

Staff Car Rules in Andaman.

1985. Shri E. K. Simha: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Staff Car Rules are being violated in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands union Territory; and

(b) the number of Officers whose bungalows have been declared as garages of the staff cars and the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Vidya Charan Shukla): (a) No violation of the Staff Car Rules in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has come to the notice of Government.

(b) There are three staff cars. One staff car allotted to the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Car Nicobar, is parked at the garage attached to the officer's residence due to non-availability of a permanent garage near the office. The other two are parked in garages near the office.

Grants-in-aid to Museums

1986. Shri S. A. Agadi: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of annual grants-in-aid given by Government to the Museums (Museums-wise) in the country;

(b) the grant-in-aid given to the Salar Jung Museum since it was taken over till date, year-wise; and

(c) whether any lump sum amount has been granted for special purposes to the Salar Jung Museum and if so, the particulars thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education (Shri Sber Singh): (a) Particulars of annual grants-in-aid given by the Government to Museums, other than ad hoc grants given to Museums for specific purposes, during the last three years are

detailed in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-484/67].

(b) The Salar Jung Museum was taken over in 1958 and functioned as a subordinate office of the Ministry of Education till the coming into force of the Salar Jung Museum Act, 1981. The expenditure on the Salar Jung Museum during this period prior to the Act was a direct charge on the Government. The following grants-in-aid have been given to the Museum from 1961-62 to 1963-64:

1961-62	Rs. 5,00,000
1962-63	Rs. 2,50,000
1963-64	Rs. 3,00,000

The figures of annual grants-in-aid given during the year 1964-65 to 1966-67 are indicated in the statement attached in reply to part (a) of the question.

(c) The following lump sum grants have been given by the Government to the Salar Jung Museum towards the cost of construction of its building:

1961-62	Rs. 10,00,000
1964-65	Rs. 5,00,000
1965-66	Rs. 5,00,000
1966-67	Rs. 7,78,000
1967-68	Rs. 2,00,000

Besides the above grants, a sum of Rs. 5,00,000 received by the Government from the Salar Jung Estate Committee for construction of a new building for the Museum was released to the Board in 1961-62.

12.20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

TALKS BETWEEN CHIEF MINISTER OF KERALA AND UNION FOOD MINISTER

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): I call the attention of the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Deve-

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

lopment and Co-operation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The result of the recent talks between him and the Chief Minister of Kerala regarding serious food situation in Kerala and steps to be taken to prevent collapse of rationing system there."

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Jagjwan Ram): The Chief Minister, Kerala met the Prime Minister on the 29th May when I was also present. The Chief Minister stated that the actual receipt of rice in the months of April and May was appreciably lower than the quotas allotted by the Central Government and therefore informal rationing had broken down in some parts of the State. I explained that due to the sudden and unexpected stoppage of exports of rice from Burma and the poor procurement in Andhra Pradesh, partly due to the late arrival of the crop, there was a shortfall of supplies in these two months. I also stated that in view of the difficulty in maintaining supplies of rice at the desired level, we had agreed to make available to the Kerala Government such quantities of wheat as may be required to meet the shortfall in rice.

As regards supplies of rice for the month of June, I indicated that, as the position regarding availability in Andhra Pradesh had improved, every effort would be made to move 60,000 tonnes during the month of June. Over and above this quantity, imported rice to the extent of about 17,000 tonnes would also be made available.

I also repeated the assurance given earlier to the Kerala Government that adequate stocks of wheat would be maintained in the State. These stocks will be maintained at the places indicated by the Chief Minister, Kerala.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: After meeting the Food Minister here, the Chief Minister of Kerala has issued a statement from which it is clear that he came here all the way from Kerala for having rice, but he has gone back empty-handed with only a bundle of hollow promises and nothing else. May I know whether the hon. Minister is likely to ask the Madras Government to supply about 50,000 or 60,000 tonnes of rice to Kerala, which may be later on adjusted from the Centre from their own quota, immediately to save the rationing system from collapse and the people there from starvation?

Shri Jagjwan Ram: This was also suggested by the Chief Minister of Kerala. Before I came to the House, in the morning I had booked a call to the Chief Minister of Madras to find out whether he would be in a position to meet the requirements to some extent . . .

Shri S. M. Banerjee: He has got it in the Central stock.

Shri Jagjwan Ram: I have not finished my sentence yet. Why should the hon. Member intervene?

I had booked a call to the Chief Minister of Madras, but I have not been able to talk to him because the communication could not be established and I had to come to the House.

श्री बन्धु लिववे (मुंबेर) : कल श्री राज मंत्री महोदय ने यह स्वीकार किया कि केरल को जो चावल दिया गया था, उसके बारे में जो प्रांकों उन्होंने दिये और जो राज्य सरकार के प्रांकों हैं, उनमें काफी अन्तर था। लेकिन उस वक़्त तो उन्होंने कुछ अकड़वाबी के साथ और चर्च में यह लाना भी माया था कि चाप लोग राजनीति खेल रहे हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब कि कई राज्यों में और-काश्मी सरकारें हैं, तो इस तरह के प्रांकों में अब अन्तर होगा,

तो क्या मंत्री महोदय यह धारणासून देंगे कि भविष्य में वह बिना जांच किये राज्य सरकारों के प्रांकड़ों पर लांछन नहीं लगायेंगे। केरल में राशनिंग की व्यवस्था खरम न हो जाये, इसके लिये वह तत्काल क्या कर सकते हैं, वह कहां से कितना चावल दे सकते हैं, वह इसकी कुछ तफसील बतायें। वह मुख्य मंत्री के साथ बातचीत करेंगे, लेकिन वह हम मदन को धारणासून दें कि वह डग बाजे में क्या करेंगे ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : जां कुछ करना है, वह मैंने बना दिया है। जहां तक प्रांकड़ों का मवान है, कल मैंने उत्तर दिया। राज्य सरकारों के प्रांकड़ों पर लांछन लगाने का कभी मेरा मकसद नहीं था और घाने भी कभी नहीं होगा।

श्री बच्चू लिच्छये : उस वकन तो मंत्री महोदय राजनीति की बात करने थे।

श्री जगजीवन राम : अगर आवश्यकता हुई, तो मैं राजनीति की बात आज भी करूंगा।

श्री बच्चू लिच्छये : मंत्री महोदय ने धारणा लगाया था।

श्री जगजीवन राम : मैंने धारणा नहीं लगाया था। लेकिन जब हम यहां पर राजनीति के आधार पर धारणा हैं, तो फिर यहां पर राजनीति की बात को रूज धाउट कैसे किया जा सकता है ?

जैसा कि मैंने धारणा कहा है, उम्मीद है कि धारणा से ज्यादा चावल केरल जावेगा। हम धारणा से धारणा चावल केरल में पहुंचा सकें, इसके लिये वह प्रयत्न धारणा कर दिया गया है कि वहां से रोड एक गाड़ी चावल जाए, लेकिन चूंकि एक गाड़ी से नहीं हो सकेगा, इसलिए यह प्रयत्न हो रहा है कि दो स्पेशल रोड बनें। उसके बाद

भी यह सम्भावना है कि जितना चाहिए उतना नहीं पहुंच सकेगा, इसलिए कुछ चावल स्टीमर से ले जाने की बात भी विचारधीन है। उदा. बाजे में भी प्रगति हो रही है। धारणा है कि 10, 12 जून तक 10 हजार टन चावल जो बाहर से धारणा, वहां पहुंच जायेगा। इसके इलावा करीब 20 तारीख तक 7 हजार टन बाहर का चावल और पहुंच जायेगा। धारणा है कि यह सब मिलाकर जून के महीने में लगभग मल्ल 7 हजार टन चावल उकर केरल पहुंच जायेगा।

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Alipore): The hon. Minister has stated earlier also and in his recent talks with Mr. Namboodiripad that any shortfall that there may be in rice would be made up by additional allocations of wheat. As he probably knows, even now the weekly ration in Kerala includes 90 gms. per capita of wheat per day, and to maintain this wheat ration of 90 gms. it is clear it would require 40,000 tonnes per month. He has admitted that in the months of April and May there was a definite shortfall in rice for certain reasons, but how is it that even during April and May there was not adequate wheat available in Kerala to maintain even the statutory ration of 90 gms. And now on the advice of the Central Government, again the Kerala Government has agreed to increase that 90 gms. to 160 gms. of wheat, which would require 78,000 tonnes per month, and yet the Chief Minister stated that at present their stocks of wheat in Kerala are only 21,000 tonnes. So, does this not clearly show that even in regard to wheat, which has always been thrown in the face of the people of Kerala and Bengal who are being accused of not wanting to eat it, there is some kind of political game going on?

Shri Jagjwan Ram: There is no question of any political game here. So far as my figures go—I have not made the calculations that he has made—at present our commitment to

[Shri Jagjiwan Ram]

the Kerala Government is 70,000 tonnes of rice and 20,000 tonnes of wheat per month. So far as wheat is concerned, there has been no complaint.

Shri Vasudevan Nair (Peermade): There were complaints.

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: As far as I am aware, there are no complaints about the issue of wheat in Kerala. What we say, and what the Chief Minister suggested, is that 5,000 tonnes of wheat will be placed at every district headquarters. That is what I have meant by "the places indicated by the Chief Minister" I mean that.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: That will mean how much per month? If there is 5,000 tonnes at every district headquarters, that means 45,000 tonnes per month. The stock there is 21,000 tonnes, and in April, and May it was not enough even to maintain the ration of 90 gms.

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: So far as 20,000 tonnes is concerned, that is monthly allotted or issued, that stock is there. This is for any shortfall that may take place in the supply of rice. Therefore, it will have to be maintained there, and the stocks are moving already for it.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): Since the last two weeks it is reported, and the Minister also knows, that the rationing system in Kerala has already broken down. The Minister has also agreed that there was a shortfall, and the Chief Minister has stated it is about 80,000 tonnes. Whatever procurement is there in Kerala is given, so that at least 3 oz. are given in some places, whereas in other places there is absolutely no rice given. It is said that there is enough wheat but in some places it is reported that they are not getting wheat also. Anyhow, in view of the fact that there is a breakdown in the rationing system, I want to know whether the promises

now made will have the same fate as the earlier promises made to the Chief Minister one month ago promise and then break the promise.

Secondly, this is mango season in Andhra and there is difficulty of wagons. They now propose to take rice from Kakinada to Krishna and then to Vizag and from Vizag it goes in steamer to Kerala. That means that it will take another ten or fifteen days if rice is given by Andhra and if wagons are available to transport it to Vizag and if weather permits—because it is monsoon in Kerala. If all these things are fulfilled, then it will take another fifteen days. That means that the breakdown of the rationing system in Kerala will continue for fifteen more days. Is there no other method instead of adopting the circuitous route and sending them direct to Kerala so that whatever is promised and is made available is sent to Kerala immediately?

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: What I have said about the steamer is not in replacement of the railway movement; that is in addition to the railway movement so that the 60,000 tons to be moved from Andhra to Kerala actually moves. The steamer arrangement is not in replacement of the railway.

Shri A. K. Gopalan: When will it reach Kerala?

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: Of course it will increase freight. But it is in addition to Railway movement.

Shri P. Ramamurti (Madurai): The shortage of procurement in Andhra and the late arrival of the crop were things that could not have been known to the Food Minister and the Government of India. On 18th March, the Chief Minister of Kerala after having met Brahmananda Reddi, the Andhra Chief Minister, definitely came to the conclusion that Andhra was not going to send the rice and therefore he came and met the Prime Minister and the Food Minister. At that time also, the

Food Minister promised—on what basis I do not know—that the quantity of rice would move. Then again on 8th and 9th April, after talking to Mr. Brahmananda Reddi in the Food Ministers' conference, he also promised that it would move. Then again, on the 22nd of this month during the adjournment motion, he promised that it would reach and 1500 tons was going to move within two or three days. Yesterday when we asked him, why that statement did not materialise, he pointed out that the statement was based on the exception that came out of the talks that the Food Secretary had with the Andhra representatives in the South Zone conference which was held on the 11th of this month. All these expectations have not been borne out by subsequent actual developments. What exactly does he propose to do now and on what basis does he think that the Promise that he is making now is going to materialise? What are the concrete steps that the Central Government is today taking to send rice? Is the Food Minister going to rush to Andhra and meet Mr. Reddi to see to it that the food is actually sent out or is he sending telegrams? What are the concrete steps which he now proposes to take to see that at least this time the promise is going to materialise?

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: We have already said that despatches from Andhra have improved and if necessary I am proposing to send some officers.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: The Minister has no sense of emergency; he will never move out of Delhi from his air conditioned office. Why cannot he himself go to Andhra and Madras? What is the difficulty?

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: Well, if necessary, of course, I will have no hesitation in going to Andhra or to Madras.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: He has not gone. For the last two months our people are starving.

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: My itinerary tour programme cannot be dictated by you! As I have said, we are taking steps in the matter. The despatches from Andhra to Kerala have improved. And we have every hope that they will further improve. I am sending my officers to Hyderabad to talk to the State Government and also to the railway officials to organise the movement of two trains of rice from Andhra to Kerala every day.

Shri P. Ramamurti: Nothing happens.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham (Visakhapatnam): Please give me a chance.

Mr. Speaker: I am calling Shri Sulaiman Sait. Chance is normally given only to those who have tabled the Calling Attention Notice. If I break that rule, there will be no end to it.

Shri E. K. Nayanar (Palghat): Yesterday, that rule was violated.

Mr. Speaker: No. I have not allowed. Shri Sulaiman Sait.

Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait (Kozhikode): I think the Central Government perfectly understands that by empty promises, the stomachs of people are not going to be filled. Here, we have been saying that empty promises have been made so many times and broken. Now, as has been said in this Calling Attention Notice, the rationing system is completely collapsing in Kerala. The people are suffering there. The Food Minister says he is taking steps to see that the rice reaches there either by the 12th or the 20th. That means, the rice will reach Kerala after the people die of hunger. Is that the position? I want to know from the Minister. What are the practical steps he is going to take to rush rice there? Now he says that there is no wagon available and therefore rice to Kerala will be sent by sea. I want to know how much rice he pro-

[Shri Ebrahim Sulaiman Sait]

poses to send to Kerala through sea and through rail, 1,500 tons is the maximum he can send every day. Even if this is sent, it is only 45,000 tons and not 60,000 tons. How is he going to make it up, and what are the immediate steps that he is going to take in this connection?

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: The facts were clear if the hon. Member had tried to follow what I had said. I said one ship is likely to arrive by the 10th, and the other by the 20th. I did not say that the whole quantity will go on the 10th. The pattern of movement is that trains are moving from Andhra to Kerala every day, and the present movement is 1200 to 1300 tons every day.

Shri Nambiar (Trichirappalli): Granting that daily 1,500 tons of rice is moved from Andhra to Kerala, the total that can be sent is only 45,000 tons, but the promise is for 60,000 tons. Therefore, may I ask the hon. Minister whether he can ascertain from the Madras Government whether they could supply from the stock of kuruwai rice in lieu of the supply that will be certainly sent from Andhra—not empty promises—so that the transport problem can be solved by shifting the kuruwai paddy or rice from Trichinopoly and Tanjore which are nearest to Kerala, and similarly, the lifting of rice from Andhra to Madras city, which is the nearest place? I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will take it as the only possible alternative to give rice to Kerala, whether he will proceed to Madras, and discuss this problem concretely and settle it then and there and come out successfully?

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: As I have said, the effort is to move two trains every day, not one, because one will not be able to carry the whole quantity. Again, I have said that I am trying to talk to the Chief Minister of Madras to find out how far he will be in a position to meet our proposal.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: I should at least like you to understand the seriousness of the situation. The colleges and schools are opening tomorrow. The NCOs, both of the State and the Union Government, have already come out saying that from the 5th June they will not be able to work in the offices. This has come out in the papers today. The hon. Minister has made tall promises that he is moving 16,000 plus 17,000 tons from June. We have the painful experience of so many promises made for April and May and we did not get even 50 per cent of what was promised. Now, what happens to the shortfall of 18,000 tons? He does not give anything about the 18,000 tons of shortfall. Tomorrow is 1st June. I want a specific answer to this specific question. What is the rice stock in Kerala at present on 31st May? He promised that a ship will come on the 12th June. What is going to happen from 1st to 12th June? Every day, I understand they need about 2500 tonnes of rice.

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: As I have said, rice is moving from Andhra.

Shri Vasudevan Nair: What is the stock now? Is there any stock?

Shri Jagjiwan Ram: I cannot say exactly what the stock at present is with the Food Corporation of India. In May also, there has been a shortfall in the movement of rice to Kerala and that is why this trouble has started. As I said, every day rice is moving from Andhra to Kerala.

Mr. Speaker: This question has been discussed with the Chief Minister of Kerala also. There is no doubt that this is a serious problem and if the rationing system breaks down in Kerala, it will be very unfortunate. Naturally the whole House is anxious about it. I am sure. I have also received a notice from some members of this House and the other House

that in view of the serious situation, they would like to sit in dharna in Parliament House after the sitting is over today onwards. I will read it:

"We have, therefore, decided to sit 'Dharna' in the Parliament House after the sitting is over from today onwards. We want to make it clear that in resorting to this step, we have nothing against the Speaker or Parliament. We have no intention to obstruct the proceedings of the House.

"We are resorting to this action only to bring to the notice of the House and the people the callousness and indifference of the Government and to bring to bear on them the pressure of public opinion, so that the Prime Minister and the Food Minister may be shaken out of their lethargy and take some tangible measures to rush food to Kerala."

This is signed by Mr. A. K. Gopalan and a large number of other Members of Parliament.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta (Delhi Sadar): What is the total number of members who have signed it?

Mr. Speaker: I have not counted it. All the Kerala MPs and some SSP members also have signed it.

While I agree that the situation is serious, while the House as a whole and the rest of India is sympathetic towards the problem of Kerala, I wonder how far it is proper to continue to sit in the House after the House adjourns. Hon. Members themselves say that no disrespect is meant to the House. But according to the rules in existence—I have not made these rules—after Parliament adjourns, members can sit for one hour and not more than that. If members begin sitting here for the night, unfortunately the rules which are there have to be followed. Therefore, I appeal to Mr. Gopalan and other members who have given this notice to avoid this

sort of protest, because the House belongs to everyone—the opposition parties as well as the ruling party.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon): They are also welcome to come and sit.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Sreekantan Nair can arrange some other place where they can all sit together, have a quiet dinner and discuss it. But I would appeal to members that this shall be avoided. It will be in the interest of the dignity and prestige of the House that this is avoided. Some other type of protest and discussion must be thought of, not this. May I appeal to them on behalf of all sides of the House to desist from this?

Shri Sezhiyan (Kumbakonam): The minister has made so many promises to them. May I know whether the minister will come forward with a statement tomorrow and day after tomorrow clarifying the position?

Mr. Speaker: Every day we have been discussing it. I have no objection if he gives some more information afterwards.

Shri Ranga (Srikakulam): I agree with you and I am very glad you have voiced the feelings of this House in regard to the concern felt by all of us about the serious food situation in Kerala. I do not know who is principally responsible for this crisis. On the basis of the information given now it looks as if so far as the shortfall in supplies promised to be given to them is concerned, for these 3 months, it was the responsibility of the Central Government. All that my hon. friend could say today is that some wagons are on the move and that some trains are moving. But what is going to happen between the 1st of June and 15th of June, he has not been able to enlighten the House. How are those people to be fed dur-

[Shri Ranga]

ing this period? How is the local government—for which this Government is also responsible because law and order is their common concern—to keep the people fed, to keep them silent or content and not take part or indulge in ways which may upset not only law and order but the general peace that should prevail in the country? If there is no peace in one particular area, if there is starvation on a large scale in one particular area, however small it may be, it would be the serious concern of the whole country. Therefore, Sir, we wish to express our deep discontent and concern over the failure of the Union Government, to the extent it has failed, and we hope they would take note of this very strong feeling felt by a number of our own hon. Members here who have shown such a sense of restraint and also respect to this House by making it clear that they would not like to obstruct the proceedings or business of the House but only would like to have permission of the House to remain here as long as they want, every day, in order to more seriously draw the attention of the Prime Minister, her Food Minister and her Government.

It is not possible for me to say to my hon. colleagues in this House that what they have proposed to do is entirely wrong. But, at the same time, I cannot also say that it is entirely right. Therefore, I hope, if they must insist, if they feel so strongly, that they must demonstrate their dissatisfaction and discontent with the Union Government, let them do it just for the one hour during which Members are entitled to remain here and not longer. On the other hand, if they would be good enough not to do it and heed your advice, in the light of what you have said and how the House has expressed its own concern, we would be even more grateful to them.

12.37 hrs.

RE: CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE
(Query)

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldai): Sir, may I draw your kind attention to a dangerous development in the North-East frontier about which I have already written to you.

Mr. Speaker: You cannot raise it now like this.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, I want to draw your kind attention to it. It has been reported that some Chinese have penetrated into Nagaland.

Mr. Speaker: Whatever it is, you have written to me about it. I have neither allowed nor disallowed it.

Shri Hem Barua: I am not speaking of the Calling Attention Notice. I want to draw your kind attention to this dangerous development.

Mr. Speaker: I know that.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, before 1962 some Chinese penetrated into Nagaland and the result was an attack by China on India. Sir, you are concerned with the security of the country as much as we are concerned.

Mr. Speaker: I know. So many problems are there. Many serious problems are there. I agree. But if such serious problems, without any notice, are allowed to be raised in this House from all corners of the House, where will it lead us? Even before I have finished I can see that Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai is ready to raise another serious problem. Therefore, may I request Shri Hem Barua to give me some more time to think about it?

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, are you not concerned with the security of our country as much as we are?

Mr. Speaker: Everybody is anxious. But this is not the way.

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, we have submitted a Calling Attention Notice.