

(b) The existing accommodation in the reservation office at Madras Central has been suitably re-arranged to provide space for efficient functioning of Teleprinters. The present reservation office along with Teleprinters will be shifted to more spacious accommodation on completion of the proposed alteration to the Madras Central station building.

Cases relating to Enhancement of Compensation under the Land Acquisition Act with Delhi High Court

8021. SHRI DALIP SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of cases filed in the Delhi High Court for enhancement of compensation under the Land Acquisition Act during the last three years; and

(b) how many of these cases have been disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) 762.

(b) 4.

12.01 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED AGITATION IN MAHARASHTRA OVER NON-AVAILABILITY OF FOOD SUPPLIES AND DEATHS DUE TO POLICE FIRING

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The reported agitation in many parts of Maharashtra over the non-availability of food supplies and firing by police on agitated crowds resulting in the death of several persons."

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): Sir, I wish to share with the Hon'ble Members our deep concern over the unhappy incidents reported from Maharashtra following an agitation there by people demanding, among other things, additional supply of foodgrains. The fact that some human lives have been lost in these incidents shows the gravity of the situation. A detailed report has been asked for from the State Government.

I have had the privilege to place before the House the present difficult food situation and the steps taken to meet the food requirements of all the deficit and drought affected States, within the stocks that are available with the Central Government.

In view of the severe drought conditions prevailing in the State of Maharashtra and to relieve the acute distress condition, the supply of foodgrains from the Central stocks has been considerably stepped up; during the year 1972, a little over 13 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were supplied to Maharashtra as against 8.4 lakh tonnes during 1971. Again, during the first three months of the current year, the State Government was supplied nearly 5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Allotments of foodgrains are made to the State Governments every month, taking into account the overall availability in the Central Pool and the needs of all deficit and drought-affected States. In view of the difficult food supply position in the country resulting from last year's inadequate and erratic rains and consequent widespread drought conditions in the country, it has not been possible to meet the entire demand made by the Government of Maharashtra as well as several other States but every effort has been made to meet substantially the requirements of the State Governments.

The procurement of wheat has started in an encouraging way and against last year's procurement of 9,770 tonnes, the current year's procurement has been a little over 1,50,000 tonnes. At this rate, we feel confident that procurement of wheat during the year may even exceed 8 million tonnes. Taking into account the encouraging wheat procurement and the steady arrival of imported foodgrains from abroad, Government intend to step up the wheat allotments for the month of May and allotments are proposed to be substantially stepped up particularly to the drought-affected States. The proposed increased allocation should enable the State Governments to increase the quantum of foodgrains issued through the public distribution system and to that extent mitigate the hardship of the people. To ensure this, we have already arranged 12 Specials carrying procured wheat from Punjab for Maharashtra within the month of April, 1973 itself, and the first one is moving to-day. From the procured Stocks during the next two months, the arrangements made are that about 14 to 15 lakh tonnes of wheat would be moving from north to the various parts of the country particularly to the deficit and drought affected States by Special trains.

In the present difficult food situation, Maharashtra and all other States made commendable efforts to tackle a very difficult situation. The most difficult phase of the food situation is practically over, and from May onwards it should be possible to meet the reasonable requirements of the State Governments, particularly of the drought-affected States.

This year we have taken a policy decision to introduce a major reform in the marketing of wheat by taking over wholesale trade. It seems that certain forces who are opposed to the take-over of wholesale trade are working against us, and are exploiting the situation. The country has faced

a difficult food situation with courage and confidence. I have no doubt that we will be able to overcome all difficulties. I appeal to the Hon'ble Members, and people at large, irrespective of the political party to which they may belong, to extend their wholehearted cooperation and support to enable us to tide over the difficult situation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, we, as representatives of the people, must always represent the hunger as well as the anger of the people outside. And only in that spirit I wish to make certain queries in this House and I hope that the Minister of Agriculture will be able to offer the necessary satisfactory explanations.

Already, famine conditions in Maharashtra are very acute. In this third successive drought in Maharashtra, the kharif crop which accounts for 60 per cent of Maharashtra's total agricultural output, is only 40 per cent of the normal output and this year the sowing of the rabi season has been 70 per cent lower. Even on the admission of the representatives of the Maharashtra Government, 29 per cent of the cattle of Maharashtra are already dead for want of fodder and drinking water and added to this grave situation of scarcity and drought, we have a total failure of the Central Government in fulfilling the statutory obligations that are imposed on it in terms of the provisions of the Constitution to give the necessary Central assistance in terms of foodgrains and other amenities.

The extent of agitation is of a very severe nature. Not only in the rural areas of Maharashtra but even in the urban centres there is intensive agitation. In places like Nagpur, Malegaon, Sinnar, Ichalkaranji and even in the city of Bombay, the situation is extremely grave. As a number of places,

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate] there has been tear-gassing by the police; the people are lathi-charged and firing is also resorted to on the agitating crowds and I may say that in some of the agitations, even the members of the ruling party have participated, as for instance, in the agitation launched in Sinnar in the district of Nasik.

In such conditions, in such agitations, I think the people have displayed a grim determination; they have made up their mind that if at all they have to die they will prefer death by bullet than death by starvation. That is the grim determination that we have seen among the people in Maharashtra. Permit me to say that I and my party and my colleagues will contribute to the grim determination of the people and we will mobilise them and if you force them to die by starvation, we will tell them, let us be prepared to die by the bullet than die by starvation. Because of the failure of the Government, actually a situation has been created and therefore this serious situation must be taken note of.

We want to put a stop to the vested interests coming in the way of progress of the country and we want an orderly change in the country, but we do not want the people to die in this country as they died during the world war when there was famine in Bengal. We do not want them to die under humiliating conditions. (Inter-ruptions). It is so serious an issue that I would not like my hon. friends to intervene. I would like to bring to your notice that it is not merely the members of the Opposition party who have drawn the attention of the Government to the gravity of the situation in Maharashtra, but a spokesman of the Government of Maharashtra who has chosen to remain anonymous has issued a big ghand-out, which was extensively put out in the newspapers of Bombay, and according to it, according to the spokesman who has chosen to remain anonymous, when wheat

was available in the open market, the Maharashtra Government had demanded from the Centre 2½ lakhs tonnes of foodgrains, and what was the response of the Government? Even when wheat was available in the open market, and when the demand of the Maharashtra Government was for 2½ lakh tonnes, in that position, the actual quota that was given by the Centre was 1.40 lakh to 1.60 lakh tonnes. This was the miserable failure of the Government, and as a result of the Government's failure at the Central level, agitations have been started in the rural as well as the urban areas.

In Bombay also, they had no adequate stocks; at the fair price shops, the ration shops, there are huge queues in the city of Bombay and as in the rural areas, even inflammable material in Bombay is set on fire. Let me warn the Government that the situation is extremely dangerous because this concerns the vulnerable sections of our people, the working population which is very volatile and, if an intensive agitation is carried on, it will be created.

Incidentally, just three minutes before the time for the call attention motion, an elaborate statement of the hon. Food Minister is handed over to us. He takes us for granted that we are so intelligent that in a push-button manner we could study it. To the best of my ability I did try to go through that statement and in the last para of that statement there is reference to the take over of foodgrains trade. As a Member belonging to the Socialist ideology I am one of those who demanded that this trade must be taken over and effectively implemented that it could not be left only to the vagaries of big traders and monopolists in the country, and that unless that was done the vulnerable sections of our society could not be protected. But there are serious lacunae in the policy that the Government is implementing. Run with the hare and hunt with the hound, that seems to be the policy.

The take over has been done in a faltering manner. The three important objectives that are to be fulfilled are being sabotaged by the machinery inside the Government and by vested interests in the country. Probably there is difficulty of procurement. When the takeover was announced, it was expected that this policy would result in the creation of a bigger buffer stock that secondly it would ensure price stability to the consumer and producer and that thirdly it would protect the vulnerable sections of the population and also introduce certain structural changes in grain trade. I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether those objectives have been fulfilled. Because of the faltering manner in which this policy is being implemented, these objectives are being sabotaged by the bureaucrats in the Government and also a number of Ministers and vested interests in the country. The manner of their implementation creates severe strains in the public distribution machinery, as a result of which adequate foodgrains are not available to the fairprice shops and ration shops. Which are the purchasing agencies? The Food Corporation of India, the State co-operative marketing federation and the Government Food and Civil Supplies Department. They are giving undue stress, not to marketable surplus but to market surplus. The distinction might appear subtle but behind this distinction lies the failure of the purchasing experiment of the grain trade. There is a dual system of marketing, a dual system of price policy. As a result of the dual marketing and pricing system, you will meet with the same fate as you have met with in the case of sugar. Because of the dual policy the sugar magnates and the blackmarketeers were able to act to the detriment of the consumer.

The same thing is going to happen. You are leaving a number of loopholes. A part of the market is going to be controlled by the Government while a part is going to be controlled

by the retailers in collusion with big producers in the country. You are creating a new class of kulak-cum-trader in this country and there are persons among them who want to sabotage your entire take-over experiment in this country.

As a result of that, the public distribution machinery is going to fail miserably. Therefore, let me put a specific query to the hon. Minister. In all these policy matters such as Central assistance and streamlining the machinery for the foodgrains trade, by eliminating the distinction between the marketable surplus and the marketed surplus by trying to remove this dual system of marketing and pricing and by trying to tighten up the monopoly procurement in the country may I know whether the Minister would be able to have a better buffer-stock and whether on the basis of this buffer-stock, he will be able to see that a proper public distribution machinery is achieved? Until this is done and until Central assistance is made available to Maharashtra, you will not be able to check the agitation in Maharashtra. If you are under the impression that you will be able to tackle the food problem as a law and order problem, let me warn the Government that the bullets or weapons in the machinery of the Government is not going to destroy the will of the people of Maharashtra to fight against the injustices done to them. It is in that spirit that I put my query to the hon. Minister. You cannot run away from the query that I have put. You must give a specific answer to this query that I have put.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:
Sir, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member over the sufferings of the people and I know the sincerity also with which he has raised the questions. We are very much aware of the difficult situation in Maharashtra,

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde]

There it is particularly difficult because this the third consecutive year of drought. In Maharashtra this has affected both rabi and kharif productions. At the same time one has to appreciate this fact. Professor Saheb will kindly excuse me if I say that matters are not so simple. Food is agitating the minds of the Maharashtra population. Actually, the trouble started in Nagpur. Firstly there was shortage of grains; there were many other factors also which created this trouble. Therefore, it would not be correct to over-simplify the matter. I have to mention that a bandh was organised by a certain party. I think it was a Vidarba agitation or something like that. Therefore, I appealed in my statement that no political parties should really exploit this situation. Unfortunately these incidents led to some looting, some violence etc. These were due to the fact that some political elements incited the people to commit a breach of the law. That was how this thing had happened.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
The ruling party too forms part and parcel of that agitation.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:
I wanted the full facts to be placed before the House. And therefore I made this appeal.

As far as Maharashtra is concerned, it deserves full credit. Never before, in the history of this country, were such massive efforts made to provide relief to the people in the drought affected areas. In the drought relief work alone 35 lakhs of people are working. In 1966-67, in drought operations, for the country as a whole, only a few lakhs of people were working. In Maharashtra, this figure is more. Purchasing power was available. The State Government is doing its utmost to help the drought affected people.

The hon. Member referred to the Bengal famine, of course in an emotional way. May I assure him and this hon. House that nothing like the Bengal famine is likely to happen in this country? Things are much better now than before. This is the position as far as the food situation in the country is concerned.

The most difficult part of the food situation is over. Massive procurement operations have started now. Within a week or 10 days the procurement would exceed even 1 lakh tonnes a day. So, we do not think there would be any difficulty in helping the drought-affected States. I have already referred to the other steps we propose to take for the movement of foodgrains from the surplus to the deficit States including Maharashtra.

Unfortunately, he is trying to pass a quick judgment on the take-over. This is a structural reform in the system of marketing and there is a lot of opposition to it from vested interests. People are trying to exploit it. Let us not try to pass a hasty judgment on it. To my mind, in normal conditions there should be no difficulty whatsoever. This is one of the momentous and very helpful decisions of the Government for protecting the interests of the producers and the vulnerable sections of the population. Let us not pass a hasty judgment on it.

It is obviously proposed to build up buffer stocks. Naturally it can be done only by production efforts. The House is aware of the tremendous efforts we are making to increase production. The State Government and my ministry are engaged in a very big exercise to have a very massive kharif production programme. This is the only approach which is going to save the country. We have to rely on our own efforts and not look to other countries as we used to do in the past.

The Government of India feel confident that we shall be in a position to tackle the situation in times to come.

He referred to some lacunae in the system of take-over. We shall get some experience out of the implementation of the scheme. If any hon. Member including Prof. Dandavate wants to make any suggestion, we have no rigid ideas and we shall re-examine it and take all the necessary steps to make the system effective and successful.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I want only one clarification. In spite of the yarn control scheme, a number of loom-holders are saying that they are not able to get yarn....

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a clarification. Mr. Banerjee.

श्री एस० एम० बनर्जी (कानपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने अभी मंत्री महोदय के बयान को काफी संजीदगी के साथ पढ़ने की कोशिश की। उन्होंने आखिर में अपील की है और उसमें कहा है :

"It seems certain forces which are opposed to the take-over of whole-sale trade are working against us and exploiting the situation. The country has faced a difficult food situation with courage and conviction."

अक्सर हमने देखा है चाहे वह अन्न मंत्री हों या प्रधान मंत्री हों लोगों के सामने जब वे भाषण देते हैं तो यही कहा जाता है कि इस परिस्थिति का हौसले से मुकाबला करें। हौसले की बात हम भी करते हैं लेकिन एक आदमी जिसके घर में राशन न हो वह हौसले का भाषण एक दिन सुनेगा, दो दिन सुनेगा लेकिन बाद में पूछेगा हमसे जरूर कि रोटी आटे की बनती है, हौसले की नहीं। अगर उसे आटा नहीं मिलता है तो हौसले की बात कहना बेकार है। सबसे बड़ी बात यह है कि जब यह बात मालम थी कि इस तरह की चीजें चल रही हैं, कुछ इस तरह के तत्व

इस देश में हैं और कुछ राजनीतिक दल भी हैं, यह बात किसी से छिपी हुई नहीं है, जो होलसेल फूडग्रेन्स के टेक-ओवर के खिलाफ हैं। जिस दिन दूकान लूटने की चर्चा की गई है, उस दिन 17 अप्रैल, को मैं स्वयं नागपुर में था। काम्ती में 30 हजार लोगों की मीटिंग हुई। यह सही बात है कि दूकान में जहां पर सीज किया गया वह यार्न था, फूडग्रेन नहीं था। लेकिन उसके बावजूद काम्ती में एम ई एस के जनरल सेक्रेटरी श्री और के गांगुली जो एक कर्मचारी हैं, किसी राजनीतिक पार्टी में शामिल नहीं हैं उन्होंने राशन शाप से चार बैग, तीन बैग गेहूं निकलवाये और वहां के पुलिस अधिकारियों को बुलाकर कहा कि इसको सीज करो लेकिन रोजनामचे में चार बैग या तीन बैग नहीं केवल एक बैग लिखा गया। जो दूसरे हार्डर्स व उनसे भी निकलवाने की उन्होंने कोशिश की लेकिन वह तो डी० आई० आर० में जेलखाने में बन्द कर दिए गए और जिनके घर से सामान निकला वह बाहर घूम रहे हैं। इसीलिए काम्ती कण्ट्रोलमेंट बोर्ड के वाइस चेयरमैन ने अपने भाषण में कहा कि राशन शाप में राशन है, गेहूं है चावल है लेकिन लोगों को मिल नहीं रहा है और अगर ऐसी बात होगी तो हम जरूर उनसे कहेंगे कि सामान को अपने हाथ में ले लें और सरकार की सस्ती दर से बांट दें। बजाय इसके कि जखीरेवाजों को गिरफ्तार किया जाता काम्ती में, नागपुर में या दूसरी जगहों पर, जो वाइस चेयरमैन थे उनको डी०आई०आर. में गिरफ्तार किया गया और वहां के मंत्री महोदय ने यह भी कहा कि इस मीटिंग में एस० एम० बनर्जी और दूसरे बोले हैं उनको भी गिरफ्तार करना चाहिए। इसलिए मैं कह रहा हूं, मुझे अफसोस है आज कहा गया कि महाराष्ट्र की सरकार बहुत कोशिश कर रही है लेकिन मैं चार्ज करता हूं कि वहां के जो चीफ मिनिस्टर

[श्री एस०एम० बनर्जी]

श्री नायक साहब हैं वह जो कुलक लावी है उसके लीडर हैं (व्यवधान) उनकी पालिसी क्या है? उनकी डेफिनिट स्ट्रटेजी यह है कि सेन्टर का जो फूडग्रेन्स टेक-ओवर है उसको खत्म किया जाये, स्केयरसिटी कण्डीशन्स वहाँ क्रिएट कर दी जायें और सेन्टर से गेहूँ चावल मंगाकर इस बात को साबित किया जाये कि यहाँ पर कोई ऐसी सरप्लस चीज नहीं है जो किसानों से हासिल की जा सके।

दूसरे क्या यह बात सच है कि कुछ राजनीतिक लोगों ने वहाँ पर जा कर किसानों से यह बात कही है कि जो भी सामान गेहूँ चावल सरकार को तुम दोगे उसके लिए सरकार एक पैसा भी नहीं देगी बल्कि बिना पैसे के ही ले लेगी? (व्यवधान) मैं कहता हूँ क्या यह बात सच नहीं है कि पूरे महाराष्ट्र में, नागपुर में, काम्पटी में और दूसरी जगहों पर नगर-सेठों और नौकरशाहों की यह साजिश है कि किसी तरह से इसको फेल किया जाये? मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो फायरिंग हुई है, मैं पूर्ण रूप से प्रो० दण्डवते का समर्थन करता हूँ जिन्होंने कहा है कि वह जमाना लद गया जब लोग तकदीर को कोस्ते कोस्ते फुटपाथ पर मर जायें। अगर यही बात रही, अगर उनको भूखे मरना है तो उसके बजाये गोली खा कर मरें, यह नारा हम दें या न दें वह स्वयं यह नारा अपने आप देने जा रहे हैं।

आखिर में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप माधन न करिये, प्रश्न कोजिए।

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: There should be a popular committee with representation for all political parties excluding those which are against the take-over. The popular committee should have representatives of political parties and all MLAs and MPs of that area to help the Government in

this matter. Otherwise, there will be a conspiracy between the bureaucrats and hoarders and the Chief Ministers will become silent spectators because in Maharashtra the Chief Minister himself does not want the take-over of foodgrains.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to answer my three points. Is he aware that some political parties are carrying on sustained propaganda, calculated propaganda against the take-over and, if so, what is the machinery to counteract that? Secondly, is there a conspiracy, directly or indirectly, between the bureaucrats and the hoarders to defeat the objective and, if so, what is the machinery he is having to deal with it? Thirdly, the take-over should cover the entire marketable surplus. I want to know why this has not been done.

Lastly, I want to know whether a judicial inquiry will be held where people have lost their lives and whether compensation will be paid to them.

Our party has decided that in Maharashtra on 5th May, we will agitate for 12 Kg. of ration per month, 12 ounces per day per adult.... (Interruptions). It is our party people who have been arrested. The hoarders have not been arrested; the black-marketeers have not been arrested. It is those people who gave a call against hoarders and black-marketeers who have been arrested.

I want the hon. Minister to answer all these points and help break this conspiracy between bureaucrats and hoarders.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, before I reply to other queries raised by the hon. Member, I would appeal to the hon. Member, through you, Sir, and his party not to resort to any agitation in a difficult situation because that will not help and that will only add to the difficulties of the people in a difficult situation. When the food situation is difficult,

to ask for 12 Kg. of foodgrains which is not the normal consumption of people in the country will not be a right approach in the present situation to help the take-over.

As far as popular committees are concerned, I very much welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member. We propose to request all the State Governments to have popular committees so that the representatives of parties who believe in the take-over are associated and the success of the take-over scheme is ensured.

I will not go into the merits of marketable surplus or marketed surplus. There seems to be a lot misunderstanding about it. The scheme which has been evolved depends on marketable surplus. But in the conditions in which we are working, this is one of the most practical and reasonable schemes. We have no closed mind and, as far as the broad aspects of this are concerned, we can review the position at any time.

I am sorry to say that the hon. Member should not have brought in the name of Shri Naik. I would like to submit for the information of the House that Maharashtra was the first State in the country to ban private trade in jowar and paddy five years ago. The Maharashtra Government unhesitatingly supported all the steps. They have now to tally banned private trade in wheat also. Therefore, I do not think any reliance should be put on whatever appears in the papers. Much reliance should be placed on this that as far as the Maharashtra Government is concerned, they would very much like to support the take-over scheme and ban private trade from speculating and profiteering in essential commodities like foodgrains.

Of course, there are certain elements who are trying to sabotage the scheme. We will have to be very vigilant and we will have to see that with the

cooperation of the public, by explaining to the people patiently all the aspects of the scheme, the efforts of those who are trying to sabotage the scheme are defeated.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (मोतीहारी) : अध्यक्ष जी, मैं सरकार को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आज से गल्ले की स्पेशल गाड़ियाँ महाराष्ट्र को भेजना शुरू हो गया है। दूसरी बात यह है कि हमारे चीफ़ मिनिस्टर देशभक्त, किसान भक्त और मनुष्य भक्त हैं, वह ऐसे नहीं हैं कि किसी का नुकसान करने वाले नहीं। उपनिषद् में लिखा है कि अन्न ही प्राण है, अगर अन्न न हो तो प्राण भी नहीं रह सकते। इसलिए सरकार को जितनी जल्दी हो सके गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र और जहाँ जहाँ कहते हैं वहाँ तुरन्त अन्न भेजना चाहिए, क्योंकि गेहूँ की फ़सल अच्छी हुई है।

मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि गोली फ़ुटहा हो गया है। जब कोई एजी-टेशन हुआ तो फट से गोली चला दी और आदमी मर गए। आदमी को पैदा करना, और जिन्दा करना बड़ा मुश्किल है, लेकिन जान लेना बड़ा आसान है। इसलिए मैं चाहूँगा कि केन्द्रीय सरकार प्रांतीय सरकारों को आदेश दे, हिदायत दे कि गोली को फ़ुटहा बना कर न रखें। विशेष स्थिति में ही गोली चले, गोली पर भी नियंत्रण होना चाहिए।

आज के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स में लिखा है कि पूना में खाद्य स्थिति बिगड़ती जा रही है। इसमें लिखा है कि विदर्भ में ज्वार की फ़सल पर कोई सूखे का असर नहीं हुआ, और पिछले साल से इस साल ज्यादा प्रोक्वोरमेंट हुआ है। अगर सरकार वहाँ के किसानों को फ़ेयर प्राइस देती तो ज्वार ज्यादा सरकार प्रोक्वोर कर सकती थी। लेकिन सरकार ने किसानों को फ़ेयर प्राइस नहीं

[श्री विभूति मिश्र]

दी जिस से ज्वार का प्रोक्योरमेंट वहां बचछा नहीं हो सका। इस में लिखा है कि :

"Black Market Prices—One can have any number of bags of wheat or rice provided he is prepared to pay Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per kilogram for wheat and Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 for a kilogram of rice. Jowar is available for Rs. 2 per kilo in Greater Bombay."

मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि अगर पैसा दे कर के सामान हम को मिल जाता है तो माने यह है कि सामान की कमी नहीं है। तो मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार किसानों पर और अन्य लोगों पर तो गोली चलाती है, लेकिन इन लोगों को क्यों नहीं पकड़ती है जो अधिक दाम लोगों से लेते हैं? मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस तरफ ध्यान दे।

दूसरी बात अखबार में यह लिखी है :

"This is all the more regrettable as last year's jowar procurement was very little, leaving enormous amount of it with the rich farmers who are prepared to sell any quantity of jowar provided they get a black-market price for it."

तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार इस के लिए क्या कर रही है कि अन्न जिनके पास है, अकाल पड़ गया तो भाम.शाह की तरह सरकार को अन्न क्यों नहीं देने आगे इसी अखबार में लिखा है :

"It is not the scarcity of food which has so much angered the people but the availability of it at the black market prices from godowns all over the State hoarded with foodgrains, a fact not unknown to the Government."

मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जब सरकार को पता है और गोदाम में अन्न भरा हुआ है तो हमारी सरकार क्या कर रही है? क्योंकि आज के अखबार से मालूम होता है कि फूड की स्केयसिटी नहीं है, प्रबन्ध की स्केयसिटी है। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार ठीक से ध्यान दे।

अन्त में एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार जितनी पोलिटिकल पार्टीज हैं जो फूड डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन में मदद नहीं कर रही हैं उन को बैन करे, और जो पार्टीज फूड डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन में मदद करें उनसे सहायता ले। जो पोलिटिकल पार्टीज सरकार की अन्न की पोलिसी के खिलाफ एजीटेशन कर रही हैं उन को महाराष्ट्र को सरहद पर जाते ही जेल खाने में पहुंचा दें। क्या सरकार इस बारे में सोच रही है, क्योंकि विपत्ति के वक्त हमें याद है बिहार में जब भूकम्प आया था उस समय अंग्रेजों ने जितने राजनीतिक कार्यकर्ता जेल में थे, सब को छोड़ दिया था और हम लोगों ने विपत्ति के समय ब्रिटिशर्स, गांधी जी और जवाहरलाल जी की भूकम्प में मदद की थी। तो जब महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात में ऐसी स्थिति है तो इन लोगों को खुर्मेनिटेरियन दृष्टिकोण से ट्रीट करना चाहिए, और पोलिटिकल पार्टीज का सवाल नहीं रखना चाहिए।

आखिरी बात मैं खाने के तेल के बारे में भी कहना चाहता हूं। इस में लिखा है कि खाने के तेल की कमी है, हालांकि होर्ड्स के पास है। तो क्या सरकार खाने के तेल को भी अपने हाथ में ले कर वितरित करेगी? और जो वितरण की एजेंसी है उस को सरकार अपने हाथ में वार फुटिंग पर लेकर खाने और तेल के सामान का वितरण करने की बात सोच रही है?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:

He is a very senior member and the words of wisdom he spoke we always bear in mind and particularly, his suggestion that political parties should not exploit the present situation is a very welcome one.... (Interruptions) We have differences and we have a democratic set up, but no party should try to exploit the situation and try to gain cheap popularity at the cost of the country and national prestige on a matter like food.

I attach great importance to the words of wisdom uttered by the hon. Member.

As far as the holders and the profiteers are concerned, I think we have to take stringent action in times to come if they continue to indulge in profiteering at the cost of the people in any part of the country.... (Interruptions).

He has made a number of other suggestions about procurment in Maharashtra. Perhaps he is not aware of the fact that in Maharashtra it is not an open system, it is a compulsory levy system. As far as the compulsory levy system is concerned, the Maharashtra Government is very seriously implementing it and even though the State is in a very difficult situation, they are imposing the levy and recovering it from the producers. If there is any lacuna in this, I will draw the attention of the Maharashtra Government to any specific suggestion the hon. Members may make.

About remunerative prices etc. these are issues which can be discussed on a different occasion.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : आज के अखबार में लिखा है कि सरकार विदर्भ में किसानों की फसल प्राइस नहीं देती है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी तो वहां फूड जाने दीजिए, इसको फिर डिस्कस कर लीजिएगा।

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:

Bibhutiji should know that the prices of foodgrains openly sold in the country are very high compared to the fair price shop prices. In Maharashtra after levy, the producers are free to sell the foodgrains directly.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय महाराष्ट्र के विभिन्न नगरों में जो व्यक्ति अन्न के अभाव में अपना रोष प्रकट करते हुए गोली के शिकार हुए हैं उनके बारे में यह कहना कि वे किसी निहित स्वार्थ से प्रेरित थे, जैसे पर नमक छिड़कने के समान है। भूखा क्या नहीं करता ?

विभूषित कि न करोति पापम्।

यदि सरकार हर एक व्यक्ति को उचित मूल्य पर पर्याप्त मात्रा में अनाज देने का अपना दायित्व पालन नहीं कर सकती तो फिर जनता को अपने रोष को प्रकट करना पड़ेगा और अगर उस में उन्हें गोली का निशाना बनाया जाता है तो कहना पड़ेगा कि इस देश में रोटी महंगी हो गई है और बोली सस्ती हो गई है। लेकिन जो मरे हैं उन्हें धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि यह उन्हीं के बलिदान का परिणाम है कि आज दिल्ली से गेहूं से लदी हुई गाड़ियां महाराष्ट्र की ओर प्रस्थान कर रही हैं। क्या और गाड़ियों के भेजने के लिए नये उपद्रवों की आवश्यकता होगी ? जब तक गोलियां नहीं चलेंगी तब तक क्या नई दिल्ली नहीं चलेगी ? मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब महाराष्ट्र की सरकार अधिक अन्न की मांग पेश कर रही थी तो उस मांग को पूरा क्यों नहीं किया गया ? केन्द्र ने केवल आधा गेहूं क्यों भेजा ? जब से सरकार ने व्यापार ले लिया है तब से महाराष्ट्र के प्रवक्ता का इस सम्बन्ध में जो कथन है मैं उनके शब्दों को उद्धृत करना चाहता हूं :

"The taking over of the wheat trade has changed the situation and even the 2.5 lakhs tonnes would not have been sufficient."

लेकिन सरकार जो भेज रही है वह उस से बहुत कम है। मंत्री महोदय इस के उत्तर में कह सकते हैं कि हमारे पास अनाज कम है। अभी वसूली नहीं हो रही है।

यहां पर वसूली के मूल्य का प्रश्न आता है। सरकार विदेशों से अनाज मंगा रही है और उसकी कीमत सोने में चुकाने जा रही है। तो क्या किसान को लाभप्रद मूल्य देकर पर्याप्त मात्रा में गेहूं खरीदना सरकार के लिए सम्भव नहीं होना चाहिए? लेकिन मंत्री महोदय कहेंगे कि यह मामला फिर कभी चर्चा के लिए उठाया जायेगा। आज मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयान में दावा किया है कि पिछले साल की तुलना में इस साल गेहूं ज्यादा वसूल हो रहा है। मेरा निवेदन है कि कुछ प्रान्तों में इस साल फसल सात दिन या पन्द्रह दिन पहले आई है। लेकिन मंत्री महोदय अपनी टेलिविजन इंटरव्यू में स्वीकार कर चुके हैं कि किसान अधिक लाभप्रद मूल्य चाहता है, और उसकी शिकायत में बल है कि उसे दाम और अधिक मिलने चाहिए। दाम बढ़ा कर आप किसान को अधिक से अधिक अनाज बाजार में लाने के लिए प्रेरित क्यों नहीं करते?

दूसरी बात है वितरण के बारे में मैं जानना चाहता हूं। बम्बई में आज जो सरकारी दूकानें हैं उन में प्रति दिन राशनिंग की मात्रा है चार आउंस गेहूं और दो आउंस चावल। आखिर यह चिड़िया का चुगना है या मानव का भोजन है? बाजार में मोटा अनाज महंगा है। आम आदमी आज खुले बाजार में बाजरा और ज्वार खरीद कर अपनी आवश्यकता पूरी नहीं कर सकता।

अब बम्बई जैसे नगर का नागरिक क्या करे? मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार टोटल राशनिंग के बारे में विचार कर रही है? क्या वह समझ रही है कि थोक व्यापार को सरकारी हाथ में लेने की चरम परिणति टोटल राशनिंग में होगी? हर व्यक्ति को खिलाने की जिम्मेदारी सरकार को लेनी पड़ेगी। क्या सरकार यह करने की स्थिति में है? क्या उस के लिए वितरण का प्रबन्ध है? और उस पर कीमत क्या होगी?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि बम्बई जैसे नगर में, जहां 13-14 हजार रिटेलर हैं उनकी भूमिका क्या होगी? वह किसान से किस कीमत पर अनाज खरीदेंगे और उपभोक्ता को किस कीमत पर बेचेंगे? उन्हें क्या राज्य सरकार अनाज देगी? अगर राज्य सरकार उन्हें अनाज देगी तो राज्य सरकार अपनी दूकानों से अनाज क्यों नहीं दे सकती? अभी तक रिटेलर की स्थिति क्या होगी इस के बारे में सरकार का दिमाग साफ नहीं है। आज बम्बई में हालत यह है कि बम्बई की दो तीन कम्पनियां पंजाब में—अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप का पंजाब नहीं कहूंगा, सारा पंजाब नहीं कहूंगा—

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मेरा तो रहने नहीं दिया आपने।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : वह कम्पनियां पंजाब से नीलाम में खरीदे गेहूं के 25 हजार बैग लाईं और वह गेहूं ज्यादा दाम में महाराष्ट्र सरकार द्वारा और अधिक कीमत पर खरीदा जा कर उपभोक्ताओं को बेचा जा रहा है। बम्बई की इन कम्पनियों ने गेहूं खरीदा 65 रुपये क्विंटल के हिसाब से, महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने उन कम्पनियों से खरीदा उस को 135 रु० क्विंटल के हिसाब से और

महाराष्ट्र सरकार उस गेहूं को बेच रही है 148 रु० क्विंटल के हिसाब से। वह गेहूं मनुष्य के खाने लायक नहीं है, लेकिन जो खाने लायक नहीं है वह आज लाया जा रहा है क्योंकि पेट की आग कृषि मंत्री के आश्वासन से बुझने वाली नहीं है, आदमी अधिक दिनों तक कम नहीं खा सकता। आसू मनुष्य की प्यास नहीं बुझा सकते। खाने के लिए अनाज चाहिए।

कल यह मामला श्री पीलू मोदी ने उठाया था और इसके सम्बन्ध में उन्होंने प्रधान मंत्री को पत्र भी लिखा है। आप एक तरफ मुनाफाखोरों को खत्म करने की बात करते हैं और दूसरी तरफ आप ने बम्बई की अपनी कम्पनियों को इजाजत दे दी कि पंजाब में नीलाम से सड़ा हुआ गेहूं खरीदें तथा उसको उनसे महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने खरीदा। श्री पीलू मोदी का आरोप है कि इसमें कुछ मंत्रियों का हाथ है इसलिए गोल माल हो रहा है। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस मामले की जांच की जाये।

मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय ने किस आधार पर कहा है कि :

"The most difficult phase of the food situation is practically over."

मेरा निवेदन है कि आने वाले पन्द्रह बीस दिन कठिन होंगे। यह पन्द्रह बीस दिन परीक्षा का काल होंगे। इस परीक्षा काल में अगर सरकार अन्न की वसूली को बढ़ा सकती, उस के वितरण का ठीक प्रबन्ध कर सकती तब तो वह जनता के रोष को शान्त कर सकती है, नहीं तो यह कहने से कि अनाज के व्यापार को हम ने हाथ में ले लिया है, यह बड़ा समाजवादी कदम है, उसे किसी को सन्तोष होने वाला नहीं।

यह बड़े ताज्जुब की बात है कि सदन में यह मांग की जा रही है कि जो सरकार की नीतियों से प्रामाणिक मतभेद रखते हैं, उन को गैर-कानूनी घोषित कर दिया जाये। किस की हिम्मत है कि जो हम को गैर-कानूनी घोषित करे ? हम चनौती देना चाहते हैं कि जो ऐसा करना चाहते हैं, वे कर के देख लें। सरकार अनाज का व्यापार अपने हाथ में ले या न ले, क्या इसके बारे में ईमानदार मतभेद नहीं हो सकता है ? इन लोगों ने पच्चीस साल तक अनाज का व्यापार अपने हाथ में नहीं लिया, तो क्या ये चोर-बाजारियों के हिमायती थे ? प्रश्न सिद्धान्त का नहीं है, प्रश्न व्यवहार का है।

क्या सरकार व्यापार की जिम्मेदारी सम्भाल कर अन्न का उत्पादन बढ़ा सकती है, उस का ठीक वितरण कर सकती है ? क्या कृषि मंत्री महोदय इस बात को स्वीकार नहीं करेंगे कि आज किसान की यह प्रवृत्ति हो रही है कि वह गेहूं न बोये, बल्कि चना या जौ बोये ? अगर किसानों ने गेहूं की जगह व्यावसायिक फसलें बोना शुरू कर दिया, तो देश का क्या हाल होगा ?

मैं चाहता हूं कि किसान को प्रोत्साहित मूल्य देने के बारे में, वितरण की व्यवस्था के बारे में, रीटेलर के रोल के बारे में और सरकार विदेशों से कितना अनाज मंगा रही है, उस के बारे में अगर मंत्री महोदय सदन को विश्वास में लेना चाहें, तो लें और यह आश्वासन दें कि महाराष्ट्र और अन्य अभावग्रस्त क्षेत्रों की सारी आवश्यकता पूरी होगी, सरकार किसी दंगे के लिए नहीं रुकेगी और गेहूं देने से पहले गोली देने का प्रयत्न नहीं करेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:
Sir, nobody can be happy about these firing incidents. We have full sympathy for those who have lost their lives. It is very unfortunate.

I wish to mention very emphatically —because the hon. Member made the statement as if special trains are

being moved because of this firing—that this statement of his is incorrect. We had moved foodgrains by special trains last year and whenever there is any emergency we have to resort to special trains. Massive procurement has started. Our strategy is not to store the foodgrains but as soon as we purchase we put it in the train. We have planned now immediate movement to heavy deficit areas so that necessary confidence is restored. This has been part of our planning and my Ministry has been working on it for the last fortnight before this unfortunate incident took place. Then the hon. Member has also made the statement that procurement is more because the crop has come early. My own assessment is that this year the winter was more prolonged than last year, and if anything the wheat harvest was delayed by one week mainly in Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and Bihar. Therefore, massive procurement is taking place because we have a very good wheat crop, the trends of procurement are encouraging and that would help us solve the food situation in the coming days. Then he made another statement that the situation was likely to become more difficult within the next 15 to 20 days. I do not know whether he has in mind the traders who are supposed to go on strike on 7th May, but I hope he has not that in mind....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
I am talking of the consumers.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:
But I stand by my statement that the difficult situation is over, because we can tackle the situation and we have sufficient stocks. Even today, for instance, the procurement has reached 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes a day, and, therefore, this would enable us to meet the situation in a much better way as compared to the past.

As far as the procurement price is concerned, I do not think that at this stage this issue can be reopened. I have full sympathy for the farmers, and my Ministry and the Government

of India Act on the basis of the reports of the Agricultural Prices Commission. This was discussed at the Chief Ministers' Conference and was very thoroughly gone into, and it was even decided that we should announce the price before the sowing season so that the farmers should know the price before sowing. This year we announced the price before the sowing season. If anything is to be examined, it can be examined on the basis of the expert advice of economists etc. next year, but this is not the stage at which it can be done; no feeling of uncertainty, which would come in the way of procurement, should be created now.

As regards the role of retailers in Bombay, of course, under the monopoly procurement scheme in Maharashtra, there is no role for the retailers, put to the scheme which we have followed at the all-India level, it has been envisaged that the retailers can claim a role in the foodgrains distribution system; whether it is possible immediately or not is something which we shall have to examine in the light of our stock position, but in the long run we propose to utilise the services of retailers, and we even contemplate in the long run to feed the retailers through public distribution system, if such a situation arises.

As far as rationing is concerned, as far as big cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi are concerned, we shall specially attend to these cities, and I think that it would be our endeavour to meet the full requirements; whether you call it rationing or not, it should be our endeavour to meet the full requirements of Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and such other urban cities, and, therefore, we propose to take some steps in this regard in the days to come.

As regards inferior wheat to which Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee made a reference, I would only say this. I have read in the press about this, and Shri Piloo Mody had also referred to

this yesterday on the floor of the House. So, we shall naturally get that letter from the Prime Minister's Secretariat, and we shall ask for information from the Maharashtra Government. It would be very premature on my part to make any statement now; I am not prepared either to believe or disbelieve the allegations made. Openly they have been moving and openly they have been purchasing; it is possible some body may have purchased and moved and somebody may be selling such a thing, but if Government is a party to that, we shall make full inquiries. I think that it may not be correct, but I am subject to verification. We shall find out what the actual position is.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I had asked about the total requirements of Maharashtra, and whether the Centre would be in a position to meet the full requirements.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: We are constantly in touch with the State Government, and we have been making an assessment. Of course, the State Government has been asking for a much larger quantity. But as I have said, we propose to substantially step up the supplies to Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Kerala which are heavily deficit States. As regards the quantities, we shall discuss the matter with the State Government and come to some conclusion. But I wish to assure the House and also through you, Sir, the Maharashtra Government that we shall make very sincere efforts to see that the reasonable requirements are met.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I feel concerned, because it is the State of Maharashtra which is having the worst of the suffering due to this food shortage. Three continuous droughts have been suffered by the State. It has been stated that last year the food shortage in the country was hardly 8 per cent.

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If that is so, if you take 16 ounces per capita as the average food availability in this country, a cut of 8 per cent would make it 15 point something. But, as we have seen, in the ration shows the food that is made available in cities like Bombay, Nagpur and other places is, in some cases, not even 3 ounces per capita—as against the 15 ounces that could have been made available to them. That means it is a failure of the distribution system. Now, who is responsible for this failure?

Atal Bihariji was just now very agitated over the question of wholesale traders, taking over of the wholesale trade etc. All these years the distribution channel and machinery in this country was in the hands of the wholesalers and retailers. When there was a national crisis at the time of the Bangladesh movement, when there was a war, all these wholesalers and others, even thieves in this country, rose to the occasion and resisted. But when there is a national crisis caused by nature, due to nobody's fault, but drought continuously for three years and in such vast areas like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Mysore, Gujarat and other parts, what is the national duty irrespective of party considerations? Should the wholesalers not have risen to the occasion?

They held a conference here. Was it not expected of them to approach Government and say: 'Sir, we take up the challenge; we shall see to it that the distribution machinery functions properly, there shall be proper prices and nobody shall suffer in this country'. Did they come forward with such a proposal or approach? No, Sir. They wanted to make profit, at any cost and exploit every situation to that end.

There is a saying in Marathi:

मुर्दे की खोपड़ी के ऊपर का भी ची ये लेंगे और चाटेंगे। यह जो एटीट्यूड है होर्ड्स का और होलसेलर्स का इस की वजह से देश संकट

मे है। ऐसे समय में झटल बिहारी जी, आप का और हमारा क्या कर्तव्य होना चाहिए, यह आप से पूछना चाहता हूँ

श्री झटल बिहारी बाजपेयी : आप को जो कुछ पूछना हो वह आप शिदे साहब से पूछिए।

श्री बसंत साठे : आप ने जो कुछ पूछा उसके ऊपर मेरा सवाल आप से है कि क्यों यह मौका है देश में कि हम आगे में तेल झोंकें ? क्या यह मौका है देश में कि हम इस परिस्थिति का इस तरह से लाभ उठायें और साध साध आन्दोलन करें ? आन्दोलनों में क्या कहा गया मोर्चे निकाले गए। उन मोर्चों में कहा गया।

“खुला बाजार कर दो”।

यह मांग थी।

मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा :

“In view of the difficult food supply position in the country resulting from last year's inadequate and erratic rains and consequent widespread drought conditions in the country, it has not been possible to meet the entire demand made by the Government of Maharashtra.”

Then in the last paragraph, he says:

“It seems that certain forces who are opposed to the take-over of wholesale trade are working against us, and are exploiting the situation”.

Such forces are traitors to the country. If they are exploiting the poor man's plight, they are traitors, just as they would be called traitors in the case of a war. What action is the Government taking against them? Have you put any hoarder behind the bars? Have you arrested any blackmarketeer? I know an instance, and may I remind the hon. Minister that this agitation in Nagpur is not the agitation of the Maha Vidharba Andolan Samiti or anything like that? You have tried to import that thing into this. This is an agitation on account of food shortage, and food shortage is created by the failure of the administrative machinery.

When hoarders' stocks were pointed out to the police, what happened? Those who pointed out the hoarders' stocks were put behind the bars and those who had hoarded the stocks are not only at large but some sharing has been done. If 23 bags were shown, 13 were confiscated, the rest having been returned. Where have the rest gone?

Now, are you going to associate the elected representatives? After all, who is going to face the people? Who is expected to go to the people and tell them and satisfy them? “Already, there is food shortage; but let us bear it for some time. Let us have equitable distribution. Let us all together bear the brunt for some time.” Who will go and tell it to the people? You expect all those, irrespective of parties, who support this stand of the Government, the take-over of the wholesale trade in wheat, to go to the people and tell them. But what hand do they have in the distribution machinery? In the local bodies, do the Collectors listen to the elected representatives? I want to know from you, are you going to have a positive association of the elected representatives with these bodies so that they can have some powers to regulate distribution in those areas? And then, we can point out the hoar-

ders, the fat hoarders, and they can be put behind the bars. Are you going to do that? That is the question. If you are not going to do that, then I am afraid this situation cannot be solved. This is really a difficult situation. These are the specific problems. What steps are you going to take against those who are engaged in anti-national activities and how are you going to associate positively the elected representatives of the people with the distributive machinery?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:

About the association of elected representatives, I think it is a very welcome suggestion and in the communication which we shall issue to the State Government, we will specifically mention this, that the elected representatives of the people should be associated with the popular committees. (Interruptions).

When I referred to some of the facts which related to the agitation in Nagpur, I did not say that the food situation was not difficult in Maharashtra. I did not make a statement that food had nothing to do with this. What I said was, it is a fact that the Maha Vidharb Andolan Samiti did give a call for a bandh in Nagpur. There were some violent demonstrations, and coupled with the yarn shortage, this really led to some trouble. I was mentioning only some additional factors. I have never said that food has nothing to do with the problems which have come up in Maharashtra.

I also broadly agree with the statement made by the hon. Member that this year the general shortfall in production is only eight per cent as compared with the peak period of 1970-71. But the actual hardship is much more; because of the drought situation, inequitable distribution took place at various levels. The inequitable distribution is the result

of drought, and as a result of a deep study it has transpired that unless we restructure the foodgrain economy and bring about a system of distribution, it will not be possible to have equitable distribution of foodgrains in a difficult period. Therefore, this is the step which Government has taken now. Ultimately, it is a long term measure, and we should make a judgment on the new system only after a long period, even a number of years.

About hoarders, etc. I have already mentioned that strong steps are taken; in a number of States many hoarders have been put behind bars. Precise figures are not with me, but that is our approach and that is our advice.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra):
Alcoholic bars?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the bar he would welcome!

धन्यवान

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जिस की मैंने इजाजत नहीं दी है, उस को यहां नहीं उठाया जा सकता।

SHRI PILOO MODY: Yesterday, you were good enough to say that you would ask the Minister to come and make a statement here about the medical college.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not see the Minister sitting here today.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I do not see where the Minister has disappeared. For two days he is in hiding; I do not see who is persecuting him.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall try to find him out.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You promised yesterday; 24 hours later you have not been successful.

MR. SPEAKER: I have been trying to see whether he comes to the House today. I did not see him yesterday or today.

SHRI PILOO MODY: We must arm you with powers to summon the Ministers.

(स्वबचान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जो नीटिस मैंने नहीं माना है, उसके बारे में यहां नहीं बोल सकते। जिन को इजाजत दी है, वे ब्राइटम 5 के बाद बोलेंगे। (स्वबचान)..... कैसा मजाक बना रखा है, यह पार्लियामेंट है या क्या है? (स्वबचान)..... आप ने पार्लियामेंट को क्या समझ रखा है। क्या यह कोई देहात की सभा है—बैठिये।

13.15 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REVIEW, ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS OF INDIAN PETROCHEMICAL CORPORATION FOR 1971-72

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (1) Review by the Government on the working of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation for the year 1971-72.
- (2) Annual Report of the Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, for the year 1971-72 alongwith the Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4850/73].

13.15 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

EIGHTY-FIFTH AND EIGHTY-SIXTH REPORTS

SHRI SEZHAYAN (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee:—

- (1) Eighty-fifth Report on Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1970-71—Union Government (Posts and Telegraphs).
 - (2) Eighty-sixth Report on Audit Report (Civil), 1970 and Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the years 1969-70 and 1970-71, Central Government (Civil) relating to Ministry of Education and Social Welfare.
- (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mohanty how can you get up abruptly without giving me notice? There is no notice from you I am calling the Members at item 5. Don't interrupt me, please. (Interruptions)

I am not allowing Shri Mohanty.

Shri Amrit Nahata. He is not here. Dr. Kailas.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

REPORT, MINUTES AND THIRTY-SIXTH REPORT

DR. KAILAS (Bombay South): I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes of the Committee on Public Undertakings:—

- (1) (i) Twenty-eighth Report on Indian Airlines.
- (ii) Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating to the above Report.