

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at thirty-four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now resume discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General)....

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: (Contai): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to say something about what happened with regard to the circulation of the Ananda Bazar Patrika and the Hindustan Standard. In Gauhati, this is what had happened. The Government had prevented the circulation of the copies of the Ananda Bazar Patrika and the Hindustan Standard as also Jugantar and Amrita Bazar Patrika.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. How are we concerned?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: It is a question of breach of the fundamental right enshrined in our Constitution. Copies of the Ananda Bazar Patrika, Hindustan Standard, Amrit Bazar Patrika and Jugantar have been taken out by the Government and sold out like waste paper. Day in and day out we find that Assam Tribune has belched out communal venoms. Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government concerned and our Government here to the fact that some explanation must be made why Ananda Bazar Patrika, the Hindustan Standard, Jugantar and Amrita Bazar Patrika have been seized and sold out by Government and why their circulation has been prevented. It is a serious breach of the fundamental rights of newspapers. What kind of State are we living in? Are we living in India or some other sovereign State?....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. The hon. Member has mentioned his point. Now, he should sit down.

2547, L.S.—9

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Can a part of the country behave like a sovereign State? It is a fundamental right which has been infringed....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member kindly sit down now?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Burdwan): May I submit that freedom of speech....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Somnath Chatterjee may please sit down.

Shri Samar Guha has already mentioned it, and I have allowed it and it has gone on record. It is for the Government to take note of it, since I have allowed it, although I have my doubts about this. Let us now proceed with the discussion.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: May I know whether the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has taken note of this? Freedom of the press is involved. These things cannot go in this way..

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please. Now, the hon. Member should sit down.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Even the papers in circulation have been seized...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member has had his say already. Now, he should sit down. Now, Shri Siddheshwar Prasad.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1972-73—
Contd.

श्रीबौगिक विकास मंत्रालय ने उप-मंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कल मैं निवेदन कर रहा था कि हैवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स, भोपाल की व्यवस्था में सुधार लाने के लिए वहाँ की प्रबन्ध-व्यवस्था में, नेक परिवर्तन लाये गये हैं। अभी हमें हैवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स के सम्बन्ध में जो सूचना मिली है, उससे बिल्कुल स्पष्ट हो गया है कि उस के काम करने के ढंग में काफ़ी सुधार हुआ है। हमें पूरी आशा है कि अगले साल इस

कारखाने में प्रथम मुनाफ़ा होने लगेगा बैसे, सरकार की पूरी कोशिश है, और हैवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स के सम्बन्ध-अधिकारी इस बात के लिए पूरी तरह से प्रयत्नशील हैं कि इसी वर्ष उस कारखाने में मुनाफ़ा होने लगे।

जब इस सदन में हैवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स, भोपाल, जैसे कारखाने पर चर्चा की जाती है, तो प्रक्सर हम भूल जाते हैं कि वहाँ पर वाटर टरबाइन्स, स्टीम टरबाइन्स और जेनरेटर मशीनें जो चीखे बगाई जा रही हैं, वे इस देश में कभी नहीं बगाई गईं। हमारे देश में बिजली के उत्पादन के लिए जो भी सामान होता था, हम बराबर विदेशी से उनका आयात करते थे। लेकिन हैवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स, भोपाल या हरिद्वार या हैदराबाद या निरखी के कारखानों के कारण आज हम इस स्थिति में हो गये हैं कि बिजली के उत्पादन के लिए हर प्रकार के सामान का समारोह देश में ही उत्पादन हो रहा है।

कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने इस बात की ओर संकेत किया है कि औद्योगिक विकास से सम्बन्ध रखने वाले विभिन्न मंत्रालयों और राज्य सरकारों में और अधिक समन्वय होना चाहिए। इसके लिए हम ने यह कदम उठाया है कि जो मशीनें मे कम से कम एक बार विभिन्न राज्यों के उद्योग निदेशकों और औद्योगिक विकास से सम्बन्ध रखने वाले विभिन्न अधिकारियों की बैठक बुलाई जाएं और जो बाबतें पडे रहते हैं, उनके बारे में आपस में बातचीत करके पूरी तरह से समन्वय लाने का प्रयत्न किया जाये। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि हम ने जो कदम

उठाया है, उसकी वजह से औद्योगिक विकास में काफी प्रगति होगी। पिछले साल औद्योगिक विकास की गति 1.7 प्रतिशत तक चली गई थी। इस साल के पहले छः महीनों में औद्योगिक विकास में काफी प्रगति हुई है और वह 7.6 प्रतिशत तक पहुँच गई है।

हमारे देश में कुछ ऐसे लोग हैं, जिनको चारी और अंधकार नज़र आता है, निराशा मकर घाती है। उनकी ऐसा भावना होता है कि प्रलय आ रही है। ऐसे लोगों के सम्बन्ध में कुछ कहना अनुचित होगा। हमारे सामने जो चुनौतियाँ और समस्याएँ हैं हमें पूरे धारम विश्वास के साथ उनका सामना करना चाहिए। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि इस देश में औद्योगिक विकास की जो प्रगति हो रही है, वह धीरे धीरे और इन समस्याओं का समाधान करने में हम सफल होंगे। इस विश्वास के साथ, और इन शब्दों के साथ, मैं इस सदन से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि जो अनुपूरक माँग रखी गई है वह सदन उनका समर्थन करे।

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO
(Mahendragarh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker
Sir, I have glanced through these
Supplementary Demands for Grants.
I shall confine myself to just one or
two Demands.

The first Demand, as you must have noticed, Sir, ~~relates~~ to the Ministry of Defence. I was shocked to see the laxity in Government administration

which is so obvious from what I have read. There was some irregularity in the Canteen Stores Department of the Army. The CBI took it up for investigation. Some shortage of about Rs. 37,000 was found in stores, and a civilian officer was dismissed. Action was taken against him. But the real culprit responsible for signing all the false vouchers, an army officer, was allowed to retire while the investigation was in progress. Nobody thought of keeping him from retirement. For six months after his retirement, he could not be apprehended in a serious case like this. With all the army and police in this country,—and the CBI carrying on investigations, a man of the officer rank, who must have been a prominent man—could not have escaped out of India—was not apprehended, I suspect, purposefully. The army rules lay down that six months after retirement no officer of the army can be tried under the Army Act. The result was that the man got away scot-free. When the Army authorities decided to levy a cut in his pension, he went to court and the court decreed that no cut could be imposed on his pension. I ask the Government: if he could not be tried under the Army Act, why could he not be proceeded against under the Prevention of Corruption Act which is also applicable to everybody? This could very well have been done. It is a serious matter and it happens in a department like the army.

Next I come to the demand for Rs. 250 crores for a crash agricultural programme for grants and loans to State Governments for drought relief, for purchase of fertilisers and for carrying out minor irrigation works. I question the working of the Government on this so far. Only a few months back, Shri Shinde was shouting in this House that there was a green revolution in the country.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): He never shouts.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: I always hear him with great attention. Last year also he was saying this. I had protested and said there was no green revolution in the country and Government's policies were killing agriculture. The same thing has come before us now. With all the money, thousands of crores of rupees that they have spent during the four plans, does he really hope to give a boost to agriculture with a supplementary demand of Rs. 250 crores? I am sure all this money will be wasted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is there any demand of the Ministry of Agriculture?

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Yes, the crash programme, a very important demand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have my doubts. Anyway he could go on.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: I can see the booklet and point it out.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Does not matter, since I am not quite sure myself.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: At this time when we were thinking that the country had become self-sufficient in the matter of food production, Government themselves have announced that they are going to import 2 million tonnes of foodgrains in the current year. This is our proclaimed self-sufficiency. I doubt if 2 million tonnes would be sufficient; if these policies continue, they may have to import in the coming year 5 million tonnes and 10 million tonnes—every year.

Because agriculture has been ruined, these crash programmes will not give any benefit unless they give up the crash-agriculture programmes. I say their package programmes will come to naught if they do not give up their wreckage programmes for agriculture.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have tried to check from this booklet men-

tioning the demands for grants; I do not find anywhere there is a demand for agriculture.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: There is a demand for loans and advances to States; let your Secretariat kindly help you to find it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not shutting you out. I am only trying to help you to be relevant: the debate on the supplementary grants shall be confined to the items constituting the same and no discussion will be raised on the original grant nor policy underlying them, save in so far as it may be necessary to explain or illustrate particular items under discussion. That is what it says here. In this booklet I have tried to check up; there is no such thing as demand under the agriculture ministry.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: There is a demand for loans and advances to States. An entirely new demand has been raised under Demand No. 113.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is overstretching the point.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: I am not overstretching. A big, lump-sum is being demanded and it is for the purpose I am mentioning. Kindly read it; I am perfectly relevant. Moreover, this demand did not figure in the Budget.

I only wish the Government will be hold enough to admit that they have bungled all along in the matter of agriculture. I know Mr. Shinde is a very gentle and intelligent person; he perhaps feels like me also but he cannot speak. Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed is also a very noble soul; the same difficulty is there; he is too gentle. They only listen to their advisers. It is time they sacked their advisers on agriculture; otherwise time will come when they will be tried and hanged by peasants.....
(Interruptions) If I did not know him

personally and if I did not know that he is such a nice man, I would have said that he should resign for the failure of the policies of his ministry. I cannot say this; I know he is a very well-intentioned man. I wonder how they can still hope that farmers would utilise this money for sinking tubewells, for putting up minor irrigation projects, when the Government knows very well that it is punishing farmers for their initiative in sinking their own tubewells and for having their own irrigation works, when they impose the ceiling and are not exempting people who have turned barren land by their private efforts into green fields. Is this the reward they are given for producing more food?

I know very few people who take up the cause of farmers. Everybody is an expert on agriculture except the farmer. I know you are also not a farmer; you are a teacher; but teachers have always given lead to the society.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: That is my misfortune.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Through you they all give calls for labour to unite. I want to give a call through you: farmers of India; unite. If the Government does not change its policies the farmers, as a protest should not produce a single grain of food in this country; if the Government does not change its policies, the farmers should refuse to utilise the loans that are given. (Interruptions) I feel like crying when I see farmers sitting from morning till evening in their fields waiting for power; Dr. K. L. Rao is sitting here and he knows the position about electricity. People have installed their tubewells; they have got electric connections; hardly for an hour a day they get electricity to run their motors. The lines are shut down but they are to pay according to the minimum consumption guarantee. When the Government does not give electricity why should the farmer be charged according to the minimum consumption guarantee?

There are no metres on the tubewells. The loans given to farmers are at a very exorbitant, usurious rate of interest—9 per cent, whereas from industrialists they charge $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent only. These loans should not be utilised by the farmers unless the rate of interest is reduced. Most of the money is meant for sinking wells and other minor irrigation works. These will not be utilised by the farmers unless proper facilities are given to them and a shabash is given to them through incentives for turning their lands fertile; they should not be penalised for it.

A word about drought affected areas, my constituency—Mahendragarh—is the worst affected. There is a scheme to give 25 per cent subsidy on fodder, but contractors have been found among big Delhi businessmen for supplying fodder to Haryana. This is the state to which the farmers of Haryana are reduced. Haryana was the granary of India and the best cattle-breeding State. Now there is no fodder for the cattle. The subsidy will be eaten away by the contractors in league with the ministers. I would suggest to Mr Shinde that any money that is to be given by Government as subsidy should be given directly to the farmer, because the contractors know how to increase the weight, how to mix sand with it, how to underweigh it and prepare false bills and so on, including how to bribe the officers. Therefore, unless you give the subsidy directly to the farmer, there will be no benefit accruing out of it. If you mean to help the farmer give him power during the day and run the factories at night; run water in the canals.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai): Sir, just two or three days before, I had sent a long telegram to our Irrigation Minister. 500 men and women were participating in a 36 hour token strike in which I also participated. It was preceded by a big procession of thousands of people coming from 50 to 60 miles from the Contai area, which is my constituency. The Bara-

chauka basin drainage scheme has been approved by the State Government and also by the Central Government. This Barachauka area is perpetually affected every year due to waterlogging or floods. It is very fertile land and I am told you can get 3 lakhs maunds of paddy every year from that area. For the last 5 or 6 years, they have spent for test relief more than Rs. 56 lakhs—this figure was given by Government in reply to my questions. They are also spending Rs. 3 lakhs every year on the four canal heads that are there. What is the logic that a Rs. 34 lakh scheme is not going to be executed by the Government? Due to breaches in the kacha embankment, a large area gets flooded every year. Contai sub-division is the granary of southern part of Bengal. If the Contai sub-division is free from the threat of flood, it can produce that much amount of foodgrains which will meet the deficit of our State. I made an appeal to Dr. Rao, I sent him telegrams, I sent him letters after letters, requesting him to take up this small irrigation scheme which will cost only Rs. 34 lakhs. Now in a year when we are spending so much for carsh programme for increased production, I am surprised this project is not taken up. We have got fertile land there. If that area can be saved from waterlogging and floods at a cost of Rs. 34 lakhs, you will be able to produce three lakhs maunds of paddy every year. You have already spent Rs. 65 lakhs during the last five or six years for relief and test relief and for improvised canal heads in that area. What is the logic behind that? What kind of understanding or assessment is this? You are not spending Rs. 34 lakhs which will save that area from floods, water-logging and also larger areas from the threat of floods and, at the same time, help you to produce a substantial quantity of paddy every year.

Here I want to submit that the people of that area are exasperated. More than 500 people have come on foot from 60 miles away. A few thousand people were on 36-hour

[Shri Samar Guha]

hunger strike. They have become so much desperate that unless something is done they will start some kind of agitation which our government may not like. I also do not like that. But I will be one of them in the agitation, not in the name of my party but in the name of the people. I have formed the people's Committee there. So I would again appeal to Dr. Rao that during this year, when there is the crash programme for production of food for which government is spending so much money, you should undertake the execution of this small drainage scheme, which will save people from floods and will give you additional food production.

श्री नवल किशोर शर्मा (दीस) : उप-ध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस सत्र के का फायदा उठा कर अपने प्रान्त की स्थिति की तरफ आप का ध्यान दिलाने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ और उठाना चाहता हूँ। उप-ध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे प्रान्त की बहुत खराब हालत है। वैसे तो सारे देश में इस वक्त अकाल की स्थिति है, लेकिन राजस्थान दुर्भाग्य से एक ऐसा प्रान्त बन गया है जहाँ राजनीतिक, भौगोलिक कारणों से बराबर अकाल पड़ता रहा है। राजस्थान के कुछ हिस्से ऐसे हैं जहाँ पिछले 4-5-7 सालों से अकाल पड़ता रहा है। इस सब का परिणाम यह हुआ है कि इस साल राजस्थान में जो अकाल पड़ा है, उसमें राजस्थान के लोगों का क्या होगा, कितनी मुश्किलों के सामने पैदा हो गई है, इस का भन्दाजा लगाना मुश्किल हो गया है। राजस्थान के 26 जिलों में से 23 जिलों में अकाल की स्थिति है और हालत यह है कि 36 हजार गाँवों में से करीब

28 हजार गाँवों में अकाल है, पीने के पानी का अभाव है, चारे का अभाव है, अन्न का अभाव है। राजस्थान सरकार की स्थिति इतनी दयनीय है कि उस पर करीब 700 करोड़ रुपये का कर्जा है।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He may continue his speech on Monday.
14.59 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS
NINETEENTH REPORT

SHRI J. MEHTA GOWDER (NIGRI): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Nineteenth Report of Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd November, 1972."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Nineteenth Report of Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd November, 1972."

The motion was adopted.

15 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYMENT—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up further consideration of the Resolution moved by Shrimati Maya Ray on the 28th August, 1972. Shrimati Maya Ray to continue her speech.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on the last occasion, when I was moving the Resolution, I had spoken of urban unemployment and rural unemployment and also about the fact that the whole concept of employment would have to undergo a change involving changes in our educational system as well as in our social attitudes.