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# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME I, 1952

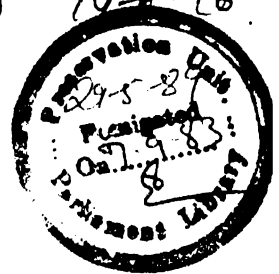
(6th February to 5th March, 1952)

Fifth Session

of

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1952



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

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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

*Wednesday, 20th February, 1952*

*The House met at Half Past Nine of  
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**PANCHAYATS**

**\*121. Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing:

(a) the total number of Panchayats in each Part 'C' State invested with (i) Judicial and (ii) Fiscal powers;

(b) the total number of cases disposed of by such Panchayats in each Part 'C' State;

(c) the total number of cases upset or modified on appeal or revision from the order of such Panchayats in each such State; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on such Panchayats in each such State?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) to (d). A Statement containing the required information is placed on the table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 26.]

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** What action is being taken to start panchayats in Part 'C' States where they either do not exist or have not been invested with powers, or where their number is very small—for example, from the statement which has been placed on the Table of the House I find that in Bhopal, Coorg, Kutch and Tripura there are no panchayats at all.

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Well, the new Governments will definitely take up this question. It really is a matter

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for the State Governments to consider and bring into action.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Has any programme been chalked out for opening so many panchayats per year and, if so, what are its main features?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** That again is a matter for the State Governments to consider.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Has the experiment of investing some panchayats with judicial powers proved an unqualified success?

**Mr. Speaker:** I believe these are all matters, as she said, to be left to the State Governments which are coming very shortly into power.

**Shri Dwivedi:** May I know what is the reason why only 60 panchayats could be started in Vindhya Pradesh this year?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it better be left to the next Government.

**Shri Dwivedi:** Very well, Sir.

**RESEARCH ON INDIGENOUS MEDICINAL  
HERBS**

**\*122. Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for the survey and scientific research of indigenous medicinal herbs found in various parts of India; and

(b) if so, what the broad outlines of the Scheme are, when it will be put into operation and what is the estimated cost thereof?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research financed from 1935 to 1947 an enquiry on Indian medicinal and poisonous plants under Col. R. N. Chopra.

(b) As a result of this enquiry, the Council has formulated a co-ordinated scheme for the cultivation of medicinal plants and sanctioned two centres in Madras and one in West Bengal (Madras-Nilgiri and Coimbatore and West Bengal-Darjeeling) for the cultivation of those medicinal plants which have got a large demand in India and abroad. The schemes have been started recently. The total cost of the scheme is nearly Rs. 1,60,000 for three years to be shared equally by the State Governments and the Council. The question of establishing a third centre to serve the northern and north-western region is under consideration.

The Council has also sanctioned from 1st April, 1952 another scheme at Chakrata, Uttar Pradesh, under the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, for cultivation of *Artemisia Maritima*, *Ephedra Gerardiana*, *Atropa Belladonna* etc. This scheme will cost rupees one lakh in five years.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** May I know during what period is the survey work of medicinal herbs likely to be completed?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** This is a continuous work. An enquiry has already been made and now the question is of cultivating those plants.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Have Government completed the survey work of the many known medicinal herbs which already exist all over the country?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** A complete survey has not been made. It is a continuous process because as new places are discovered and new herbs found in sufficient quantities to make them commercially useful the matter is further investigated.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Is this work being carried out under the auspices of the State Governments or under the Centre?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Well, in most cases it is done jointly by the Centre and the States.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if any medicinal herbs are exported and, if so, what is the amount of export every year?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have no information on this point with me. If the hon. Member gives notice I will have it investigated.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Have Government taken into consideration the research work done by the Bengal Chemical Works at Calcutta?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Well, the experts like Col. R. N. Chopra are familiar with all the researches which have been made in this country.

**Shri M. Naik:** Have Government under contemplation the starting of any herbarium from which our own indigenous physicians may get their supply of medicinal plants?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** There is no scheme at present for starting a herbarium—but I am only concerned with research.

#### MALEIC HYDRAZIDE

\*123. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any experiments have been carried out in India on vegetables by spraying them with a Chemical known as "Maleic Hydrazide (MH)" in order to keep them fresh for long periods;

(b) if so, with what results; and

(c) whether any sprayed vegetables have been exported from or imported into India and if so, for how long they have been preserved in a fit condition?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) No. This chemical which is produced in U.S.A. is not yet available in the open market.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No separate statistics are maintained for collecting this information.

#### COTTON PRODUCTION

\*125. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total acreage under cotton cultivation during the year 1951-52;

(b) the total production; and

(c) the total amount spent for increased production of cotton?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Final forecast is not yet available. According to the third estimate, which covers only 90 per cent of the sown area, acreage under cotton is 13.7 million.

(b) Official estimates are not yet available. Trade estimates place it between 30.6 and 36.2 lakh bales.

(c) Rs. 65.8 lakhs details of which are given in a statement laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 27.]

**Shri B. K. Das:** What was the target for 1951-52?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The target was 36 lakh bales.

**Shri B. K. Das:** What is the target set up for 1952-53?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is too early to make a target for 1952-53.

**Shri B. K. Das:** From the statement I find that Rs. 5.55,000 have been spent for maintaining staff. May I know whether a separate staff is maintained for every State by the Central Government for the production of cotton?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Well, the State Governments employ the staff for the purpose of bringing more area under cultivation and then they charge it to the Centre.

**Shri Shiva Rao:** Is any part of the amount referred to in part (c) of the question devoted to research in the cultivation of long staple cotton?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** A certain item of expenditure is incurred for the purpose of carrying on research in growing long staple cotton.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I have an idea as to what portion of this production is long staple, medium, and short staple?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** There is a question on that subject, that is Question No. 139. If the hon. Member will wait . . . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** If it is convenient to dispose them of together it may be put now. Question No. 139 Shri Samanta.

#### COTTON

\*139. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government and the Indian Central Cotton Committee to grow more cotton in India;

(b) how much land was utilised for growing cotton in West Bengal in the years 1950 and 1951;

(c) the names of States where there are prospects of growing cotton; and

(d) the names of States where fine and superfine quality of cotton can be grown?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to

the reply to part (a) of question No. 210 asked by him on 13th August, 1951.

(b) 1950-51 less than 500 acres.  
1951-52 about 3,000 acres.

(c) Prospects for growing cotton exist in all the Part 'A' & 'B' States, and also in the States of Bhopal, Kutch and Ajmer.

(d) No superfine cotton is grown at present on a commercial scale in any part of India. Fine quality is being grown in the States of Madras, Punjab, PEPSU, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Bombay.

**Shri B. K. Das:** The reply to question No. 139 does not cover my question. I wanted to know what portion of the production mentioned by the hon. Minister is in long staple, medium and short staple respectively?

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

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I take it that no superfine cotton is grown in any part of India, though there is possibility of growing fine and superfine cotton in Madras and other States?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** In the States that I have mentioned only fine cotton is grown, not superfine.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I have the breakup Statewise of the figure of expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs and 55 thousand?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I think it is contained in the statement laid on the Table.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Is the Government aware of the slump in prices of cotton and has the Government considered the effect of this on their scheme of growing more cotton?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** There is a certain degree of slump in the purchase of cotton, and the matter is under consideration.

**Shri B. K. Das:** Referring to column 3 of the Statement, I find that the estimated loss is about Rs. 2 lakhs on account of seeds. May I know the reason for this loss?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The seeds are used and some of them do not result in the growing of cotton.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know why the acreage in West Bengal has fallen in 1951 from what it was in 1950?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It has not fallen. It has increased from 500 acres to 3,000 acres.

**COMMUNISTS IN MANIPUR AND TRIPURA**

\*126. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Communist activities in Manipur and Tripura have subsided since last November; and

(b) whether the elections in those two States and in the Tribal Areas of Assam have in any way been obstructed by the Communists?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):** (a) Yes. There has been some improvement.

(b) There were some general reports of intimidation but no specific complaints have been received.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Is it true that in certain portions of Manipur and Tripura there has been no control or administration of the Government for some time?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** There is one inaccessible part of Tripura where Government authority does not extend to the extent desirable.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Is it true that in three constituencies of the Naga tribal areas, there was no nomination paper filed and so no election was held and what is the reason for this?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Is it in the two States?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** In the tribal areas of Assam.

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Assam? I am afraid I have no information about Assam.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Is it true that there was some sort of intimidation and coercion exercised in all these areas, particularly in these tribal areas, where there was no nomination paper filed?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** There was some attempt at intimidation, but the Chief Commissioner took prompt action and warned the people concerned that if such intimidation was pursued he would take drastic action, and that had its effect.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Am I to understand that the Government took no action during the election to prevent such intimidation and coercion?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** There has been no large scale intimidation. There was some attempt at the beginning, and action was taken to prevent it. As a result, the elections have been reported to have been peaceful.

**PROCUREMENT PRICES OF FOODGRAINS**

\*130. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for the procurement of foodgrains a standard price is fixed on the basis of fair average quality which makes an allowance for 2 per cent. dirt;

(b) if so, whether the price varies if the grains contain more or less than 2 per cent. dirt; and

(c) whether Government have satisfied themselves that the average quality foodgrains of rural areas actually contain 2 per cent. dirt when fixing the standard referred to in part (a) above?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Prices of foodgrains for procurement are fixed on the basis of fair average quality. The percentage of dirt allowed varies in the specifications laid down by different States and for different grains.

(b) Allowances are made if the percentage of dirt exceeds the limit laid down by different States for different grains.

(c) The percentage of dirt is fixed for different grains in different States taking into account the average quality of foodgrains arriving in markets in different areas.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** The hon. Minister in reply to part (b) said that allowance is given if the dirt exceeds the fixed percentage, but if the dirt is less than the fixed percentage, is any excess price given to the farmer?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** No allowance is given, because that percentage is supposed to be the common average in merchandise of that kind.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** But has not there been any case where the dirt has been found to be less than the average percentage allowed?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The very fact that the percentage is an average means that in some quantities it might be less and in some it may be more, but the average is 2 or 1 per cent., whatever it is.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** In fixing the average, has the Government taken any steps to examine the ordinary foodgrains collected in villages, not for procurement but for in the normal way, and has the Government fixed the standard after comparing the average foodgrains collected in the rural areas?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The percentage fixed is based on the average foodgrains sold in the locality, and therefore that would certainly include not only the procured grain but also the unprocured grain wherever there is a free market.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** Who settles the prices of foodgrains, the State Governments or the Central Government?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The procurement prices are first of all determined by the State Governments and forwarded to the Centre. The Centre ultimately sanction the fixation of those prices, if necessary in consultation with the States.

**Shri B. R. Bhagat:** May I know whether the procurement policy of the Government, with particular reference to procurement prices, is likely to be considered at the Food Conference?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Not specific prices, but the general policy will be considered.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Is it a fact that in certain States the percentage is as high as 5 to 10? I refer to the dirt.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is not borne out by the statement. The highest appears to be just 2 per cent, and that too only in the case of barley.

**Shri Alexander:** May I know whether the Government is aware that some State Governments are making profits out of procuring and selling at a higher rate, and if so do the Central Government propose to ask those Governments to increase the procurement price?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Wherever it has been found that there is a certain margin of profit between the procurement prices and the sale prices, the Central Government draw the attention of the State Government concerned and I know of one case where they have given it up. In no other case has the attention of Government been drawn to this fact.

**Shri Alexander:** Are Government aware that in the State of Travancore-Cochin there is a very great disparity between the procurement prices and the issue prices and that the State Government is making a profit?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am very glad that the hon. Member has drawn my attention to it. I shall make enquiries while giving the subsidy to Travancore-Cochin.

**Shri Alexander:** No. My point is...

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, Mr. Bharati.

**Shri Bharati:** What is the highest procurement price and what is the lowest?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am afraid I have not got the memory to remember all that.

**Shri Bharati:** May I appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, to compel him to give the answer?

**Mr. Speaker:** All the figures cannot be had at once.

**Shri Bharati:** You can press the hon. Minister to give such important material.

**Mr. Speaker:** The material may be important but the information may not be readily available. (*Interruption*) He will Table a question if he wants the information. I am proceeding to the next question.

#### SHIPS

\*131. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state how far have the Indian Shipping services progressed in the recent years?

(b) How many ships have been built in India and how many have been purchased from other countries during the years from 1947 to 1951 for outward and inward shipping services?

(c) How many ships are proposed to be built or purchased from 1952 onwards?

(d) What is the difference in cost of home-made ships and purchased ships?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** A statement containing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 28.]

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Of the 60 ships added to the Indian fleet, it is said that only 8 were built in India and the remaining 52 were purchased from abroad. May I know from which countries these ships were purchased?

**Shri Santhanam:** I do not have information countrywise. The ships would have been purchased from all over the world.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** How many of these were war-built ships from America?

**Shri Santhanam:** I would require notice of that question.



**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, whether any Indian shipping service is in operation to Japan and China?

**Shri Santhanam:** With Malaya we are having a service; I do not think there is a shipping service from India to Japan owned by Indian shipping companies.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Were any ships bought by an Indian company recently from Japan.

**Shri Santhanam:** Two ships were purchased by an Indian company recently from Japan.

**Dr. V. Subramaniam:** How does the price of foreign-built ships compare with those built in India?

**Shri Santhanam:** Ships are of various types, sizes and descriptions. It is therefore difficult to make any comparisons.

**Dr. V. Subramaniam:** I refer to ships of same size and same tonnage.

**Shri Santhanam:** The statement gives some information on that point. For instance, the three 8,000 ton cargo vessels built at the Vizagapatam shipyard on Government account cost on an average Rs. 62.7 lakhs each; similar ships, if built in the United Kingdom would cost about Rs. 46 lakhs.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** The Planning Commission has recommended financial assistance to Indian shipping companies. Will this be in the form of subsidy or as loan?

**Shri Santhanam:** It will be given as loans.

**Shri Amolakh Chand:** Of the 52 ships purchased from abroad, how many were new ships and how many were second-hand or used vessels?

**Shri Santhanam:** I have not got the details with me.

**Shri Kamath:** With regard to the 8,000 ton cargo vessels—which are referred to in the last paragraph of the statement—is it not a fact that such vessels are built cheaper in Japan than in the U.K.?

**Shri Santhanam:** I do not know about that. But it has been found difficult to get any ships built recently from Japan. The initiative for the purchase of ships rests in the hands of the companies themselves and they are free to have the ships built anywhere. The two small ships recently purchased by a company were built in Japan; but in regard to larger ships the delivery dates are much longer in Japan than in other countries.

**Shri Kamath:** What was the cost of building those two ships in Japan?

**Shri Santhanam:** They were small ships and are not comparable with the 8,000 ton ships.

#### BRIDGES OVER NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ORISSA

\*132. **Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the number of major bridges under construction over the National Highways Nos. 5 and 6 in the State of Orissa and the progress so far made thereof?

(b) How many are yet to be constructed under the Scheme in force?

(c) What are the amounts involved in each of such bridges and what are the amounts expended so far?

(d) When is the Scheme going to be completed?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** (a) Four bridges have been completed. Estimates for six more have been sanctioned. Tenders for two of those have been settled and the contractors have started preliminary work. Tenders for the remaining three have been received and are under examination and that for the fourth is being invited.

(b) No more under the current five year plan.

(c) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 29.]

(d) By 1955-56, subject to availability of funds.

**Shri M. Naik:** From the statement I find that on the National Highway No. 5 three bridges have been completed. May I know, whether Government is aware of the fact that there are other major rivers which also require to be bridged and whether Government consider construction of bridges over them to be necessary?

**Shri Santhanam:** National highways are through roads throughout India. We are now concentrating on building bridges which are considered to be very essential. There may be other places where bridges may be required, but we have to fix priorities and these bridges have been given priority.

#### NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ORISSA

\*133. **Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what is the annual amount of money provided for construction, maintenance and repair of the National Highways Nos. 5 and 6 falling within the jurisdiction of the State of Orissa?

(b) What is the rate of cost of repair per mile of the portions of these

National Highways within the District of Mayurbhanj as compared with that allowed in other parts of India?

(c) When do Government propose to raise the standard of these portions to the level of other National Highways in other parts of India?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** (a) So far, the average yearly expenditure on construction has been Rs. 47 lakhs in the last four years, and Rs. 10.25 lakhs on maintenance.

(b) The required information is not available as the accounts are not kept district-wise.

(c) National Highways are maintained, as far as funds permit, to the standard required by the traffic they carry. This policy applies to all portions of National Highways including those in Mayurbhanj.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know whether the maintenance of these roads is left entirely to the State P.W.D.?

**Shri Santhanam:** The actual maintenance is done by the State Governments, but the Centre supervises and gives the necessary funds.

**Shri M. Naik:** Has it come to the notice of Government that of late due to increased traffic over certain portions of the national highways there has been heavy corrugation of roads? What action is Government taking in this matter?

**Shri Santhanam:** It is unfortunately true, because the scale of maintenance required under the present prices is much greater than we can afford; but we are trying to increase the maintenance wherever necessary.

**Shri M. Naik:** Have Government considered the desirability of making these roads into tarred ones?

**Shri Santhanam:** Roads are made either in concrete or tar or otherwise according to the traffic. We have not got a single formula for all the national highways; it depends on the traffic which each section of the national highway has to bear.

#### POST OFFICES FOR MAYURBHANJ

\*134. **Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many new post offices have so far been opened during the year 1951-52 in the District of Mayurbhanj, Orissa, both in the rural and urban areas?

(b) How many such post offices are contemplated to be opened during the remaining part of the year?

(c) When do Government propose to link up all villages or groups of villages where the number of population is above 2,000 with postal service system?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Rural—Two, Urban—Nil.

(b) Three.

(c) It is expected that no single village with population of 2,000 or over will remain without a Post Office in Mayurbhanj District after 31st March, 1952.

**Shri M. Naik:** Were there any representations received from the local people or from the local administration for the opening up of rural post offices?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Twelve such representations have been received. Eight are under examination. Two were found to satisfy the conditions and orders for opening post offices in those cases have been issued. In the other two cases the conditions were not found to have been fulfilled.

**Shri M. Naik:** How many of these post offices are sub-offices?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I cannot say exactly.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know, whether Government has any scheme to link sub-divisional headquarters post offices with telegraphic systems?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I would require notice of that question.

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो नियम हैं कि जिस गांव में दो हजार की आबादी हो वहाँ पर डाकखाना खुल जायगा, तो जहाँ पर छोटे छोटे बहुत से गाँव हैं और जहाँ दस पांच गाँव मिल कर दो हजार की आबादी हो सकती हो, वहाँ पर डाकखाना खोलने का सरकार का इरादा है या नहीं ?

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** With respect to the scheme that no single village with a population of 2,000 or over will remain without a post office may I ask whether the Government intend applying this scheme also to

groups of a certain number of villages, say five or ten, with a population of 2,000 or over?]

**श्री राज बहादुर :** जी हां, यह जो स्कीम है उस के अनुसार जिन गांवों की आबादी दो हजार की है वहां तो डाकखाना खुल ही जाता है। लेकिन जो काम्पैक्ट बेसिस की स्कीम है, उसमें यह है कि एक मील के रेडियस में या दो मील के रेडियस में निश्चित रेडियस में, जो गांव आ जाते हैं उनमें डाकखाने खुल जाते हैं। लेकिन ऐसे स्थान में जो स्थानीय अधिकारी हैं उन्हीं को अधिकार दिया जाता है कि वह खोलें या न खोलें।

[**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Yes, the villages with a population of 2,000 or over each are covered under this scheme all right, but there is another scheme too which provides for the opening up of post offices for a group of compact villages within a radius of say one or two miles. Discretion for opening such post offices, however, vests in the local authorities.]

**Shri Shiva Rao:** With reference to the answer given in reply to part (c) of the question, is Government's policy applicable only to villages with a population of 2,000, or does it apply also to groups of villages with that population and above?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** The question has been just now answered by me in Hindi.

The policy relates to compact villages within a radius of 2 miles also. Discretion for opening such post offices vests in the local authorities. On receipt of an application for a group of villages, the application is examined and if it is found that the maximum loss that may be incurred may not be more than Rs. 750, a post office is opened.

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह :** यह तो ठीक है कि स्थानीय अफसरों को अधिकार है, लेकिन केन्द्र से इस तरह का आदेश गया है कि नहीं कि जहां दस पांच मौजे नजदीक नजदीक हों, एक या दो मील के रेडियस में, वहां पर पोस्ट आफिस खोला जाय ?

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** It is all right that the discretion vests in the local authorities, but have the Central Government issued orders to the effect that post offices should be opened for groups of compact villages which lie within a radius of one or two miles?]

**श्री राज बहादुर :** जी हां, केन्द्र से ऐसी आज्ञाएं दी गई हैं और स्थानीय अधिकारियों को अधिकार दिया गया है कि वह अपने अधिकार से वहां पर डाकखाने खोलें।

[**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Yes, the Central Government have issued such orders and have empowered the local authorities to open such post offices at their discretion.]

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** उनके सवाल का जवाब नहीं मिला, उनका सवाल तो यह है कि अधिकार तो दिया है, लेकिन आदेश दिया कि नहीं।

[**Mr. Speaker:** That is not the answer to his question. He wants to know whether apart from discretion having been vested in them, any orders have been issued or not?]

**श्री राज बहादुर :** मैंने निवेदन किया कि आदेश यहां से जारी है और उसके अनुसार वह लोग खोलते हैं।

[**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I have stated that we have issued the order and the local authorities have been opening post offices accordingly.]

#### SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD

\*135. **Shri Jagannath Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state when would India be self-sufficient in foodgrains, especially wheat and rice?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** Self-sufficiency in the sense of complete stoppage of imports is feasible under the present conditions of food control only if the deficit on the basis of prevailing consumption standards is made up by additional production and a major portion procured for meeting the Governments' rationing commitments. Recognizing these difficulties,

the Planning Commission in their Draft Five Year Plan, while indicating the target of 7.2 million tons of additional production of foodgrains during 1951-52 to 1955-56 have also provided for annual imports of the order of 3 million tons during the next few years, if necessary.

**Shri Kamath:** Does the Minister who talked about freedom from foreign food till about a year ago or so think that self-sufficiency is quite impossible in the near future?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is certainly possible.

**Shri Kamath:** In the near future?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** You will be surprised to know that against the estimates of States of 36 million tons this year the statisticians and the experts say that this year we will have something in the neighbourhood of 46 million tons of food.

**श्री एस० ऐन० दास :** खाद, बीज और सिंचाई की योजना के अलावा विभिन्न राज्यों ने कौन कौन सी भूमि सुधार की योजनाएं अपने राज्यों में चलाई हैं जिनसे हिन्दुस्तान जल्दी ही अन्न के मामले में स्वावलम्बी हो जाय ?

[**Shri S. N. Das:** Apart from the schemes of irrigation and supply of seeds and fertilizer what are the other land reform schemes formulated by the various State Governments in order to help India achieve self-sufficiency in food before long?]

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The hon. Member knows that first of all land reform is going on in all the States by which the tiller of the land will get rights in the land itself. That is number one. Then, as he knows, intensive cultivation of areas is undertaken. That is, wherever there are irrigated areas there is the supply of seed and fertilizer is provided and various other steps are being taken. And the last one is wherever there is unirrigated area steps are being taken to give irrigation. Then of course there are the power projects which are well known.

**श्री एस० ऐन० दास :** योजना आयोग ने जिस सहकारी खेती के सम्बन्ध में जिक्र किया है, उसको जारी करने के लिये कौन कौन सी कार्रवाइयां की गयी हैं ?

[**Shri S. N. Das:** What steps have been taken to introduce the system of co-operative farming as referred to by the Planning Commission?]

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** All the States are taking steps to encourage co-operative farms.

**श्री एस० ऐन० दास :** क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि सरकार की तरफ से कोई ऐसे फार्म खोले गये हैं जिससे कि जनता उनसे प्रेरणा ले सके ?

[**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the Government have opened such farms as might give inspiration to the people?]

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** In U.P. and Madras such farms have been opened and in Bhopal also there were certain associated farms which were opened last year.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether the hon. Minister is going to take any step to check the figures that he just now mentioned about the production, as indicated by the hon. the Prime Minister in his speech yesterday?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** A whole page of my speech made last evening has been omitted by the press, and it contained all the materials referred to by the hon. Member. There are three estimates on which the figures are checked. The first figures are the figures which are given by the *patwari* and which may be called advance estimates on which the States want imports. That is number one. After the season is over they furnish final estimates. And then, after that, the crop cutting survey results are given, and they are definite, positive figures as to what was produced in the country. Basing on that I pointed out that though the advance estimates for 1951-52 are in the order of 36 million tons, on the crop cutting survey they show about 45 to 46 million tons of food this year.

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह :** उपज बढ़ाने के जो बहुत से उपाय किये गये हैं उनके बारे में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि किस उपाय पर सब से अधिक ध्यान गवर्नमेंट देती है और किस तौर पर ?

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** On which of the various measures adopted by it to increase food production in the country is the Government concentrating its attention and in what manner?]

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** So far as irrigated land is concerned.....

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : हिन्दी में ही जरा उत्तर दें तो ज्यादा अच्छा हो ।

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** It would be better if the reply is given in Hindi.]

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** मेरी हिन्दी बहुत दूटी फूटी है । मैं अभी इम्तिहान तो नहीं दे रहा हूँ, मैं तो जवाब दे रहा हूँ ( My knowledge of Hindi is very poor. Moreover, I am not appearing in any test; I am merely required to reply to questions.) With regard to irrigated land attention is being concentrated on providing seed and fertilizers and improved methods of agriculture. With regard to unirrigated land, which is the biggest problem for the country, the Government is concentrating its attention in providing irrigation.

**Shri Kamath:** In spite of the increased food production which the Minister visualizes this year is it a fact that Government is proposing to import seven million tons of food-grains this year as compared to five million tons last year?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The hon. Member is not quite correct. On the basis of the 36 million tons estimates of the States they are demanding the import of seven million tons. As I pointed out, there are no such food supplies available in the world, nor shipping, port and transport facilities for importing seven million tons. Therefore, really speaking, this year it will be less than five million tons. But, to be on the safe side, we are trying to import five million tons.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** Is it a fact that the procurement prices in the States are considerably below the market prices, and is it a fact that the Government is trying to establish some amount of parity between the two to encourage production?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** There is no doubt that the procurement prices are much below either black market prices or free market prices where there is no rationing. There is no doubt about it. But the fact remains that if we have got to keep inflation down, some attempt therefore must be made to keep down prices. That is why prices are being kept down. But as the hon. Member would have seen, wherever we find that it is possible to give a rise and secure more in procurement, the rise is given.

#### COTTON MARKETING COMMITTEE REPORT

\*140. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the report submitted by the Cotton Marketing Committee has been printed and published?

(b) What is the date on which the report was submitted?

(c) What is the date on which printing was completed?

(d) Have the recommendations of the Committee been examined by Government?

(e) If so, what is the action proposed to be taken on each one of them?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Yes. Copies of the Report are placed on the Table of the House.

(b) 17th July, 1951.

(c) Printed copies were received by Government towards the end of January, 1952.

(d) and (e). The recommendations are under examination, and necessary action will be taken after examining them.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know how much time will be taken for this examination and by what time action may be expected to be taken?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** As soon as the examination is over and copies have been sent to the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

#### "GROW MORE FOOD" SCHEMES (LEASES)

\*141. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether Government have received any complaints from Madhya Pradesh that leases under the "Grow More Food" Scheme have not so far been renewed?

(b) What action have Government taken in this regard?

(c) Do Government propose to expedite orders, so that the lands brought under cultivation may not lie fallow?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) The Government of India have not received any such complaints.

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

#### NURSES

**\*142. Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the scales of pay paid to nurses in the employment of the Government of India?

(b) Are these posts pensionable?

(c) If not, is there any compulsory provision for Provident Fund and if so, at what rate?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) to (c). Two statements, one containing information in respect of the institutions directly under the Government of India and the other in respect of Part 'C' States are placed on the table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 30.]

#### FOOD SHORTAGE IN BIHAR

**\*143. Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the State of Bihar, paddy crop has largely failed on account of either flood or drought over a very large area?

(b) If so, have the Government of India received any report from the State of Bihar as to the present food situation in that State?

(c) What is the estimated quantity of food shortage for the State of Bihar during the current year?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Damage to the paddy crop due to drought and failure of the monsoon has been reported in some parts of the State. But the rice production this year is estimated to be better than last year's according to the crop cutting experiments conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on scientific lines.

(b) We are getting periodical reports from Bihar on the food situation which indicate that conditions are not unsatisfactory. The State Government has sufficient stocks to

meet all requirements. Owing to sufficiency of stocks the State Government desired that no allocations should be made by the Government of India till May, 1952.

(c) The preliminary estimate of the food deficit for 1952 is 5,60,000 tons according to the State Government. This is now being discussed at the Conference of Food Ministers.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know what is the official estimate of paddy produced this year in Bihar?

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

#### TOURIST TRAFFIC

**\*144. Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the income from Tourist Traffic from foreign countries during the period from 1st January to 31st December, 1951?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** A definite estimate of income from tourist traffic for the year 1st January to 31st December, 1951, is not available, but there are good reasons to believe that the earnings from this source were not inconsiderable: the earnings from about 500 American tourists who came in two luxury cruises alone were in the neighbourhood of 2,00,000 dollars. The Government have given some thought to methods of collecting reliable estimates of tourist earnings and the Reserve Bank of India have now worked out a scheme of sample surveys by which reliable estimates with effect from January 1952 would be available at the end of the year.

**Shrimati Jayashri:** May I know, whether it is a fact that lack of adequate facilities of travel and sojourn is holding back foreign tourists to this country?

**Shri Santhanam:** That is a comparative statement. If we can improve the facilities for travel accommodation etc. it will be good. Care is being taken to encourage tourist traffic and we are taking all possible steps within our limitations.

**Shri M. Nalk:** May I know whether the number of tourists during the year in question are in any way on the increase or decrease in comparison with the previous year?

**Shri Santhanam:** The tourist traffic is certainly increasing.

**Shri Kamath:** May I know if any complaints or reports were received?

from tourists or their guides or their friends from those States where prohibition is in force that there are difficulties or delays in the way of tourists getting liquor permits as they desire?

**Shri Santhanam:** Our Tourist Department here has made arrangements for the prompt supply of licenses for the tourists. We have not had any recent complaints; we had complaints some two years ago and we took it up with the Bombay Government and now the procedure has been simplified.

**Shri Sivan Pillay:** May I know whether the Central Government has instructed State Governments to arrange for serving liquor to tourists in prohibition areas?

**Shri Santhanam:** We have not asked them to arrange for serving liquor to them but they are given licenses or permits to buy a certain amount of liquor.

**Shri Massey:** Are tourists permitted in prohibition areas to entertain their guests?

**Shri Santhanam:** No. If they are Indians, they are subject to the Indian law.

#### "GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

\*145. **Shri Deogirikar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the increase in the production of foodgrains as a result of "Grow More Food" Campaign during the year 1951-52 so far?

(b) How much of it is due to (i) land reclamations, (ii) irrigation and (iii) manure?

(c) What is the target quantity now fixed for self-sufficiency in food?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) It is not yet possible to indicate the actual increase in the production of foodgrains as a result of the "Grow More Food" Campaign during 1951-52, so far, as works are still in progress and a proper assessment is not feasible until the agricultural year is over. The target of additional production fixed for the year is, however, 14.1 lakh tons.

(b) Of the target of 14.1 lakh tons, land reclamation by the Central Tractor Organisation accounts for 1.5 lakh tons, irrigation (including tube-wells) for 4.4 lakh tons and manures (including chemical fertilisers) for 0.8 lakh tons.

(c) The target now being kept in view is that of additional production

of foodgrains to the extent of 7.2 million tons during the five-year period ending 1955-56, as indicated by the Planning Commission in their Draft Five-Year Plan. The Plan also contemplates annual imports of the order of 3 million tons during the next few years, if necessary, partly as a measure of safety and partly to build up a reserve and provide for diversion of land to cash crops.

**Shri Deogirikar:** May I know whether the figure of 34 lakhs given in the pamphlet "More From Mother Earth" issued before the Elections is correct or the figure now contemplated is correct?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** That is the accumulated total of the last three years. For 1951-52 it is 1.4 million tons.

**Shri Deogirikar:** May I know why self-sufficiency target started increasing every year? Is it due to the failure of crops or failure of monsoon that the target of self-sufficiency is increasing every year? You have just quoted that 7.2 million tons will be needed for self-sufficiency but what is the reason for this figure increasing every year?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** According to the Nutrition Advisory Committee we must have about 51 million tons of cereals and in 1961 we should have 56 million tons. I mean the population and various other factors may lead to further increase and that is why 7.2 million tons has been fixed.

**Shri Deogirikar:** What about the building up of reserves?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I do not think that 7.2 million tons will mean the building up of a reserve. It will be sufficient to go round.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know whether there is any increase of production under the scheme introduced by the Government under the name "Intensive cultivation scheme"?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** As I pointed out intensive cultivation implies the use of good seeds, irrigation and fertilizers, composts and other manures. All this is the result of the application of those activities.

**Shri M. Naik:** Is there any change in the policy of the intensive scheme? There was some announcement in the newspapers about it.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** There is no change in the policy of intensive cultivation. We try to get more yield out of an acre.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact that Government have appointed very recently or propose to appoint a Committee to survey the progress and results of the "Grow More Food" campaign and if so, what is its personnel and terms of reference?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Well, the Committee has been appointed; the names of the Members have been published as well as the terms of reference. If the hon. Member wants, I will put it on the Table of the House.

**Shri Deogirikar:** What is the loss in tons of food produced due to the conversion of land for cotton and jute?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have not got the figures here. I do not remember the exact figure. There has been a certain amount of diversion.

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह :** जो वर्ष अब समाप्त हो रहा है उसमें उपज बढ़ाने के सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार का कितना रुपया खर्च हुआ है ? और जितने रुपये खर्च हुए हैं उन में से कितना रुपया किसानों के पास सीधे सीधे पहुंचा है और कितना रुपया सरकारी कर्मचारियों के वेतन में खर्च हुआ है ?

**[Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** What amount of money has been spent by the Government of India on the "Grow More Food" campaign during the financial year just to end? How much of the total amount was directly given to the cultivators and how much was spent on the salaries of Government officials?]

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Notice.

**Shri Kamath:** Is the food problem being tackled even today on a war footing as the Prime Minister declared some months ago or has the policy been changed?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Certainly.

**Shri Kamath:** War footing?

**Mr. Speaker:** Now we will go to question No. 124, by Shri Jnani Ram, authorised to be asked by Mr. S. N. Das.

#### RE-GROUPING OF RAILWAYS

\*124 **Shri S. N. Das** (on behalf of **Shri Jnani Ram**): Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the re-grouping of all the Railways on Zonal basis has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the different Zones in which the Railways have been grouped?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** (a) and (b). The Indian Railways are to be regrouped into six Zones and three of the Zones, viz. Southern, Central and Western, have already been formed—Southern in April 1951 and Central and Western in November 1951. It is now proposed to proceed with the formation of the Northern, North Eastern and Eastern Zones. Proposals regarding their formation are being placed on the 27th February 1952 before the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether as a result of this experiment the advantages anticipated have been fulfilled?

**Shri Santhanam:** Yes.

**Shri V. Gangaraju:** May I know what benefits are derived on account of this Zonal scheme?

**Shri Santhanam:** They have been described in pamphlets and they will be supplied during the Budget debates. The main benefits are that there will be less interruption to traffic because there will be large unified zones and traffic, both goods and passenger, will flow smoothly and there will be a lesser number of impediments.

**Shri Massey:** As a result of this re-grouping, have there been any complaints from the public or from the officers and staff of the Railways?

**Shri Santhanam:** So far, from the public, there have been no complaints whatsoever. Of course, now and then, some of the staff have got to be transferred in the process of adjustment and there have been some complaints, but not many.

**Shri M. Naik:** So far as I remember, some Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta I think, has written for the postponement of re-grouping of the EIR and BNR systems. Have Government made any case about it?

**Shri Santhanam:** Some Chambers of Commerce are apprehensive of any change, and therefore they have protested against the proposed change.

**Shri Massey:** Has the complaint from the staff only been on account of transfers? Or, have there been any complaints on account of equation of salary, seniority, etc?



**Shri Santhanam:** All these questions are being settled in consultation with the Unions of workers by a general committee consisting of Railway officers and workers. Therefore, there have not been many complaints so far as these aspects are concerned.

**Shri Massey:** From officers?

**Shri Santhanam:** Some officers have got a grouse because they think that their chances of promotion have been reduced, because the number of senior officers has been reduced.

**Shri Amolakh Chand:** May I know if the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have agreed to the proposal of re-grouping of the OTR and EIR, or whether they have vehemently protested against re-grouping?

**Shri Santhanam:** There is no question of any State Government agreeing. It is purely a Central responsibility. But, we have invited the opinions of the State Governments and they will be given due consideration.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Is it a fact that the hon. Minister has stated that the remaining re-grouping will be taken up when the next Parliament comes in?

**Shri Santhanam:** The understanding was that there will be no hurrying or hustling. We are simply preparing a memorandum and placing it before the Central Advisory Council for Railways. I do not think there was any specific undertaking that it will be postponed till the next Parliament comes in.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know the nature of the objection which the Chamber of Commerce had taken?

**Shri Santhanam:** They fear that there may be some dislocation of trade during the transition stage. Though they have seen that there has been no dislocation either in the Southern Railway or the Western or the Central Railways, they are bringing forward the same objections for the other zones.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** What steps have Government taken to popularise the new terms of the Zonal Railways because there is a lot of confusion in the public mind about the different names of the Zones?

**Shri Santhanam:** When zones are created some new names come in.

There would not be any confusion. Every time there is a change, there is a small time interval within which people get accustomed.

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

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN HUBLI AND UDIPI

\*127. **Shri Joachim Alva:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state if any proposal is under consideration to link up telephone connections between Hubli in Dharwar District of Bombay State and Udipi in South Kanara District of the Madras State?

(b) Has the question of establishing a telephone either in Sirsi or Karwar in the North Kanara District which links the Dharwar and the South Kanara Districts received the consideration of Government?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Hubli in Dharwar District and Udipi in South Kanara District are already connected to the Trunk Telephone Network. A direct telephone link between these two places is not contemplated as the traffic does not justify it.

(b) The question of connecting Karwar to Hubli and Sirsi to Haveri has been examined, but having regard to the low incidence of traffic, the project did not qualify for inclusion in the P. & T. Department's Development Programme which has been drawn up on the basis of priorities to keep within the financial resources made available.

### KARWAR, BHATKAL AND MALPE PORTS

\*128. **Shri Joachim Alva:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether Government have any plans to build up the ports of Karwar, Bhatkal and Malpe in the Bombay and Madras States?

(b) When were the last proposals to build up ports at these centres examined?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in regard to the establishment of ports at Karwar, Bhatkal and Malpe?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** (a) and (c). Minor ports already exist at Karwar, Bhatkal and Malpe. The first two are under the administrative control of the Government of

Bombay and the third under the Government of Madras. The further development of these as minor ports is the responsibility of those Governments. But the National Harbour Board has initiated some proposals to assist the State Governments in their development.

(b) The relative claims of Karwar, Bhatkal and Malpe for development into a major port were examined by the West Coast Major Port Development Committee, appointed by the Government of India in 1948. This Committee reported in May 1949 that a deep sea port between Marmugao and Cochin was necessary and that it should be sited at Malpe. Having regard, however, to certain inadequacies in the report and the prevailing financial stringency, the Government of India decided that the implementation of the Committee's recommendations should be deferred and that the question of undertaking a more thorough examination of the economic and engineering aspects of the project should be considered when the financial position improved.

#### BRIDGES OVER KATHJURI AND KUAKHAI RIVERS

\*136. Shri Jagannath Mishra: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what amount was spent for the completion of bridges over the Kathjuri and the Kuakhai rivers in Orissa?

(b) Was the whole amount for these bridges paid by the Government of India or any portion by the State Government?

(c) What was the respective amount paid by each Government for each bridge?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) to (c). About Rs. 45 lakhs for the Kathjuri bridge and Rs. 23 lakhs for the Kuakhai bridge. The full cost was paid by the Government of India. The accounts of these bridges have not yet been closed and there may be some adjustments in the expenditure that are still to be booked.

#### TOURISTS

\*137. Shri Jagannath Mishra: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government maintain any record to show how many foreign tourists visited different notable places in India;

(b) if so, their total number in the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 up to the end of December, 1951 and their number to each notable place;

(c) whether any inconvenience or difficulty experienced by those tourists in their visit to those notable places was reported; and

(d) if so, what are they and what action Government propose to take to remove them?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) and (b). Arrangements have been made for the collection of tourist statistics at all customs ports from September, 1950. According to the returns received from these ports during the period January to December 1951 about 20,000 tourists visited India. Government have no information at present in respect of the number of tourists visiting each notable place. Steps are however, being taken to collect this information also from hotels which maintain records of tourists staying with them.

(c) and (d). Yes. The complaints which Government generally receive relate to customs examination, accommodation, guides, transport facilities, etc. With the assistance of the State Governments and various trades interested in the development of tourist traffic, suitable steps are being taken to improve the amenities at tourist centres.

#### TERMINAL TAXES

\*138. Shri Jagannath Mishra: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that terminal taxes from Railway passengers to Puri, Bhubaneswar and Sakhigopal on the B. N. Rly., are realised?

(b) What is the purpose for which these taxes are levied?

(c) When were these taxes first levied?

(d) What was the total amount collected since its inception up to the end of March, 1951?

(e) To whom are these amounts being made over?

(f) Are any portions of these taxes being spent for Sakhigopal and Bhubaneswar area for any Central purposes?

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

(b) The proceeds from the taxes are utilised towards better sanitation of the towns.

(c) 1st January, 1922.

(d) Information regarding the total amount of taxes collected from year

1922 is not available. The amount of the tax collected during the year 1950-51 was Rs. 77,690.

(e) The amounts are remitted by the Railway to the President, Puri Lodging House Fund Committee, Puri, Government of Orissa.

(f) No portion of the tax is spent for Railway purposes as the B. N. Railway pays for the services rendered to it by the respective local authority. No information is available as to whether any expenditure is incurred on other central purposes.

**INTEGRATION OF RAILWAYS**

17. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state which of the Railways have been integrated into each of the Southern, Western and Central Zonal Railways?

**The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam):** The information is given below:

Zonal Railway	Names of the Railways which have been integrated into it.
Southern	M. & S. M., S. I. and Mysore State Railways.
Western	B.B.&C.I., Saurashtra, Jaipur State and Rajasthan Railways and Marwar-Phulad Section of Jodhpur Railway.
Central	G.I.P., Dholpur State, Nizam State and Scindia State Railways.

**T. B. TICKETS**

18. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.B. tickets sold so far by each State during the year 1951-52;

(b) the amount so far collected by each State by sale of T.B. tickets in 1951-52; and

(c) the other measures taken to combat the disease?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) and (b). During 1951-52 the Tuberculosis Association of India distributed to the various States about 26 million T. B. Seals costing one anna each. The total value of these Seals is about Rs. 16,25,000/-. Infor-

mation as to the number of seals sold during 1951-52 and the total amounts collected by each State is expected to be received only about the middle of this year. In the year 1950-51 the total collections from the sale of T.B. Seals amounted to Rs. 10,63,366-12-0.

(c) The accepted methods are improvement of standards of living, housing sanitation and nutrition; detection, treatment and isolation of infectious cases, preventive B. C. G. vaccination and education of the public in the methods of prevention. The State Governments are adopting these methods to the extent their resources permit.

**AVERAGE YIELD OF WHEAT AND RICE**

19. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) if the study of trends in yields of principal crops referred to in reply to part (a) of unstarred question No. 77 asked on the 21st August, 1951 has since been completed; and

(b) if so, will Government state the average yield of wheat and rice per acre in the country (i) at present, (ii) 25 years ago and (iii) 50 years ago?

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

(b) Comparable All-India figures are not available. A note examining the position in respect of a few individual States for which comparable figures are available, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 31.]

**COLLEGE OF NURSING, NEW DELHI**

20. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state how many students are admitted to the College of Nursing, New Delhi, every year?

(b) What is the total strength of the students in the College at present?

(c) How many of them have come from each State in India and how many of these (State-wise) receive stipends, scholarships, freships, etc.?

(d) Is there any quota fixed for admission from each State?

(e) Are admissions accorded on the recommendations of State Governments or is the selection made by the College authorities without reference to State Governments?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):**

(a) The number of fresh admissions every year varies from 20 to 30 in the B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing Course and from 10 to 25 in the Post-Certificate Courses.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is attached. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 32.]

(d) There is no State-wise quota; but so far as the B.Sc. (Hons.) Course in Nursing is concerned, 10 seats are reserved for all the Part 'A' States, 4 for all the Part 'B' States and 2 for all the Part 'C' States every year, the remaining seats being fil-

led on the basis of merit on an all-India basis.

(e) For the B.Sc. (Hons.) Course, selection for admission is made by a Selection Committee of the University of Delhi. For this purpose, the records of students and the recommendations of the sponsoring Governments, if any, are taken into consideration. For the Post-Certificate Courses, selection for admission is made by a Selection Committee constituted by Government. For this purpose also applicants' records and reports and recommendations of the Governments concerned if any, are taken into consideration.

Wednesday, 20th February, 1952



# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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VOLUME I, 1952



(5th February, 1952 to 29th February, 1952)

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Fifth Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1952

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## CORRIGENDA

to

the Parliamentary Debates (Part II—Other than Questions and Answers), Fifth Session, 1952

In Volume I,—

1. No. 2, dated the 6th February, 1952,—

(i) Col. 23, line 33 for "to provide for" read "further to amend", and in line 2 from bottom for "further to amend" read "to provide for".

2. No. 5, dated the 12th February, 1952,—

(i) Col. 309, for existing last line read "chancellories or in government, but"

(ii) Col. 362, line 31 for "Kamth" read "Kamath".

3. No. 6, dated the 13th February, 1952,—

(i) भाग ३९१, पंक्ति १५ में "एम जुनही" के स्थान पर "जुल्म नहीं" पढ़ें ।

(ii) भाग ३९२, पंक्ति २५ में "बतक" के स्थान पर "बक्त" पढ़ें ।

(iii) Col. 443, line 8 for "ony" read "only".

(iv) کالم ۳۷۲ آخری لائن کے شروع میں وہ ملی ہیں ان کے متعلق یہ پڑھیں —

(v) Col. 529, for existing last line read "excess of such moisture as may reasonably be expected, by watering the".

(vi) Col. 530, insert "both parties are protected. They pro—" as last line.

4. No. 8, dated the 15th February, 1952,—

(i) Col. 648, after line 7, insert "this demand has come before the House today, that".

(ii) Col. 658, line 32 for "OUTLAY" read "OUTSIDE".

(iii) Col. 659, line 6 from bottom for "Jagivan Ram" read "Jagjivan Ram"

(iv) Col. 676, last line for "liament" read "Parliament".

(v) Col. 686, line 16 from bottom for "Gapalaswami" read "Gopalaswami".

5. No. 9, dated the 18th February, 1952,—

(i) भाग ८०३, नीचे से पंक्ति ४ में "जचित राम" के स्थान पर "अचित राम" पढ़ें ।

6. No. 11, dated the 20th February, 1952,—

(i) भाग १००७, पंक्ति ९ को "की जरूरत है" पढ़ें ।

7. No. 14, dated the 23rd February, 1952,—

(i) Col. 1184, line 8 for "Jagivan Ram" read "Jagjivan Ram".

(ii) Col. 1191, for existing line 4 read "Clause 6 —Contributions and matters".

(iii) भाग १२२७, पंक्ति १० में "यस्य" के स्थान पर "सत्तम" पढ़ें ।

8. No. 15, dated the 25th February, 1952,—

(i) भाग १२५४, पंक्ति २४ में "रती" के स्थान पर "तीर" पढ़ें ।

9. No. 19, dated the 29th February, 1952,—

(i) Col. 1564, in the beginning of line 17 from bottom insert "voted".

(ii) Col. 1612, line 3 from bottom for "purpose" read "propose".

(iii) भाग १६२४, पंक्ति ५ में "सउन" के स्थान पर "उस ने" पढ़ें ।

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

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Wednesday, 20th February, 1952

*The House met at Half Past Nine of  
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

10-25 A.M.

**RESIGNATION OF DR. DEVI SINGH.**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform hon. Members that Dr. Devi Singh has resigned his seat in Parliament with effect from the 9th February, 1952.

**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1951-52—RAILWAYS**

**DEMAND No. 5—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, we will take up Demands for Supplementary Grants. The Demands are there. What is the procedure that we shall follow? I find that there is only one cut motion. There are two. One is out of order and so there is only one cut motion to Demand No. 5. So we shall take up Demand No. 5 and the cut motion of Mr. Das. The first cut motion is out of order because he wants to discuss general policy which cannot be discussed on a cut motion.

**Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh):** Will not the Finance Minister elucidate the constitutional question that was raised yesterday, before discussion on this Demand is taken up?

**Mr. Speaker:** That matter has been placed before me. I thought I was to give my ruling on that question when the Punjab Budget comes in. There is no such question arising here.

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**Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar):** Several cut motions were discussed together yesterday and their discussion was to continue today.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Punjab Budget? That discussion was postponed yesterday. This day has been allotted specifically for discussing the Railway Budget and the Supplementary Demands. Therefore, we cannot take up the Punjab Budget today.

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** It will come up some other day?

**Mr. Speaker:** Of course.

**Shri Massey (West Bengal):** May I ask for some information, Sir? Will the hon. Minister for Railways give some details regarding page 4 of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee with regard to premature retirement of officers, etc.?

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us come to that specific Demand and then we shall see.

**Shri Massey:** I thought I could ask for information.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am placing before the House Demand No. 5.

Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,07,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1952, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance'."

Mr. Das may move his cut motion.

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,07,000, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Mr. Speaker:** He may address his remarks.

श्री एस० ऐन० दास : अध्यक्ष महोदय,  
 मैं इस कटौती के प्रस्ताव द्वारा माननीय  
 मंत्री का ध्यान.....

[Shri S. N. Das: Sir, with this cut motion I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to.....]

Mr. Speaker: I suppose the hon. Minister will not be able to follow this as his knowledge of Hindi is not so nice. If he does not mind, he may speak in English.

Shri S. N. Das: By moving this cut motion, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways to the sad conditions prevailing in the O.T. Railway, especially in its branch lines. During the discussion last year, I drew the attention of the Government to the condition of the metre-gauge Railways in North Bihar and to the fact that the Government is not paying the same attention to these lines as they are pleased to do in the case of the E.I.R. and other broad-gauge Railways. Sir, it is rather a painful experience to travel on the branch lines of the O.T.R. The trains run late. There is overcrowding in the trains. There is no arrangement for water supply. The latrines in the compartments are not supplied with water. All the things that go to make bad management are present in the O.T.R. Times without number Members of this House have been drawing the attention of Government to the improvements that are required in this Railway; but in spite of all their protests, in spite of all their requests and submissions, no attention is being paid to this Railway. The O.T. Railway which was once called the B. N. W. Railway had its name changed to O.T. Railway and people now call it not Oudh-Thirhut Railway but the Old and Tired Railway, because all the coaches and wagons provided on this Railway are all quite old and rotten. Anyone travelling in these coaches is troubled all through by bugs. I think the old rotten coaches and wagons when they cannot be used further in any other Railway are sent on to this O.T. Railway, especially in its branch lines north of the Ganges. Therefore, I would, by this cut motion of mine like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister in charge of Railways to the sorry plight of these lines and to the pitiful condition of the general public travelling by these lines. Last year the hon. Minister was pleased to state that the metre-gauge lines, especially of the O.T. Railway will draw more and more the attention of Government, but

I am sorry to state that no improvement whatsoever has been effected in these lines. I therefore urge upon Government that they should not give step-motherly treatment to this railway, especially to its branches which are just a little beyond the routes that the hon. Ministers generally travel. Therefore, on behalf of the general public and on behalf specially of the travelling public I request that the hon. Minister will be pleased to give greater attention to that neglected, Old and Tired Railway as it is called.

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): I confess that this O.T. Railway has unfortunately still a great many of the characteristics of old and tired Railway and conditions on this Railway are not as satisfactory as hon. Members would wish or as I would wish. Last year I did say that this Railway will attract more attention in the future than it had done in the past. As a matter of fact, it has attracted more attention, and I have heard some hon. Members hailing from those areas come and tell me that things are better now than they were before. So far as the meter-gauge stock is concerned, I do grant that much of the stock that is in use on that Railway is really old and tired. They have to be replaced. We have launched on a programme of obtaining considerable supplies of meter-gauge stock, both produced in this country and imported from abroad. For instance an order has been placed in Germany and supply in response to that order will commence in May next. When these come in, I have no doubt that conditions on this Railway would be much better. I can only assure the hon. Member that this Railway has been attracting special attention and for the last one year or slightly less than that, it has shown improvement and I hope that will be maintained.

Shri Kamath: And I hope that in the near future, this Railway, like the Minister himself, will show that though old it is not tired.

Shri Gopaldaswami: The only answer that I can give to the hon. Member is that the Minister though old is not quite tired.

Shri Kamath: Yes, that is what I said.

Shri Gopaldaswami: Not quite tired, I say, and perhaps it may be that in order to improve matters the Minister may have to be replaced in the near future, but not the O.T. Railway, that cannot be scrapped.

**Shri Massey:** On page 9 of the Proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways there is an item—Additional Traffic Facilities now necessitated for carrying foodgrains to famine affected areas on the Western Railway. My I know what are these additional traffic facilities?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** There were additional traffic facilities provided for the carrying of foodgrains to the famine affected areas on the Western Railway, such as additional transshipment facilities at Viramgam, Ratlam, Sawai-Madhopur, Ujjain, Sabarmati and other places for the movement of foodgrains to the famine affected areas on the Western Railway regions. This meant the extension of facilities for transshipment, of platforms, provision of additional sidings etc. These are temporary works and so provision has been made.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do I put the cut motion of Mr. Das?

**Shri S. N. Das:** I do not press it, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** Very well and that means that the Demand itself is now under discussion. I now put the Demand to the House.

The question is:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,07,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1952, in respect of ‘Ordinary Working expenses—Repairs and Maintenance’.”

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Speaker:** I should like to know whether I may put all the Demands together or separately.

**Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal):** Sir, I have to speak on Demand No. 7.

**DEMAND No. 7—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION (FUEL)**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,88,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of ‘Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)’.”

**Shri A. C. Guha:** This item refers also to the railway collieries and so I would like to draw the attention of the House to what happened in this House on the 15th March and 24th March last year. There was a demand for railway collieries and the House was not pleased to pass it and so it was postponed. The Railway Minister brought it on a second time on the 15th March and then also the House did not pass it and the whole matter was referred to the Estimates Committee for examination and report. On the 24th of March the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, the Deputy-Speaker of this House made a report to this House and then the hon. Minister for Works, Production and Supply and also the Railway Minister gave assurances to this House and then this House passed that Budget. It was found that the reasons for which the losses were so long incurred were the cost of the removal of the overburden by the I.M.C.C., fall in production of the railway collieries consequent to the change in the policy of the supply of wagons, losses due to continued employment of surplus labour and fourthly, the implementation of the Central Pay Commission's recommendation. It was found by the Estimates Committee and the Minister also admitted that there was a surplus of 7,000 labour in the railway collieries and that surplus was estimated on the target output of 3.2 million tons of coal, whereas the output was only 2.5 million tons. Taking into account the real outturn of coal the surplus labour must have been more than 7,000. Only three or four days ago we were told that the Government had not yet been able to ascertain the real surplus or whether there was any surplus at all. If I am permitted I would quote the words of the hon. Minister. He said “There was a great deal of surplus labour which has to be done away with.” These were the words used by the Minister for Works, Production and Supply and I think the railway collieries are now under his jurisdiction. Yet practically after one year we are told that the Government has not yet been able to ascertain whether there is any surplus labour at all or not. That was in reply to a question last week.

Another point is that it was found that the clearing of the overburden by the I.M.C.C. was a costly procedure and it was expected that the Government would do something to do away with that system and introduce a more economic system.

It was also found that the average raising cost in private collieries was

[Shri A. C. Guha]

Rs. 13 or 14 per ton whereas it rose even up to Rs. 27 in some of the Government collieries. The raising cost varied between Rs. 22, 25 and 28 in different Government collieries. Only three collieries are paying concerns and are being run on business lines and the average raising cost of coal was near about Rs. 13 or even below. I would like to know what steps have been taken on the assurance given on the floor of this House. Only on that assurance the House was pleased to pass the Supplementary Budget after having postponed it on two previous occasions. I would also like to know whether the collieries are still under the jurisdiction of two Ministries or have been put under one Ministry. This is a point which should also be made clear.

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** I am grateful to the hon. Member for bringing up this aspect of the matter before the House. I am very glad to inform the House that when complete accounts will be made for the current year the railway collieries will be in a position to say that they have made a profit of Rs. ten lakhs. The present demand merely states that the contemplated loss was 22 lakhs but actually it may be less by three lakhs. But I am in a position to assure my hon. friend and the House that the overall position as it has now emerged is that not only we have wiped out this estimated loss of 22.74 lakhs but ultimately we would have earned Rs. ten lakhs. This is due to the fact that the output has increased by three lakhs and 87 thousand tons as compared with the figure provided for in the original Budget and it is also due to the co-operation given by the entire department, from the Chief Mining Engineer down to the overseer in bringing about a reduction in expenditure wherever possible. Hence this estimated profit.

Reference was made to the expenditure on overburden removal by the I.M.C.C. In fact this should have been debited to the capital account but it has not been done. But even this loss has been taken into account in arriving at the figure I have given.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know whether the Government is intending to introduce a new system or continue the contract with the I.M.C.C.

**Shri Gadgil:** The contract is now over and what we will do with the company is a matter under consideration. But the fact is that the overburden has been removed though coal

is not yet extracted. In fact the expenditure on removing the overburden should have been debited to the capital account and the income that might accrue after extraction of the coal should have been credited there. However, this has been taken into consideration, so that the criticism offered in the House has been met. I should say that the whole thing has been properly organised and next year more profits will be shown. Even today if what I have suggested, namely the expenditure on overburden is transferred to the capital account, this business will result in a profit of 76.10 lakhs.

As regards surplus labour only a few days ago a question was asked and the reply was that a fact finding Committee has been appointed. The point really is that it was not possible to straightaway reduce or retrench labour on account of the possibility of labour trouble. Similarly we were told that a certain amount of non-existent labour was included in it. Therefore the Government decided that before they start retrenchment it would be much better to ascertain finally and correctly what was the element of non-existing labour. For that purpose the fact-finding Committee has been appointed and it is expected to submit its report before the middle of March, 1952. As soon as we receive the report we shall immediately implement its recommendations as far as possible. When that is done there will be addition to the profit. What I can assure the House at this stage is that the points made in this House last year have been duly noted and every effort has been made to meet them. The House should appreciate that only as a result of that the collieries will now make a net profit of Rs. ten lakhs.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,88,000 be granted to the President to defray the Charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)'."

The motion was adopted.

**DEMAND No. 8—ORDINARY WORKING EXPENSES—OPERATION OTHER THAN STAFF AND FUEL**

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,38,000 be grant-



ed to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel'."

**Shri Barman (West Bengal):** In this demand there is one item included as expenditure on account of payments for compensation for goods lost or damaged during transit. At the time of the Budget last year this demand was placed on a considerably reduced scale compared to the previous years, on the assumption that stringent measures will be taken, so that claims for compensation on account of this particular head will be reduced. But now we are faced with a supplementary demand on account of this item to the tune of some lakhs. May I inquire of the hon. Minister what positive steps have been taken by the Department to reduce this expenditure and which are the Railways which are responsible for this increased expenditure at the end of the year? It is a loss which is unaccountable to the ordinary public. If, while in transit, goods are lost or damaged and sometimes wagons are broken and theft and dacoity committed, and if compensation to the extent of more than a crore has to be paid then it becomes somewhat difficult for us to explain things to the ordinary public. Apart from that, however, we shall be glad to know what stringent measures or adequate steps have been taken by Government during the year to minimise the loss under this head and which are the particular Railway or Railways that are responsible for this increased expenditure over what was contemplated at the time of the Budget.

**Shri S. C. Samanta (West Bengal):** May I add a few words to what Mr. Barman has said? I would like to know whether there has been any increase in the cases of compensation in the Southern Railways, the zone which has been formed first.

**Shri Gopalswami:** It is a fact that we are now asking for something like Rs. 64 lakhs more than the provision made in the Budget for the current year. At the time the Budget was framed it was thought that the demand on account of claims for compensation would get reduced in the course of the year, so the Budget figure was placed at a lower level than it otherwise would have been placed. The additional provision that is now asked for is partly due to the rise in the prices of commodities lost and partly also to an increase in the

number of claims which have been put forward, or, rather, we have not been able to realise the decrease in the number of claims which we had hoped for. We have for the last two three years been conducting a drive to reduce the claims on this account. While we did succeed to a large extent, in the current year particularly the incidence of running train thefts has been rather heavy and as a result of that the number of claims has not shown the diminution that we had hoped for. This increase in the number of thefts and losses on account of disappearance of goods from train loads and yards and so forth has been causing us a great deal of anxiety. We have tightened up the protection arrangements. We have sanctioned increases in the police establishments for looking after these goods, and so on, but improvement has not been appreciable. We have recently put an officer on special duty to study these happenings wherever they are concentrated and to suggest measures for improving the state of affairs. His recommendations are awaited. He is looking into this aspect and whatever further action he recommends should be taken will be examined and that action taken as far as possible in consultation and in co-operation with the police and the State Governments and the Railway administrations themselves.

I am afraid I have not got the figure segregating the claims on the Southern Railway from the claims on other Railways. I am not in a position to answer the question but I shall find that out for the hon. Member.

This increase has gone on from month to month. The original estimate was somewhere about Rs. 2,18,29,300. Up to November the claims have risen to Rs. 2,56,72,000. It is expected that with the end of the year the increase will amount to Rs. 64 lakhs. We are doing whatever is possible to keep these claims down.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,42,38,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel'."

The motion was adopted.



DEMAND NO. 17—OPEN LINE WORKS—  
REPLACEMENTS

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,64,13,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Replacements'."

**Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal):** I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that recently the number of thefts at night in the passenger trains in the loop and main lines between Jhajha and Burdwan has considerably increased. There is hardly any train in which the luggage and belongings of passengers are not removed at night. These are not reported in the newspapers but one or two thefts daily take place on these two lines. Does the hon. Minister propose to take any steps to stop these things? I think something ought to be done about this matter.

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I have already said that both the Railway Administration and the Railway Board are quite conscious of the increase in the number of running train thefts. They have tried to tighten up the police security arrangements, but we have also put an officer on special duty to investigate why these things are occurring and in the course of his investigations into the increase in the number of claims he is bound to investigate also why the number of train thefts has also been increasing. In addition to making more perfect what is already in vogue, we shall take such additional steps for reducing the incidence of these thefts as may be found necessary.

**Shri Massey:** On page 4 of the memorandum, in paragraph (e) I find there is mention of "more premature retirements on other Railways than anticipated in the Budget." I want to know the reason for these additional premature retirements.

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** The contributions mentioned in this paragraph have increased because it depends upon the actual number of qualified persons who became entitled to the payment of these contributions. There are more premature retirements on particular Railways on account of particular circumstances and in such cases we have got to pay more. The actual figures have been in excess of what was provided for in the Budget and that explains the excess provision now asked for.

**Shri Massey:** Was there any special reason for these premature retirements and was it more among the officers than among the men?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I may assure the hon. Member that I do not think there has been any particular epidemic of premature retirements. The actual thing is that the numbers are larger than what we anticipated in the Budget.

**Shri Nasiruddin Ahmad (West Bengal):** While on this subject, may I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the prevalence of ticketless travel, particularly in the West Bengal sector of the E.I. and B. N. Railways. While the House is extremely pleased to note the better earnings during the current year, I think that if proper measures are taken and additional staff is maintained, the expenditure will be justified by a further increase in revenue. There has been much ticketless travel, and so far as the collecting and checking staff is concerned, they allow things to go as they please without very much bothering themselves, and it is sometimes found that if they try to do their duty their personal safety is in danger. In these circumstances, the checking staff should be strengthened. The Railways are a national institution and nobody would like ticketless travel to continue still.

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I think the hon. Member should be aware that on several Railways there has been a very determined drive against ticketless travel. Large numbers of persons have been arrested in running trains. They have been placed for trial before itinerant magistrates on the spot and fined. We have reduced the amount of ticketless travel considerably, but I grant the position that there is still a lot of ticketless travel and all that we can promise is that we shall pursue this kind of drive and see that the evil gets reduced further and further.

**Mr. Chairman:** I shall place the Demands separately to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,27,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Administration'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 41,14,000 be granted to the President to defray the

[Mr. Chairman]

charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ordinary Working Expenses—Operating Staff'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,64,13,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Open Line Works—Replacements'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1951-52

**Mr. Chairman:** I would now like to place before the House the other Supplementary Demands with regard to the General Budget. I would like to know whether any hon. Members would like to speak on any one of these demands. I do not think there are any cut motions with regard to any other demand except Demand No. 57 relating to 'Ajmer'. Hon. Members may kindly mention on which of the demands they would like to speak.

**Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal):** I would like to say something on Demand Nos. 3, 34, 79, 103A and 104.

**Mr. Chairman:** Does Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava wish to move his cut motion?

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava (Ajmer):** Without formally moving my cut motion on Demand No. 57 I would like to speak on it.

#### DEMAND No. 3—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

#### DEMAND No. 34—MISCELLANEOUS

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,33,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course

of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

#### DEMAND No. 57—AJMER

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 40,78,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ajmer'."

#### DEMAND No. 79—MANIPUR

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Manipur'."

#### DEMAND No. 103A—TRANSFER OF THE SALE PROCEEDS OF AMERICAN LOAN WHEAT TO THE SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 71,00,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Transfer of the Sale Proceeds of American Loan Wheat to the Special Development Fund'."

#### DEMAND No. 104—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,30,52,000 be granted to the President 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 Development'."

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Demand No. 3 refers to the subject of Commercial Intelligence. From the note I find that it is also meant to cover some expenses for our commercial representatives abroad.

Only yesterday I asked the hon. Minister in charge of Commerce and Industry as to when Government came to know that America was buying more jute goods from continental

markets than from India. The hon. Minister by-passed my question and did not condescend to give a straight reply. He simply gave me an assurance that Government is always vigilant of the interests of the jute industry. Our commercial representatives abroad are expected to safeguard the interest of our trade and commerce with those countries. They are expected to inform the Government of India when there is any diversion of foreign order from India market to some other market. I feel these commercial representatives have miserably failed in this duty for which they are appointed and for which they have been posted outside and for which this House is being asked to vote certain demands. I am giving some figures from a journal published in October 1951

In January, 1951 consumption of burlap in the United States was 70 million yards; in February it was 47 million yards; in September it had come to 37 million yards. In August, 1950 consumption of burlap in U.S.A. had reached the peak figure of 88 million yards while in September of that year it stood at 85 million. So from 88 million yards in August, 1950, consumption in America had come down to 37 million yards in September 1951. The Government Benches may perhaps explain this away by saying that stock-piling in America is going on no longer. But the fact is that American orders were being diverted to some other market and our commercial representatives have not been giving correct information to Government. Perhaps it was during his recent European visit that the Finance Minister came to know of the real situation. I would therefore like to ask what purpose is served by our keeping these commercial representatives if they are not able to supply us information with a view to safeguard the interests of the jute industry, which contributes the largest percentage of our dollar earnings.

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** I do not like to interrupt the hon. Member. I am afraid that in my reply to his observations, I shall perforce have to confine myself to the demand under discussion. I am afraid he is travelling a little further than what was intended. My hon. friend is commenting on the working of the existing services. This supplementary demand arises, as he will see out of the organisations closed. This is a supplementary demand to meet the expenses which we could not foresee, in respect of certain offices which have closed.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Maybe there are some officers still working there, and they are expected to safeguard over interest. The whole thing is about commercial representatives and I only want to draw the attention of the House as to how they have been serving the interests of India and Indian industry.

Then I am reading from another place in the 'Jute and Gunny Review—September 1951':

"There has been a sharp reduction in the consumption of burlap, particularly during the last few months. Starting with April of this year, the consumption of burlap for bags dropped 38 per cent. from last years figure for the same period. July consumption was off by 40 per cent. and August was off by 54 per cent. compared to the same months for last year."

Still it took several months for the Government of India to be advised, either by their representatives or by some other source, that something was wrong with the jute industry and some effective measure was to be taken. Apart from the fact that the jute industry is one of our best national assets and best dollar earners I wish to say—as I come from Bengal and from Calcutta—that the whole future of Calcutta and of Bengal is inextricably mixed up with the future of the jute industry. I have therefore been trying to draw the attention of this House to the conditions prevailing in the jute industry, and it was only when it was almost in a desperate stage that the Government of India has been pleased to take certain action.

Before I come to Demands Nos. 34 and 103A I would like to finish with Demand No. 79 first. Here I find a reference to some increase in the expenditure there due to the change in the incumbency of the Chief Commissioner and the pay of the new Chief Commissioner at higher grades. I have nothing to say about the new Chief Commissioner. But on two previous occasions I drew the attention of the hon. Minister to the past activities and the antecedents of the Chief Commissioner who was there before the new incumbent went there. This officer was posted in another important frontier State and the mischief and havoc...

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** On a point of information, Madam. Is it Demand No. 103A he is talking about?

**Shri A.C. Guha:** No. I am speaking about Demand No. 79. Then I shall come to the others. When the old incumbent, who has now been removed from Manipur, was holding a similar post in another important State he created some mischief and he was doing something which was inimical to the interests of India. When the present incumbent of Manipur State was sent there, within three months he restored normal conditions there and everything was safe there. It was possible only because of the tactful handling of the situation by the new man. But the previous man who was found to have been doing some mischief was again sent to another important place—that is rather more important, being on the border of three countries—and he has created some more mischief there. If the hon. Minister holds some enquiry into the conditions now prevailing in Manipur I am sure he will find that it is due to the mis-handling, I would like to say the deliberate mis-handling of that man, because I have some idea as to how he was behaving in his previous post. I would therefore like the hon. Minister to hold some enquiry, not from private individuals but from the archive of the State where that man was serving two years ago. And let him hold some enquiry from the incumbent of the post of Chief Commissioner who followed him there. Let the hon. Minister ask him about the activities carried on by that man who must have been doing the same thing in this State as he was doing in another State. That the things are not quite all right and that the Communists have been doing some mischief must. I am sure, have been due to the mis-handling of the state of affairs by the past Chief Commissioner of Manipur. So I beg of the Minister to hold some enquiry about the antecedents and activities of that man. I wonder when he was found to have put things in a very bad condition in another State how he was rewarded with a similar post in a far more important State. Is this the way the Government should conduct the affairs of the State?

I would now like to refer to demands Nos. 34, 103A and 104. Practically all these three demands would come under a similar category. Under Demand No. 34 we find that the contribution of New Zealand under the Colombo Plan has been funded here and an expenditure is to be shown—though it is not really an expenditure and it is only from an accounting point of view that it is shown as an expenditure. Similarly Demand No. 103A relates to the sale proceeds of the American Wheat Loan. Here the

proceeds, I think, were Rs. 90 crores and Rs. 19 crores was sanctioned in the last Supplementary Budget and only Rs. 71 crores have been shown here. Then I come to Demand No. 104 relating to 'Capital Outlay on Development'.

I must thank the hon. Minister of Finance that he has been able to sanction some amount for the development projects and particularly for the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Mayurakshi project in West Bengal. I find that Rs. 15 crores has been spent on the different development projects in West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Hyderabad, Madras and Travancore-Cochin and on two minor schemes. This has been possible because of the American Wheat Loan. Demand No. 34 is of the same category where the amount is particularly earmarked for an All-India Medical Research Institute.

I have nothing much to say on these three Demands. I only like to say this. We have now got foreign aid and help but we must be very careful about expenditure. The D.V.C. was practically in a sort of suspense and I was rather alarmed last year about this time that the whole D.V.C. plan might be scrapped. Money was withheld for the Maithon and Panchet dams for some months and due to that one year was lost in the completion of the D.V.C. project. I am not here to defend the errors of omission and commission that might have been done by the present members of the D.V.C. But I would like the Government to exercise strict supervision over the spending of funds and over the entire working of the D.V.C. as well as all other River Valley Schemes. I rather accuse the Central Government that they have not been issuing any directive, which the Act authorises them to do, even though they were of the opinion that the D.V.C. or its members were not behaving quite properly. The Government ought to have exercised the power that the Damodar Valley Corporation Act confers on them but instead of that something like a quarrel between the D.V.C. and the Government resulting in a stalemate was going on for some months. I thank the present Minister in charge of Natural Resources and Scientific Research and the present Finance Minister that they have been able to resolve the stalemate so that the D.V.C. may now be running smoothly and be able to complete its programme as early as possible.

The whole future of West Bengal depends on this and West Bengal deserves some consideration and

truncated form with a big city like Calcutta and an industrial area around it, this small state, particularly with an influx of about 35 to 40 lakhs of refugees from East Bengal, cannot continue its normal activities, unless some development schemes are effected. I am happy that the hon. Finance Minister has been able to grant some money for the D.V.C. and also for the Mayurakshi Project. I am also happy that he has been able to help other States also out of this fund which we have got from foreign resources and I expect that he will exercise strict control and supervision over the working of the River Valley Schemes and the development schemes. Much was heard in this House about Hirakud and it may not be so much, but also to some extent about Bhakra and Nangal Project and every pie that is given to these Governments either as grant or as loan comes from our revenues. Whether it be as a loan or not, it is part of our revenues and the Central Government is responsible to this House for exercising necessary supervision and pruning. I think the Central Government may also set up some sort of inquiry about the expenses so far incurred on the D.V.C. and about the money that has been spent for the Hirakud and other projects. In this House several times some questions were asked about the Hirakud Project and in this case also, I am afraid a sort of quarrel has been going on between different States and between different departments and also between officers employed there belonging to different States. Such a state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. If necessary, the Government should take drastic action and take over the whole management up to its completion and then hand it over to the respective States. No bickerings and particularly jealousies of officials coming from different States employed in these development schemes should be allowed to hamper the progress of the country as a whole. Any development scheme in whatever State it might have been undertaken is a scheme for the development of the entire nation and for the benefit of the Indian people as a whole; and it should be looked upon as such.

Before resuming my seat, I again thank the hon. Finance Minister and the Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research for they have been able to sanction some money for the D.V.C. so that that authority may complete its programme at an early date.

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** Are you taking up this particular Demand only or the Demands as a whole?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** This was a reply to the special points which the hon. Member said he was going to make. I was not aware that other Members wished to speak generally on other demands, and if so, I had better reserve my reply to the end, because I have the right to speak only once.

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Finance Minister can speak as many times as possible in order to reply to the various points. He has also to speak in that case and unless any other Member wants to speak on the same points covered by Mr. Guha, I would prefer him to reply now. But before that we should wait to see whether other Members want to make some points. If no other hon. Member is going to speak, then I think the hon. Finance Minister can reply to him.

**Shri B. Das (Orissa):** The mismanagement of these dams and these River Valley Projects have been agitating most of us for the last 6 or 8 months. These projects were supposed to industrialize India and to grow sufficient food, so that my hon. friend Mr. Munshi or his successor will not import every year five million tons of foodstuff. Coming as I do from the hapless state of Orissa and knowing the miseries of that State in the matter of the financing of the Hirakud Project and its mismanagement, I thank my hon. friends, the Finance Minister and Mr. Sri Prakasa for the appointment of the two Committees to direct the affairs. What was the past mistake of the Government of India? It was that they could not control the engineers. Why were they recruited from West Pakistan and why were they allowed a free hand? Yesterday my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava took the House into confidence and stated that the Bhakra-Nangal Project suffered from the same mismanagement, the same dilly-dallying so that the prophesy of the engineers of what was to be a fruitful project in 1951, will according to him now it may turn out to be successful in 1959. I do not know when the Hirakud Project would be made a successful project and unless the whole management is trained.....

**An Hon. Member:** The Government should change.

**Shri B. Das:** We are changing and we shall do it before April. We will see a better Government and a more efficient Government...

**Shri Kamath:** On the 1st of April...

**Shri B. Das:** 1st of April and thereafter. My hon. friend, Shri Guha was

[Shri B. Das]

saying that the D.V.C. scheme was not functioning properly under the Damodar Valley Corporation authority. Unfortunately at that time when that D.V.C. Act was framed, I did participate in every clause of that Act in the Select Committee and even now I take a comprehensive notice of the D.V.C. Act. The Government of India—I do not mean this House—have no definite knowledge as to how to manage State Corporations. The D.V.C. Act was the idea of a State Trading Corporation and unfortunately some of the advisers of the Government of India read too thoroughly and deeply the Tennessee Valley Act of the U.S.A. and have tried to apply it here forgetting that we do not possess the material or the brains, whether it be inside the Government of India or in the administrative machinery of the Government of India to run such corporations.

I agree with my friend, Mr. Guha that the management of the Damodar Valley Corporation should be controlled but how it can be controlled against the existing Act, I am at a loss to understand; nor have the Government of India yet devised any machinery to amend the D.V.C. Act so that the Government of India can control better the functioning of the Damodar Valley Corporation. It is true that the money spent on that project is to be shared by the Government of India, West Bengal Government and the Bihar Government. But, unfortunately, the full management of the project has gone to West Bengal Government more or less. We may say that the Chairman, Mr. Mozumdar is an officer of the Government of India. But, from whatever experience I had in the Committees of the W.P.S. Ministry or the present Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research, I came to feel that the Government of India and the Damodar Valley Corporation. They deluggerheads. Even the Government of West Bengal always sided with the Damodar valley Corporation. They demanded and claimed money from the Government of India; but they do not desire or require any kind of supervision by the Government of India.

Now that the old Parliament is going to recede into oblivion in a few weeks, I must say that the Government of India, in their foolish ambition, created an organisation called the C.W.I.N.C., the Central Water Power and Electricity Commission or some kind of organisation which my hon. friend Shri Sri Prakasa controls now. That body collected a body of so-called experts in India and wanted to create

projects after projects without possessing the necessary requisite experience or knowledge. Unfortunately, the C.W.I.N.C. is full of Punjabi engineers who were thrown out of service when the Partition occurred. None of them has ever executed projects like the Hirakud or the Damodar Valley Projects. That the brains trust came from the Punjab and not from any other State as a central organisation, is the mistake that has been committed by the Government of India and the Government is groping in the darkness to find a solution. It is a great humiliation to me, as I happen to be an Engineer. What do I find here? The Mysore and Madras Governments have constructed many river dams successfully and they have developed the resources of the Mysore and Madras States to a very great extent. But, the C.W.I.N.C., designed under the approbation and approval of the old W.M.P. Ministry and the present Ministry of Natural Resources is a kind of a showcase which exhibit to the world that we want loans from the World Bank and that we are as brilliant as those who did conceive and execute the Tennessee Valley and other River Valley Projects. What is required is this. The present Government of India should make a statement on the floor of the House as to the conclusion that they have reached based on their past failures and mistakes that have occurred in the Damodar Valley Corporation and the Hirakud Project and also in the Bhakra Nangal Project as was stated by my hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava yesterday, whether the Government of India are thinking of plans by which they can control multi-purpose projects and their development in India, whether they are thinking of plans by which their so-called expert body the C.W.I.N.C. may be a really expert body consisting of the best brains in India and not confined to one class of engineers recruited from the Punjab Service, who unfortunately have no experience in the past, of multipurpose projects or dam construction or industrial projects.

**Mr. Chairman:** Is the hon. Member making his observations with regard to Demand No. 104?

**Shri Kamath:** He is making general observations.

**Shri B. Das:** I was just coordinating my thoughts on this question of mismanagement of multi-purpose projects and schemes such as the Damodar Valley Corporation and Hirakud. I would only be stultifying my existence in this House if I did not say this



[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

after that statement was made by my hon. friend Mr. A. C. Guha about the mismanagement of the Damodar Valley Project and the Hirakud Project. Past is past.

**Mr. Chairman:** I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Member that under Demand No. 104 the hon. Member may kindly note that it is confined to only one project, that is Damodar Valley Corporation.

**Shri B. Das:** I am not going into the details. I am confining my observations to the ability of the Government of India to organise the Damodar Valley Corporation or similar Corporations and Projects and manage them systematically and efficiently.

**Shri Kamath:** Or other sister projects.

**Shri B. Das:** What little I have to say about my domestic sorrows (Hirakud project) I shall reserve for another occasion. But, the point is that it is high time the Government of India clearly understand the position. I may prophesy that the present Cabinet will not remain in April or May.

**Shri Kamath:** Are you an astrologer?

**Shri B. Das:** I am not an astrologer. As the Cabinet will have to change, it is the duty of this Government to take us into their confidence and tell us how they are planning. My hon. friend the Finance Minister is a prominent member of the Planning Commission.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I am no longer a member.

**Shri Kamath:** Honorary.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** But, not paid.

**Shri Kamath:** A member is a member: paid or honorary.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I have never been paid.

**Shri B. Das:** Do not bother about money payment! You do not need it! We want the brains trust to be under the Planning Commission and not hanging under two Ministers just as the Damodar Valley and other projects are doing today. The hon. Ministers of the Government of India should in a repentant mood have an introspection, and tell us that mistakes have been committed. Those mistakes must be rectified. The policy of borrowing American ideas of creating C.W.I.N.C. and other expert bodies, Electricity Commissions and Corporations has led to heavy expenditure and has added to

the public debt of India. I do not know whether I will have to pay for the over-capitalisation of the project in which I am interested. Why should Orissa pay for the mistakes of the C.W.I.N.C., for the mistakes of the consulting Engineer of the Government of India and for the mistakes of the Government of India who are supervising this expenditure? The same remarks apply to the Damodar Valley Corporation. If there was any difference of opinion between the Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Government of India, it is high time...

**Shri A. C. Guha:** There is no difference between the Chief Minister and the Government of India.

**Shri B. Das:** If the Government of India only gave the money demanded without enquiring how the expenditure is carried on, there will be no quarrel between the Government of West Bengal and the Government of India. If the Government of India will exercise those privileges or duties which my hon. friend Mr. Guha wants the Government of India to exercise over the administration of the Damodar Valley Corporation, there will be deadlocks and either the Finance Minister will run to Calcutta or Shri B. C. Roy will run to Delhi.

However, I do not grudge this Supplementary Demand. As a question of policy has been raised, we do demand from the Government of India introspection. Let them give up their method of constituting the C.W.I.N.C. or the Damodar Valley Corporation etc., and their method of consulting Italian firms and American firms, and excluding eminent South Indian Engineers from their administration as the proper method that we should adopt in the development of multi-purpose projects in India and in the progress of industrial development in India. If that is not done, I would rather wipe off Rs. 100 crores that we have invested in this project. Let it be a loss. After all we have got about Rs. 1,200 crores of non-productive debt and let this one hundred crores of rupees also be added to that sum of unproductive debt. If the Government is inefficient and if the experts of the Government are inefficient what else can be done? If they want only to show something to Mr. Black or somebody else and if we only want to show that India has attained perfection in the matter of industrial development and in the matter of these multi-purpose projects, we will be committing a great mistake. We should at least take care not to repeat those mistakes.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I find that the two hon. Members who just preceded me have made themselves unhappy unnecessarily.

**Shri B. Das:** I am very unhappy.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I realise that their object is to strengthen the hands of the Finance Ministry in exercising control over the disbursement of such large sums of money.

**Shri Kamath:** Their object is to make the country happy.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** And then, as a consequence, make the country happy by the proper utilisation of funds of these dimensions. There is no quarrel with regard to these objects. But I think in their own introspection they have taken a far more pessimistic view than is warranted now by the present developments. It hardly serves any useful purpose, I think, to go into the errors of the past, because I am in a position to assure the House that we are taking measures, and we have taken measures, to correct matters wherever correction was necessary. As you pointed out, Madam, the actual Supplementary Demand is in respect of the D.V.C. but incidentally the progress on the other two works has been mentioned. I shall have an opportunity of dealing with the Bhakra-Nangal project when I reply to the observations made in regard to the Punjab Budget and therefore, I will not refer to that project here. In regard to the Hirakud Project—I am anxious to get that out of the way before I come to the D.V.C.—the position is that we have now, as a result of the complaints that reached our ears, appointed two Committees and the hon. Member has expressed his satisfaction at the appointment of these two Committees. We have not yet in hand the findings of these two Committees and I think, till then, we ought to hold our fire. There was one statement which the hon. Member made and that was that if there had been these mistakes, why should Orissa pay for them? Well, on that basis, I think it will be up to the Central Government to consider whether any loans should be advanced or not, for the execution of the works because no governmental agency is infallible.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** It is repudiation of loans.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Taking a very balanced view of these things, I think what happened was that after getting our independence we were very anxious to make up the leeway that we had lost during centuries of

foreign domination. And I think that was a natural desire. Therefore we took up these plans some of which had been drawn up even before independence was achieved. We did not want to lose time. We did not want to be entangled in red-tape. But the difficulty is that sometimes it happens that red-tape is a device for self-defence which has been evolved as a result of experience.

**Shri Kamath:** I believe it is now white-tape.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** It may be that if we had too much of red-tape the country might be red very soon.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar):** But that cannot be prevented.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** And therefore, I think one has to steer a middle course in these matters. Well, in regard to these River Valley Schemes I think the trouble was that proper project estimates supported by detailed estimates were not always ready when the work was started.

**Shri B. Das:** It was never ready in the case of the Hirakud Project at any time.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I was going to say that this is a matter which we are investigating now to see if money could have been saved had there been detailed estimates in regard to each section of the work. In regard to some of the works there might have been detailed estimates ready, but in respect of others they were not ready. Anyway I am anticipating the findings of the Committees. Anyway, whatever might have happened in the past I am quite confident that we should be able to exercise increasingly effective control over the execution of these river-valley works. But I must make it clear again that the Central Government is an agency for carrying out these works and it cannot take the financial responsibility for any mistakes because we have offered.....

**Shri B. Das:** But for the mistakes of your officers you are responsible and not we in Orissa.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I say I am not prepared to accept that responsibility. We shall have to consider whether we should carry on the work as an agency. We have undertaken this agency on behalf of the Government of Orissa. We have offered it to the Government of Orissa and allowed them to carry on the work if they so desired. Last time I discussed this matter with the Chief Minister,

Orissa and he dropped the suggestion like a hot brick. He said, "you should realise that we have not got the technical personnel, nor the necessary experience and it would be quite impossible for a State like Orissa to undertake this work" and I think he is right. Therefore, there are suggestions in the offing that some kind of a board of control should be established where the Government of Orissa would be able to take stock of its own responsibility sometimes. As a matter of fact, there has been some kind of a board of control on which the Chief Minister Orissa has a seat. But somehow it has happened that many aspects of the work have been excluded from the purview of that particular board. That is a situation.....

**Shri B. K. Das (West Bengal):** Is it an advisory board or a board of control?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** It is a board of control, but the scope of its functions had not been very carefully defined. I am quite certain that this state of affairs is capable of being corrected, should that be the finding of these two Committees or should the report of the two Committees lead to that conclusion, and I would like to repeat that I have every confidence that we shall be able to secure due economy in the execution of the Hirakud Project and that in the end we will find that the poor State of Orissa will not be called upon to foot a very large bill for anybody's mistakes.

**Shri B. Das:** But first get rid of your old officers and get new experts.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I take note of that remark of the hon. Member. It is one aspect of the generalisation that one should not depend too much on experts. That is why the administrators are here.

That leaves the question of the D.V.C. to be dealt with. Here again, I think the hon. Member has been somewhat unfair to the organisation, that is to say, the D.V.C. Board which is responsible for the execution of the work. I think what happened was that in the beginning they somewhat over-estimated the importance of the autonomy which had been given to them by that Act which was passed by this legislature itself and there was a certain amount of tug-of-war purely on an ideological basis with somewhat unfortunate consequences in regard to the execution of the work. That is the history of the past and it all occurred about twenty months or nearly two years ago. When I first came here I was as a matter of fact, asked by the Prime

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Minister to look into the matter and by dint of exertion and the assistance of the Ministries concerned and also by means of the Advisory Committee which meets once a quarter and even oftener—and that is a new instrument for control—we have been able to secure a great deal of concord and harmony and during the last six or eight months my experience in regard to the execution of the D.V.C. works has been entirely happy. There was a certain amount of delay as a result, again, of misinterpretation or at least the tendency to mis-interpret the Act by the West Bengal Government concerned as to who is responsible for the repayment of the debt which they take before they pass it on to the D.V.C. I am happy to state that that problem has been settled. Also as to the rates at which irrigation water will be purchased from the West Bengal Government by the D.V.C. there is a certain amount of misunderstanding. We have now a project report which, I think, has been examined or is in the course of being examined by a technical Committee of experts and once we know what the economic implications of the scheme are, then it would be easy for us to proceed with the work without a hitch and I believe that that stage will be arriving very soon. Meanwhile those works which have to be pushed on are being pushed through and the hon. Member has noticed that it has been possible for me to make additional funds available at the request of the D.V.C. I should not like this impression to be left on the minds of the House as well as the public that things are very seriously wrong with the River Valley Projects. He is really no Finance Minister worth his salt if he does not realise that the sums are so big that unless he is vigilant day and night an awful lot of money could be wasted. What I am trying to say is that we are taking measures to ensure that such waste does not occur. That is as much as is wise to say on this occasion with regard to the River Valley Projects.

There was another issue raised by my hon. friend Mr. Guha. It was in regard to the export duty on jute. When these duties were imposed I gave an undertaking that I shall watch the situation very carefully from time to time in order to see whether the opportune moment had come for making any modification. But this is not an arithmetic or mathematical problem. One has to weigh possible trends against present information. It is quite possible that there might be an honest dif-

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

ference of opinion between the view taken by hon. Members and the Finance Minister and his officials. But every time I take a step in the right direction I never get any appreciation. We are only told that it should have been taken some months ago.

The request that the export duty be reduced was made to me, I think, in September or October. It was in the air and since there was an anticipation and since it is the business of the market to anticipate, if people have to live at all and make money, every body held off. That is not necessarily an indication of the heavy incidence of the duty. At that time the problem was which of the four parties concerned should make up the loss. Should it be the middleman in America or should it be the Government of India, or should it be the manufacturer or the grower of jute? After decontrol the price of raw jute rose up to over Rs. 100 from 35 and certainly there was reluctance to buy on the part of the American customer. That does not amount to an argument that the export duty is too high. It might have amounted to an argument that the price of raw jute was high. Therefore the Finance Minister had to consider what were the prospects of the prices of raw jute stabilising and if the Finance Minister waited in order to see what the trend of raw jute prices was I do not think it could be considered that he made a mistake in not taking off the duty in September. Therefore it is of no avail to say that Government lost a lot of valuable time. As a matter of fact Government have gained a lot of valuable cash during that period, a matter that will be clear to hon. Members when I present the annual statement a few days hence. It may be that somebody might say that fifteen days or a month ago such an action should have been taken. I say that this is all a matter of drawing an inference from certain facts. Anyway as soon as the Government came to the conclusion that there was no further possibility of raw jute prices going down and that the incidence of the duty was so high as to imply possible damage to one of our most important industries, we lost not a day. We took the decision and within three hours it was promulgated, every thing done in one day. I am stating this only to prove that we have given the matter very careful consideration and do not deserve all the disapprobation that the hon. Member has heaped on Government in regard to this matter.

These are the only two points he raised. Otherwise he was more than usually benevolent and I think naturally he is sorry that it has not been possible for me to advance loans for various development projects.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** On a point of personal explanation, with regard to Demand No. 79 what I said was materially and substantially correct. My complaint was not about the present incumbent but about the old incumbent. There was some slight mistake in that. The new incumbent is not the same gentleman who relieved him in his previous appointment in Cooch-Behar. That gentleman is now in Tripura. That was only a confusion about the present incumbent. All that I have said was about the activities of the past incumbent. My allegations are materially correct. Only about the identity of the present incumbent I was rather inaccurate.

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):** I would like to say a word about what has fallen from my hon. friend Mr. Guha. I am glad that he has corrected the mistake and I have only to say this with regard to the particular officer against whom he made those complaints. My own personal recollection of him is that he was a very efficient revenue officer and I took him out of the United Provinces, as the State was then called, to serve as a Revenue Minister in Kashmir State, when I happened to be Prime Minister there. I found his work particularly efficient and whether he has deteriorated subsequently to deserve all that my hon. friend has said is more than I can say at present. All the same that particular officer is no longer in our service. He was Chief Commissioner of Manipur for some time and he was replaced by another officer some ten or eleven months ago and I do not believe that he is in any Government employment at present. There is no purpose served therefore in attempting to probe into what he might or might not have done. I for one would say that my own reaction to that particular gentleman was that he was both efficient and otherwise satisfactory.

**Mr. Chairman:** I should like to know whether the Minister for Commerce and Industry would wish to reply to the points raised on Demand No. 3.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think, Madam, what had to say was covered by what the Finance Minister said, (*Interruption*).

**Mr. Chairman:** Demand No. 57 will be kept over for consideration. I will now put the other five Demands to the House.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,33,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 60,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Manipur'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 71,00,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Transfer of the Sale Proceeds of American Loan Wheat to the Special Development Fund'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,30,52,000 be granted to the President 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 Development'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** As regards the other Demands I want to know from hon. Members whether any hon. Member  
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wants to speak on any particular Demand.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Madam, I have already indicated that I want to speak on No. 57.

**Shri S. N. Das (Bihar):** I would like to submit something on Demand No. 87.

**Shri Kamath:** I would like to speak on Demands Nos. 18, 87 and 45.

**Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh):** I would like to speak on Demand No. 96.

**Mr. Chairman:** With the consent of the House may I put all the other Demands, except these five, to the vote of the House?

**Shri Kamath:** Why not these be discussed first?

**Mr. Chairman:** That is why I asked the hon. Members whether they wished to discuss any other Demands except these five now mentioned. So, I will put these other Demands to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, in respect of Demands Nos. 1, 7, 10, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 36, 42, 43, 46, 60, 64, 74, 78, 80, 81, 84, 88, 91, 91A, 98, 101 and 103, be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of the corresponding heads of demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Chairman the motions for Demands for Supplementary Grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below—  
Ed. of P. P.]

#### DEMAND NO. 1—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,25,000 be granted to the President 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 Commerce and Industry'."

**DEMAND NO. 7—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,32,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

**DEMAND NO. 10—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE-ARMY**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 10,85,02,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective-Army'."

**DEMAND NO. 19—TRIBAL AREAS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,42,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Tribal Areas'."

**DEMAND NO. 20—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,23,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'External Affairs'."

**DEMAND NO. 22—CUSTOMS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,37,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Customs'."

**DEMAND NO. 23—UNION EXCISE DUTIES**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,03,14,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Union Excise Duties'."

**DEMAND NO. 26—STAMPS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,06,000 be granted

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

**DEMAND NO. 27—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,27,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

**DEMAND NO. 29—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 58,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

**DEMAND NO. 30—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

**DEMAND NO. 31—CURRENCY**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,38,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Currency'."

**DEMAND NO. 33—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 27,50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

**DEMAND NO. 35—GRANTS-IN-AID TO STATES**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Grants-in-aid to States'."

**DEMAND NO. 36—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Union and State Governments'."

**DEMAND NO. 42—SURVEY OF INDIA**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,24,000 be granted to the President 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**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,000 be granted to the President 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. 46—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President 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. 60—BROADCASTING**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,22,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

**DEMAND NO. 64—MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 48,000 be granted

to the President 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 Natural Resources and Scientific Research'."

**DEMAND NO. 74—KUTCH**

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

**DEMAND NO. 78—VINDHYA PRADESH**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,46,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Vindhya Pradesh'."

**DEMAND NO. 80—TRIPURA**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,06,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Tripura'."

**DEMAND NO. 81—RELATIONS WITH STATES**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,11,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Relations with States'."

**DEMAND NO. 84—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

**DEMAND NO. 88—SUPPLIES**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 32,43,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Supplies'."

**DEMAND No. 91—STATIONERY AND PRINTING**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 88,00,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

**DEMAND No. 91A—STAMP CANCELLING AND PRINTING INKS, MANUFACTURING FACTORY**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,90,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Stamp Celling and Printing Inks, Manufacturing Factory'."

**DEMAND No. 98—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President 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 Industrial Development'."

**DEMAND No. 101—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 59,51,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

**DEMAND No. 103—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF GOVERNMENT TRADING**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President 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 Schemes of Government Trading'."

**DEMAND No. 18—MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,02,000 be granted to the President 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 External Affairs'."

**DEMAND No. 45—AGRICULTURE**

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 54,77,000 be granted to the President 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. 87—MINISTRY OF WORKS, PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY**

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the President 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 Works, Production and Supply'."

**DEMAND No. 96—DEFENCE CAPITAL OUTLAY.**

**Mr. Chairman:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,18,15,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Capital Outlay'."

Demands Nos. 18, 45, 57, 87 and 96 are now open for discussion.

श्री एस० ऐन्० दास : यह जो एक छोटी सी रकम एक हजार की पूरक मांग की संजूरी के लिये है . . . . .

[**Shri S. N. Das:** As regards the supplementary Demand for a small sum of one thousand rupees.....]

**Mr. Chairman:** We may take No. 57 first. Pandit M. B. Bhargava.

**Shri Kamath:** Are we going in the order of the Demands or of the cut motions?

**Mr. Chairman:** By the order of cut motions.

**DEMAND No. 57—AJMER**

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** I wish to speak a few words without formally



moving the cut motion. This Demand, not exceeding Rs. 40 lakhs and 78 thousands includes items in respect of famine test works that are in progress in Ajmer as also in respect of augmenting the police staff there. I wish to point out that the Government of India has not so far been able to realise the gravity of the situation that exists today in the State of Ajmer. The famine conditions there are far more menacing than has been realised so far. The last famine that we had in the State of Ajmer was in the year 1939 but the present famine compared to the last one is far more terrible. We have had no rains in most parts of the State during the last four successive monsoons and the whole State, and particularly in the portion covered by Beawar *tehsil* and Kekri *tehsil* the conditions are very bad indeed. Notwithstanding repeated pleadings made to the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture, it is indeed regrettable that nothing worth the name has been done towards relieving the famine-stricken population there. In the 1939 famine, which I submit was far less serious than the present one, there were about forty famine relief works in progress in the State and the number of labourers working in those famine relief works was over two lakhs. What is the condition today? There are about ten famine test works in progress and the number of labourers working at those works is only about 40,000. In the last famine of 1939 the number of labourers working in those relief works was over two lakhs and the number of relief works was forty or so. Notwithstanding repeated demands made from non-official quarters it is regrettable that the number of famine test works has not been increased. What is the present condition there? The labourers at these famine test works have to come from a distance of over ten miles. The hours of work are from 3 A.M. to 6 P.M. It is impossible to imagine how a labourer can reach his house in time after having worked at these test works when his house is situated at a distance of ten or twelve miles. The way in which the officials behave is indeed regrettable. If the labourers after travelling ten or twelve miles reach the test works a few minutes late the next morning the officials are so unsympathetic that they mark them absent.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab):** So a person has to travel practically twenty miles to and fro and has to work for eight hours?

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Yes.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** And what is he paid?

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Nine annas and six pies and very recently it has been, I am told, increased to ten annas and six pies. There is in this connection a very important fact to be noted. Under the Famine Code which was framed a century ago, there are certain facilities that are to be given to the dependents of the labourers. The Government of India has not so far been able to come to a decision as to whether they will formally declare a famine or not. In official language they call it an area where scarcity conditions exist, and this is done to exonerate themselves from the liabilities and responsibilities that must be discharged under the Famine Code. Very recently, we made representation after representation and the Chief Commissioner with the approval of the Government of India was pleased to introduce the dependents' allowance and children below the age of twelve were allowed to draw an allowance. But very recently because the Government of India took a very charitable view and the wages were increased from nine annas and six pies to ten annas and six pies, but simultaneously they stopped this maternity and dependents' allowance. The Chief Commissioner had appointed a non-official Committee to assist him and he is the Famine Commissioner also. The non-official Committee unanimously protested against the stoppage of this dependents' allowance. The labourers at these test works also represented that if the increase of wages from nine annas and six pies to ten annas and six pies is in lieu of the stoppage of the dependents' allowance, they do not want the increase.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : डिपेंडेंट्स

जलाउन्त कितना मिलता था ?

[**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** How much dependents' allowance was paid?]

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** I do not remember the exact amount, but it was about two annas and six pies per child. Notwithstanding the protests, the Government has gone ahead with the result that on account of the total stoppage of the maternity and dependents' allowance the labourers have been very heavily hit.

Then the other point is that the wages are not paid in time. On numerous occasions, there have been

[Pandit M. B. Bhargava]

complaints not only in one famine test works but almost in all the famine test works that the wages have fallen into arrears for five weeks. The hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture could not find any time to pay a visit to this unfortunate State despite my repeated requests, but the hon. Minister of Home Affairs was good enough to pay a visit and it was personally represented to him that even the meagre wages are not being paid to the labourers in time. He assured the labourers on the spot that in future the wages would be paid regularly every week. Notwithstanding his assurance, the conditions are not better even today. During the elections a week before the polling day, at one of the famine test works, namely, Kotra in Jawada tehsil, the workers raised a hue and cry that their wages had been in arrears for about five weeks and the Tehsildar who was in-charge of that works resorted to firing. And this happened just on the eve of the elections. Naturally, the conditions are so serious that the Communists are trying to take advantage of the situation. My submission therefore is that Government should not be so unsympathetic and apathetic towards these suffering people. The number of famine test works must be increased, so that work may be available to the labourers within a radius of about two to three or even four miles. To expect a labourer, especially a woman labourer, to travel a distance of ten or twelve miles and then attend to the work at the risk of being marked absent in case he or she happens to be late by a few minutes, is, I submit, inhuman. Government should take positive steps to see that payment is made in time. You cannot expect labourers in a poverty-stricken condition to keep their body and soul together in the expectation of the wages. Under the Famine Code the wages are to be paid daily; if that is not possible, at least they should be paid weekly and there must be some authority to see that they do not fall into arrears.

Then I wish to submit that the wages of ten annas and six pies are very low under the existing conditions. In Hissar district I understand the wages are fifteen annas per day. I presume the rate of grain in Punjab is lower than in Ajmer and the present rate of ten annas and six pies for men workers; nine annas and six pies for women workers and seven annas and six pies for boys and girls over the age of twelve is very low and it should be raised to at least

Rupee one. That is the minimum that could be expected. In most of the families the number of children is three or four. Do you expect people who work from morn till night for a wage of ten annas on which they have to feed their children as well to keep their body and soul together? It is the intention of the Famine Code that these rates must be revised and the rate of allowance should be proportionately increased. Some allowance must be paid to children below the age of twelve as also people who cannot work. Also, women after child birth should be given an allowance for at least a month. This is permissible under the Famine Code and there is no reason why it should be stopped.

**Mr. Chairman:** Has it been totally stopped?

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** It has been stopped; they are not entitled to it.

Again the nature of the work that is being carried on does not help in any way for the permanent improvement of the State. What is the work that is being entrusted to these labourers. It is only stone-breaking. Roads cannot be constructed, because there is no water. So the only work that these labourers are expected to do is to break stones and to spread them by the side of the roads which may be made when the rains come. There has been repeated public demands from all non-official quarters that the primary duty of the Government should be to improve the irrigational works, like tanks etc. There are a large number of tanks in Marwar which are lying in a very dilapidated condition. They stand in need of immediate repairs. From a practical point of view also it is essential that Government should devote its money towards the improvement of the irrigational works, so that there may not be a repetition of famine. But notwithstanding repeated demands, it is regrettable that nothing is being done for the upkeep of the tanks which already exist or for the sinking of new tanks. There are a number of *bahalas* or small pools in our part of the country. The water in them can easily be conserved by the construction of *bunds*. A number of schemes have been forwarded to Government but nothing material has come out of them. I suggest that instead of wasting money for breaking stones, it would be better if some big scheme for the improvement of water facilities is taken in hand.

My submission, therefore, is that conditions are very bad and the

gravity of the situation is very serious. The hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture should not be indifferent to it. So far he has not only been indifferent, but—I may be excused for using a strong word—cruel, to the people.

There is another very important point which has been pressed by me on a number of occasions in my correspondence with the hon. Minister. There has been a repetition of famine conditions during the last four years, with the result that the purchasing power of the villagers has considerably fallen. Therefore, unless and until Government start a number of cheap grain shops in the interior and the rural areas, starvation deaths will be inevitable. So far nothing has been done. It is a great anomaly that while in Ajmer city which has fortunately been declared an industrial area wheat is being sold at Rs. 14 and odd, in the rural areas a grain like *bajra* or *juar* cannot be had for anything less than Rs. 25 a maund. Still no action has been taken by the Chief Commissioner or the Government of India to start cheap grain shops in the rural areas. I would impress upon the Government the desirability of opening subsidised grain shops in the interior so that they may escape starvation deaths. This will also relax the pressure on the famine test works.

My submission is that the gravity of the situation must be realised and something material should be done forthwith to give relief to the people.

Another important subject to which I wish to refer is the law and order situation in the State of Ajmer. The number of dacoities and burglaries have increased appreciably in recent months. There are not less than 74 *istimrardars* estates in Ajmer and the *zamindars* have got certain duties cast upon them by the terms of the *sanad* that was granted to them by the British Government in the year 1874. He is responsible for the prevention of crime within his estate and to afford all assistance in the maintenance of law and order. Recently, which is a novel feature, in Ajmer, there have been repeated dacoities in three places, Karot, Basta and Jalia. There have been day-light dacoities at about 4 or 5 P.M. A number of armed dacoits came and committed dacoity in that area. This was about a month or a couple of months before, and thereafter the situation has gone worse. In Beawar town a Police Sub-Inspector was shot dead in the night at about 10

P.M. He was the person who was after the dacoits. Similarly in the heart of our town there has been a very serious theft only a few days back. In the very heart of the town in one of the houses about twenty locks were broken and property worth over a lakh of rupees was stolen. This house is situated in the most crowded part of the city. And no trace of the thieves could be found. My submission therefore is that though a certain item has been included under this demand to increase the police staff there, some serious view must be taken of these happenings that have taken place, that is dacoities in the *istimrari* estates which had never taken place during the British period, and something positive must be done to improve the law and order situation there. This is all that I have to submit.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Kamath.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभानेजी जी,  
मैं बोलने के लिये खड़ा हुआ था ।

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Madam, I wanted to speak.]

Mr. Chairman: If three people want to speak at the same time I can allow only one.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs (Shri Sidhva): May I know, Madam, whether the reply is to be given after all the points have been made or on Demand No. 57 now?

Mr. Chairman: I am trying to find out whether any hon. Member wants to speak on this particular Demand.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I propose to speak on Ajmer.

Mr. Chairman: Let us finish 'Ajmer'. What does Babu Ramnarayan Singh want to say?

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : मैं अजमेर के सम्बन्ध में बोलूंगा ।

[Babu Ramnarayan Singh: I will speak on Ajmer.]

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : सभानेजी जी, मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि अजमेर की कहानी जो अभी श्री मुकट बिहारी लाल ने बयान की है और मुझे भी थोड़ा सा अजमेर के मुताल्लिक जाती इल्म भी है, मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ

[ पंडित ठाकुर दास भागवत ]

कि यह कहानी दिल हिला देने वाली है। मैं ऐसे इलाके से आता हूँ जहाँ पर कभी कभी कहत पड़ता है और मुझे अपने जिले के कहत के जमाने का थोड़ा बहुत तजुर्बा भी है और मैं अजमेर की हालत से भी वाकिफ़ हूँ। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मिनिस्टर साहब, जो कुछ पंडित मुकट बिहारी लाल ने फरमाया है, उस पर जरा ठंडे दिल से गौर करें, तो उन्हें मालूम होगा कि यह कहानी इतनी दर्दनाक है कि जिस से पत्थर का दिल भी पिघल जाना चाहिये। आप मुलाहिजा फरमाइये कि एक शल्श दस, बारह मील रोज सुबह अपने घर से चल कर टेस्ट वर्क (test work) पर जाता है जहाँ आठ बजे काम शुरू हो जाता है और वक्त पर पहुंचने के लिये उस को चार बजे सुबह घर से ऐसे जाड़े के मौसम में चलना पड़ता है और अगर बिलफर्ज चन्द मिनट की उस को देरी हो जाये तो उस दिन की उसकी गैर हाजिरी लगा दी जाती है और उस रोज की उस की तनख़ाह जम्त हो जाती है। आप ख्याल फरमायें कि जब वह मजदूर आठ घंटे मेहनत करने के बाद शाम को छः बजे टेस्ट वर्क से वापिस चलता होगा तो कहीं घर रात को दस बजे पहुंचता होगा। भला बतलाइये उस के पास खाना बनाने के लिये कौन सा वक्त रहता होगा और कैसे वह अपने बालबच्चों की निगहबानी कर पाता होगा? अगले दिन वह फिर घर से सुबह चार बजे निकल पड़ता है, आठ, दस मील पैदल चलता है, और आठ घंटे काम करने के बाद फिर रात को दस बजे घर में घुसता है, यह उस की जिन्दगी है। इस पर भी अगर एक आदमी को रोज बीस, चौबीस मील पैदल चल कर सुबह अपने काम पर जाना पड़े और उस को अगर कुछ मिनट की

देर हो जाये, तो उस रोज की उस की गैर हाजिरी लगा दी जाती है। अगर मुझे इस का तजुर्बा न होता तो शायद मैं इस चीज का यकीन भी नहीं करता, खुद मेरे अपने जिले में लोगों को यह मुसीबत थी। लेकिन उस वक्त पुरानी गवर्नमेन्ट थी और हम इस को समझ सकते थे कि पुरानी गवर्नमेन्ट का दिल पत्थर का बना हुआ था और इस लिये वह ऐसा करती थी। और हम उस के इस रवैये की शिकायत भी करते थे। लेकिन अब तो खुद हमारे पापुलर मिनिस्टर साहबान ट्रेजरी बेंचेज (Treasury Benches) को जीनत दे रहे हैं, वह कैसे इस दर्दनाक कहानी को सुने जा रहे हैं।

अपने जिले की बाबत में आप को बतलाऊं कि मेरे वहाँ जब दो आने के करीब मजदूरी मिलती थी, तो मैं ने फाइनेंशियल कमिश्नर (Financial Commissioner) जब वहाँ तशरीफ लाये तो उन की खिदमत में अर्ज किया कि आप मेहरबानी कर के दो पैसे मजदूरी बढ़ा दें उन औरतों की जो कि बच्चों की मां हों, या जो जच्चा हो। लेकिन मुझे अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि फाइनेंशियल कमिश्नर और कमिश्नर साहब ने वह दो पैसा उन की मजदूरी बढ़ाना मंजूर नहीं किया और मुझे वह वाकया हमेशा याद रहता है कि मैं दो पैसा उन की मजदूरी में नहीं बढ़वा सका। और जहाँ उन की मजदूरी साढ़े नौ आने से साढ़े दस आने बढ़ाई भी गई, वहाँ मैटरनिटी अलाउंस (Maternity Allowance) और डिपेंडेंस अलाउंस (Dependence Allowance) बन्द कर दिया गया। अब मुझे यह चीज

सुनाई गयी तो मुझे बहुत अफसोस हुआ और मेरा सिर शर्म से झुक गया और मैं आप की खिदमत में अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे मुकट बिहारी लाल की ने जो बातें हमें बताई, अगर उन में से आधी भी सच है . . . . .

श्री कामत : पूरी सच है ।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : सच है, तो यह निहायत शर्मनाक बात है कि हम इस को बर्दाश्त करें । आज हो यह रहा है कि जो लोग बड़े अफसरान हैं, उन के दिल पत्थर के हो जाते हैं और अफसर बन जाने के बाद वह इन्सान की तरह काम भी नहीं करते । मैं यकीन नहीं कर सकता कि कोई मजदूरों की तनस्वाह साढ़े नौ आने से साढ़े दस आने बढ़ाये और उस की एवज में मीटरनिटी प्राफिट और डिपेन्डेस अलाउंस को काट ले । अब वह जमाना नहीं रहा है, और इस तरह की चीज आज की बदली हुई हालत में करना मुमकिन नहीं है । मैं बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि आज कोई इन मजालिम को बर्दाश्त करने को तैयार नहीं होगा । आप भले ही अपने सारे प्रोजेक्ट्स (Projects) बन्द कर दीजिये और देश की तरक्की की बूसरी स्कीमें बन्द कर दीजिये, लेकिन भगवान के वास्ते इस कहत के जमाने में भूल से तड़पते हुए, और मरते हुए बच्चों की बचाइये, यह बच्चे देश की दीलत हैं, देश को इन पर नाज है, और इन बच्चों के ऊपर देश का आगे का इन्हिसार है । उन का मीटरनिटी अलाउंस और डिपेन्डेन्स अलाउंस बन्द कर देना किसी तरह भी जायज नहीं है । इस के अलावा आज के जमाने में मंहगाई इतनी बढ़ गई है कि जब छे पैसे में नौ आदमी गुबारा कर लेते थे, आज साढ़े दस आदमी में

नी बड़ी मुश्किल से गुजारा कर सकता है । मैं अर्ज करता हूँ कि जो कुछ मैं ने और मुकट बिहारी लाल जी ने बताया है, वह कोई कहानी नहीं है, बल्कि वह लफ्ज ब लफ्ज सही है और सच है । आज मजदूरों की ऐसी शर्मनाक हालत है ।

Mr. Chairman: What was the actual amount saved thereby?

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: That, the hon. Minister will be in a better position to say.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : यह मैं अर्ज नहीं कर सकता । लेकिन मैं हिसाब से अर्ज किये देता हूँ । फर्ज कीजिये कि उन्होंने ने इस तरह से लाख दो लाख रुपया बचा भी लिया, लेकिन क्या हमें मालूम नहीं है कि किस कदर वेस्ट (waste) गवर्नमेन्ट आफ इंडिया में होता है और क्या हम सब लोग नहीं जानते कि सरकारी कामों में और स्कीमों में किस कदर देश का रुपया जाया और खर्च होता है ? अगर जैसा कि मेरे दोस्त मिस्टर बी० दास ने अर्ज किया कि अनप्रोडक्टिव डैट (unproductive debt) जो बारह करोड़ का है उस में से अगर कुछ रकम कहत के बक्ष निकाली जाय, तो मैं यह बतला देना चाहता हूँ कि कोई भी रकम जो गवर्नमेन्ट आफ इण्डिया कहत के सिलसिले में खर्च करे, उस रकम को यह हाउस बखुशी मंजूर करेगा ।

जो भी बातें अभी बतलाई गई हैं वह सब की सब तकलीफ देने वाली हैं और परसों मैं ने अपने जिले हिसार की बाबत भी हाउस को बतलाया था कि वहां पर क्या हालत है । वहां पन्द्रह आने उन की रोखाना की मजदुरी है, लेकिन उन की कहानी यह है कि पांच पांच हफ्तों तक उन को तनस्वाह नहीं मिलती रही है ।

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब]

मेरे जिले हिसार के अन्दर एक महीने तक कोई भी तनख्वाह लोगों को नहीं मिली क्योंकि सब-ओवरसियर को फुरसत नहीं मिली कि वह आ कर यह जांच पड़ताल करता कि कितना काम हो गया है। सड़कों पर काम करने वालों की यह शिकायत है कि उन्हें वक्त पर मजदूरी नहीं मिलती। अब आप समझ सकते हैं कि मजदूरों को जिन्हें साढ़े नौ आने या साढ़े दस आने मजदूरी मिलती है, अगर उन को वक्त पर उन की मजदूरी न मिले, तो उन्हें कितनी परेशानी उठानी पड़ती होगी? और मेरे ख्याल से जब यह शिकायत गवर्नमेन्ट आफ इंडिया के पास आती है, और वह शिकायत चन्द दिनों के भीतर दूर नहीं होती, तो मैं नहीं समझता कि इस हाउस का क्या फायदा है?

पंडित एम० बी० भागंब : आनरेबुल होम मिनिस्टर साहब ने इस शिकायत को खुद सुना है। वह वहां गये थे, जबा उन्हें यह बतलाया गया।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : मैं समझत हूँ कि जिन लोगों ने इस शिकायत को पैदा होने का मौका दिया, उन को सैक (sack) किया जाना चाहिये। आज आजादी के जमाने में कोई आदमी यह सुन नहीं सकता कि मजदूरों के साथ इस तरह का सलूक किया जाय। हम भले ही कांग्रेस के अन्दर और देश के अन्दर इस बात का डिबोरा पीटते रहें कि अब हिन्दुस्तान में प्रजातन्त्र है और अबाम की हुकूमत है, लेकिन जब तक मजदूरों के संग यह सलूक किया जाता है और उन को वक्त पर तनख्वाह नहीं मिलती और पेट भर खाना नहीं मिलता, तब तक

हमारा ऐसा डिबोरा पीटना फिज़ूल है और बेमानी है।

एक और जो शिकायत की गई है वह एक माकूल शिकायत है कि उन से सिर्फ पत्थर तुड़वाये जाते हैं और उन को किसी और दूसरे काम पर नहीं लगाया जाता है। क्या गवर्नमेन्ट आफ इंडिया के पास कोई प्रोडक्टिव (Productive) काम नहीं है जिन पर इन को लगाया जाय, मसलन् उन्हें बांध बंधवाने के काम पर लायें और अजमेर में जो भाले हैं उन की मरम्मत पर लगाया जाय या चैनल्स (Channels) खुदवाये जायें। मेरे जिले हिसार में अब मुझे यह जान कर खुशी हुई कि उन को ऐसी सड़कें जो जरूरी हैं उन के बनाने पर लगाया जा रहा है या चैनल्स खोदने के काम पर लगाया जा रहा है। उन को और दूसरे प्रोडक्शन के कामों पर लगाया जा सकता है। यह जो पुराना फ़ैमिन कोड (Famine Code) है यह पुराना कोड है और यह खत्म होने के काबिल है। यह मौजूदा फ़ैमिन कोड हिन्दुस्तान की स्टेट पर एक काला धब्बा है, इस को हमें खत्म कर देना चाहिये। अगर यही फ़ैमिन कोड रहता है जिस को अंग्रेजों ने कहत के लिये बनाया था तो फिर यही होना है कि आदमी आहिस्ता आहिस्ता तड़प तड़प कर मरेंगे।

मैं ने कल भी अर्ज किया था कि मैं नहीं चाहता कि मेरे जिले हिसार को फ़ैमिन ऐफ़ेक्टेड ऐरिया (famine affected area) करार दिया जाय। यही मैं अजमेर के वास्ते चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप फ़ैमिन ऐक्ट (Famine Act) को तबदील नहीं कर सकते तो उस को

फैमिन एफेक्टिव ऐरिया न करार दीजिये । आप कम से कम एक रुपया तनख्वाह मजदूरों को दीजिये इस से कम नहीं । मैं तो कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस हाउस के मेम्बरों को भी एक रुपया रोज दिया जाय तब वह महसूस करेंगे कि बस आने में क्या दिक्कत होती है । मैं निहायत अदब के साथ अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जब हम ने दावा किया है कि हम ने यह किया है वह किया है तब इन्सानियत का तकाजा है कि हमें उस पर अमल करना चाहिये । श्री सिधवा हमारे होम मिनिस्टर हैं, आज उन के सामने यह सवाल पेश है । जब पहले वह इधर की बेंच पर बैठ कर रहे थे तो बड़े जोर शोर से तकरीरें किया करते थे, अब उन सब बातों पर अमल करने का वक़्त आया है । क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि श्री सिधवा अजमेर गये थे, और अगर गये थे तो वहाँ उन्होंने ने जा कर क्या किया ? क्यों इस दिक्कत को दूर नहीं किया ? अभी मुझे बतलाया गया है कि होम मिनिस्टर साहब तशरीफ़ ले गये थे । मुझे मालूम नहीं कि सिधवा साहब गये थे या बड़े मिनिस्टर साहब गये थे । मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि इन सब चीज़ों का जिक्र आने के बाद एक मिनट के लिये भी अगर यह चीज़ें चलती रहती हैं तो सिवा इस के कि हम अपना सिर शर्म से झुका लें, और कोई चारा नज़र नहीं आता है । अगर कहत के सिलसिले में गवर्नमेन्ट का यह रवैया रहा तो यहाँ के लोग यह महसूस नहीं करेंगे कि पिछली गवर्नमेन्ट आफ इंडिया में और आज कल की गवर्नमेन्ट आफ इंडिया के रवैये में कोई तबदीली आई है । जो लोग पांच दिन काम करने के वेजेज (wages) मांगते हैं उन के ऊपर गोली चलाई गई । इस के अन्दर कोई और वाक्यात होंगे, कोई और राज होगा, मैं इस को जज नहीं

करना चाहता जब तक कि सारे वाक्यात मेरे सामने न आये । मगर मोटी मोटी बातें जो हाउस के सामने आई हैं उन से मालूम हुआ कि उन के ऊपर तहसीलदार के हुक्म से गोली चलाई गई । यह मामला बहुत संगीन है और ज़रूरत है कि पता लगाया जाय कि किन हालात के अन्दर ऐसा किया गया । मैं ने सुना है कि जो तहसीलदार था उस को शायद थोड़े दिनों के लिये फिलहाल मुअत्तिल कर दिया गया है । लेकिन ऐसी सूरत में मुअत्तली किसी किस्म की सज़ा नहीं है । अगर वह कुसूरवार है तो उस के साथ इन्साफ़ किया जाना चाहिये, और पूरी सज़ा मिलनी चाहिये ।

मैं हाउस का ज्यादा वक़्त नहीं लूंगा क्योंकि और साहब भी बोलना चाहते हैं । मैं तो इस डिमान्ड (Demand) पर सिर्फ़ इस कहानी को सुनाने के लिये खड़ा हो गया था । मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि यह मामला ऐसा नहीं है कि इस पर हाउस में एक तकरीर दे कर आप हाउस को मुतमईन कर दें । इस मामले में इन्सानियत का तकाजा है कि खास अफसरों को भेजा जाय, या खुद होम मिनिस्टर साहब जायें, और वहाँ तशरीफ़ ले जा कर इस मामले की तहकीकात करें और देखें कि क्या हालत है । जहाँ तक मजदूरों की तनख्वाह का सवाल है मैं अदब से गुज़ारिश करना चाहता हूँ कि उन को कम से कम एक रुपया रोज तनख्वाह मिलनी चाहिये । इस के अलावा उन को रोज बीस मील आने की ज़रूरत नहीं है । आप ऐसी जगहों पर काम शुरू करें जहाँ पांच मील से ज्यादा आना जाना न पड़े । अगर इस से ज्यादा दूर रखते हैं तो नतीजा बही होगा जो और जगहों पर जो कि फैमिन एफेक्टिव ऐरिया होती है, हुआ करता है । हिसार में यह नहीं किया गया और इस लिये वहाँ बीसों

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

तरीकों की दिक्कतें पैदा हुई थीं जिस में गवर्नमेन्ट आफ इंडिया को काफ़ी रुपया खर्च करना पड़ा। इस लिये टेस्ट वर्क ऐसी जगहों पर खोलें जहां काम करने वालों को पांच मील से ज्यादा आना जाना न पड़े। बहुत सी जगहों पर टेस्ट वर्क खोले जायें। आर अजमेर के हालात को देखते हुए तो मैं कह सकता हूं कि बहुत ज्यादा तबज्जह की।

इन अल्फ़ाज़ के साथ में बहुत अ़दब के साथ अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि इस के लिये और रुपये पैसे की जरूरत हो तो इस मामले में हमारे फ़ाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर साहब अपनी पर्स की डोरी ज़रा ढीली कर दें।

(English translation of the above speech)

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Madam, the story of Ajmer as unfolded just now by Shri Mukut Bihari Lal—and I, too, have some personal knowledge about it—is a moving one. I come from an area where we have famine at times; I have much experience of such days and am also aware of the conditions in Ajmer. I would like the hon. Minister to think with a dispassionate mind over what Shri Mukut Bihari Lal has said. It is so painful a story as to make even a stone-heart melt. Just imagine how difficult it is for a man to walk ten to twelve miles every morning to attend the test work which begins at eight o'clock. To reach in time he has got to leave his place at 4 A.M. even in these cold months; and supposing he is late by a few minutes, he is marked absent and forfeits the wages for that day. Just think over it: The man after working for eight hours must be returning home from the day long test work at about ten in the night. Just say what time will be left for him to prepare meals, or to look after his children? Next day he has got to leave his place again at 4 A.M. walk all the distance of eight to ten miles, work for eight hours in the day and return at ten in the night; this is what his daily life is. Even in such difficulties when a man has got to walk twenty to twenty-four miles every day and attend his

duties, he is marked absent just for a few minutes' delay. I would not have believed it perhaps had I not got an experience. In my own district people were confronted with this very misfortune. But in those days we had that old Government, which we all knew to be a stone-hearted one and capable of doing such things, although we persistently complained against their attitude. Now that our popular Ministers are there on the Treasury Benches, it is unthinkable that they should tolerate the existence of any such hardships.

Here I may speak about my own district. I requested the Financial Commissioner on the occasion of his visit to our place, to increase the daily wages of all the female labourers—having or expecting children—by two pice, the wages were about two annas per day. I feel very sorry to say that both the Financial Commissioner and Commissioner did not agree to that request of two-pice increase in the wages. I always remember this incident. I failed to get them this increase of two pice. Now though their wages have been increased from nine and-a-half annas to ten and-a-half annas, the maternity and dependence allowances have been stopped. I am sorry to hear all this and have to hang my head in shame. I would like to submit that if even half of what Shri Mukut Bihari Lal said is true.....

**Shri Kamath:** All that is true.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** True? It is so very shameful that we tolerate these things. What happens today is that big officers become stone-hearted, and once they rise to some high position they do not behave like a human being. I can never believe that in lieu of the increment from nine and-a-half to ten and-a-half annas in the daily wages the maternity and dependence allowances could be stopped. Those days are gone now and doing such an act in these changed conditions is not possible. I do want to state that nobody shall be prepared to put up with this injustice. You can very well put off all your projects and other development schemes of our country, but for God's sake do save the starving children in these days of famine. Children are the wealth of our country and we are proud of them; on them depends the future. The suspension of maternity and dependence allowances, therefore, is in no way proper. The fact is that prices are soaring high. There was a time when nine members of a family could



pull on with six pice each, but these days it becomes so difficult for even a single person to pull on with ten and-a-half annas per day. My submission is that the things stated here by Shri Mukut Bihari Lal and myself are in no way a story but are a naked truth. Well, the condition of our labour class is in fact so very pitiable.

**Mr. Chairman:** What was the actual amount saved thereby?

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** That, the hon. Minister will be in a better position to say.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I cannot say off-hand; I shall have to do some calculations. Supposing, they save a lakh or two even in this way, yet who does not know how much money is being wasted by the Government of India, or how much of national revenue is spent and wasted on the various Government undertakings and schemes? As suggested already by Shri B. Das a portion of these unproductive debts of twelve crores of rupees may be drawn for combating the famine, and I believe the House will approve of any amount that the Government of India would like to spend in this connection.

All these things spoken here in the House are so very painful. The day before yesterday I had stated here the happenings in Hissar. There they are supposed to get fifteen annas per day, but no payments have been made to them for the last five weeks. In my own district labourers did not get any wages for one month, because the Sub-Overseer did not get even so much time as to examine the amount of work done, and the labourers working on the roads complain that wages are not paid in time. You can yourself understand to what trouble these labourers are put if they do not get even these meagre wages of nine and-a-half to ten and-a-half annas per day in time. I do not see any use in the existence of this House if these complaints, even after coming up before the Government of India, are not removed.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** The hon. Home Minister himself heard these complaints when he visited the place.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** The persons who created conditions giving rise to such complaints should be sacked. None in this age of freedom is prepared to tolerate that workers be treated in such a way. We may very well announce with the beat of drum the existence of democracy, or a Government of the people here in India

now, but so long as the workers continue to be treated in this way, and do not get wages in time or sufficient food to fill their stomachs these announcements are useless and meaningless.

Another reasonable complaint is that they are asked to break stones only and are not given any other work. Is there no productive work with the Government of India wherein they could be employed? We have, for example, dam-building work, digging of channels or the repairs to channels at Ajmer. They can be provided with work there. I am pleased to know that such people in Hissar are being employed in road-construction and digging of channels there. Their labour can be utilized in other spheres of production. This famine code is an old one now and is worth scrapping. The present code is just like a blot on the State of India and it ought to be scrapped. I may say if this Famine Code, made by the British is allowed to survive people in India will die a lingering and painful death.

Yesterday also I had submitted that I did not like the idea of my district Hissar being declared a famine-affected area. The same thing I would like to be done about Ajmer, viz., if you cannot change the Famine Act, that area should not be declared a famine-affected one. You, at least, fix one rupee per day as wages of the labour. If all the members of this House were given one rupee per day, they would come to know what difficulties the poor labour class has to face in getting so meagre a remuneration of ten annas. Once we assert a thing, humane considerations demand that we should act up to it. Shri Sidhva, our Minister of State for Home Affairs, is today confronted with this problem. He used to make forceful speeches as our colleague on these benches. Now the time to act upon these things has come. May I know if he has been to Ajmer, and if so, what action he took at that place? Just now I have been told that our hon. Minister had been to Ajmer. I do not know if it was Shri Sidhva or our hon. Home Minister. I want to submit humbly that there is no other alternative but hanging down our heads in shame if such things continue. If this very attitude towards famine is taken by the Government of India, the people will never feel any difference between the old and the present set-up of the Government of India. Fire was opened on these who demanded wages after having worked for five days. Maybe, some other incidents may have taken

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

place, or that there may be some still unknown facts; well, I do not want to pass any judgment unless all the things are before me. Speaking broadly, however, on the basis of things that have come before the House, I conclude that fire was opened on the labourers there under orders of the Tehsildar. This is a very serious matter and requires a thorough enquiry into what made him do so and under what circumstances. I hear the Tehsildar in question has been suspended for some days. But suspension is no punishment in such a case. He should be duly punished if he is found guilty; only in that way full justice will be meted out to him.

I will not take further time of the House since some other hon. Members also want to speak. Having heard the incidents only, I stood up to speak on the present demand. My submission is that it is not a matter that you speak on it here in the House and convince it. It demands a humane attitude: Special officers should be sent or the hon. Minister himself should go there, and make full enquiries into the state of affairs there on the spot. Here I would like to request respectfully that the workers should get one rupee per day at least as their wages. Also work centres should be opened at places which are at a distance of five miles at the most so that the workers may not have to travel twenty miles every day, if done otherwise, it will have the same results as we had in the other famine-affected areas. No such arrangements were made in Hissar, and as a result many an obstacle arose for which the Government of India had to spend a lot of money. Considering the peculiar conditions in Ajmer I may say that more attention is needed there.

With these words I want to submit further that if more money is needed for this work, the hon. Finance Minister may please take a liberal attitude towards it.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभानेत्री महोदया, आज में आप की बहुत प्रशंसा करूंगा। आज मुझे ऐसा मालूम होता है और इस बात का प्रमाण मिलता है कि स्त्रियों का हृदय बहुत मुलायम होता है। आज में समझता हूँ कि चूँकि आप का हृदय बहुत मुलायम है इसी वजह से आप ने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया है, इस के लिये, मैं आप को बधाई देता हूँ।

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** On a point of order, Madam, are praises of the Chairman at all relevant in the midst of the consideration of a Budget?

**Mr. Chairman:** The Chair is not in need of any praise, but the Chair is not partial either.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : मेरे भाई नज़ीरुद्दीन साहब को मालूम होना चाहिये कि बोलने के समय बहुत बहुत बातें जायज़ हो जाया करती हैं। अब मैं उठा हूँ दोनों भागवत जी, मुकुट बिहारी लाल जी और ठाकुर दास जी, के कथन का समर्थन करने के लिये। सभानेत्री महोदया, परसों या चौथे रोज़ में ने कुछ कहा था उस पर मेरे मित्र अर्थ मन्त्री जी ने कहा था कि मैं बहुत कड़े शब्द बोला था, मेरे शब्दों को हाई बर्ड्स (Hard words) कहते थे। तो उन को मालूम होना चाहिये कि :

हितं मनोहरि च दुर्लभं वचः

अर्थात् हित की बात मीठी हो यह सम्भव नहीं। मैं पच्चीस वर्ष से इस संसद् का सदस्य हूँ। लेकिन जिस तरह से मैं आज मुकुट बिहारी लाल जी की कहानी सुन कर दुःखित हुआ हूँ उस का वर्णन मैं नहीं कर सकता। मैं ने ठाकुर दास जी का भी समर्थन किया है, लेकिन यह बहुत सम्भव है कि चूँकि वह कांग्रेस पार्टी के सदस्य हैं इस लिये कोशिश करते हैं कि मुलायम बात करें या दबे दबे बोलें। मैं आप से कहता हूँ कि यदि यह परिस्थिति जारी रही तो यह कहना असत्य न होगा कि जो अजमेर की कथा अभी कही गई है सही है। अगर कल परसों या एक हफ्ते के अन्दर वह दूर नहीं की जाती तो मैं कहना बिल्कुल ठीक समझूंगा। और अब कहता हूँ कि उस के बाद से मैं कहूंगा कि यह सरकार हमारे देश के लिये कलंक का

टीका है। सभानेत्री महोदया, जिस बहुत देश की हालत सुन सुन कर हृदय जलने लगता है उस वक्त बोलते हुए हृदय से मीठे शब्दों की आशा रखना यह क्या दुराशा मात्र नहीं है। जब मैं उस दिन बोल रहा था तो मैं ने उस दिन कहा था, मैं ने अर्थ मन्त्री जी को याद दिलाया था कराची प्रस्ताव के बारे में कि कराची में सरकारी अफसरों के लिये ज्यादा से ज्यादा पांच सौ रुपये वेतन रखा गया था। जब मैं ने यह कहा तो मेरा मखील करते थे कि पांच सौ रुपया ? और उस के समर्थन में ठाकुर दास जी भी बोलते थे कि पांच सौ रुपये में कैसे काम चलेगा। मैं उन से पूछता हूँ कि यह जो साढ़े नौ आने मजदूरी थी और बड़ी कृपा कर के जिस को बढ़ा कर साढ़े दस आने कर दिया गया था उस साढ़े दस आने रोज में किस का काम चल सकता है ? जान लीजिये कि सरकार बनाना और सरकारी काम करना यह बहुत बड़ा काम है। यह मामूली आदमियों का काम नहीं है। बहुत बड़ा हृदय और बहुत बड़ा दिमाग रहने पर ही ऐसा काम किया जा सकता है। मुझे दुःख है कि जो हमारी सरकार बनी, हमारे जैसी सरकार बनी उस से तो मालूम होता है कि न दिमाग है और न अक्ल है और न ईमानदारी है। एक मुंह से कहा कि पांच सौ रुपया माहवार में काम नहीं चलेगा और इस का और लोग समर्थन करते हैं। साथ में ही यहां रोज रोज कहा जाता है कि निर्वासित लोगों को जिन के पास कोई रोजगार नहीं है उन को बारह रुपया माहवार दिया जाता है। उन का काम बारह रुपया माहवार में चल सकता है, लेकिन इन का काम पांच सौ में नहीं चलेगा, यह कहां की ईमानदारी है।

अभी हमारे भाई मुकुट बिहारी लाल जी कहते हैं कि जिस वक्त साढ़े नौ आना मजदूरी मजदूरों को मिलती थी तो उन

लोगों को डिपेंडेंस एलाउंस (dependents allowance) और मेटरनिटी अलाउंस (maternity allowance) भी मिलता था। उस की रकम तो उन्होंने ने नहीं बतलाई। वह भी बतला देना चाहिये था। उन्होंने ने कहा था कि शायद दो आना या टाई आना डिपेंडेंस एलाउंस मिलता था। इस के मानी यह हुए कि यदि किसी को . . . . .

सभापति महोदय : आनरेबुल मेम्बर को और कितना वक्त चाहिये।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : सभानेत्री महोदया, मैं आप के हृदय की अभी प्रशंसा कर रहा था। मैं कितनी दर्दनाक बातों का जिक्र कर रहा हूँ। आप देखती होंगी कि मेरा हृदय कितना दुःखी है।

सभापति महोदय : उस से कुछ फायदा नहीं होगा। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि आप कितना समय और मांगते हैं।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : पांच सात मिनट से अधिक नहीं।

सभापति महोदय : मैं बताऊँ कि आप दो तीन मिनट में खत्म कर दीजिये।

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : इतनी जल्दी करने के लिये मुझे बाध्य मत करिये।

Mr. Chairman: I want to suggest to the House that if the House agrees we may meet in the afternoon at 3 P.M. and finish these Demands.

Hon. Members: No, no.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): We have fixed some other programme for the afternoon thinking there will be no afternoon sitting today.

Mr. Chairman: Then we can sit now and hear the hon. Member.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : तो मैं अर्ज कर रहा था कि अगर किसी मजदूर के

[ बाबू रामनारायण सिंह ]

तीन बच्चे होंगे तो उस को ढाई आना हर बच्चा के हिसाब से साढ़े सात आने मिलते होंगे। लेकिन अब उन की मजदूरी में उन्नति कर दी गई है और अब वह साढ़े नौ आने से साढ़े दस आने कर दी गई है। एक आना उस को अधिक मिला और साढ़े सात आना काट लिया गया। अगर हमारी सरकार के दरबार में इस तरह का इन्साफ़ होता हो तो मैं कहूंगा कि ऐसी सरकार बिल्कुल न रहे तो समाज का ज्यादा कल्याण होगा। तो सभानेत्री महोदया में आप से कहूंगा कि आप भी इस में जहां तक हो कोशिश करें इस तरह की बातें हम लोगों के सुनने में न आवें।

अमी हमारे भाई ठाकुर दास जी ने कहा कि यह जो फ़ैमिन रिलीफ़ ऐक्ट (Famine Relief Act) बना है यह बहुत दिनों का बना है। उस के साथ साथ उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि उस समय जो हमारे शासक अंग्रेज़ लोग थे उन का हृदय पत्थर का था। भाई ठाकुर दास जी, आप ने तो ठीक कहा कि उन का हृदय पत्थर का होता था। लेकिन जिस कानून के अन्दर आज की सरकार चल रही है और ऐसे भयंकर हालात हो रहे हैं कि एक आदमी को रोज़ दस मील आना होता है और दस मील जाना होता है और वह अपनी स्त्री और तीन चार बच्चों के साथ रहता है और उस को साढ़े नौ आना रोज़ मजदूरी मिलती है, उस सरकार के बारे में आप क्या अनुभव करते हैं, यह ईमानदारी से बोलिये। मैं तो देश से कहूंगा और संसार से कहूंगा कि अगर अंग्रेज़ों के हृदय पत्थर के थे तो आज की सरकार का हृदय पत्थर से भी किसी बड़ीचीज़ का होगा।

सभानेत्री जी, जैसा मैं कह चुका हूँ, मैं पांच सात मिनट में खत्म कर दूंगा। लेकिन मैं अर्थ मन्त्री जी से कहूंगा और जितने लोग उस दरबार के हैं उन से कहूंगा जल्द सलाह करें और जो निर्णय हो उस को वहां तार द्वारा भेजें। वह कहते हैं कि कम से कम एक रुपया होना चाहिये। और लोगों को तो वह पांच सौ रुपया देते हैं पर मजदूरों को एक रुपया दिया है। मुनासिब तो यह होगा कि अगर उन को एक रुपया दिया जाता है तो मन्त्रियों को सबा रुपये से अधिक न दिया जाये। मतलब यह है कि आप कम्युनिज़्म को रोको, जितनी ताकत हो लगाओ। लेकिन जब तक यहां यह बेईमानी है तब तक ऐसा नहीं कर पाओगे। कम्युनिज़्म प्रिवेल (prevail) करेगा ही। मैं कहता हूँ कि आप अपना निर्णय वहां तार द्वारा भेजें। यह मनुष्यता का तकाज़ा है कि इस तरह की कथा को बरदास्त न किया जाय। मैं आप से अपील करता हूँ। यह मत समझो कि मैं आप की टीका टिप्पणी करता हूँ। इतने बड़े काम करते हो। देश के ३५ करोड़ आदमियों का भाग्य ले कर बैठे हो, तो क्या आप की टीका टिप्पणी भी न हो। मैं तो कहूंगा कि ऐसे कामों की तो आप को कड़ी सज़ा होनी चाहिये। अगर इस के बदले टीका टिप्पणी सुनने को भी तैयार न होंगे तो भाई आप इस काम के लायक नहीं हैं। लायक हों या न हों पर - यह देश का दुर्भाग्य है कि आप लोग यहां हैं। मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि ऐसी कोशिश की जाय कि ऐसी कथा कहीं से भी न सुनाई पड़े और जहां कहीं ऐसा कष्ट हो आप लोग वहां मदद करें यह मनुष्यता का तकाज़ा है। सरकार का जो मंत्रिमंडल बना है उस में यदि मनुष्यता है

और यदि उस में मनुष्य हैं तो इस कथा को बुरस्त खत्म करना चाहिये। मैं यह बिनय करता हूँ, अर्ज करता हूँ, प्रार्थना करता हूँ।

(English translation of the above speech)

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh.** Madam, I want to pay you a compliment today. I feel convinced that women are very kind at heart. As you have a kind heart, you have allowed me to speak; and for this kind act of yours, I am very grateful to you.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad** (West Bengal): On a point of order, Madam, are praises of the Chairman at all relevant in the midst of the consideration of a Budget?

**Mr. Chairman:** The Chair is not in need of any praise, but the Chair is not partial either.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** My friend Shri Naziruddin Ahmad should know that many a thing is in order during a speech. Now, I have stood up to support what the two Bhargavas—Shri Mukut Bihari Lal and Shri Thakur Das—have said. Madam, the other day I uttered a few words which, according to my friend the hon. Minister of Finance, were rather harsh. But, he is supposed to know that:

*Hitam munohari Cha durlabham vachan.*

That is, it is not possible that good counsel may also be sweet. I have been a member of this Parliament for the last twenty-five years. But I am unable to describe the extent to which I am moved today by the tragic tale narrated by Shri M. B. Bhargava. I have also supported Shri Thakur Das Bhargava, but there is every likelihood of his speaking a bit submissively and softly, as he is a member of the Congress Party. If this plight of Ajmer is true, and if no steps are taken to improve it within a week, I would like to tell you now and here and afterwards also that this Government is a blot to our country. Madam, when our hearts are moved by the pitiable plight of the country, it is vain to expect a flow of sweet words in our speeches, while speaking the other day I had reminded the hon. Minister of Finance of the Karachi Resolution. It was decided there to have a maximum pay of Rupees five hundred only for the Government servants. When I referred to it I was ridiculed and even Shri Thakur Das

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Bhargava said that it would not be possible to live on five hundred rupees. I ask whether it is possible to pull on with this low wage of nine and a half annas which has now been very kindly raised to ten and a half annas. To form a Government and carry out its business is really a big task, which calls for men having great minds and hearts and that is not attainable by ordinary people. I am sorry to state that this Government formed by us appears to lack all intelligence and all honesty. On the one hand it is asserted and supported that it is not possible to live on five hundred rupees and on the other hand the unemployed displaced persons are given a sum of only twelve rupees per month. Is it honest to say that those people can do with rupees twelve only while these cannot do with even five hundred rupees?

Now, my friend Shri M. B. Bhargava says that when the labourers were getting daily wages of nine and a half annas, they were also paid Dependents and Maternity allowances. He did not mention the amounts which were given in this regard. Of course, he mentioned that probably two or two and half annas were paid as Dependents' allowance. It means, if anyone.....

**Mr. Chairman:** What more time does the hon. Member require?

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Madam, I was just praising the kindness of your heart. I am referring to very sad things and you might be feeling how sorry my heart is.

**Mr. Chairman:** That would not help. May I know what more time do you require?

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Not more than five to seven minutes.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I request you to finish within two or three minutes?

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Kindly do not compel me to finish so soon.

**Mr. Chairman:** I want to suggest to the House that if the House agrees we may meet in the afternoon at 3 P.M. and finish these Demands.

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

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):** We have fixed some other programme for the afternoon thinking there will be no afternoon sitting today.

**Mr. Chairman:** Then we can sit now and hear the hon. Member.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** So I was submitting that previously if a labourer had three children, he would have been also receiving dependents' allowance amounting to seven and a half annas in all at the rate of two and a half annas per child. But now the wages have been raised from nine and-a-half annas to ten and-a-half annas. But although the wages have been increased by one anna they have otherwise been deprived of seven and-a-half annas. If this sort of justice is done by this Government, I would say that it will be better for the society not to have such a Government at all. Madam, therefore I would request you that it would be better if such things were stopped and not brought to our notice.

Just now my friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava said that this Famine Relief Act was very old. At the same time he also said that our British rulers were stone hearted. That is all right, but I would also request my friend Shri Thakur Das Bhargava to speak honestly what he felt about this Government, the laws under which it is being run, and the unfortunate fact that a labourer has to travel ten miles either way and maintain his family consisting of wife and three or four children with a daily wage of ten and-a-half annas only. I would tell the country and the world at large that if Britishers were stone hearted, the hearts of these people are made of some still harder stuff. Madam, as I have said, I would try to finish within five to seven minutes. I would ask the hon. Minister of Finance and his colleagues to arrive at a decision soon and convey it to them by wire. He proposes the minimum wage of a labourer to be one rupee and in the same breath pleads for five hundred rupees to be given to other employees. If these people are given one rupee, it would be proper to give only one and a quarter rupee to the Ministers. You may try to check Communism with all your strength, but till this dishonesty is not checked you will not succeed and Communism will prevail. It is a call of humanity and I appeal to you not to let such things continue. This should not be regarded as undesirable criticism. After all you perform big tasks and govern the destiny of 350 millions of people. Why should you not be criticised? You must be prepared even to face severe trial for such acts. If you cannot tolerate the criticism you are not worthy of the faith entrusted in you. Whether you were worthy or not it was unfortunate for the country to have you there

Therefore I would suggest that efforts be made so that such tales are heard no more. You must try to alleviate the sufferings and help this cause of humanity. If this present Government have any feeling of humanity and are manned by human beings, this tragedy must be checked without any delay. That is what I hope, request and pray.

**Shri Sidhva:** My hon. friend Pandit M. B. Bhargava has raised two points. One is about the relief works in Ajmer-Merwara and the other is about dacoities and burglaries that have been on the increase in that State. As far as the first point is concerned, it is not within the Home Ministry's jurisdiction. Still, I would answer some of the points because I happened to be there at Ajmer when the relief works were started. It is true that labourers have to come from a distance, but it is not twenty miles as stated by the hon. Member; they have to come from a distance of six to seven miles. I enquired and this complaint was made to me that they have to come from a long distance.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Ten miles to and fro means twenty miles.

**Shri Sidhva:** True, but I was told that they come from a distance of six or seven miles and this will add up to twelve to fifteen miles roughly. I did not like this even, when it was brought to my notice. I told the officials that the relief works should be opened within a radius of one or two miles. And I am told that it has been done. (Pandit M. B. Bhargava: No.) During my presence, I was told that one had been opened within a distance of four or five miles. I do not know the position today. But I can assure you of one thing. At the time I paid the visit, although it was not my duty, I considered it as my duty, being a Member of Government, whether it is my portfolio or not, to see things that were brought to my notice and therefore I told the officials that they should open the relief works within a radius of one or two miles.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** May I enquire whether the hon. Minister subsequently enquired if his orders had been carried out? If even today people have to travel for about twenty miles, then his orders appear to have been disregarded and I am sorry to note that they have not been carried out.

**Shri Sidhva:** As I said, it is not my portfolio, but I drew the attention of the officials on the spot and told them

what they should do. I am not kept in day to day touch with this matter.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** They cannot do anything unless the Food Minister orders them.

**Shri Sidhva:** My hon. colleague the Deputy Minister of Food is here. He is taking notes and will tell the House as to whether anything has been done or not. This matter strictly concerns the Food Ministry. Despite that, as I told the House (*Interruption*).

**Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh):** May we know whether the hon. Minister of State brought this fact to the notice of the Minister concerned?

**Shri Sidhva:** I said I drew the attention of the officials there.

**Shri J. R. Kapoor:** But not of the Minister concerned here?

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Unless the Food Minister intervenes, they can do nothing by themselves.

**Shri Sidhva:** I did what I thought was best in the interest of all concerned. What is the position today I do not know. My hon. colleague will be able to enlighten the House as to whether today those camps are within a radius of two miles or not.

My hon. friend then mentioned about the non-payment of wages. It is true that wages for four weeks were not paid. It is considered most wrong in principle that in a famine work labourers should go unpaid for four weeks. I sent for the engineers who were in charge of the works. They told me that they had received an order from the audit authorities that until all the accounts are properly audited payment should not be made. A number of auditors were being sent so that the accounts may be checked very early. I then issued orders that payment should not be delayed for more than a week. I do not know what exactly the position now is. I have drawn the attention of the Ministry to this.

**Shri R. Velayudhan (Travancore-Cochin):** The Minister concerned is there; he can answer.

**Shri Sidhva:** Pandit Bhargava made a mention about my visit to Ajmer; that was why I considered it my duty to point out what I did there.

As regards firing, this comes within the jurisdiction of the Home Ministry. It happened in connection with the payment of wages. An enquiry is being instituted by the collector there and we have asked him to expedite

his report. The report, I understand, is more or less complete, though it has not yet been sent to us. As soon as the report is received, we shall examine it, and if anybody is found to have ordered firing without any reason, certainly action will be taken against him. I may assure the House that Government will not lag behind in that respect.

As regards relief works, I can assure my hon. friends that Government are quite alert. Originally the number was fixed at 20,000; then it was raised to 40,000 and now the number has been further increased to 50,000. The Finance Minister was good enough to pay Rs. 40 lakhs without any demur. He agreed to the subsidy in anticipation of the sanction of the Standing Finance Committee.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** What about the allowances. Was the maternity and the dependance allowance stopped because there was an increase of one anna in the wages.

**Shri Sidhva:** My attention was also drawn to the decrease in wages. My personal view is that they should be paid Re. one. But it is quite a different thing when one has to follow a Statute. Unless the Famine Code is amended the wages could not be increased. That is a matter for the Food Ministry and the Finance Ministry to consider.

**Mr. Chairman:** It is not a question of increase of wages; this relates to maternity allowance.

**Shri Sidhva:** I do not know about that.

It is true that the number of thefts and burglaries have increased in Ajmer. We are, therefore, coming before the House for an additional amount of Rs. 60,000 for the employment of additional staff. From the statement that is in my possession, during the last six months that is from July to December there have been 17 murders, 208 burglaries, 161 thefts, 32 cycle thefts, 20 cattle thefts, 4 riots and 9 robberies and dacoities. There is no doubt that it is a very alarming figure.

**Shri Kamath:** What is the period?

**Shri Sidhva:** From July, 1951 to December, 1951.

This matter was discussed with the Chief Commissioner when I was there. I said that it was an alarming situation, and it should be found out why the number of dacoities, burglaries and other things are increasing and that

[Shri Sidhva]

immediate steps should be taken in this direction. He gave me to understand that the inadequacy of staff was more or less responsible for it. Whatever that may be I said that with the staff that was there they should be told to be alert and to see that the number of murders, burglaries and thefts etc. is brought down. He however pointed out that a larger number of staff is necessary in view of these large burglaries and other things. For this purpose you will see that a provision for supplementary grant of that sum has now been suggested. A sum of Rs. 10,000 the Home Ministry can spare from the minor heads of the existing voted amount by appropriation and therefore we are asking only for Rs. 55,000 for this purpose. I can assure my hon. friend Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava that as regards dacoities, robberies etc. we are really very alert in this matter.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Famine-stricken people if not properly looked after will do all these things.

**Shri Kamath:** Is food scarcity responsible for the dacoities, thefts and robberies?

**Shri Sidhva:** Whatever may be responsible for it, Government are taking measures to see that these dacoities and burglaries are brought down. I therefore submit that the Demand which has been proposed may be passed. I can assure my friends from Ajmer and the whole House that Government will take every step possible to bring down the larger number of thefts (compared to the previous figures) and it will be done with the help of the additional staff that we have proposed.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I do not want to take much time of the House. I would only like to add a few words to what my hon. colleague has said just now. The points raised by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava will be borne in mind by the Government. Government have been doing all that is possible. Under the present conditions of the revised Ajmer Famine Code the rates payable are eleven annas for a man, nine annas for a woman and seven annas for a child per day. There is no allowance for non-working dependents or for non-working periods on account of maternity. But in view of the points raised by the two hon. Members Government will be prepared to examine the matter afresh in the light of their criticism and see how far they would be able to help the hard-hit labour.

Nearly 65,000 workers are being provided with work. Conditions have been so hard since April 1951 down to the present day that Government are not stinting any money with regard to giving the relief that is necessary in these areas. They have borne an expenditure of Rs. 40 lakhs covering 49 villages in the Ajmer sub-division and 82 villages in the Kekri sub-division, and ten camps are being run. With regard to the distances between the living places of these workers and their working places Government will call for fresh reports and see if any amelioration could be given by starting these camp works in as near a place as possible from the living places of these people. I assure hon. Members that everything that is possible under the conditions is being done and if there is room for improvement that will certainly be considered.

With regard to tanks and other things I am sorry I was not present when Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava spoke—I had to go elsewhere—but I am told that he referred to some wells and tanks. Money is being provided for repair of these tanks also. I think if there is rainfall the tanks will be found useful. If there is no rainfall we will have to face the conditions for some time.

With regard to other matters I will look into the criticism and suggestions made by the hon. Members in this behalf and see what can be done.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I ask the hon. Minister whether they have any intention of revising the rate of wages from ten annas six pies or eleven annas to one rupee?

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I have said that we will look into the speeches of both the hon. Members and see what can be done.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** I also want information about the number of centres so that they may be acceptable to all the labourers within two or three miles distance.

**Shri Thirumala Rao:** Works should be available in centres where labourers can easily come. It is matter of digging wells or making roads or any other famine works which should be made available in places near to their dwellings.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I also want the question of maternity and dependent's allowances to be looked into.



**Shri Thirumala Rao:** I promise to look into all these things.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I also ask the hon. Minister to consider equal wage for equal work?

The questions is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 40,78,000 be granted

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

The motion was adopted.

*The House then adjourned till Half Past Nine of the Clock on Thursday, the 21st February, 1952.*