh tons of food. In saying this I have not taken into account the increase in the population of Bihar since the time the Gregory Committee reported.

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One or two things which have already been mentioned by some Members are that Bihar used to get 75,000 tons of paddy from Nepal which has stopped this year due to failure of crop there and the ban imposed on the movement of grain by the Nepal Government. As against this huge requirement of 23 lac tons the Government of India have made an allotment of only six lakh tons to Bihar. This has been done in a year of drought and failure of crop unprecedented during the last seventy-five years.

This is not all. More vital than allotment is the movement of stocks into Bihar. Stocks have been moving into Bihar at an average of 50,000 tons a month. Thus from out of imports, the volume of supply to Bihar is in no way greater than what it used to be in the normal years before 1943. This has created a dreadful situation. Let us examine the allotment and receipt position in 1950. Actual receipts in Bihar in 1950 as against promised allotment was 48,000 tons less. There has been short supply during the first three months of 1951 as well. The position at the end of March this year is that if this shortage is taken into account the actual receipts against the promised allotment will be found to have fallen short by 26,000 tons plus 48,000 tons, that is, 74,000 tons. This has made a bad position worse. Taking into account the affected areas of Bihar, we shall find that the population affected is three crores. During previous famines or periods of scarcity about ten to thirty per cent. of the population was employed by Government on relief work, thus providing employment and food to the hungry, although food for a much larger number had to be arranged. Calculating at nine oz. per day per head—even for a crore of people, a large part of whom will be manual labourers requiring additional ration, the requirement would be far in excess of one lakh tons per month. As anyone can see, the problem therefore, is extremely urgent and cannot wait. The urgency is increased on account of the difficult transport in north Bihar, which is the worst affected part of the Province, and where in many parts transport completely fails during the monsoon. The bulk of the allotment for North Bihar should have been there already. There are areas in North Bihar which will get completely water-locked and difficult of access very soon now. We should try to draw no consolation or assurance from the fact that many starvation deaths are not yet reported. The lesson of the last Bengal famine is there. During the first phase of famines many deaths from starvation

[Shri S. N. Mahtha]

do not take place. But deaths start when people's resistance is gradually exhausted. In the Bengal famine of 1943 the mortality rate during the earlier half of the famine year was only 1.9 per cent. in excess of the quinquennial average, but in the second half it leapt up to 108.3 per cent. in excess of the normal rate and continued to claim its victims in 1944 as well. It would be tragic if we forget that experience and do not act in time at least to minimise that impending danger as much as possible.

To cut a long story short, Bihar needs one lakh tons a month which works out somewhere at the rate of 4,000 tons a day. We have consequently to increase our imports which is the only immediate remedy in sight. We are glad that 3.7 million tons have already been firmly contracted for by Government. Our requirement, however, is much larger and we must accept grain from any available source without political prejudices.

Besides increased imports, I would say that we should abolish altogether the control on sugar now. It is not needed now. We must abolish sales tax on foodstuffs. It is inhuman at the present moment, to say the least of it. Inter-district embargo on food, I would strongly urge, must go. It is irritating and unhelpful.

My time is up. I can now only end by saying that while these are all short-term remedies, the full solution of the problem depends certainly on more production. To increase production we shall have to copy from other countries both regarding agricultural methods and the most appropriate structure of society conducive to more production and employment. I plead for a more sympathetic treatment of Bihar.

I must also say that the Bihar Government themselves are fully conscious of their own responsibilities and have done their little bit very well. From the press report seen two days ago, we found that the Bihar Government have arranged to distribute 2,000 pumping sets in the various districts of the State at half the cost price to cultivators, and have opened 2,500 fair price shops. We have heard a great deal today about procurement. Now, so far as conditions permit, let me tell that procurement has been excellent in Bihar and has been done energetically and sincerely. And if they could not procure more, even after house to house search, the reason is that there is no more food available to procure. I

know of one subdivision—the Sitamahi subdivision—where house to house searches were made and from the results of these searches we were all satisfied that the maximum procurement had been done in that subdivision. In fact if any error was committed, it was on the side of strictness and not laxity. Bihar calls for urgent help. I make an appeal for sympathetic treatment of Bihar. I trust that succour will reach there in time and not too late.

**Sardar Sochet Singh (P.E.P.S.U.):** With due deference to Mr. Sidhva every sane and realistic person in the country is agreed that there is a shortage of foodgrains in the country. Everybody also is agreed that all attempts made by the Government to increase the production of foodgrains are good, necessary and beneficial. The river valley schemes, the short term minor irrigation schemes, intensive cultivation schemes, the schemes for the supply of fertilizers and preparation and distribution of composts, the distribution of better seeds, they are all good. But the Government as well as all people who know also agree that our production is gradually falling and the procurement also is gradually decreasing. In spite of all these efforts, we must examine what are the true causes for the negative results of all the good efforts that the Government and the country are making.

To my mind, there are two obstacles in the way of production which we want to speed up, and both are of a fundamental and policy nature. With very great regret I have to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the first factor which stands in the way of production is the absence of any land policy on the part of the Central or State Governments. At present the industrialists know from an assurance given by the Leader of the House that they can go on expanding their private industries at least for a number of years but neither the proprietor of the land nor the contractor of the land nor the tenant of the land at present has got any certainty about his own tenure. The proprietor does not know when his land will be taken away from him, under some high policy, nor does the tenant know at what time he will be ejected from the land which he and his forefathers have been tilling for generations.

Shri Munshiji is thinking of evolving a new class of well-to-do farmers who would take over land on various contractual bases and he is good enough to hold them an assurance that at least for a number of years, they will be

allowed to continue in possession of their lands, as long as they guarantee a stipulated quantity of foodgrains to be supplied to the Government for the use of the nation, but no such guarantee at present is forthcoming as far as the other classes who are actually at present connected with the land are concerned. I come from a surplus province, P.E.P.S.U. and I am also an agriculturist. I can tell you that the mind of the agriculturist whether he is a proprietor, whether he is a contractor or whether he is a tenant, at present is very much unhinged. He is not at all sure if he makes any investment in the land that that would bring him any returns as far as he and his own posterity are concerned. I request the Government that they should make an open declaration in the House for the benefit of the country what sort of land policy they want to place before the country.

It is known to everybody that in U.S.A. and Canada the agriculturists work on a private enterprise basis. In Israel the co-operative farming system has been very recently evolved and almost perfected. In the U.S.S.R. the collective farming is the order of the day. Our Government ought to decide which of the three land economies is more suited for this country. If they think that the collective farming will produce the best results, let them come out with a declaration for that. If they think that co-operative farming is in the interests of the country, let them at once patronize that sort of land economy. If they think that the private enterprise of the pattern of U.S.A. and Canada is best suited in the interests of the country and the nation, they ought to patronize that.

My humble suggestion is that at present all your land grants, grow-more-food grants, your procurement bonuses and all your subsidies are not going into the pockets of the agriculturists. Most of these sums are retained by the State Governments. There is no direct benefit to the producer. That is why there is lack of enthusiasm and lack of incentive. If the Government makes it absolutely clear what sort of economy they want to encourage, then my humble submission is that if anybody comes for an aid in the matter of grow-more-food or for an agricultural development scheme, they ought to finance it and help only that type of economy which is in the best interests of the country. If they think that co-operative farming is best for India and if anybody comes for aid or grant, they should tell him: "Pool your land and resources into a co-operative society and then we will

give you money and we will expect these returns from you in the interests of the country." If the collective farming is the best they should give aid and afford help to that type of economy and if they think that private enterprise is the best, they ought only to patronize that pattern of economy.

**An Hon. Member:** What do you suggest?

**Sardar Sochet Singh:** It is a very big matter. We always hear that the land ought to go to the tiller. Some say that all the luggage should go to the porter. Some say that the child should go to the Ayah and some say that the car should belong to the driver and not to the owner and some say that the factory should be owned by the labourer. But I say that the Government ought to evolve the best system in the interests of the country and they should only patronize that system and try to starve and crowd out all the other systems gradually and by simply adjusting their patronage.

**\* An Hon. Member:** What is your suggestion?

**Sardar Sochet Singh:** I am personally in favour of co-operative farming.

**Hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Sardar Sochet Singh:** The second obstacle in the way of enthusiasm on the part of the cultivators is that there is no rational policy with regard to price fixation. The whole thing is a toss up and a gamble in this country. We all know that we are deficient in food, deficient in jute and deficient in cotton and in sugar. Our Government ought to be able to announce its price policy and price ceilings, the maximum and minimum before a crop is sown. Then the agriculturist will know whether it is in his interest to divert his land to this crop or that. It makes no difference to the overall picture and programme of the country because the country is deficient in all these things. If the farmer thinks that he would have better results by diverting his land to sugarcane, he will concentrate more on sugarcane. But, at present, the farmer or the cultivator does not know at what price his production is going to be taken away by the Government. Unless, like all advanced and organised countries, our country is able to announce the minimum and maximum prices, below which level, prices will not be allowed to fall and beyond which they will not be allowed to go.....

**Shri Hussain Imam:** That is exactly what the Krishnamachari Committee report said.

**Sardar Sochet Singh:** You would not find much incentive for the cultivators.

I may tell the House about the vagaries of price fixation with reference to my own province, PEPSU. The procurement price of paddy is rupees ten a maund. When it is husked, it comes to Rs. 15 a maund. The PEPSU Government, for its internal consumption, is procuring husked rice from trade at Rs. 16-12-0 a maund. In fact, it ought to be Rs. 15. To this, they add one rupee per maund as Government procurement charges. The Government is not incurring much on this and they have no justification for charging these procurement charges, because all the surplus grain which the cultivator wants to sell, automatically goes to certain registered dealers and Government is not incurring much of expenditure on this. They, then, add eight annas per maund as retail profit, two annas for wear and tear of the gunny bags and they also charge one anna per maund as inspection charges. In the PEPSU, itself, they are locally issuing the rice at Rs. 18-8-0 a maund. The Central Government was selling the same PEPSU rice in Delhi at Rs. 21-4-0 a maund, that is, Rs. 3-12-0 more than what it is selling in PEPSU. The nearest border of PEPSU from Delhi is about 35 miles. I fail to understand how there can be a difference of Rs. 3-12-0 per maund in a commodity which is selling at Rs. 18-8-0 in a place 35 miles away. There must be something wrong in the State of Denmark somewhere. My humble suggestion is that unless you give these incentives of a clear-cut land policy, and advance fixation of price for all the main crops of the country, you are not going to enthuse the cultivator and production is not going to increase. You will have always to depend upon the doles of other countries who may treat you or maltreat you, who may insult you or provide you.

**Shri J. P. Srivastava (Uttar Pradesh):** When I discussed food a few days ago, I said that most of the statistics produced by the Food Department were in the nature of guesses. I used a stronger word, concoction. The note which has been circulated today by the hon. Minister bears out what I said that day and I congratulate him for his candour in producing such a note. He has admitted, so to say that the figures of deficit, of production of consumption, are all guesses. He has based his figure of deficit on the estimate made by that eminent and good man Lord Boyd Orr. I knew him at one time. He is a very eminent man; but he knows very little

about India. I knew when he came to Delhi. He stayed here a few days. I wonder how he was able to arrive at his figure of deficit, in those few days. I do not know whether he went round the country. I do not think he did. I do not think that he had any figures with him which were supplied to him by the F.A.O., because there have been no figures given to the F.A.O. before, as far as I know.

**The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi):** Was it so also in your times?

**Shri J. P. Srivastava:** Well, in those days too, we made guesses. I said the other day that we made guesses. I was honest enough to say that. (*An Hon. Member:* Rather belated.) In the absence of statistics in this country, it is not possible to arrive at any reliable figures either of deficit or of production. They are all based on a formula which any Minister can devise to suit his fancy. I devised one; my hon. friend over there has devised another.

This note gives, to my mind, a correct appraisal of the position in India. The hon. Minister has confessed that although he has no reliable statistics, yet he is faced with deficiency in regard to food. That is true. What is the way of getting over it? That is the main thing. He has attributed, in his usual way, the food shortage partly to the depredations of monkeys and wild animals, pests and diseases, and that kind of thing.

**The Minister of Communications (Shri Kidkai):** There are other kinds of pests also.

**Shri J. P. Srivastava:** Yes, I know. There are numerous causes. But I am certain of one thing, that we are not going to get over this food shortage by the methods that we are now following. I think this deficit will continue. The reasons are very simple. You have undertaken the responsibility to feed in the cities, in the rationed area, 30 per cent. of the population. I do not know what the number comes to. In my time, it used to be 150 millions; I do not know what that comes to now. You are giving them nine oz. of ration. Everyone of those wants more foodgrains to supplement the ration and he gets it. Where does he get it from? That you ought to know as well as I. He gets it from the black market and so long as the black market exists. Your procurement will not succeed. The farmer knows where to sell his grain at the best price. He knows enough not to hand over his grains at a lower price



to you, and that I think, is the main cause of your difficulties. Either you give the people full ration so that they do not have to depend on the black market, or you cancel rationing altogether and take the risk. You will be far better off, I tell you. I do not know why you should have stuck so long to this rationing. The word rationing was introduced in this country by me and I am responsible for that. I am the author of controls in this country. But I say the time has now come when you must revise and...

**Shri M. P. Mishra (Bihar):** Did the Bengal famine begin in your time?

**Shri J. P. Srivastava:** It did not.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar):** And so you began the mischief!

**Shri J. P. Srivastava:** Personally I think it is time you start decontrolling in areas which are not deficit areas and where you know there is surplus grain, but the grain does not come out now. I can tell you the reason for that too. When I took over it was in the midst of the Bengal famine, when that famine was at its worst and it had assumed very serious proportions. I went to Bengal and there thousands were dying, and yet there was rice in every village and plenty of it too. The people died not because there was not rice but because of a price racket. There was a kind of control and that caused the difficulty, and the rise in price. How did I get over it? It was a very simple way. I cordoned off Calcutta from the rest of Bengal and decontrolled the whole of Bengal. The prices came down from Rs. 80 to Rs. 60 and then to Rs. 40 and even to Rs. 20 per maund.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Hear, hear.

**Shri J. P. Srivastava:** And there was enough rice in Bengal to feed the people, the starving people who were previously dying for want of it. You will find it all now in the records of the Government Departments. I am only saying this to show that there is enough rice or grain in some parts at least even now and in those surplus areas there is no need for rationing at all and so you can decontrol those areas. And then you will find the grain coming out and the prices falling. I have implicit faith in this process.

And then you have to keep your imports for only the deficit areas and for emergencies. You must keep them and build up a reserve. You

must create a feeling in the country that the Government have a big reserve at their back. The very idea that there are these reserves in the country will tend to lower prices and remove any panic there may be. This is a very big psychological factor working in this matter. We are shouting here day in and day out that there is famine in the country. That is all wrong. We must not talk of famine. We can talk the country into famine, if you go on doing that kind of thing.

I do not know what is the position with regard to the promised gift of food from the United States of America. The hon. Minister might in his remarks tell the House what the up-to-date position in that matter is. We have seen all kinds of reports in the papers and knowing as I do how important it is that we should have that food, I hope it will be possible for him to tell us exactly what the position is. I hope that we would be able to satisfy the U.S.A. and get this food. After all, we cannot look a gift horse in the mouth and if we are to get this benefit from the U.S.A. we may have to be a little more amenable to them and.....

**Shri Satish Chandra:** And barter our freedom?

**Shri J. P. Srivastava:** Sometime you will have to choose between starvation and freedom in a case like this. It is not bartering our freedom, but you have to show friendliness towards them and then I think you will get the food.

Regarding the grow-more-food campaign I entirely agree with what was said by one of the previous speakers that there is a growing gap between the farmer and the Government in this grow-more-food campaign. The farmer does not understand the schemes of the Government for growing more food, in fact he looks at them with a bit of a sneer. He thinks that these people with their big tractors and things of that sort are not going to grow more food. He does not believe in them. Unless you take him along with you, your grow-more-food plans will not succeed. It has been said that in spite of all your drives and despite the scientific methods and tractors and bull-dozers and all the rest of it the production has decreased, that the production per acre has fallen during the last three years.

**Shri Kidwai:** Is that your experience?

**Shri J. P. Srivastava:** Well, that is stated in the Minister's note. Why should that be so? If you supply better manures, and if you supply the necessary water and if you supply good seeds, you can certainly double the production from a farm. You can do that quite easily. I do not see why we should not do that with all our organisations. We once had a scheme for rural development in the country. I do not know why this scheme has been dropped now when we want food.

Finally, the Government should treat food as outside politics. Do not treat it as a shuttle-cock of politics. You should enlist the sympathy and support of everybody and you will get along and get along well.

**श्री अबधेश्वर प्रसाद सिन्हा:** मुझे थोड़े से समय में खास कर बिहार के विषय में कहना है। कुछ दोस्तों ने अपने अपने प्रान्तों के विषय में कहा है। अगर मैं बिहार के पूरे किस्से को आप के सामने रखूँ तो मुझे भय है कि उस से कोई लाभ नहीं होगा; बल्कि बिहार के लोगों का ही, उस को अब्बार में पड़ कर, भय बढ़ जायगा। इस लिये जनाब फूड मिनिस्टर साहब (Minister of Food) इस बात को समझें कि जो बात मैं कह रहा हूँ वह मैं अपनी चीज को कम करके कह रहा हूँ, बढ़ा कर नहीं कह रहा हूँ। उत्तर बिहार में ही नहीं बल्कि और जगहों में भी जितने लोगों को खाना देने का प्रश्न सामने आयेगा उन की संख्या ३ करोड़ के लगभग है। केन्द्रीय सरकार और प्रांतीय सरकार की जो हालत है, उस को देखते हुए, हमें यह मालूम होता है कि यह काम दुरूह है। हम ने तो समझ लिया है कि जो दिन हमारे सामने सन् ३४ के भूकम्प के समय आया था वही दिन फिर आ गया है। यद्यपि उस समय बाहर के लोगों ने भी हमारी मदद की थी पर उस का मुख्यतः मुकाबला हम ने उस समय, जो आज हमारे राष्ट्रपति हैं, उन के नेतित्व में किया था और हम अपने पांवों पर खड़े हुये थे शायद अब

बिहार में भूकम्प के चिह्न भी नहीं मिलेंगे। आप को ख्याल रहे कि बिहार के ही षगपारन जिले में महात्मा गांधी सब से पहले गये थे और उन्होंने ने हम को सबक दिया था कि हम आत्माभिमान सीखें। इसलिये श्री मुंशी जी के सामने या श्री विश्वमल राव जी के सामने हाथ पसारना हमारे लिए कोई शोक की बात नहीं है बल्कि मजबूरी की बात है और इसलिये जो मैं आप के सामने रखूंगा मेरा निवेदन है कि आप उसे गम्भीरता पूर्वक सुनें। मुझे इस का शोक नहीं है कि मैं ऐसी बात बोलूँ जिससे कि बाहर काले कहें कि मैं बहुत अच्छा बोला। मेरा पापुलैरिटी (popularity) का कन्सेप्शन (conception) सचाई से बोलने में है। और इसी लिये मैं बतलाता हूँ कि इतने बड़े सवाल को आप को काफ़ी गम्भीरता के साथ लेना होगा। खास कर जुलाई, अगस्त, सितम्बर और अक्टूबर में उत्तर बिहार या दक्षिणी बिहार के उन हिस्सों में जहां सड़कें नहीं हैं और बरसात में पानी की वजह से आना-जाना नहीं हो सकता है, लोगों को खाने के बिना बहुत तकलीफ हो सकती है, अगर आप अप्रैल के ही अन्दर काफ़ी अनाज बिहार को नहीं दे देंगे। केन्द्र ने अब एक बात यह अच्छी कर ली है कि मुकामा और बनारस से गल्ला पहुंचाने का प्रबन्ध कर दिया है। अभी आप एक या डेढ़ हजार टन रोज भेजते हैं। एलेकिन जैसा कि बिहार सरकार ने आज से तीन चार सप्ताह पहले कहा था वही बात मैं फिर आप के सामने रखता हूँ कि अगर आप चाहते हैं कि फ़्लड (flood) से मरून्ड (marooned) लोग बाढ़ से घिरे लोग, अन्न के वगैर न मरें तो आप पहले से ही काफ़ी अन्न का प्रबन्ध कर दीजिये।

अभी मुझ से पहले जिन साहब ने भाषण दिया है वह केन्द्र में फूड मंत्री थे, उन के समय में बंगाल में इतने लोग मरे। अगर मैं उन की जगह होता तो मैं तो कम से कम फूड पर भाषण न देता। इसीलिये मैं श्री मुंशी जी और श्री विश्वमल राव जी से कहता हूँ कि आप के बच्चे पर बहुत बड़ी जिम्मेदारी है क्योंकि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने गल्ला देने की जवाबदेही अपने ऊपर ले ली है। हम आप को उस की कीमत देते हैं, चेरिटी (charity) में नहीं मांगते हैं क्योंकि हम जानते हैं कि आप भी बाहर से दाम दे कर खरीदते हैं। हम को यह भी मालूम है कि आप के सामने क्या क्या कठिनाइयाँ हैं। फिर भी अगर आप इन तीन चार महीने के लिए काफ़ी अन्न नहीं देते हैं तो हमारा काम नहीं चल सकेगा। आप देखें कि हम को पहले अपने कोटे (quota) से कम अन्न मिलता रहा है। जनवरी, फरवरी, मार्च में हम को जितना मिलना चाहिये था उस से कम मिला है। आप ने मुझ से खुद कहा है कि १०७ लाख टन भेजा गया है जब कि १५० लाख टन भेजा जाना चाहिये था। आप खुद देख सकते हैं कि हमारा पूरा एलाटमेंट (allotment) भी आप हम को नहीं दे रहे हैं।

जब बंगाल में फेमिन (famine) हुआ लोग मरने लगे और तब वहाँ के लिये बहुत सा सामान भेजा गया। आप भी यदि ऐसा करेंगे तो आप यह कह देंगे कि हम ने बिहार सरकार को दिया तो, लेकिन बिहार वालों ने उस को बांटा नहीं। इसलिये मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वह चीज अनुचित होगी इसलिये हम आप से बराबर यह कहते हैं कि इस के पहले कि बाढ़ आ जाय, हमारे सवाल को समझिय और हमें ठीक वक्त पर गल्ला दीजिये,

ताकि वह बांटा जा सके। मुझे खुशी है कि इस समय हमारे माननीय डाक्टर देशमुख साहब बैठे हैं, और उन से हमारी तरफ से बिहार सरकार की तरफ से मतालिबा हुआ कि उसे आप दस करोड़ रुपया, वह भी चन्दा नहीं, कर्ज के रूप में दें। बिहार सरकार ने यह प्लान बनाया जिस के मुताल्लिक हमारे यहाँ रिलीफ का काम हो रहा है और इसको हमारे स्थायी साहब जो बैठे हैं, वह भी सुन लें। हम यह कर रहे हैं कि जिस इलाके में हम एग्रीकल्चरल लोन (agricultural loan) दे सकते हैं, बिहार सरकार ने दिया है फिर सरकार रिक्लैमेशन लोन (reclamation loan) देती है। इरीगेशन, मेजर (major) मीडियम (medium) और माइनर (minor) तीन तरह के इरीगेशन का काम करती है और इस से काम भी एग्रीकल्चरल लेबर का अच्छा मिलता है और रक़म की भी व्यवस्था ठीक होती है। उस के बाद सड़कों के बनाने पर चाहे प्रान्तीय या लोकल सड़कें हों या विलेज (village) रोड्स हों उन्हें ठीक करने का काम होता है। उस के बाद हम ने २० लाख रुपये की रई खरीदी जिससे हमारा प्लान था कि उस से हम सूत कम करके एक करोड़ गज कपड़ा तैयार कर सकें। उस में हमारे अपने प्रान्त में जो बेसिक स्कूल्स के छै हजार छै सौ ऐसे टीचरर्स हैं जो कताई और बुनाई सीख सकते हैं, हम उन को उस काम में लगाना चाहते हैं।

अपनी बजट स्पीच के दौरान में श्री देशमुख साहब ने यह कहा था कि हम आज जो लोगों से कह रहे हैं कि उन्हें त्याग करना है, टेक्स वगैरह और ज्यादा सरकार को दे कर, ताकि आज हम जिन्दा रह सकें और कल को हमारे बच्चे और उन बच्चों के बच्चे जिन्दा रह सकें और मैं मानता हूँ कि उनका कहना ठीक भी है।

[श्री अवधेश्वर प्रसाद सिन्हा]

लेकिन जब बिहार गवर्नमेंट सेन्टर से दस करोड़ रुपया आज लोगों को जिन्दा रखने के लिये मांगती है, तो वह अपनी असमर्थता प्रकट करते हैं। मैं उन की मजबूरी मानता हूँ और समझ सकता हूँ, लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार हम से कहती है कि तुम्हारे पास डेवलपमेंट (development) का जो रुपया है वह रुपया तुम इस तरफ़ लगा दो। मैं उन से पूछता हूँ कि आप ऐसा हमें सुझाते वक़्त अपनी वजट स्पीच में ही हुई बातों को क्यों भूल गये कि अगर डेवलपमेंट का रुपया हम इस में लगा दें, तो फिर हमारा डेवलपमेंट का काम बन्द हो जायगा। मैं तो चाहे आज जिन्दा रह जाऊँ, लेकिन मेरे बच्चे तो बाद में मर जायेंगे। मैं जानता हूँ कि हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार को गल्ले की दिक्कत है और रुपये की भी दिक्कत है, मैं उसे अच्छी तरह समझता हूँ, लेकिन अगर पूरा दस करोड़ रुपया वह हमें बिहार सरकार को नहीं दे सकते, तो जहाँ तक सम्भव हो, उस का एक काफी हिस्सा तो दें, अन्यथा कहीं अगर बिहार सरकार ने उन के कहे मुताबिक उस डेवलपमेंट फंड का रुपया इस अनाज के मसले में लगा दिया, तो हमें भय है कि हमारा भविष्य बहुत अंधकारमय होजायगा।

इस के अलावा मुझे दो, एक बात और कहनी है। प्रोक्योरमेंट (Procurement) के बारे में मैं आप को बतलाऊँ कि खुद मेरे अपने जिले मुजफ्फरपुर के सीतामणि सबाडवीजन में बावजूद एस० डी० ओ० और दूसरे अफसरान की कोशिशों के बहुत कम गल्ला प्राप्त हुआ है। और प्रान्त भर में प्रोक्योरमेंट में कुल बीस हजार टन गल्ला मिला है। और रबी की फ़सल ख़राब हो जाने के कारण य

अनुमान लगाया जाता है कि तीन, चार, पांच लाख टन की और डैफिसिट (deficit) आयेगी। मेरा कहना है कि जब तक कि धान की फ़सल न आ जाय, उस वक़्त तक प्रोक्योरमेंट बन्द रखिये। मेरे सूबे की सरकार ने ब्लैक मार्केट के खिलाफ़ ड्राइव (Drive) की, सूबे में ऐसे लोगों को गिरफ़्तार किया, गल्ले की दुकानों पर छापा मारा, वह सब ठीक है और होना चाहिये। लेकिन अब प्रोक्योरमेंट का मौका नहीं रह गया है, वह महज़ एक क़ागजी चीज़ रह गई है, खानापूरी करने के लिए चीज़ रह गई है, और जब तक धान की फ़सल नहीं आती, इस प्रोक्योरमेंट प्रोग्राम को मुलतवी (post pone) कर देना चाहिये।

दूसरी चीज़ में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इन्टरडिस्ट्रिक्ट इम्बार्गो, (inter-district embargo) छोटा नागपुर के कुछ जिलों को छोड़ कर, रद्द कर दी जानी चाहिये।

अगर आप चाहते हैं कि बिहार के कांग्रेस जन, या बिहार की गवर्नमेंट के हाथ मजबूत हों तो आप को यह दोनों काम अवश्य करना चाहिये। इसी तरह से अच्छा वातावरण तैयार होगा जिस में हम खूबी से काम कर सकेंगे। तो फ़िलहाल आप प्रोक्योरमेंट बन्द करें और डिस्ट्रिक्ट ऐम्बार्गो को रद्द करें। मेरी बिहार गवर्नमेंट भी इस बारे में सहमत है, और मैं नहीं समझता कि आप इस से क्यों दूसरी राह अस्तियार करना चाहेंगे।

(English translation of the above speech).

Shri A. P. Sinha (Bihar): Sir, during the short time at my disposal, I will confine myself only to the affairs in Bihar. Some of my friends here have talked about their own States. If I

describe to you the details of the conditions prevailing in Bihar, I am afraid, it will not serve any purpose; on the other hand it may create more panic among the people of Bihar, who would read my speech in the newspapers; therefore, I would like the hon. Minister of food to understand that I am not exaggerating facts but on the other hand, giving only a restrained account of conditions as they are. The number of people in North Bihar and other places, for whom the problem of providing food will come up, is three crores. The task seems to be a very difficult one in view of the present position of the Central and the State Governments. We have begun to feel that we are faced with the same calamity that befell us at the time of the terrible earthquake of 1934. Although at that time, we had had some help from outside also, but we had braved the situation under the leadership of that person, who is now the President of our country, and we were able to stand on our own legs. Perhaps there is no sign left now of the earthquake in Bihar. I may also remind you that it was the district of Champaran in Bihar which Mahatma Gandhi visited first and where he taught us to live with self-respect. Therefore, it is not out of mere fun or pleasure that we are extending a begging hand before Shri Munshi or Shri Tinrumala Rao, but we are compelled to do so. Hence I would request the hon. Members to give a patient and careful hearing to what I submit before them. I am not fond of making such statements as would bring praises for me from the people outside. My conception of popularity is speaking out of what is true. That is why I say that a problem like this requires all care and consideration. During the particular months of July, August, September and October, people in those parts of North or South Bihar, where there are no roads and which are cut off from all places during the rainy season, may have to face a great difficulty in getting foodstuffs if sufficient quantities of food grains are not sent there in the month of April. The Centre has taken a good step in making arrangements to dispatch food grains from Mokamah and Banaras. At present one thousand or fifteen hundred tons are being sent every day. But I wish to emphasize what the Government of Bihar had submitted three or four weeks back that if the flood-marooned people are to be saved from starvation, more quantity of food grains should be sent there.

The hon. Member who spoke just before me was sometimes the Minister of Food in the Central Government. During his time, so many

people died in Bengal. Had I been in his place, I would not have spoken at least on the subject of food. I, therefore, submit to Shri Munshi and Shri Tinrumala Rao that they have a very important and big task to do because the Centre has taken upon itself the responsibility of providing food grains. We do not ask it in charity; we are paying for it because we know the Government are purchasing it from outside. We are aware of their difficulties. Even then if sufficient food for three or four months is not sent there we will be faced with a grave situation. Already we are getting less than our usual quota and in January, February and March we got much less than what should have been given. The hon. Minister himself told that only 107 lakh tons instead of 150 lakh tons, have been dispatched. Thus we are not being given our full allotment even.

During the Bengal famine, food-grains and other commodities were sent there only when starvation deaths had already started to occur. If this Government pursue the same policy, I am afraid, they would also say that they had sent food to Bihar, but the Government of Bihar failed to distribute it properly among the people. It will be most improper on their part to give this excuse. We, therefore, ask the Government time and again to realise the urgency of the problem and dispatch food grains there at the right time so that they may be distributed among the people before the place is in the grip of floods. I am glad that the hon. Shri Deshmukh is here at present. The Bihar Government had requested him to sanction for the State a sum of ten crores of rupees as loan and not as a gift. The Government of Bihar had formulated a plan in accordance of which relief work is being conducted there. I want Shri Tyagi also to listen to what I say. The Government of Bihar have given agricultural loans in all those areas where they could give such a loan and then the Government have also given reclamation loans. It is also undertaking three types of irrigation works, major, medium and minor, which also provide good work to the agricultural labour and keep the finances right. Then there is the work of construction and maintenance of roads, whether they may be provincial or local or village roads. We also purchased cotton worth twenty lakhs of rupees which according to our plan, we wanted to spin and thus produce a crore yards of cloth. For this purpose, we want to utilize the services

[Shri A. P. Sinha]

of 6600 teachers of the Basic Schools in our State who can learn spinning and weaving.

During his Budget Speech, Shri Deshmukh had said that when people are asked by them to make sacrifices by paying more taxes etc., they do so because that is the only way to keep ourselves alive today and to keep our generations alive in future. I admit he is right. But when the Government of Bihar asked for a loan of ten crore rupees from the Centre, they expressed their inability to grant it. I understand and realize their helplessness but they ask us to utilize that amount which has been set apart for the development work in the State. I do not know why he forgets those very things that he suggested us to follow in the course of his Budget speech. If we spend the money that we have kept apart for development purposes, it would mean bringing an end to all development work. Such an act may keep us alive today but that would certainly be at the expense of our future generation. I quite realise that the Central Government are faced with a difficulty on account of the shortage of food grains and also of finances. But if they are unable to give the full amount of ten crore rupees to the Government of Bihar let us be granted a major part of it, at least. If, otherwise, the Bihar Government spends the money out of the development fund, as suggested by them, I fear our future will be all dark and gloomy.

I have to submit a few more points. Regarding procurement, I may submit that in the Sitamani sub-division of my own district, Muzaffarpur, they could procure only a small quantity in spite of all the efforts of the S.D.O. and other officials, and the total procurement in the State came to only thirty thousand tons. A further deficit of about four or five lakh tons is also estimated as a result of the Rabi crop being damaged. I, therefore, urge that further procurement should be put off till the paddy crop comes. The Government of my State launched a drive against black market, arrested the offenders and raided the grain shops. This is quite right and must be done. But this is no time for procurement, it has been reduced to mere paper work and nothing more. I, therefore, strongly urge for the postponement of the procurement programme

Another point which I would like to submit is that the inter-district embargo, leaving some of the districts of Chhota Nagpur, should be removed. If the Government wish to strengthen

the hands of the congress men and the Government of Bihar, then they must do these two things. These alone will result in such an atmosphere that would be suitable for our doing work smoothly and successfully. So I urge upon the Government to stop procurement for the present and also remove district embargoes. The Government of Bihar is also of the same opinion and I do not see any reason why the Central Government should adopt a different course.

श्री आर० एस० तिवारी : सभापति महोदय, आज मुझे आप ने ४०० दिन के वाद जो बोलने के लिए समय दिया है, उस के लिए मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ और माननीय व्हिप (whip) महोदय ने बहुत कोशिश की है, जब मुझे यह अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है परन्तु मैं यह भी जानता हूँ कि पार्लियामेंट (Parliament) के समय का बहुत मूल्य है और पचास रुपये की मिनट उस का मूल्य होता है, इसलिये मैं भी कुछ ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ।

सभापति महोदय, स्त्रतंत्रता प्राप्त हुए पीने चार साल के करीब हो चुके हैं, और हमारी सरकार को इस स्त्रतंत्रता के समय में बड़ी बड़ी परेशानियों का समय देखना पड़ा है और उन कठिनाइयों और शिकायतों को दूर करने के लिए हमारी सरकार ने पूरी कोशिश की है। परन्तु आज जो अन्न की समस्या सम्बन्धी कठिनाइयाँ हमारे और सरकार के सामने पेश हैं, मुझे उन पर खेद है और शिकायत इस बात की है कि सरकार इस अन्न की समस्या को हल करने में सफल नहीं हो पा रही है। कारण कि हमारी सरकार का दृष्टिकोण गरीब जनता के दृष्टिकोण से नहीं मिलता। सभापति महोदय, उस असफलता का मुख्य कारण यह है कि उस के हल करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा काश्तकारों का आवश्यक सहयोग नहीं प्राप्त

किया जा रहा है। और इसी कारण हमारे देश में यह परिस्थितियाँ उत्पन्न हो गई हैं। यद्यपि माननीय खाद्य मंत्री श्री मुंशी महोदय एक बड़े अनुभवी वकील हैं, जिन्होंने हजारों कानूनी मसले निपटाये हैं, लेकिन यह समस्या उन के सिर पर ऐसी आ पड़ी है कि वह इस को निपटाने में इतने सफल नहीं हुये हैं। और यही कारण है कि वे दूसरे साधनों एवं साधियों की सहायता लेने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

समापति महोदय, मैं गल्ले के विषय में कुछ ज्यादा न कह कर और सरकार की आलोचना न कर सिर्फ सरकार के सामने अपनी मांग रखना चाहता हूँ और वह मांग यह है कि सरकार इस मसले को बिना किसी देर किये हल करे। मैं जानता हूँ कि सरकार बड़ी बड़ी योजनाओं और बड़ी बड़ी गहन समस्याओं पर क्रागजी घोड़े दौड़ा रही है। परन्तु उन को अमल में लाने के लिए रुपये की आवश्यकता है और रुपये हमारे पास इतनी मात्रा में हैं नहीं। इसलिये मैं तो यही प्रार्थना करूँगा कि वह रुपये का प्रबन्ध बाद में करें, पहले अपनी जो वर्तमान नीति है, उस का सुधार करें और उस के सुधार हो जान से ही गल्ले की समस्या सफलतापूर्वक हल हो सकती है। मैं ने अपने तजुबे से यह समझा है कि खाद्य समस्या को हल करने के लिए काश्तकारों को अपने साथ में लेना आवश्यक है और दूसरे यह कि कल, मशीनों आदि की तलाश के लिए गवर्नमेंट जो कोशिश करती है, उस में अपना सारा समय न खपावे।

एक और बात यह है कि जो कर्मचारीगण हैं, नीचे के कर्मचारीगण हैं वह

समय पर कार्य को कार्यान्वित करने में देर लगाते हैं, उस को समय पर नहीं करते, जैसे कि खाद खरीदने की समस्या थी। उन को नहीं मालूम कि खेती कब होती है और कब खाद की जरूरत होती है। इसी तरह बीज उम समय दिया जाता है जब कि कुंआर कार्तिक में बोनी जाती है और तब बीज की कोशिश अगहन कार्तिक में की जाती है। समापति महोदय, बतलाइये इस तरह के काम से कैसे लाभ हो सकता है, पता नहीं इस का गवर्नमेंट (Government) को कब ख्याल होगा। किसान की खेती के जरूरत के महीने चार पांच होते हैं, आषाढ़, श्रावण, भादों और कुंआर। और इन चार महीनों में किसान को हर प्रकार की सब सहायता दी जानी चाहिये जिस से वह परेशानी में न पड़े। मैं तो अपने विन्ध्य प्रदेश का हाल आप के सामने बतलाना चाहता हूँ। यही चार महीने किसान के काम करने के होते हैं और इन्हीं चार महीनों में सरकार उन्हें परेशान करती है। वह परेशानी यह है कि उन को हल की लकड़ी की जरूरत है तो राजाओं के जमाने में जब आन्दोलन होता था तो राजाओं की तरफ से तो छूट भी दे दी जाती थी लेकिन हमारी सरकार ने तो वह जो छूटें थीं उन को भी ले लिया। चरू, हरीका आदि कई लगान लगा दिये। अब इस के लिए आप के जो काम के ढंग हैं, यह जो फारेस्ट के नजर वेटर (Forest Conservator) का स्थान है वह चार पांच मील की दूरी पर है और उन को वहाँ लकड़ी के लाने की जाना पड़ता है, उन से इजाजत लेनी पड़ती है। फिर वह इजाजत मिलने में देर होती है। वह समय से नहीं मिलती जिस के कारण उन का समय बरबाद होता है और वह लकड़ी उन को नहीं मिलती। जब

## [श्री आर० ऐस० तिवारी]

आप खाद्य समस्या पर करोड़ों रुपये खर्च करने के लिये तैयार हैं, तो यह जो हल की लकड़ी है यह तो कृतई मुआफ़ रखनी चाहिये, यह तो उस को मिल जानी चाहिये, मगर सरकार ऐसा करने नहीं देना चाहती है। किसान आप के आगे हाथ नहीं बढ़ाता है, वह पैसा दे कर खरीदना चाहता है। इसलिये सरकार को चाहिये कि अगर वह जंगलों की आमदनी बढ़ाना चाहती है तो उस को जंगल से लकड़ी काटने की इजाजत देनी चाहिये। उस को यह इजाजत मिल जाय तो वह समय से लकड़ी काट सकता है और अपने काम में ला सकता है। लेकिन हल की लकड़ी उसे समय से नहीं मिलती। तो यह छोटी छोटी बातें हैं। लेकिन इन छोटी छोटी बातों के न होने से क्या होता है कि समय पर यह चीजें नहीं मिलतीं और अनाज का अभाव हो जाता है। अतः गल्ला वह किसान पैदा करना चाहता है वह पैदा नहीं कर सकता। उस का समय आप के सामने दीड़ घूष में, परेशानी में ढग जाता है।

अब मवेशी के लिए देखिये। गाय, भैंस या जो बैल होते हैं तो चरु उस से लिया जाता है। उस के दो बैल होते हैं। अगर वह किसान तीसरा बैल रखता है जिस से कि वह जल्दी से खेती कर सके तो तीसरे बैल की चरु ले ली जाती है। गायों की, भैंसों की, बकरी की चरु ले ली जाती है, जो कि खेती करने का मुख्य जरिया है। उन से ही किसान को खाद, गोबर मिलता है। किसान को जलाने के लिए लकड़ी नहीं दी जाती जब कि विन्ध्य प्रदेश ऐसा जंगली भुक्तान है जहां लकड़ी की कोई कमी नहीं है। लेकिन सरकार इधर लकड़ी नहीं देती और उधर हजारों बीघा जंगल रुपयों के लिए कटा कर साफ़ किया जाता है। यह तो

सरकार की नीति ऐसी है कि जिस का पता नहीं चलता कि जंगल में पेड़ बढ़ाने की सरकार कोशिश कर रही है या उस को घटाने की कोशिश कर रही है, इसी असमंजस में है।

सभापति महोदय, हमारी सरकार अगर खाद्य के लिए रुपया खर्च नहीं करना चाहती तो कम से कम किसानों की जो परेशानियां हैं केवल उन परेशानियों को ही दूर कर दे तो खाद्य समस्या अधिकतर हल हो सकती है।

एक और बात में आप के सामने और बतला दूं कि काश्तकार खेती करना चाहता है परन्तु ज़मीन नहीं है। ज़मीनें उन जागीरदारों और ज़मींदारों के हवाले हैं जो हजारों बीघा जमीन लिये हुए हैं मगर काश्त नहीं करते। वह अपनी जमीन आधा हिस्सा बटाई पर किसानों की देते हैं और वह गल्ला अपने पास रखते हैं और किसानों से ही काश्त कराते हैं। वह गल्ला उन की खतियों में रख लिया जाता है मगर सरकार को पता नहीं चलता और वह सब गल्ला ब्लैक मार्केटिंग (Black marketing) खे लिए आता है। वह ज़मींदार सब ब्लैक मार्केट के लिए कोशिश करते हैं और देखते रहते हैं कि कब वह समय आवे जब कि हम इस फुगे ब्लैक मार्केट में बेच सकें। फिर जिस किसान की मेहनत से उन्होंने वह गल्ला इकट्ठा किया है उसी किसान को वह दूनी कीमत पर उसे देते हैं। तो यह हालत है। जिस को खेती करनी है, जिस को ज़मीन की जरूरत है, जिस को अनाज पैदा करना है, उस के लिए ज़मीन नहीं है। ज़मीन पर यह ज़मींदार जागीरदार बंदी रह कब्ज़ा किये हुए हैं। फिर क्या होता है कि आप यहां हजारों करोड़ों रुपये कृषकों को देने के लिये स्वीकृत करते हैं और उस रुपये का दुरुपयोग होता है। रुपया देने वाले



आप के तहसीलदार बगैरह हैं जिन के द्वारा उन छोटे काश्तकारों तक तो वह रुपया पहुंचता ही नहीं है बड़ी २ परेशानियां डाली जाती हैं और यह रुपया उन्हीं जागीरदारों और जमींदारों के पास पहुंचता है और वही लोग तमाम अनाज अपनी खतियों में भर कर इधर आप से रुपया भी लेते हैं और फिर उस अनाज को ब्लैक मार्केट में भी बेचते हैं। तो यह चीजें हैं जिन के ऊपर गवर्नमेंट ध्यान नहीं देती। यह बहुत ही आवश्यकीय चीजें हैं। मैं तो कहता हूं कि अगर सरकार अपनी इस नीति को त्याग दे और किसानों को साथ ले कर गवर्नमेंट बले तो यह समस्या कब की हल हो जाय। भारत हमारा एक कृषिप्रधान देश है। हमें तो शर्म आती है कि हम दूसरे देशों के आगे हाथ बढ़ावें। हमारे यहाँ तो बड़ी बड़ी क्रीमती चीजें, बड़े बड़े रत्न पैदा होते हैं, गल्ला पैदा होना कोई मुश्किल नहीं है। और गल्ला तो अभी भी सड़ रहा है। करते क्या हैं कि जमींदार, जागीरदार, पूंजी-पति सोचते हैं कि दस हजार मन गल्ला छिपा लिया और उस में पांच हजार मन गल्ले छे ही यदि मय लाख कीमत वसूल हो जानी है तो पांच हजार मन सड़ जाय तो भी कोई हर्ज नहीं है। तो इस प्रकार गल्ला सड़ रहा है और इन चीजों का सरकार को पता नहीं है। यहाँ कागजों में पेण कर देते हैं न वहाँ कोई किसानों की कमेटी है। वहाँ जो कमेटी है उस में कोई किसान नहीं है, वहाँ जागीरदारों और जमींदारों का ही कमेटी में बोल बाला है, वही कमेटियों में है और वही सब कुछ जैसा चाहते हैं पास कराते हैं। अगर आप किसान को सौ तो, पचास पचास रुपये बैलों के लिये दे दें तो आप का खाद भी बढ सकता है। लेकिन यह नहीं होता। वहाँ तो सरकार से दस दस हजार रुपया जमींदारों को दिया जाता है।

वह उस रुपये को अपने लिए खर्च करते हैं और सरकार को कोई सहयोग नहीं देते।

अब श्रीमान् जी, मैं आप को थोडा सा विन्ध्य प्रदेश के बारे में बताऊं कि ५ लाख रुपया जमीन तोड़ने के लिये वहाँ रखा गया था परन्तु जमीन न टूट सकने के कारण, उस में इन आदमियों से सहयोग न मिलने के कारण, सरकार की ढिलाई के कारण, काम नहीं हो सका और वह रुपया गवर्नमेंट को वापस कर दिया गया। जब पांच लाख रुपया अन्न की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिये दिया गया था तो सरकार का फ़र्ज था कि वह उस को खर्च करती और अन्न पैदा किया जाता। लेकिन वह नहीं हुआ। ढाई लाख रुपया तो ट्रैक्टर (Tractor) के लिए रखा गया था लेकिन सरकार को पता नहीं लग सका कि कौन सा ट्रैक्टर क्रय करने का निर्णय दिया जाय, इसलिये वह रुपया भी वापस कर दिया गया है। आज विन्ध्य प्रदेश में २९ लाख एकड़ जमीन ऐसी पड़ी है कि जिस में सरकार कास्त करे या कराना चाहे तो यह नहीं हो सकता कि उस प्रान्त के लोग भूखें मरें। इतना ही नहीं, बल्कि दूसरे प्रान्तों को भी सहयोग पहुंच सकता है। परन्तु ऐसा नहीं होता। फिर एक लाख ६० हजार रुपया साइल कनजर्वेशन के (Soil conservation) के लिए रखा गया था लेकिन उस के लिए अफसर मुक़र्रर नहीं हो सका इसलिये वह वापस कर दिया गया। तीन लाख २५ हजार रुपया का फर्टीलाइजर (Fertiliser) खाद मंगाया गया था। उस खाद से हुआ क्या कि वहाँ के काश्तकार इतने बिचक गये हैं कि शायद अब सरकार का खाद वह लेंगे ही नहीं। वह खाद उस समय मंगाया नबा जब कास्त हो गई थी और बीज उन गये व और फिर वह तहसीलदारों के सुपुर्व किया गया। तो उन्होंने डी० सी० (D. C.)

[श्री आर० ए० एस० तिवारी]

• कलकत्तों को प्रसन्न करने के लिये काश्तकारों को जबरदस्ती बुला कर हर किसान को दस दस, पन्द्रह पन्द्रह रुपये का खाद दे दिया और उन्होंने उस खाद को ले जा कर छोड़ दिया। उस का परिणाम यह हुआ कि जो अंकुर जमे थे वह भी खत्म हो गये। लेकिन इस दुष्परिणाम पर सरकार ध्यान नहीं देती है। इस दुष्परिणाम पर अगर ध्यान दे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि हमारा देश ऐसा है कि हम को विदेशों से अनाज मंगाने की कोई आवश्यकता ही न पड़े। लेकिन सरकार यदि ऐसी ही कार्रवाईयों पर काम करती रहेगी तो कभी भी कामयाबी होने की संभावना नहीं है।

सभापति महोदय, मुझे एक दो मिनट और चाहिये। वर्तमान चरू आन्दोलन के विषय में अब कहना है। जितना खाद हमारे देश में होता है वह खाद काफी है। जमीन के लिए मवेशियों के गोबर का खाद इतना अच्छा होता है कि वह जमीन दस साल तक तो उपजती है और जमीन कभी बिगड़ती नहीं। लेकिन हमारी सरकार कल मशीनों के फेर में फिर रही है क्योंकि कलिकाल है इसलिये उन्हें कलों की जरूरत है। लेकिन मैं आप को बतला दूँ कि आप विज्ञान की रीति से या चाहे किसी भी प्रकार से सोचिये यह मशीन या कलें आप का काम नहीं देंगी। दो चार दस साल तक काम दे सकती हैं। लेकिन जमीन का जो प्राकृतिक उत्पादन है वह हल ही के द्वारा हो सकता है। इसलिये आप हमारे हलों को चलाइये। अनावश्यक जंगल ट्रैक्टरों से हटा कर हलों से आप काम लीजिये जिस से आप उन्नति पर पहुँच सकें। मैं ट्रैक्टर मशीन के विबद्ध नहीं हूँ। लेकिन, हाँ, इन को उन स्थानों में इस्तेमाल कीजिये जहाँ बंजर जमीन पड़ी है। आप यहाँ काश्तकारों को सहूलतें

दीजिये जिस से उन के हल में रकावट न हो। उन के लिये और हल के लिए सामान हल जगह उन के पास पहुँचाइये, उन्हें परेशान न कीजिये। मैं आप को बता दूँ कि वहाँ के बनरखे जो जंगल के हैं वे काश्तकारों से एक अलग टैक्स (tax) ले लेते हैं। तब वह कहते हैं कि हम तुम को परेशान नहीं करेंगे, तुम को लकड़ी काटने देंगे। यह सब शिकायतें मौजूद हैं, आप इन की तरफ ध्यान दीजिये। गरीब किसानों को जंगल टैक्स, चरू टैक्स से शीघ्र बचाइये। सभापति महोदय, मैं तो सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकषित करना चाहता हूँ कि भारतवर्ष में इस मनुष्यगणना के अनुसार जहाँ तक मैं समझता हूँ ३८ करोड़ यहाँ की जनसंख्या हो चुकी है। ऐसा मेरा अन्दाजा है कि उस में से दो तिहाई आप के काश्तकार हैं। जिस की रीढ़ के ऊपर आप की गवर्नमेंट खड़ी है। तिहाई भाग और लोग हैं। तो इस प्रकार से पच्चीस करोड़ काश्तकारों में अगर हल वाले काश्तकारों को लिया जाय तो उन की संख्या पाँच करोड़ अवश्य होगी। अगर पाँच करोड़ काश्तकारों से आप पाँच पाँच मन गल्ला लें तो आप को एक करोड़ टन गल्ला मिल सकता है आसानी के साथ और आप की खाद्य समस्या बहुत हद तक हल हो जाती है। अगर इन पाँच करोड़ काश्तकारों को ही हर प्रकार की सुविधा दी जाये, और उन का बाकी गल्ला खुला छोड़ दिया जाय तो मैं कहता हूँ कि आप को प्रोक्योरमेंट (Procurement) करने की जरूरत ही नहीं है। वह आप को आसानी से एक करोड़ टन गल्ला दे सकते हैं, और इस के साथ-साथ आप को दूसरे देशों से मंगाने की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी बसतों आप उन को आज्ञा दे दीजिये कि वह अपना बाँकी गल्ला बाजार में बेच सकें।

(English translation of the above speech).

Sari R. S. Tewari (Vindhya Pradesh):

Sir, I thank you for the opportunity you have given to me of speaking before the House after 1114 400 days and even that on the strong recommendation of the Whip. I am also aware of the fact that the time of the Parliament is very precious and it costs Rs. 50 per minute. Therefore, I also do not want to take much time.

Now, it is about four years when we attained our independence and our Government had to face enormous difficulties during this period and they have also tried their best to surmount those difficulties. I am sorry to find the difficulties regarding food problem which face us and the Government today. I have to complain against the inability of the Government in solving this problem. This is due to the fact that the viewpoint of our Government is not the same as that of the poor people. The most important reason of this failure is that the Government are not getting the necessary co-operation of the cultivators. To some extent this fact is responsible for creating such difficulties. Though, the hon. Minister of Food, Sati Munshi is himself an experienced lawyer and has tackled many legal intricacies yet he has not been very successful in solving this problem which confronts him now. This is why he is trying to seek the assistance of his friends and utilise other resources.

I do not want to say much about the foodgrains and I am going to criticise the Government even, but I simply want to put my demand before the Government. Without any further delay, I want that the Government should try to solve this problem. I am aware of the fact that the Government are formulating big paper schemes but they need money to implement those schemes and we have not got so much funds with us. Therefore, I would request them to make arrangements for getting the money later on but should make certain modifications in their present schemes and if proper changes are effected, I am sure the problem of foodgrains can be solved without any difficulty. From my experience, I have come to know that it is essential to have the co-operation of the cultivators in solving the food problem and secondly, the Government should not waste all their time in trying to get agricultural machinery and implements. One thing more that the Government employes, specially of the lower categories never perform their duties in time as has become apparent from the purchase of manure affair

They do not know when sowing is done and when the necessity of manure arises. Similarly, seeds are distributed in the months of *Aghan* and *Karak* when sowing is generally done in the months of *Kuawar* and *Karak*. How could you pull on like this? I do not know when the Government will pay attention towards this. Generally, the most important months from the point of view of cultivators are four or five *Asar*, *Sarawan*, *Bhadawn* and *Kuawar*. And during these months, every kind of facilities should be given to the cultivators so that they may not have to face any difficulty. I want to state before you the case of my Vindhya Pradesh. Only in these four months the cultivators do their work and the Government also harass them in these very four months. The trouble is that they need wood for making ploughs and during the days of the Princes whenever any agitation was staged, they were allowed to have this wood from forests but our Government have totally stopped all those concessions. They have imposed certain taxes like *charu* (cattle cess) etc. Now, what is the way of your doing the things? The office of the forest conservator lies about four or five miles from villages and the cultivators have to walk all the distance for obtaining the permits. Often, it takes time to obtain a permit. They do not obtain the wood in time and so most of their time is wasted. When you are ready to spend millions of rupees on foodgrains, is it not possible to remove all restrictions on the utilization of this wood? I think, they should get it free, but the Government do not wish to do so. The cultivator does not want it free, he is prepared to pay for it. Therefore, if the Government want to increase their income from the forests, they should allow people to obtain wood from the forests on payment whenever people require it. These are small matters. But the result of these small matters is that the cultivators do not get things in time and there is scarcity of foodgrains. The cultivator is not able to produce that amount of foodgrains which he wants to produce. His whole time is wasted in making requests or in submitting applications for permits.

Now take the case of cattle. Cattle cess is imposed on the owners of cows, buffaloes and bullocks. If the cultivator keeps a third bullock in order to facilitate his agricultural work, he has to pay the 'charu' (cattle cess) for this third one even when it is the most important means of doing the agriculture. The cultivator gets manure etc. from these cattle. The cultivators of

[Shri R. S. Tewari]

Vindhya Pradesh are not allowed to obtain wood from forests to use it as fuel, though Vindhya Pradesh abounds in forests. But, the Government do not provide them with wood, but instead of that spend large amounts of money to get thousands of acres of forests cleared of Vegetation. It is difficult to understand the policy of the Government in regard to forests. We do not know whether they want to have more trees or less.

Sir, if our Government do not want to incur expenditure on foodgrains let them at least remove all the hindrances in the way of cultivators so that this problem may be eased to a greater extent.

I may submit one thing more that the cultivator wants to till more land but there is no more land available for agricultural purposes. Thousands of acres of land belong to the *Jagirdars* and *Zamindars* but they do not utilise it. They give to the cultivators lands on lease with the condition that they will take half of the produce of the crops as their share and the cultivators have to do all the work for them. They store these foodgrains in their godowns and the Government never come to know about it. Later on, all these foodgrains are sold in the black market. These *Zamindars* always wait for the appropriate time to sell these foodgrains in the black market. Afterwards, they sell to the same cultivator the very foodgrains which he had produced himself at double the rates. It comes to this. Those who want to do agriculture, those who are in need of land, those who want to grow crops, land is not provided to them. Land has been grabbed by the *Zamindars* and *Jagirdars*. What is the use of your granting millions of rupees to the cultivators when the amount is misused? Money is distributed through your *Tahsildars* etc. who never distribute it among the cultivators and raise many objections in their way of getting help while they easily give this money to the very *Jagirdars* and *Zamindars* who collect all the foodgrains in their godowns and amass wealth by selling them in the black-market. These are the things on which the Government do not pay any attention. But they are very essential things. I am of the opinion that if the Government were to work with the co-operation of the cultivators the problem can be solved in no time. India is predominantly an agricultural country. We feel ashamed in spreading our hands before others for alms. Most valuable and precious gems are found in our country and it is not difficult to produce foodgrains here.

And foodgrains are still rotting. Suppose, the *Zamindars*, *Jagirdars* and capitalists hoard ten thousand maunds of foodgrains, they will allow the five thousand maunds to rot if they can get the price of ten thousand maunds with profits from the remaining five thousand maunds. Thus, the foodgrains are rotting and the Government are not aware of this. On the paper you show that there are committees of the cultivators but in actuality there exist none. There is no cultivator on these committees, the *Jagirdars* and the *Zamindars* predominate them and they get everything done as they like. If you give to the cultivator even a sum of Rs. 100 or Rs. 50 for purchasing bullocks, it will increase manure as well. But this is not done. More than ten thousand rupees at a time are granted to the *Zamindars* by the Government for this purpose and they spend it all on their recreations and do not give any co-operation to the Government.

Now, I will state a few facts regarding Vindhya Pradesh. Five lakh rupees were granted for breaking the virgin land but due to the lack of co-operation from these persons and the slackness of the Government, the grant was not utilised and it lapsed. Then five lakhs of rupees were granted for increasing the production of foodgrains, it was the duty of the Government to have utilised the grant for the purpose of producing more foodgrains. But it was not done. Two and a half lakh of rupees were granted for purchasing tractors but the Government could not decide as to which type of tractors should be purchased and therefore, this grant was also allowed to lapse. At present, there is more than 29 lakh acres of such land in Vindhya Pradesh which if the Government want to utilise or get it utilised for the purpose of agriculture, there is no possibility of anybody dying of starvation in that State. Not only this much but it could easily help the other States as well. But this thing is not done. Again, a sum of Rs. 1,60,000 was granted for the purpose of soil conservation but this grant was allowed to lapse as no officer could be appointed. Fertilisers worth Rs. 3,25,000 were ordered for Vindhya Pradesh. But the result is that the cultivators have become so much averse to it that it is possible that they might not take the Government manure at all. That manure was received when cultivators had already cultivated the lands and seeds had sprouted and even then it was deposited with the *Tahsildars*. In order to please the Deputy Commissioners or the Collectors, the *Tahsildars* compelled every cultivator to purchase manure worth Rs. 15 or Rs. 10, and the

cultivators dumped that manure in their fields. The result was that the seeds which had sprouted were all destroyed. But the Government are not paying any attention towards that. I think, if the Government were to pay any attention towards such incidents, I am sure that our country is so fertile that it will not be necessary to import foodgrains from foreign countries. But if the Government continue to act like that, there is no possibility of its achieving any success whatsoever.

Sir, I may be allowed to continue for a minute or two more. Now, I will speak about the present *charu* (Cattle Cess) agitation. Whatever quantity of manure is produced in our country, is sufficient for our requirements. The cow dung is the best form of manure and the fields remain productive for at least ten years without losing their productivity. Our Government are hankering after machines because it is the 'machine age'. But, I may tell you that these machines will not serve your purpose whether you consider them scientifically or otherwise. They will serve you at the most for two or four years. But the natural production can only be obtained through the use of the plough. Therefore make use of our ploughs. Use our ploughs after clearing the unwanted forests with the aid of tractors so that you may achieve success. I am not against the use of machines or tractors. But you should use them in those places where land is lying barren. Here you should provide facilities to the cultivators so that they may make their ploughs. Give them as much facilities as you can and do not put obstructions in their way. I may tell you that the staff of the forest conservator charge from them an extra tax on the condition that they will not create difficulties in the way of the cultivators and will allow them to cut wood from the forests. These are some of things which you must set right. Kindly save the poor cultivators from paying such taxes, like jungle tax, *charu* tax etc.

As far as I think, according to the present census operations the population of India is about 38 crores. I presume two-thirds of them are cultivators, who are the backbone of the Government. Only, one third are other persons. Thus, if from these 25 crore cultivators, the number of agricultural labour doing agriculture with the aid of ploughs will come to 5 crores. Even, if you collect from every cultivator 5 maunds of foodgrains, you can easily collect one crore tons of foodgrains which will ease the food situation to a great extent. If you provide all kinds of facilities only to these five crores of

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cultivators and do not impose any restrictions on the sale of the foodgrains with them. I am sure, you shall not have to resort to procurement. They can easily give you one crore tons of foodgrains. It will not be necessary for you to import foodgrains from other countries, provided you allow them to sell their remaining foodgrains as they like.

श्री ऐन० स्नातकः सभापति महोदय,  
आज आपने जो मुझ को समय दिया है मैं उस के लिये धन्यवाद करता हूँ। अभी आप के सामने मेरे पूर्व बक्ता ने अपनी बातों को रक्खा है। यदि सरकार उन के ऊपर विचार कर के कार्य करे तो निश्चय ही उस को सफलता मिलेगी। आज भारत-वर्ष में सब से अधिक खाद्य समस्या की ही चर्चा है। यदि भारत सरकार ठंडे दिल से इस समस्या पर विचार करेगी तो मैं निश्चित रूप से कह सकता हूँ कि इस जमाने में उस के ऊपर जो मुसीबत आई है उस को हल कर सकती है। मैं तो समझता हूँ कि खाद्य समस्या का विषय वैसा ही गम्भीर है जैसे किसी देश पर दूसरे देश की चढ़ाई होना या दूसरे देश से लड़ाई करना। इसी प्रकार से आज हमारे देश पर लड़ाई से अधिक भयंकर समस्या खाद्य की है। मैं यह भी समझता हूँ कि उस की तरफ आप का ध्यान भी है। आज कौसी भी अधिक महत्वपूर्ण समस्याएँ हमारे सामने क्यों न हों, प्रत्येक भारतीय व्यक्ति का यह कर्तव्य हो जाता है और भारत सरकार का भी यह कर्तव्य हो जाता है कि अपना सारे का सारा ध्यान वह इसी खाद्य की तरफ दे। उसी समय हमारी खाद्य समस्या हल हो सकती है, जिस प्रकार दूसरे विश्व युद्ध के समय में अंग्रेजों ने और दूसरे देशों ने भी अन्य चीजों को छोड़ कर युद्ध की सामग्री के उत्पादन में अपनी शक्ति लगा दी, वहाँ पर कालेज बन्द कर दिये गये,

[ श्री ऐन० स्नातक ]

स्कूल बन्द कर दिये गये और उनके स्थान पर फैक्टरियां खोल दी गईं ताकि वह युद्ध सामग्री का उत्पादन करने में लग जायें। इसी प्रकार से आज हमारी सरकार का यह कर्तव्य होना चाहिये कि हिन्दुस्तान में और चीजों में जो शक्ति खर्च हो रही है, दूसरी चीजों में जो पैसा खर्च कर रही है, उस सम्पूर्ण शक्ति को केवल खाद्य समस्या को हल करने में लगा दे। उस चीज के लिए जिसके कारण आज देश की व्यवस्था ढीली हो रही है, प्रयत्न करना और उस की तरफ ध्यान देना हमारी सरकार का पहला कर्तव्य हो जाता है।

अभी जैसे कई वक्ताओं ने आप के सामने कई सुझाव रखे, उन सुझावों को गवर्नमेंट को मानना ही चाहिये। जसा कि आज डा० श्यामाप्रसाद मुखर्जी ने सुझाव दिया, उसी प्रकार से जैसे सेठ गोविन्द दास ने भी अपने सुझाव रखे। वह सुझाव बड़े उपयोगी हैं। यदि भारत सरकार उन चीजों को माने तो निश्चय से इस देश की जो खाद्य समस्या है वह हल हो सकती है। कुछ लोगों का कहना है कि इस देश की जनसंख्या बहुत बढ़ी है। इस बढ़ी हुई जनसंख्या के कारण ही हमारी खाद्य समस्या पूरी तरह से हल नहीं हो रही है। कई लोगों ने सुझाव रखे कि इस जनसंख्या को दूसरे देशों में भेज दिया जाना चाहिये। यह सुझाव ठीक है और गवर्नमेंट को इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये, अगर ऐसा किया जाय तो निश्चय से ही यह खाद्य समस्या हल हो सकती है।

5 P. M.

दूसरी बात लोगों ने यह कही और जसा सेठ गोविन्द दास ने भी कहा कि

हमारी जो सरकार है वह ट्रैक्टरों के ऊपर या कल पुर्जों के ऊपर अधिक ध्यान देती रही है। उसके ऊपर आज वह लाखों करोड़ों रुपया व्यय कर रही है, लेकिन वह हलों के ऊपर या गाय बैलों के ऊपर एक पैसा नहीं खर्च कर रही है। उसे यह नहीं मालूम कि हलों के द्वारा ही वह अधिक से अधिक अन्न उत्पन्न कर सकती है। ट्रैक्टर या दूसरे कल पुर्जों जो हमने करोड़ों रुपया खर्च करके मोल लिये और उन से सरकार ने जमीन उत्पत्ति बढ़ाने की भी कोशिश की, लेकिन कुछ दिनों के बाद हम देखते हैं कि उस का कोई कल पुर्जा खराब हो जाने पर वह बिल्कुल बेकार हो जाता है। इस प्रकार की चीजों पर हमारी गवर्नमेंट पैसा खर्च करना चाहती है, मगर अगर एक किसान का एक बैल मर जाय और उसके पास केवल एक ही बैल रह जाय तो वह उस किसान की सहायता नहीं करती। न उस को पैसा देती है और न दूसरा बैल देती है। इस प्रकार किसान असहाय एवं बेकार हो जाता है और अधिक अन्न उत्पन्न करने में असमर्थ रहता है। इस तरफ गवर्नमेंट का ध्यान होना चाहिये। अगर वह चाहती है कि अधिक से अधिक पैसा विदेशों में चला जाय, विदेशों को दे दिया जाय और इस पैसे से कल पुर्जे आ जायें तो बात दूसरी है। आज गायों और बैलों को अधिक से अधिक बढ़ने दिया जाय। जिस से हमारी जो खाद्य समस्या है वह हल हो सके। हमें यह जान कर बड़ा दुःख होता है कि भारतवर्ष किस प्रकार खाद्य-पदार्थों के अभाव के कारण परेशान हो रहा है। पहले संसार इस की तरफ आशा भरी दृष्टि से देखता था, सारी खाद्य की चीजें दूसरे देशों को इस देश से जाया करती

थीं। सारा जगत यहाँ से अन्न आदि मंगाया करता था। लेकिन आज हम अमरीका की तरफ़ देखते हैं, चीन की तरफ़ हमारा ध्यान लगा हुआ है कि ये देश और दूसरे देश हम को कुछ अन्न दें, कुछ खाद्य पदार्थ दें जिस से हमारा गुज़ार हो सके। आज सरकार का यह फ़र्ज़ होना चाहिये कि दूसरी तरफ़ ध्यान न दे कर अपने देश के जो लोग हैं उनकी ओर ध्यान दिया जाय। जो हमारे किसान भाई हैं उन से सीधा सम्पर्क हमारी सरकार का होना चाहिये, यह नहीं कि दूसरों के जरिये उन लोगों तक पहुँचें। हम देखते हैं कि गवर्नमेंट ने बहुत से अपने एजेंट्स (agents) कायम कर रखे हैं। कुछ लोग हल आदि उपयोगी औज़ारों के स्थान पर अन्य विदेशी औज़ारों का उपयोग करने के लिये कहते हैं और यह भी कहते हैं कि इन औज़ारों से ज़मीन अधिक उपयोगी सिद्ध होगी परन्तु मेरी अपनी समझ में ऐसा ठीक नहीं है किसानों और दूसरे जो लोग हैं उन का पैसा जाता है, वह चाहते हैं किसानों को आप की मदद मिले, या अन्न अधिक उत्पन्न करने में उन से सहयोग लिय जाय। लेकिन उन के पास आप की कोई सहायता नहीं पहुँचती है, जब पैसा उन के पास नहीं पहुँचता है तो वह अन्न कैसे उत्पन्न कर सकेंगे। इस तरफ़ भी हमारी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये। आज ट्रैक्टरों और क़ल पुर्जों की तरफ़ अधिक से अधिक पैसा व्यय किया जा रहा है, इस से हट कर हमारे किसानों की तरफ़ आप को ध्यान देना चाहिये। इस का परिणाम यह होगा कि आज दूसरे देशों की तरफ़ हमारी निगाह लगी हुई है, दूसरे देशों की तरफ़ हम देखते हैं कि वह हमें अन्न दें, खाद्य की चीज़ें दें तो हमारा कल्याण हो। मैं समझता हूँ कि

हमारी सरकार को इस तरफ़ पूरा ध्यान देना चाहिये।

मैं अपने प्रान्त की बात कहना चाहता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश में हम देखते हैं कि वहाँ पर चने के ऊपर कंट्रोल नहीं है। चना दाल के रूप में मान लिया गया है और दाल के ऊपर सरकार का कंट्रोल नहीं है। इस का यह परिणाम होता है कि यह चना दाल के रूप में एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान को भेज दिया जाता है और इस से अधिक से अधिक दाम लिया जाता है। इस तरह से किसान गेहूँ छिपा कर रख लेते हैं और आगे चल कर जब अन्न की कमी होती है तब वह अधिक से अधिक दाम लेकर उसे ब्लेक मार्केट से बेचते हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश के लोग चना तथा जौ दोनों मिला कर खाने के काम में लाते हैं परन्तु जब चना के ऊपर कंट्रोल नहीं रखा गया तब चना बाज़ार में मिलता नहीं है और जो मिलता भी है वह ब्लेक से मिलता है। अतः चना का राशनिंग होना चाहिये। इस कमी के कारण आज हमारे ५० पी० की जो हालत है वह बहुत खराब है। इसलिये मैं समझता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट ने जो कंट्रोल किया है वह किन्हीं चीज़ों पर ठीक है और उस को चलाना ही चाहिये। मैं समझता हूँ कि कंट्रोल लगाने का कारण यह होता है कि अगर एक स्थान में कोई चीज़ अधिक मात्रा में होती है तो ऐसा न हो कि उस स्थान के लोगों को अधिक मिले और दूसरे स्थान वालों को कम मिले। और इसीलिए सरकार ने उस पर कंट्रोल लगाया है।

जिन प्रान्तों में चीज़ें पैदा नहीं होती हैं, उनमें कंट्रोल होना ही चाहिये और राशनिंग भी होना ही चाहिये; पर जहाँ चीज़ें

[ श्री एन० स्नातक ]

पैदा होती हैं वहां कंट्रोल और राशनिंग नहीं होना चाहिये। वहां पर तो जो चीजें पैदा होती हैं उन के मूल्य पर नियन्त्रण होना चाहिये। इसलिये गवर्नमेंट को चाहिये कि जो उत्पत्ति के साधन हैं उन का नियन्त्रण करे। वितरण पर उस का नियन्त्रण है। गवर्नमेंट की यह गलत पालिसी है कि उस का अधिकार उत्पत्ति के साधनों पर नहीं है। यदि उस का नियन्त्रण, उत्पत्ति के साधनों पर हो जायगा तो वितरण में भी उस को सहायता मिलेगी। फिर लोगों को ठीक तरह से अन्न मुहय्या हो सकेगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार को इस दिशा में पूरा ध्यान देना चाहिये और जो सुझाव सरकार के सामने रखे गये हैं उन के ऊपर ध्यान दिया गया तो निश्चय ही सरकार को कामयाबी हो सकेगी।

(English translation of the above speech)

**Shri N. Snatak** (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I thank you for having given me time to speak today. Just now my predecessor has put forth his views before the House. If the Government were to act upon them they will surely achieve success. Today the food problem is the burning topic of the day in India. I can say it with confidence that if the Government of India were to consider over this problem coolly, then they can overcome this difficulty which they are facing at present. I think that the food problem is such a serious matter as the invasion over one country by any other country or like defending against the invasion of the other country. Similarly the food problem of our country is more serious to us than actual war. I also admit that this problem is receiving your consideration. However important problems we may be facing today, but it is the duty of every Indian as well as of the Government to devote their entire attention towards the food problem. Only then our food problem can be solved. As in the Second World War England and other nations also leaving other things had concentrated their entire energies in the production of war material, the colleges and schools were closed and factories

were started in their places so that the students might engage themselves in the production of war material; similarly it should be the duty of our Government that the energy which is being wasted in other schemes in India and the money which is being spent on them, all that energy and money should be utilised to help solve the problem. It is the first and foremost duty of our Government to give due consideration and make efforts to solve the problem of food, on account of which the administrative set up of our country is becoming loose.

The Government should accept the suggestions made by the hon. Members. The suggestions which Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Seth Govind Das have made today are very useful. If the Government of India accept those suggestions, certainly the food problem of this country can be solved. Some people are of the opinion that the population of our country is very large and because of this large population we are not able to solve our food problem fully. Some have suggested that this excess population should be sent to other countries. This suggestion is feasible and the Government should consider that suggestion and if we succeed in that certainly our food problem can be solved.

The other thing which they have said and Seth Govind Das has also said is that our Government is giving more importance to the tractors and other agricultural implements. The Government are spending crores of rupees on these implements, but are not spending even a petty amount of money on the ploughs and development of cattle. The Government are not aware of the fact that maximum quantity of grains can be produced with the help of these ploughs only. We spent crores of rupees in purchasing the tractors and other agricultural implements and the Government tried to improve the fertility of the land, but after some time we find that when any of their parts gets out of order these tractors get completely unserviceable. Our Government like to spend money on such things, but when a bullock of the cultivator dies and he is left with one bullock only the Government do not give any help to that cultivator, neither any monetary help is given nor any arrangement is made to make the loss good by getting him another bullock. Thus the cultivator becomes helpless and idle and is not able to contribute his share in producing more grain. The Government should pay their attention to such things. If the Government want that most of our money should go to foreign



countries to make purchases of these agricultural implements then it is a different thing. The Government should improve the cattle wealth of country so that our food problem may be solved. We are very pained to see that India is suffering due to the scarcity of foodstuffs. Previously the world used to look towards India with high hopes and India used to export all kinds of foodstuffs to other countries and the whole world imported grains from here. But today we are looking towards America and China for help in the hope that these countries may give us some foodgrains so that we may feed ourselves. It is the duty of our Government to pay more attention towards the people of our country and should not attach more importance to other schemes. The Government should be in direct touch with the cultivators and their access to them should not be through any agency. We see that the Government have appointed many agents, some of them suggest the use of foreign agricultural implements in place of ploughs and other local implements and they also tell the cultivators that the use of these imported implements will increase the productivity of the land, but I am not in favour of this point. The cultivators and others have to pay and they want the Government to help them. They wish that their co-operation should be sought in growing more crops. But they do not get any benefit of your help and when they do not get money how can they produce more grains. The Government should pay their attention to these matters also. Maximum amount of money is spent on tractors and other agricultural implements but instead spending money on these things you should spend that money in meeting the necessities and requirements of the cultivators. The result would be that we will not have to depend upon other countries for giving us foodgrains so that we may survive. I want our Government should give due consideration to this problem.

I want to say something about my own State. We see that there is no control on grams in Uttar Pradesh. Gram has been included in the category of pulses. The result of such a measure is that gram is sent from one place to another as pulses, and thus the highest price is charged for gram. The cultivators resort to hoarding wheat and whenever there is scarcity then they sell it in black market charging exorbitant prices for it. The people in Uttar Pradesh are in the habit of eating gram and barley mixed together, but even when no control has been imposed on gram, it is not available in the market and if it is avail-

able, it is to be had in the blackmarket. Therefore gram should be rationed. Due to unavailability of gram, the food situation in U.P. has further deteriorated. I am therefore of the opinion that the controls imposed by the Government on certain articles are justified and controls should continue. I think the reason behind the imposing of controls is that if something is in surplus production at one place it is possible that the people of that area may get more of it and the people of other places may not get it in sufficient quantity. This is why the Government have imposed controls. The controls and rationing must be imposed in the deficit areas, but they should not continue in the surplus areas. In such areas only the prices of the local products should be controlled. The Government, therefore, should impose controls on the means of production. They have controls over the distribution of commodities instead. The Government do not have control on the means of production, this is their wrong policy. If the Government were to impose control on the means of production, their task of distribution will become easier. I think the Government should give due consideration to this matter and if they were to act in the light of the suggestions put before them, the Government will certainly achieve success.

**Prof. K. K. Bhattacharya** (Uttar Pradesh): Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown and more uneasy must lie the head of the Food Minister today who wears not a crown of roses, or one studded with beautiful glittering jewels, but a crown of thorns. He is being criticised on all hands. We should not, however, be pessimistic. We must all ourselves with enthusiasm and come forward with constructive suggestions. We must not create an atmosphere of pessimism in the country. We have got to tell the Food Minister here and now that the urban population of India cannot possibly be expected to live upon the semi-starvation diet of four *chattaks* a day. I would, therefore, ask him to increase the ration at once. Young men in our country are living on a miserable diet. I have been connected with a University and I have been seeing the health of students suffering. I would therefore ask the Food Minister in all sincerity that he should enhance the ration so far at least as the students are concerned.

Now, with regard to the policy of procurement. Whereas you purchase rice from Burma and Indonesia at Rs. 23 a maund, you pay the Indian cultivator rupees seven. Why do you

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not give an enhanced price to our *kisan*? That would be quite good. Unless you give him higher price, you cannot create any incentive in him to put forth his best and grow more food and sell you food. Do you know that at least 50 per cent. of the people of this land have become black-marketeers, because they are by necessity compelled to purchase rice and wheat from the black market? Not more than two or three miles away from the rationed area of Allahabad City, a big black-market is flourishing. Either allow the black market to flourish as open market or throw the whole thing open. But please do not try to clog the channels of commerce. I want the hon. the Food Minister to realise the fact how it is humanly possible for a man to live on four *chattaks*. He has got servants who will consume eight *chattaks*; guests keep on visiting him, whom he is expected to feed. There is not a particle of extra food available in his house. Therefore black market naturally flourishes. If however the hon. the Food Minister is afraid of a famine in case the quantity of ration is increased. I would ask him at least to guarantee the four *chattaks* and throw the market open to the consumers.

Another difficulty that has arisen is that people who previously used to consume *bajra*, *jowar*, etc., have now taken to rice and wheat. Why should the hon. the Food Minister not provide the poor people with opportunities for continuing their old diet and make them available in ration shops? Many of them would prefer to purchase them.

With regard to provinces, I would like to say something regarding Uttar Pradesh. I thoroughly agree with the view expressed by the previous speakers that gram must be controlled immediately in U.P. for the simple reason that gram is used as an essential commodity and food article by the people of Uttar Pradesh. That unfortunate Province is in a miserable state of affairs though Mr. Munshi, the Food Minister says "No, it is a surplus Province". I wish I could take him to Allahabad and show him how difficult it is for the people there to drag on their miserable existence with four *chattaks* and weekly rationing. Weekly rationing schemes must go from all the Provinces. There is no measure perhaps which has brought greater discredit to the Government than the weekly rationing scheme. Rationalise the rationing scheme, energise the people, procure food from all quarters. But please do not bring discredit upon

our Government which is the National Government of the day, which is a Congress Government and we are all pledged servants of the Congress. See to it that immediately and unconditionally either you rationalise the procurement, the food policy and give the people greater amount of food so that black marketing may stop, or you allow the usual channels of trade to open up.

With regard to Bihar I must tell you that the condition in Bihar is terrible. I have been reading reports from newspapers and I have got friends who have told me repeatedly that there would be a repetition of the Bengal famine if measures are not taken now and here. We have got to see to it that the Food Minister takes immediate steps to send succour in the shape of lakhs of tons of wheat and rice to the Province of Bihar—I do not mind from wherever you get that—so that the Bengal famine may not be repeated. Here was Shri Jwalaprasad Srivastava who was taking credit for what was done during his term of office, but he is not ashamed to own this. But I was ashamed that he should have been here to defend his food policy which brought definite destruction to millions of my countrymen. If I were in that position I would have sat mum all the time.

I want to say one or two things. No proper statistics are maintained, let me tell our hon. Food Minister. If I have got to quote an authority I shall quote one of the biggest authorities in Economics who has written a book *Economic Consequences of divided India*. He is Prof. Vakil of Bombay and he has written this marvellous book. I would ask Mr. Munshi to read that book and to profit by what is written there. He has definitely stated that statistics are wrongly prepared. There are non-reporting areas to the tune of lakhs and lakhs. What are the non-reporting areas? The areas in the Indian States. Only 79 Indian States reported. There are other areas which are not reported. It is up to Mr. Munshi to get the correct figures relating to food production.

Then as regards *Vanamahotsava* there is no necessity of planting trees in the urban areas. A photo was published in the *Statesman* which we saw, that immediately after a tree was planted up comes the bull and eats the tree. There should be a regular forest policy of the Government. That would be useful. If you really want to use a system by virtue of which there can be a forest policy which can develop in time, that should be done slowly and gradually, but not by the planting of trees in the urban areas.

One thing I can tell you, that there should be a better system of storing ration articles. Secondly, you must see to it that you pay proper prices to the *kisans* for procurement. The third thing is you must try to have proper staff in the Rationing Department. May I humbly suggest one thing here? You should not appoint any temporary staff in the Rationing Department for the simple reason that temporary men may always be guided by the feeling that they may be thrown away. They think that they may be thrown away at any time, therefore, "Make hay while the sun shines." You must have permanent staff. You may say that it is a temporary Department and ask how can we have permanent staff. Take the permanent staff from other Departments and give them the temporary staff—for instance from Education and other Departments. But bring the permanent staff from there to you so that they can work well. Create enthusiasm. We are with you. We as M.P.s, as soon as Parliament closes, shall go to our respective Provinces and shall try to tell the people and create as much enthusiasm as possible.

**Shri Karunakara Menon (Madras):** I wish to speak a few words on the subjects of grow-more-food and controls and, if time permits, on the working of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

The subject of food and agriculture is one to which everybody will be able to contribute a few suggestions because it affects all. My special claim to speak a few words is that I come from an area which is chronically deficit with respect of food, *viz.* the West Coast. The food problem is the root of all our economic ills. If we are able to solve the food problem and if we are also able to give clothes to the people, then the first step towards the establishment of *Ram Rajya* would have been taken. There is no Ministry whose responsibilities to the public are greater than that of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. It is fortunate that at this time the Ministry is held by two gentlemen of vision and ability and who are able to guide matters properly. All the same, unfortunately, so far as the grow-more-food campaign is concerned I am afraid it has been more or less a failure. Yesterday I read in the *Indian Express* a news item which stated that the final forecast for the year 1950-51 on paddy crop in the Madras State showed that the area cultivated under paddy during 1950-51 was estimated at one crore and 126 thousand acres as against one crore and 362 thousand acres for the corresponding period of the previous year

*viz.* 1949-1950. If my remembrance is correct, the area that was sown in 1948-49 was higher than what it was in 1949-50.

**An Hon. Member:** In which Province?

**Shri Karunakara Menon:** This is in the Madras State. It shows that the grow-more-food campaign is not improving. What is this due to? This is a matter that ought to engage the attention of the Ministry.

I attribute this decline to the system of controls. There is no incentive on the part of the cultivators to cultivate and produce food crops. There are more reasons than one for this condition of affairs. How can you expect them to cultivate and produce more in an atmosphere of corruption and inefficiency that prevails in this sector of our administration?—I mean in the lower ranks. I do not attribute the failure in production to natural calamities as is often suggested by the Ministry. Secondly, I ask, where is the incentive for the cultivators to produce more if under controls the whole produce is carried away by officers in the process of procurement without leaving sufficient paddy behind for their food till the next harvest or for the purpose of seed in times of emergency? Procurement works either way in an unjust manner. Either the procurement is made up to the lees, or much less than what ought to be taken is taken, and this acts to the detriment of the Government. Quantity of procurement depends upon whether you are able to propitiate the village officers who assess the quantity to be procured. They are extremely corrupt. Thirdly, there are no easy means for cultivators to obtain cash for the purpose of improving their cultivation. The establishment of rural banks might solve this problem a little. Why are these controls introduced, I ask? It is often stated that these controls are for the purpose of even distribution or keeping down prices. Both these objects have failed. There is a fear on the part of the Government of the intelligentsia and therefore attention with respect of supply of food is paid to urban areas and the rural areas are neglected. A few months after the harvest season is over the condition of the villagers becomes pitiable. People are sick of controls and it is time to introduce a system of gradual decontrol.

The sugar control as modified by the hon. Minister shows us the way. Results in that field have been satisfactory. Sugar is becoming more available and the gur prices are coming down. The dual system—free

[Shri Karunakara Menon]

market and controlled distribution, has worked satisfactorily, in that field. If that is so, in the field of food also this system that has been introduced with respect to sugar might be introduced with some modifications that might be necessary. I suggest a kind of levy system. We all know that the control system has been working for the past six or seven years. We know the average quantity that was being procured per year from each cultivator and therefore if that quantity is fixed for procurement purposes there is an inducement on the part of the cultivator to produce more and if you give him the right to sell in the free market whatever remains after giving to the Government, that will be a greater incentive to the cultivator to produce more. Even after the above procurement and after the release of the balance in the free market, if there is still stringency, that quantity ought to be met from the imports that the Government are making. Under this dual system a certain amount of procurement is effected and the balance is allowed to be sold as in the case of sugar. I have no objection even if compulsion is made on cultivators to sell to the Government the balance that remains after the cultivator keeps to himself grain for his own use and also for the purpose of seeds. Even if such a condition is made, I think it would be an advantage to the cultivator, because he will not be feeling the difficulty for his own livelihood and for the purposes of seeds. Otherwise in case the first seed that was sown is lost on account of drought or on account of heavy rain or for any other reason he will be put to difficulty. I therefore suggest that this dual system of a free market and controlled distribution ought to be tried.

We have to import as much as possible for a few years, but we cannot entirely depend upon imported food forever. The parading of our difficulties in season and out of season increases the price of the imported stuff from outside. That is another

reason why we should try to find out ways and means for increased production. The Centre, the States and the people instead of reviling against each other have to embark upon a common effort to make our country self-sufficient. In short, I would appeal to the hon. Minister to permit producers to sell in the open market over and above such quantities as are required for controlled distribution. The imported rice has to be stored and kept ready for being rushed to places where there is scarcity.

I wish to point out that the revised food subsidy scheme in Travancore and Cochin seems to be wrong. In Bombay, the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad, Poona and Sholapur are being subsidised. They are industrial areas and the major portion of the population are labourers. The textile mills that employ them can very well afford to subsidise the sale of food-grains to their labourers. I find that in Travancore-Cochin several lakhs of people are engaged in the production of tea, cardamom, pepper etc. which earn large dollar and sterling exchange. Those earnings give more than twice the amount required for the purchase of all the State's requirements of imported grains. The subsidy to Travancore-Cochin is only Rs. 1.5 crores and that too only for the year 1951. What is the justification, I ask, for refusing to subsidise the rice issued to the cultivators of Travancore-Cochin and at the same time subsidising the sale of rice to the mill-workers of Ahmedabad and Bombay? These mills are rich; they can very well be asked to subsidise the rice that is supplied to the mill-workers. The majority of the population in the above cities are mill-workers. This disparity in treatment between Travancore-Cochin cultivators and the mill-workers of Ahmedabad and Bombay ought to be removed. In this matter I expect an explanation from the hon. Minister.

*The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 7th April 1951.*