

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORT- ANCE

**FOOD AGITATION IN BOMBAY OWING TO
REPORTED INADEQUATE CENTRAL FOOD
ASSISTANCE TO MAHARASHTRA**

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

"Reported inadequate Central food assistance to Maharashtra resulting in intensive food agitation in Bombay."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the widespread drought conditions which prevailed in Maharashtra in 1972-73 the Central Government took special care to supply the maximum possible quantities of foodgrains from the Central Pool to Maharashtra, keeping in view the overall availability and the relative needs of other deficit States. In order to assist the State, the supply of foodgrains from Central stocks has been considerably stepped up; during the year 1973, 22.76 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were supplied to Maharashtra as against 13.12 lakh tonnes in 1972 and 8.42 lakh tonnes in 1971. With the arrival of kharif crops in the market, the availability of foodgrains improved, and accordingly the supply from the Central Pool were adjusted, keeping in view the availability of stocks and other factors.

With the increase in the production there is increased availability of foodgrains in the open market. The rice procurement in the State has so far been satisfactory. The progressive procurement of rice up to 26th February, 1974 was 137 thousand tonnes as against 62 thousand tonnes during the corresponding period of the last season. The State has also procured 111 thousand tonnes of coarsegrains as against 15,000 tonnes during the

corresponding period of last year. In order to mitigate the hardship to the consumers in the deficit States, restriction on the inter-zonal movement of coarse-grains have been relaxed since January, 1974 so as to allow the purchase and movement of coarse-grains outside the States by the sponsored agents of the State Governments. Sizeable quantities of bajra that have been purchased by the sponsored agents of the State Government in surplus States are being moved into Maharashtra.

Though the situation continues to be difficult with the cooperation of the State Government and assistance given by the Centre, we are confident that it should be possible to meet the situation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Maharashtra and particularly Bombay city have witnessed in the course of the last four months intensive food agitations by housewives, kisans, workers and middle class employees. I would like to remind the Minister that on November 26, massive women's demonstrations were staged. In the city of Bombay women in thousands marched with rolling pins recording their protest against the inadequate rations that are being offered to them and they demanded that a minimum ration of 12 kgs should be given to the citizen. On January 2, there an unprecedented Maharashtra bandh and the climax was reached in Bombay when even the railway trains came to a complete halt. On January 23 again mammoth women's demonstrations took place in front of the Secretariat as a protest against the treatment meted out by the Police to the women demonstrators who were demanding a minimum ration of 12 kgs.

On February 24, a deafening lathi-beating was observed throughout Bombay and lakhs and lakhs of citizens of Bombay participated in this massive and vocal demonstration. Bells rang and, for whom did the bells toll,

Sir? They tolled for the Naik Ministry, they tolled also for the Indira Gandhi Government and for Fakhrudin Ali Saheb also they tolled.

They expected that this vocal demonstration would be taken note of and more central assistance would be available. As an aftermath of this vocal demonstration there was a police firing and seven demonstrators were killed. So, on February 25, there was a climax of all these agitations in the course of the last four months. There was a mammoth demonstration of the citizens of Bombay and also representatives coming from the rural areas of Maharashtra and Maharashtra Legislature was completely besieged by the demonstrators. All roads were completely closed but not a single act of violence took place. So many housewives participated in the demonstration and the *Times of India* correspondent had said that this was a *gherao* of the Legislature of which even the military operators would be really jealous. Such was the mammoth demonstration that was actually staged by the citizens of Bombay and the representatives of Maharashtra.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is conscious of the fact that today the situation in Maharashtra suffers from the hang-over of the situation created by the drought conditions of last year. Unfortunately, during the drought period last year, more than 30 per cent of the cattle in Maharashtra so essential for agricultural activities died as a result of want of fodder and want of drinking water and as a result of that the peasants were not able to recoup their position and they were not able to redeem the agricultural operations even when there were better monsoons.

As the tragedy of Maharashtra would have it, unfortunately, after the monsoon came also excessive rains and as a result of that the food position worsened due to excessive rains and the attack of *wik fly* on the *kharif* crop, especially, jowar. The damage due to these factors accounts for a

damage of 25—75 per cent of the indigenous crops in the State of Maharashtra. Bajra was also infested with ergot and this was a vital factor that was responsible for the spoiling of the crops. The normal production, the deficit in foodgrains in Maharashtra and the Central assistance are mutually linked with each other. Even during the normal production in Maharashtra the Government of India used to allot on an average 12 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. During the year following September 1972, the disastrous drought year, the allotment sanctioned by the Central Government was 24 lakhs tonnes as against the deficit that we incur of the order of 50—62 lakhs tonnes. The Central assistance is not found to be commensurate with the requirements of the deficit areas of Maharashtra. Comparisons cannot be made with allotments to other States because the allotments have to be considered in the perspective and in the context of the percentage of deficit that has arisen in a particular State. There was considerable reduction in the Central assistance. Maharashtra, entirely depends upon allotment from Centre for wheat. It is a highly deficit State in rice. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us whether or not it is a fact that the figures which I am placing before the House are correct. The Government of India drastically reduced allotment from 2.5 lakh tonnes to 1.7 lakh tonnes in September and October 1973. It was reduced to 1.40 lakh tonnes in November and December 1973. Unfortunately, Sir, simultaneously the food position worsened due to rains and attack of mostly on *kharif* crops. As I said the damage due to these factors range from 25 to 75 per cent.

Fortunately the ban on the inter-State movement of foodgrains has been lifted. It was one of the demands of the Maharashtra State so that they would be able to secure foodgrains from other States which may be able to spare them. We are indeed happy that the Union Government has taken up this step of removing this ban. In this connection I would like to know

[Prof. Madhu Dadavate]

from the Union Minister as to,—as a consequence of this—what is the quantity of foodgrains which have been made available to Maharashtra from various States.

There is a very disturbing news which has come up only yesterday. Newspapers have carried this very disturbing news that from Haryana some foodgrains have been sent to Maharashtra and there were labels placed on thousand of bags of wheat coming from Haryana saying, 'Seeds poison-treated'. Obviously it is a malpractice. Under the label, 'seeds poison-treated' wheat is sent to Maharashtra and obviously through such malpractice transport of wheat to other sectors take place and it will not go to the right channels, and the vulnerable sections of the society will not be able to get their wheat quota.

As far as Central assistance is concerned I would like to quote here an extract from the memorandum submitted by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to the Planning Minister. The Memorandum says:

While distributing central assistance due weightage should be given not merely to spill over of continuing major irrigation and power projects but also to backwardness in irrigation. This alone can give philip to agricultural economy.

This is not what I am saying, but this is what the Chief Minister demanded from the Planning Minister. I want to know from the Union Minister as to whether the Central Government has taken cognisance of this memorandum submitted by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra State.

When there was a bye-election to the Lok Sabha from Central Bombay the ration quota was increased to 7 kilos in Bombay. The moment election results were out and our friend the communist Member Mrs. Roza Deshpande

was elected, defeating the Congress candidate, within a few days the ration was reduced from 7 to 6 kilos. It might be an accidental co-incidence. I don't want to attribute any motives. But I would like the Union Minister to tell as to why this thing happened immediately after the defeat of the Congress candidate in Central Bombay why this ration was reduced. It is not left entirely to the sweet will of the Minister at the Centre and at the State level. The Housewives of Bombay organised a massive demonstration as a result of which the Chief Minister resorted that cut in the ration quota that was introduced. In the City of Bombay ration of 7 kilos is available. But in considerable parts of Maharashtra it is not more than 2 to 3 kilos. I want to know whether additional Central assistance will be made available so that disparity in this regard can be removed between urban and rural areas. May I know whether any guidelines have been worked out for all the States including Maharashtra in order to see that procurement machinery is made more effective. Will the hon. Minister not agree that unless he is able to remove the artificial distinction between marketable surplus and marketing surplus the procurement machinery can never be strengthened?

Sir, I would conclude by telling one thing to the hon. Members. The people are being blamed for the aggressive type, of agitation that is taking place. At some places, firing is also taking place against the hungry people.

I would conclude by quoting a great poet, Kusumagraha from Maharashtra. The people sometimes express their anger in an ugly manner. You should take note of the discontent of the people. He has rightly said as follows. In one second I shall conclude with the words of the poet because they represent the spirit of Maharashtra. This is beautiful poem. The great poet of Maharashtra has said as

follows about the agony of Maharashtra:

“जिह्वा नि श्रोत्र देवा नच बोलती तुमारा;
 व्रण वेदना नि अश्रू ही बोलती तुमारा;
 चे नोंद कालजंघवा रक्तालया व्रणाची
 यादा नकोस जातू नुसत्या प्रजा गुह्यचा.”

The translation is:

“The tongue and the lips do not speak with you

The scar of wound, the pangs of heart and the tears speak

Appreciate the bleeding wound of the heart

Do not call Oh! God for the list of crimes committed.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member should stick to the time that he himself decided. Why should he exceed this time?

SHRI F. A. AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I share the anxiety and concern of the hon. Member.

So far as the food situation in Maharashtra is concerned, I would like him and other Members to appreciate the difficulty in the context of the availability of the foodgrains with the Central Pool and also in the context of the availability of foodgrains in Maharashtra after a good kharif harvest.

First of all, I would like to point out to him and other Members that so far as the Allocation from the Central Pool is concerned, we have given the utmost of consideration so far as Maharashtra is concerned. In the year 1971, we have supplied 8.4 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains; in 1972 we have supplied 13.12 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains but, in 1973, we have supplied 22.76 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains. He will notice from this that so far as allocation from the Central Pool is concerned, at no time and in no year, we had failed to give to Maharashtra Government the quantity of foodgrains. Last year, foodgrains of the order of 26 lakhs tonnes were supplied to them.

At the same time, I would like to point out that so far as foodgrains for the last three months are concerned, we have been allocating foodgrains as follows:—

January	1,31,000 tonnes.
February	1,30,000 tonnes.
March	1,50,000 tonnes.

So, I would like to point this out to him. He said that because of elections, we have given some extra allotment to Bombay. But, even after the election was over, we have continued to increase the allocation by about 20 000 tonnes since the month of February. We shall continue the same in the month of March also.

So far production figures are concerned, my information is that for the kharif the estimate of production is about 50.5 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains as against 23.45 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains during the last year. This is supported by the fact that during this year, upto February 1974, they have already procured 1.37 lakhs tonnes of rice as against 62,000 tonnes of rice procured last year. At the same time, so far as procurement of foodgrains is concerned the Maharashtra Government have procured 1,11,000 tonnes of coarse-grains as against 15,000 tonnes procured last year. So this also corroborates that there is more food-grain available in Maharashtra. Considering the fact that this year is much better than last year, the allocation made by the Central Government should be able to meet the reasonable requirement of the people of Maharashtra. The hon. Member must appreciate that we have to make allocation not only to Maharashtra but to other deficit area also, and that has to go out of the available stock with the Central pool, and we are doing our best so far as the requirement of all these deficit areas is concerned.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): The statement made by the hon. Minister is full of complacency and there is no expression of the understanding of the seriousness of the situation. The statement says that

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

the rice procurement is satisfactory. But at the end of the statement we find:

"Though the situation continues to be difficult, yet with the co-operation of the State Government and assistance given by the Centre, we are confident that it would be possible to meet the situation."

But the experience of the people is just the opposite. That is why, as seen from the papers, already all the Central trade unions and the various parties have declared that they will start for a continuous bandh in future and they are thinking interms of that.

I have no direct knowledge of Maharashtra but from the paper reports it appears that the situation is bad. The *Economic Times* of 16h February says:

"Farce of rationing

Statutory rationing in Greater Bombay has been reduced to a farce with thousands of k.g. of wheat and rice brought into the city every day by railway commuters and smugglers. The Maharashtra Government had recently relaxed the baggage rules under which the consumers are permitted to bring into the city upto 10 k.g. of foodgrains from outside as part of their baggage."

This means that the State Government has completely thrown the people to the situation of being entirely dependent on free market and blackmarket. What is the result? The people are going outside the statutory rationing area and are purchasing foodgrains. Those who have purchasing capacity are going and purchasing and the result is that, as the paper says:

"The prices of wheat and rice sold at these shops just outside the boundary of the statutory rationing area are about three times higher than the controlled rates, but sales are brisk as consumers have no other go but to meet part of their requirements in this manner. The

quantum of ration supplied to card-holders through fair price shops is so meagre that they are obliged to buy grains at prohibitive prices."

So Government are not taking the responsibility of providing food to the poorer sections of the people. This is absolute irresponsibility on the part of the Government. Government have landed the country in this situation because of their policy of complete surrender to the hoarders and black-marketeers. That is why this predicament has been created. It is also reported in the newspapers that the production in Maharashtra has not been so bad, because the report says:

"The State Minister for Agriculture, Mr. S. B. Chavan told the Assembly a while ago that total production of foodgrains in Maharashtra this year, both kharif and rabi crops, was expected to be 7.6 million tonnes, as against an estimated requirement of 10 million tonnes."

When there is a production of 7.6 million tonnes, what is the position in regard to procurement? Virtually Government have not made any serious effort at procurement. The procurement as announced by the Government at the end of January 1972, was 1.72 lakh tonnes of paddy, 44,000 tonnes of jowar and 54,000 tonnes of bajra. But how can the public distribution system work if there is no procurement on the part of the State Government and the Centre is not taking the responsibility to supply the required quantity of foodgrains for public distribution? Therein lies the crisis and people are forced to agitate and then Government, instead of giving them food, give them bullets. This will recoil on the Government—there is no doubt about it.

Another factor is that most of the food supplied in the ration shops and other open shops is adulterated and people are dying after taking it. Even food which is banned from public use is being sold through these shops. The

State Government has announced an inquiry regarding an adulteration case in Yeotmal where 150 people fell seriously ill.

So my question is whether Government is prepared to supply the required quantity of foodstuffs at least to maintain the public distribution system and the fair price shops to which the required quantity must be supplied? The quantity of ration in the statutory rationed area and in the rural areas where fair price shops are there should be increased.

From the report, I see that the State Government wanted at least 2 lakh tonnes per month supplied from the Centre. But the report of the Minister is that they supply 1,50,000 tonnes and 1,40,000 tonnes. So there is a deficit. There is also no proper internal procurement. Under these conditions, the food situation is bound to deteriorate further. What is Government now thinking of to obviate the situation?

SHRI F. A. AHMAD: As I have already pointed out so far as procurement is concerned, both in respect of rice and coarse grain, it is much better than last year. That is because there has been very good production during the khariff season. The hon. member was pleased to say that the estimate for the current year including rabi is about 7.6 million tonnes. But so far as we have figures only of what has been produced during the khariff season. I have indicated that the production has been in the vicinity of about 5 million tonnes and the rest of about 2 million tonnes is to come during the rabi period. Considering that and the fact that we have not reduced much, as compared to the figures of last year, there should be no difficulty in meeting the difficulty in Maharashtra State.

As the hon. member is aware, distribution within the State is the responsibility of the State Government. My information is that so far as Bombay, Nagpur and Poona are concerned they are giving 7½ kg. per adult per

month; in other places in Maharashtra, they are distributing at the rate of 7 kg.

As I said, when I was told that there was some difficulty in Maharashtra about distribution of foodgrains, since the month of February I have increased it by another 20,000 tonnes of foodgrains. I hope it will be possible for the Maharashtra Government to meet their requirements.

SHRI NIMBALKAR (Kolhapur): I am not prepared to agree with the reasoning of the Minister of Agriculture concerning the supply of foodgrains to Maharashtra, or for that matter to any State in India, the reason being that it is no use saying that we are sending 1.5 or 1.6 lakh tonnes. The point is how much is distributed in the State. In the case of Maharashtra let me point out that even in a normal year we always need on the average 2½ lakh tonnes of grain a month.

Now, if the Minister says that we have been giving them 1,48,000 tonnes and we are raising it next month to 1,50,000 tonnes, it has absolutely no meaning. To give Maharashtra at least the minimum amount of grain, you will have to supply them two and a half lakh tonnes of grains.

I just want to highlight the portion of the Minister's statement by quoting a small part of it, which runs as follows:

"With the arrival of khariff crops in the market, the availability of foodgrains improved, and accordingly the supplies from the Central Pool were adjusted, keeping in view the availability of stocks and other factors"

The position becomes illogical even then.

Now, when you have taken over the monopoly procurement the question of stocks does not arise as far as the State is concerned. The State expects

[Shri Nimbalkar]

from you. If you do not have the stocks, you should create the stocks, either by importing or by a better procurement method or what you have. The State expects from you that you send an amount of grain that is necessary for subsistence in that State.

Maharashtra as we know, is a deficit State as far as the production of foodgrains is concerned. But that does not mean that we do not contribute our mite to agriculture as such. Almost one-third of the sugar produced in this country is produced in Maharashtra. One-fourth of the acreage of cotton in this country is in Maharashtra. And these things are exportable articles and they have been exported, and if this is one of the ways by which we earn foreign exchange to import foodgrains from outside, then, we can surely except from you that from those States where there is more grain you must find ways and means of meeting our demand.

Our demand—I want to say this categorically to my friend the hon. Minister—is two and a half lakh tonnes per month. That is what you have to think of. It is no use saying that you have raised it by 2,000 tonnes. That means nothing. As far as your stock availability is concerned, it is your concern, since you have taken up the work of procurement, to see that the stocks are there. How to create it is your job; the State is not going to consider it.

Already my friend Prof. Dandavate has taken up many of the points, and I will not go into it. One point is there which disturbs me. I think it is wrong just to supply the foodgrains when the elections are on and afterwards to stop it. That will amount to enticing the people of Bombay and Maharashtra to either kill one MLA or MP every three months or force them to resign so that every three months we have an election in Maharashtra and the foodgrains will be sup-

plied. I am sure we do not want this thing to happen anywhere. We do not want just what is happening in Gujarat repeated in Maharashtra. They say that the Gujarat people are more peaceful than Maharashtra people, but I can tell you things will become worse in Maharashtra, 'looking at the way they started in Gujarat.

My point is this. The Minister of Agriculture has been juggling with the grain output figures. Rs. 175 crores were spent for the crash programme of grain in 1972-73, kharif and rabi put together, and it was said that 110 million tonnes of grains would be produced. Then, it was realised that the Government would not be able to lay hands on the increased output by procurement. Then this figure was reduced to 100 million tonnes. After the rabi crop was in, it was obvious that the procurement policy had more or less failed. Then the figure was again reduced to 94 million tonnes.

My question is this. May I know what is the exact version of the Central Government concerning the availability of foodgrains today? I want them to be exact. Will the hon. Minister of Agriculture state categorically whether the public distribution system is intended for reducing the inflationary trends or for helping the poor and the needy? Does the Central Government associate itself with the promise made by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to ensure that at least eight kilos of grain will be given per head per month?

Would it consider raising this quantity of 12 kg. in accordance with the popular demand? Even 12 kg., grain per adult per month does not come upto the actual nourishment standard that we should reach because 18 ounces of grain per day is what is needed to come to that nutritional standard.

Whether the Government would consider cleaning the grain before it is sent to the States for distribution falling which bear the cost of cleaning

of grain? Since upto 25 per cent of the grain is usually full of matter other than the grain, would the Central Government make up for the loss?

According to the Government statistics, despite an increase of 50 per cent in the population during the last two decades, the production of grain has not only matched this increase but per head availability of grain today is 25—35 per cent higher than what it was in 1951. Whom does the Government wish to blame for this mismanagement?

In view of the fact that the Government's food policy seems to have completely failed during the last few years, does the Government intend to do something re-thinking about it?

SHRI F. A. AHMAD: Sir so far as this Call Attention is concerned, it relates to the requirement of food in Maharashtra. But my hon. friend has raised some very basic questions.

I would like to point out that so far as this information is concerned, about increasing the production to 110 or 111 million tonnes, I do not know from where he got that figure. What was intended was that the programme which we had under taken last year was to reduce the shortfall in production on account of failure of crops due to drought. I would say, by and large, our policy has succeeded. If we had not taken up that policy, the production of foodgrains last year would have been much less than about 95 or 96 million tonnes which we achieved. Not only last year but also it has the effect of increasing production so far as this year is concerned. That has been borne out by the fact that during the khariff period, we hope to achieve a target of about 67 million tonnes of foodgrains. I can assure him that we shall very likely reach the target of about 67 million tonnes of foodgrains so far as the khariff crop is concerned.

So far as the rabi crop is concerned, we are hoping to get about 48 million

tonnes of foodgrains. But because of the failure of winter rains the production may be something less. Even then, we hope that, with good crops standing in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and in other wheat-growing areas, it will be possible for us to achieve the target. That will be with regard to the agricultural year 1973-74. I hope, if that materialises, we shall be out of trouble. But on account of the drought in the last 2-3 years in succession we have been in difficulties.

As I have already pointed out, so far as the internal distribution is concerned, that is the responsibility of the State Government. So far as Bombay, Poona and Nagpur are concerned, the Maharashtra Government is distributing foodgrains at the rate of 7½ kg. per adult in those places. In other places, they are distributing foodgrains at the rate of about 7-8 kg. I may point out that never before we have given nearly 23 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to them as was done in 1973. This year, it is certainly much better than the last year. With what we are giving now to the Maharashtra Government, they should be able to manage. Not only that. We have also relaxed inter-zonal restrictions on coarse grains. I am told the Maharashtra Government has been able to procure bajra and other coarse grain from other States and they will be able to relieve the distress in those areas.

I am sorry I have not got the figures and I will ascertain from the Maharashtra Government as to what they have procured from these areas which will supplement the availability of foodgrains in that area. All that is possible is being done both by the Maharashtra Government and by the Central Government. With whatever is available with us, keeping in view the requirements of other deficit areas also, we are trying to help the Maharashtra Government as much as possible.

SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYA (Ghatal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, to-

[Shri Jagadish Bhattacharyya]

day the prices of all commodities, particularly of mass consumption, have risen alarmingly to disrupt the family budget of all people belonging to the middle-income and low-income groups. And the curious fact is this that the rise in the cost of foodstuffs accounts for two-thirds of the increase. Under these circumstances, Maharashtra had also experienced severe drought for years together. I had an opportunity to visit some places of Maharashtra sometime back and my sad experience is this that in the black market any amount of foodstuffs is available if one has the means to pay for it, and people told me that for procuring ration cards one had to pay a considerable amount to the officers; otherwise, one cannot get the ration card for seven months or even one year. Those people have sold their belongings, have sold their cattle, have sold their utensils. The poor peasants have sold their lands. And in this condition agriculture has been affected much even in this year though there was a good monsoon. The persons who have benefitted most out of this situation are the hoarders, the black-marketeers and profiteers. This is a kind of robbery going on on a national scale. I have no hesitation in saying that the Governments at the State and at the Centre are responsible for this. During all these years we have found that the help from the Centre regarding foodstuffs has all along been inadequate. What the hon. Minister has said by way of reply to the questions asked in this House is nothing but repeated playing of the old record. In the present context I want to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is ready to supply to the Maharashtra Government with adequate foodstuffs to have statutory rationing even in rural areas, and whether this Government is trying to help the State Government with funds in order to compensate for the loss of cattle and their belongings which they had to part with during the last year of drought. Another thing that I want to know is

whether this Government will declare the distress-sale of land by the poor peasants to be illegal and order the return of those lands to them.

SHRI F. A. AHMED: The hon. Member has raised a question whether the Government is prepared to declare statutory rationing so far as rural areas are concerned. I may tell him that there is no such proposal before the Government at present.

So far as relief in distress areas is concerned, I have no doubt that the Maharashtra Government is taking care of this, and whatever relief is required in the distressed areas is being provided by the Maharashtra Government to the rural population. As I have said now we have not only increased the allocation to Maharashtra but we have also removed the inter-zonal restriction. As I mentioned, it is not possible for me to indicate the exact figures; if the hon. members want, I can find these out. But my impression is that because of this relaxation of restriction and the proposal arrangement for about 15,000 to 20,000 tonnes of extra foodgrains, coarse grains, of coarse grains from several States have been made and they are likely to reach Maharashtra as early as possible. When they reach it will to a great extent relieve the distress of the people in Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): I have tabled a call-attention motion about the agitation by the General Insurance Corporation employees. I know you have not allowed it. But this is an all-India problem concerning the Central Government. You have not permitted me to arise it either under Rule 377 or by way of call attention. I would, therefore, only request you to ask the Finance Minister and the Labour Minister who is here now to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member should not get up when there is nothing on the agenda or without my permission.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I have already written to you. I would only request you to ask the Finance Minister or the Labour Minister to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

Papers to be laid.

12.47 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER DELHI SIKH GURUDWARAS ACT AND ALL-INDIA SERVICES ACT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): On behalf of Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications under sub-section (4) of section 39 of the Delhi Sikh Gurudwaras Act, 1971:—

(i) G.S.R. 1411 published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1973 containing corrigenda to the Delhi Sikh Gurudwaras Management Committee (Registration of Electors) Amendment Rules, 1973, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 671 dated the 30th June, 1973.

(ii) The Delhi Sikh Gurudwaras Management Committee (Election of Members) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. F. 18(19)/73-Judl. in Delhi Gazette dated the 9th January, 1974.

(iii) The Delhi Sikh Gurudwaras (Election of *Pro Tempore* Chairman, President, Other Office Bearers and Members of the Executive Board) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. 18(29)/73-Judl. in Delhi Gazette dated the 21st January, 1974.

(iv) The Delhi Sikh Gurudwaras (Amendment) Rules, 1974 published in Notification No. F. 18(19)/73-Judl. in Delhi Gazette dated the 24th January, 1974.

(v) The Delhi Sikh Gurudwaras Management Committee (Co-option of Members) Rules, 1974, published in Notification No. 18/33/73-Judl. in Delhi Gazette dated the 13th February, 1974.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6240/74.]

(2) (i) A copy of the Border Security Force (Assistant Commandants) Recruitment (Repeal) Rules, 1973 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 504(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 1973, under Sub-section (3) of section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the above Notification.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-6241/74.]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—

(i) The Indian Police Service (Emergency Commissioned and Short Service Commissioned Officers) Examination) Third Amendment Regulations, 1973 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1405 in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1973.

(ii) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Seventh Amendment Regulations, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1406 in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 1973.