

important thing comes in and on some other day it is admitted. There is nothing wrong in it. Why should they go on insinuating and imputing motives like that ?

Shri Hem Barua (Mangaldai) : Sir, I think, Shri Gopalan's contention is right. That day Shri Gopalan was informed that you had not accepted his motion but ultimately this motion was accepted and he was not told that the motion had been accepted.

Mr. Speaker : I cannot say anything off hand ; I will inquire into it as to what exactly is the position. Every day there are at least 30 to 35 motions ; some are more important, some are less important. Some times they are accepted, sometimes they are rejected and sometimes even they are kept pending.

Shri Hem Barua : But when they are accepted, Members ought to be informed about it.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : Today you have rejected the motion about Birlas removing the papers on payment of bribe and managing director has been arrested. There is a Sarkar Commission set up here and in Calcutta the papers have been removed by Birlas. A police officer of the rank of Deputy Commissioner was offered a bribe of Rs.1,000 and the managing director has been arrested.

12.20 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Bogus payment from the Central Revenues for the transportation of Fertilisers

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah (Nandyal) : Sir, under rule 197 I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"A bogus payment of Rs.3.77 crores" from the Central revenues for the transportation of fertilisers as disclosed in the Third Report dated 16th March, 1970 of the Public Accounts Committee of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu (Diamond Harbour) : Shri Venkatasubbaiah's party was very much in the Government at that time.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah (Pali) : Sir, from the phrase "I beg to call the attention", the word "beg" should be removed.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde) : It is the responsibility of the State Government to arrange for the timely supply of fertiliser to their farmers and to evolve suitable distribution system for this purpose. The State Government has a choice of entrusting the distribution of imported fertilisers to the cooperative channels, departmental agencies or private dealers as they deem fit. The responsibility of the Union Government extends only to ensuring that the total fertiliser requirements of the State are met through indigenous production and imports.

In order to help the State Government in arranging timely availability of fertilisers, the Government of India have permitted the use of road transport from the ports when wagons are not readily available. Even though the cost of movement by road is higher than that of movement by rail, this additional expense is re-imbursed to the State Government by the Government of India in the interests of timely supply of fertilisers to the farmers.

The Third Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the Andhra Pradesh Legislature cites some irregularities in the transport of fertilisers in that State. It has been stated therein, *inter alia*, that in the *three years* from 1966-67 to 1968-69, an amount of Rs.3.77 crores has been paid by the State Government to the cooperatives and private dealers as transport charges and that there was ground to believe that there were irregularities in some of these payments. The Committee have quoted instances of payments for road transport while the fertiliser involved did not seem to have been transported as indicated in the bills of transport charges. The Committee have also given instances of bills from Cooperative societies in four districts amounting to Rs.18.5 lakhs which were not paid by the State Government because of false claims in

[Shri Annasahib Shinde]

them. According to the report of the State Government, Police investigation has been ordered into these claims.

It does not, however, appear from the Report that Rs.3.77 crores paid out during 1966-69 or even a significant part of it was on the basis of false bills, as alleged in the call attention notice. The Committee have noted that the State C. I. D. have been asked to look into all the case of doubtful claims but have also recommended a thorough probe into the matter through the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The Hon'ble Members will appreciate that it is the responsibility of the State Government to check up the authenticity of the claims. The Government of India re-imburse the transport charges to the State Government on the basis of the certificate of authenticity given by the State Government. The State Police are already investigating into the matter. The Government of India have received the preliminary report of State Government reiterating that investigation into the matter is already in progress and promising further reports. Whether to order an enquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation can be considered, with the consent of the State Government, after the receipt of the further report.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah : Sir, the Government has tried to play down the seriousness of the situation and I crave your indulgence because I have to explain the manner in which this amount has been swindled and money has been taken out without even transporting the fertiliser and reaching the farmers with the active connivance of the Minister of Agriculture whose name very prominently figured in the Harijan burning case here and which also raised a commotion in the Andhra Assembly accusing the village officials as highway robbers and buffaloes, who very carefully transplanted two of his species in the Rajya Sabha and one of whom has fallen a victim of the conscience vote in the recent Rajya Sabha elections.

I want to put some questions to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister has said, in his statement, I quote :

".....in arranging timely availability of fertilisers, the Government of

India have permitted the use of road transport from the ports when wagons are not readily available."

In this connection, I would like to read a few sentences from the Report of the P. A. C. While recommending certain prosecutions to be launched, the Report says that these fertilisers which were permitted by road transport had been done in a very irrational manner and also with a view to claim the transport charges from the farthest port. For instance for Cuddapah, Madras is the nearest port. But they asked for the import of fertiliser for Cuddapah from Vishakhapatnam and from Ponnammilla to Bombay which is 700 to 800 miles away whereas Madras is only 150 miles.

This is the company which has come in for much criticism by the P. A. C. where they have stated that the Minister has taken unusual interest in allotting fertiliser even without going into the formalities of referring it to the proper authorities.

In one application, the gentleman by name Shri G. Ramachandra Naidu writes to the Minister as follows :

"Dear Brothers,

"Namasthe ; I am herewith enclosing an application for allotment of Fertilisers to Chittoor in my Brothers name for our manure Mixing Firm. I am requesting you to see that the above allotment is granted to us early. . . ."

He further requests saying :

"I request you to recommend for us even the unsold stocks at Chittoor for a reduction rate."

When there is such a great demand for fertilisers and fertilisers are being sold at premium rates, by the faulty formulation of the distribution policy, deliberately, stocks were allowed to be accumulated and allotted by the Minister concerned directly at a reduction rate. The Committee has very significantly said that the Minister has taken undue interest in such applications.

Again, the Report says :

"It was noticed by the Committee that out of a thousand applications, picked

out at random from among thousands of applications, it was found that in about 300 applications, allotments were ordered to be made by the then Minister for Agriculture himself.".

It further says :

"....three such applications with the Minister's orders thereon, which speak for themselves and indicate the way in which the Minister has acted in this regard.".

Then, it says :

"The Committee is considerably surprised at the way in which in a large number of cases the then Minister for Agriculture made the allotment to Manure Mixing Firms directly even without verifying the genuineness as for example, in the case of 'Soubhagya Fertilisers', Cuddapah who successfully cheated the State Government, Central Government and Agriculturists as well'

With regard to transportation, a test check has been made. The Minister says that not a significant portion has been misappropriated. It is only a test check made by the P. A. C. In the test-check, they could find that lorries did not at all touch at the Check posts and that they did not at all reach the destination. They found that lorries did not pass at all. This is a charge. I would like to know whether it is a fact that because of the continuous change of distribution policy from State to State in Madras and other States, the distribution policy was well-defined and in consonance with the orders of the Central Government—here, progressively, the cooperatives were eliminated and private dealers were brought in to see that these people got the patronage of two Ministers and also to see that fertilisers did not reach agriculturists in time and that they were sold at the ports.

These are the matters and the P. A. C. has made its recommendations. May I know whether in view of these irregularities with regard to transportation of fertilisers and also depriving the agriculturists and it has affected the food production, the Government will institute an inquiry and

entrust it to the C. B. I. and also press upon the State Government to see that the Minister resigns till the charges are proved? There is a fear that he may interfere in the investigation if he is allowed to remain in office.

Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta (Delhi Sadar) : What is the name of the Minister ?

Shri P. Venka tasubbaiah : Mr. Thimma Reddy.

Shri Tenneti Viswanatham (Visakhapatnam) : He may be made a Central Minister so that we may more adequately discuss this subject.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : May I submit at the outset that the cases which have been referred to in the P. A. C. report are obviously of a serious nature and malpractices of this nature will not be tolerated by anybody and this is the view of my Ministry and the Government also.

An hon. Member : Not your Party.

Shri Ranga (Srikakulam) : Therefore, press for a C. B. I. inquiry.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : As I have explained in the statement, distribution and appointment of nominees are entirely the responsibility of the State Government. Naturally these are matters which can be taken up with the State Government.

As far as the C. B. I. inquiry is concerned, as I have already mentioned, the State Government has already instituted some inquiry. But, personally, I have no objection to even entrust it to the C. B. I. but I have to consult the Home Ministry and the Law Ministry because I do not know whether when the State Government has already instituted an inquiry the C. B. I. can look into it. I will take up the matter with the State Government and consult the Law Ministry and the Home Ministry and take further action.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara) : If the Minister continues in office, no worthwhile inquiry can be held. Does the Minister agree there ? Will he ask the State Government about it ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde : I will draw the attention of the State Government to the views of the hon. Member.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah (Pali) : Ever since the Swatantra Party was formed, we have been saying that all this permit-quota system is leading to corruption. The permit-quota-licence raj provides a hunting ground for corrupt business, corrupt officials and corrupt politicians. This report is a glaring testimony of our fears. As I listened to the Statement of the hon. Minister and as I remember a few recent instances, it becomes very clear that the Government have now adopted a policy of underplaying cases of evasion and corruption. Because of this understatement of a clear case of corruption brought out by the Public Accounts Committee of the Andhra Legislature, I wonder whether the Central Minister in charge of this Ministry against whom also cases of evasion came up in the recent past is not also in league somewhere with the State Minister.

They make an understatement and they say that "The responsibility of the Union Government extends only to ensuring that the total fertiliser requirements of the State are met through indigenous production and imports." Does meeting of requirements mean only allocation to those people who are not even registered? Or, does meeting the requirement mean allocation, transportation to the site, and distribution to the farmers of the State? Therefore, why are they trying to underplay their role? The Minister states in his main reply :

"It does not however appear from the Report that Rs.3.77 crores paid out during 1966-69 or even a significant part of it was on the basis of false bills."

Why does he say so, when the Report itself says :

"The check so conducted revealed that not one of the lorries did in reality pass through the check-posts to reach the destination."

The report also says :

"The payment of transport charges was being made without the transport really being made."

The report also says :

"It is seen further that even standing concerns like District Cooperative Marketing Societies submitted bogus claims amounting to lakhs of rupees."

The report itself says that there were grounds to believe that there were irregularities in these cases. Why did not the Minister have a complete check instead of test check, to know all about it? The Minister further States :

"The Committee have also given instances of payments for road transport while the fertilizer involved did not seem to have been transported."

Why does he say 'does not seem to have been transported' while the Committee has categorically said that this has not been transported? They are trying to underplay their role in this matter. That is why my suspicion arises whether these people are not in league with the State Government and the State Minister. The Minister involved of the State Government, Mr. Thima Reddy, holds an important portfolio, namely, the Ministry of Revenue there.

Mr. Speaker : You have mentioned his name already several times ; still you are not satisfied.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah : Since he holds an important portfolio of Revenue in Andhra Government and as the Minister here in the Central Government in charge of this Ministry also happens to be the President of the Party to which he belongs, —therefore, may I ask whether they will ask the Minister there to resign?

Secondly, will the Government advise them to take steps to black-list those traders and cooperatives against whom *prima facie* charges have been made in the P. A. C. report? Will they take such action against the society, traders and persons connected with this nefarious activity? And finally, what checks and what specific steps they are proposing to take in respect of transport of fertilizers so that such irregularities do not recur again?

Shri Annasahib Shinde : As regards the specific question regarding the malpractices, I would reiterate that we advised the State Government to take the strictest possible action and we would not like anybody to be shellased. The only thing I wish to say is this, that the hon. Member should not bring in the names of people who are not here to defend themselves. For the information of the House I may inform them that the procedure that is invariably followed is this, in regard to reimbursement of funds by the Central Government. The State Accountant General has to audit these accounts for transport. The State Government scrutinised them and we have got an elaborate procedure in this regard. After the Bills of Transport are scrutinised by the State Government and audited by the Accountant General of the State, on the basis of the report of the State Government and the Accountant General only the Government of India makes the payment.

Shri S. K. Tapuriah : In the light of this will you re-check every bill that you receive from the Andhra Government ?

Shri Annasahib Shinde : Despite all these checks and counter-checks some people have succeeded in cheating the Government. The hon. Member asked what positive action will be taken. He also mentioned about appointment of dealers etc. I wish to say that the Government of India have recently modified the Fertilizer Control Order. Now any body without the permission of anybody else can become a dealer.

No nomination from the State Government is required. The only thing is that if one becomes a dealer, he has to register himself with the State Government. As Shri Ranga said if anyone indulges in adulteration etc. some list must be available. The only condition that has been put in is that if one wants to become a fertiliser distributor, he has to register himself with the State Government.

As the hon. Member and the House are aware, the fertiliser distribution position is very comfortable now and there is no difficulty in regard to meeting the requirements of the fertilisers. It is very unfortunate that in the fertiliser-conscious State like the Andhra Pradesh, such malpractices

should have taken place. We are trying to meet the entire requirements of the State as far as fertilisers are concerned (*interruption*).

Shri Sheo Narain (Basti) : Sir, as a guardian of this House we want your protection. Here the senior Minister is not present. This is my objection. The hon. Minister who happens to be the Congress President should have himself been present.

Shri Ranga : Will the report of the P. A. C. of Andhra Pradesh be placed on the table of the House ?

Mr. Speaker : I am trying to see the procedural side of it.

Shri R. K. Amin (Dhondhuka) : I consider the report of the Public Accounts Committee as the most important document that I have ever come across. I consider this very important not because a sum of Rs. 3.77 crores is involved but because it reveals to us the *modus operandi* of the bribe and corruption of the subventions given by the Central Government to the State Government. It has a political aspect in it. The politicians in the state try to take away money for their political purposes. This sort of condition not only exists in the distribution of fertilisers but also in the distribution of bank credit or other agricultural imports or even in organising the distribution of the scarcity funds. That is why I take a very serious view of it. To my great sorrow I do not find from the statement given by the Government that it has taken such a serious view. For example, the Public Accounts Committee Report in its conclusion indicates about four steps to be taken. For example they have also indicated that it should be entrusted to the C. B. I. Also it has indicated the steps to be taken to recover the illegal payments made to the manure-mixing firms. Also the committee has suggested that the criminal prosecutions be taken against the persons responsible for grabbing these funds.

Now, the Government, in its reply, has not indicated as to what they are going to do about all these recommendations. I would like to ask specifically that if you cannot remove the hon. Minister straight-away, without a concurrence of Home Ministry etc. at least you can tell the State Government of Andhra Pradesh that unless and until the

[**Shri R. K. Amin**]

Minister is removed, no sub-ventions from the Central Government will be given to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. In this way pressure can be exerted on them. Whether the Minister would do this?

Secondly, I would like to know whether a thorough probe will be made by the Government of India in regard to distribution of all kinds of Subventions in agricultural imports. Since this report is an eye-opener not only with regard to supply and distribution of fertilisers but even with regard to giving special sub-ventions in the form of scarcity funds or flood control funds by the Central Government to the State Government.

Thirdly, in future, will the Agriculture Ministry consider this as its own ultimate responsibility and not leave that responsibility to the State Government?

My last question is. In his reply the hon. Minister has said that he would like to consult the State Government. How can you consult the State Government when there is a report against the State Minister? It is for you to take action whether he would take action on his own initiative?

Shri Annasahib Shinde : I appreciate the emotions of the hon. Member. I wish to tell the hon. Member that constitutionally, agriculture is a state subject. *(Interruption).*

Shri Ranga : You cannot escape by giving this sort of an answer. They are acting as your agent for transporting this.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : Why don't you allow me to explain? I am only explaining. The hon. Member, while making observations, referred to the fact that the Central Government should take up the responsibility in regard to fertiliser distribution etc.

Shri Ranga : This was transportation.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : To that my reply is this. The distribution and movement of fertilisers is the responsibility of the State Government, and I do not think that it would be worth-while or wise on the part of the Central Government to take up these activities of the State Governments . . .

Shri Ranga : But they acted as the agents of the Central Government.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : Those activities are within the purview of the State Government.

As far as action against the manure-mixing firm is concerned, I think the State Government is seized of it. If any assistance from the Central Government is required to proceed against these firms, I shall be prepared to give all co-operation and assistance to the State Government. I have no hesitation in taking any steps against those who are indulging in malpractices. The Fertiliser Control Order is under the Essential Commodities Act, and if anybody contravenes those orders, naturally he is liable for punishment. Under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, he is liable for fine, imprisonment etc. There are adequate provisions in the law in this behalf. The only question is that the culprits have to be identified and necessary action should be taken against them. . . .

An Hon. Member : They have been identified.

Shri R. K. Amin : Will he say to the Government of Andhra Pradesh that no money will be paid from the Central Government unless that Minister is removed? Could he answer this question? He can do that sort of thing if not more?

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Member had put his question, and the hon. Minister has given his answer.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : Can I say which Minister should be in a particular State Government and hold a particular portfolio? But I may tell the hon. Member that the hon. Minister to whom the hon. Member has made a reference is no longer in charge of agriculture.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu : Does he agree in principle that the Minister should quit office? As a matter of education, let us have the answer to this question. Does he agree that the Minister concerned should quit office?

Mr. Speaker : Why is Shri Jyotirmoy Basu interrupting now? Shri Rabi Ray.

श्री रवि राम : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे आश्चर्य होता है कि ये मंत्री अभी तक कैसे गद्दी पर विराजमान हैं। आप जानते हैं कि वे मंत्री, श्री थिम्मा रेड्डी के बारे में हमने यहाँ पर आरोप लगाया था कि वहाँ पर जो हरिजनों की हत्या हुई थी और प्रदेश में, उसका इन्होंने समर्थन किया था और सीताराम नामक पत्रकार ने पैट्रियाट में जो लिखा था उसके लिए उसको धमकी भी दी गई थी—तो ये इस तरह के मंत्री हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब यह चीज असवार में हमने देखी तो लगभग 15 दिन पहले ही हमने होम मिनिस्टर, चव्हाण साहब को चिट्ठी लिखी थी कि क्या वे सी बी आई की इन्क्वायरी कर रहे हैं लेकिन 15 दिन बीत गए हैं, चव्हाण साहब का कोई जवाब नहीं मिला है। सी बी आई की इन्क्वायरी कराने के लिए जबकि पब्लिक एकाउन्ट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है तो फिर उसको सरकार ने क्यों नहीं माना है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह असवार डेली न्यूज, जोकि हैदराबाद से निकलता है इसमें कहा गया है :

"A Swatantra Party member, Mr. B. Rathnasabhapathi has been for the last three years making charges of a serious nature about malpractices in the distribution of the fertilisers despite repeated refutations made on behalf of the Government".

मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि तीन साल से और प्रदेश विधान सभा के एक सदस्य, श्री रत्नसभापथी इस सवाल को उठा रहे हैं, केन्द्रीय सरकार क्यों इसके बारे में ऐक्शन नहीं ले रही है ? मैं पी ए सी का जो जुमला है उसको भी पढ़कर सुनना चाहूँगा। अभी तक जो इनको हटाने का कोई प्रयास नहीं किया गया है वह इसलिए नहीं किया गया है क्योंकि इस मंत्रालय के जो मंत्री हैं बाबू जगजीवन राम उन पर इनकम टैक्स की चोरी का सवाल यहाँ पर उठा था

Mr. Speaker : Let him not bring any such thing.

श्री रवि राम : वे कांग्रेस के भी सभापति हैं लेकिन मैं आरोप लगाना चाहता हूँ कि ये मिले हुए हैं। क्योंकि वे इन्डीकेट की सरकार के मंत्री हैं इसलिए उनको ये हटाना नहीं चाहते

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हैं। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि पी० ए० सी० की जो सिफारिश है वह इस प्रकार से है :

"Whatever might be the intentions of the Minister in following such unusual procedure, the Committee feels that it is not only extraordinary but judging from all canons of public administration is highly objectionable and improper."

.....(व्यवधान).... अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप हमारे अधिकारों के रक्षक हैं। आप पब्लिक अन्डरटेकिंग कमेटी के भी चेयरमन रह चुके हैं। पी० ए० सी० की यह सिफारिश है, श्री थिम्मा रेड्डी के खिलाफ इम्प्रोपर कान्डक्ट के आरोप लगाये गये हैं फिर ये मंत्री कैसे विराजमान हैं ?

दूसरी चीज मैं आप की अनुमति से पी० ए० सी० की रिपोर्ट सभा के पटल पर ले करना चाहता हूँ, और इस के साथ साथ आप की अनुमति से श्री रत्नसभापथी जी का जो मेमोरियल है, जो विधान सभा को दिया गया, उस को भी ले करना चाहता हूँ। जिसमें बहुत सी चीजों का मंडाफोड़ हुआ है।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ श्री रत्नसभापथी जी का जो मेमोरियल है, क्या यह सही है कि :

"From 1967 onwards Mr. Thimmareddy started boosting up one or two companies in each district. In Cud-dapah district, he has brought up one Sri Narayanareddy, ex-M. L. A.

An Hon. Member : To which party does he belong ?

Shri Rabi Ray : कौन दल के हैं, यह मंत्री जी बतायें। The memorial further says :

"The latter has registered four companies bearing the names of Rayalaseema fertilisers, Soubhagya Fertilisers, Arveti China Subbarayudu and Asoka Fertilisers. These companies have got one branch each in two districts, Krishna and Gun-tur.

[Shri Rabi Ray]

In this connection, I request you to peruse the answer clause (b) of the L. A. Q. No. 1972 starred, answered by the Minister of Agriculture on 5th March, 1970 ; Of the total quantity of 5,000 tonnes supplied to the whole State, these three companies get a grand total of 960 tonnes of Sindhri Ammonium sulphate."

मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह सही है कि एक आदमी के नाम पर—जो श्री नारायण रेड्डी हैं—चार कम्पनियाँ रजिस्टर हुई थीं ? और यह किस दल के हैं ?

क्या यह सही है कि श्री यिम्मा रेड्डी साहब :

"On 7th December, 1968 Mr. Thim-mareddy was in Madras in person. He has personally seen that 1215 metric tonnes of urea was released to the following companies.

Soubhagya Fertilisers, Cud-dapah .	500 tonnes.
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Ashoka Fertilisers	..	500	"
Royalaseema Fertilisers	..	250	"
Venkateswara Fertilisers	..	250	"
Yelisetti Subbarao	..	100	"
Boopalampet	..	25	"

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: I have already placed it on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. see No. LT—3200/70]

श्री रवि राय : क्या यह सही है कि खुद मंत्री महोदय इटरेस्ट ले कर, मन्त्राजि जा कर के इन के आफिसर्स से बात कर के इस तरह की बातें करते हैं ?

मेरा अंतिम प्रश्न, मान्यवर, आप से है । आप जानते हैं कि बंगाल में नक्सलवादियों ने जाबपुर में गांधी इंस्टीट्यूट पर हमले किये हैं, जिस की मैं निन्दा करता हूँ । लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से ग्रुप मंत्रियों की रक्षा यहाँ का मंत्री मंडल करता है यह उचित है क्या ? यह मिले हुए हैं, और ग्रुपटोपार करने की प्रेरणा इन से मिलती है । अगर यिम्मा रेड्डी जी को यह मंत्री मंडल नहीं निकालता

है तो मैं चाहूँगा कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश के युवजन उन को जा कर वहाँ निकालें । अगर सरकार उन को वहाँ से नहीं हटाती है तो वहाँ के विद्यार्थी और नवयुवक इस मंत्री को हटायें ताकि जनमत का प्रमाण आप को मिल जाय कि कितना रोष वहाँ की जनता में इस कांड के प्रति है । . . .

Mr. Speaker : Whatever may be the merits of the case, it is not proper to make such speeches here. I think it is not proper to have issued an appeal from this House that the students should go and do that kind of thing. What will be the discipline in the country then ? I do not approve of it.

श्री रवि राय : अगर सरकार ऐसे ग्रुप लोगों को नहीं हटाती तो फिर ग्रुपटोपार कैसे रहेगा । यह पी० ए० सी० की रिपोर्ट है, यदि इस के बाद भी ग्रुप मंत्री को आप नहीं हटाएंगे, तो कैसे काम चलेगा । एक तरफ आप नक्सलवादियों की निन्दा करेंगे और दूसरी तरफ ऐसे लोगों को प्रोत्साहन देंगे, तो कैसे हालत सुधरेगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इस तरह की बातें कहने से, श्रीरव जी इस हाउस में, कैसे काम चलेगा ।

श्री कंबर सास गुप्ता : माननीय जगजीवन राम जी को आन्ध्र प्रदेश कांग्रेस कमेटी का प्रेसीडेंट बना दीजिये ।

Shri Annasahib Shinde : Motives are being attributed to each and everybody and charges have been levelled. . . .

Mr. Speaker : If such speeches are made here, then how can we manage everything outside ?

श्री रवि राय : यह तो ग्रुपटोपारी मंत्रियों को प्रेरणा देते हैं ।

Mr. Speaker : What ever may be the merits according to him, there is a limit to dealing with it. There are many constitutional and other methods available.

श्री रवि राय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन दोनों डाक्यूमेंट्स को मैं आप की अनुमति से सभा पटल पर ले करना चाहता हूँ [Placed in Library. see No. LT-3200/70.]

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप दोनों माननीय सदस्य, जो वेपर्स सदन की टेबिल पर ले करना

बाहते हैं, मुझे इसे देखना है कि कौन सी चीज रखने वाली है। मैं अभी देख कर लूंगा।

Shri Annasaheb Shinde : As far as the specific instances pointed out by the hon. Member are concerned, we shall draw the attention of the State Government to them. But according to my information, the State Government have also received the memorandum which was read out and referred to by the hon. Member just now. But in addition to that, we shall draw the attention of the Andhra Pradesh Government to the facts mentioned in the memorandum.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (Gonda) : Already Shri Rabi Ray has drawn the attention of the House to the conclusion of the Public Accounts Committee of the State Legislature. They have said :

"Whatever might be the intentions of the Minister in following such unusual procedure, the Committee feels that it is not only extraordinary but judging from all canons of public administration is highly objectionable and improper".

They have recommended the following : (1) a thorough probe by the C. B. I. ; (2) steps to recover all the illegal payments made to the so-called Manure Mixing Firms and others, (3) criminal prosecution against the private dealers and the officials and non-officials, found responsible for cheating the Government and the public, and (4) the Government must reformulate their fertiliser policy so as to check abuses in fertiliser distribution.

I am taking up the last first. The statement made by the Minister was very naive and tried to sidetrack the issue to get out of the difficulty by saying that this is a State subject. I would pertinently ask him : *Why have this Ministry here ? Why not scrap it ?*

We have this Ministry here because the idea is that we have to develop agriculture in all the States. In order to do so, they have evolved this fertiliser policy.

From the statement, it is clear that there were quick changes in the policy of distribution. As a result, by 1969, Rs.10

crores worth of fertiliser got accumulated there. When they found this, the State authorities thought they were free to play *holi* with it. They could give it to the private traders, co-operatives, to this and that person. But there was a very nice arrangement of giving extra money for transport, into which I am not going in detail as Shri Venkatasubbaiah has already shown how the Government was being cheated on the pretext of getting this extra money for road transport. It was the duty of the Central Government when they were giving such a high subvention, when they were giving the fertiliser, and when they were directing the policy to see at least to it that the policy was such that there was no scope for manipulation.

Therefore, will Government appoint a committee which will go into the matter of policy direction and evolve such a policy as will not let this kind of situation to rise again ?

Secondly, though many matters have been brought into this, I do not want to go into them in detail. But the cheating was to such an extent that there were companies which were not even registered when the rules required that they should be registered, before any allocation is made to the company. On page 32 of the report, there is a letter from a company, P Subrahmanyam Chetty and Co. On it the Minister himself has given the order :

"He may be permitted to register himself as a dealer and the following fertilisers may be allotted."

Not only is he not a dealer but some friend of his is made into a dealer overnight and allowed to have this kind of facility. So this matter needs to be looked into.

Another point was raised, that the Minister should be shifted. I understand the Food Minister's hesitation in not saying anything in this regard as it is a State subject. But Shri Jagjivan Ram who is the Food Minister also happens to be the President of the ruling Party whose word is law there, or at least is presumed to be law there. I would ask : how can an inquiry be carried out there when the chief man in charge of the corruption sits there ? How can an inquiry be carried out by the State authorities as long

[**Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani**]

as that man—I do not want to mention his name—who has created this very situation there is allowed to continue as a Minister?

Therefore, it is very necessary, first, that he must be removed from there, second, the Central Government must carry on the inquiry and third, a proper committee should be appointed to go into the entire question of policy with regard to the fertiliser distribution.

13 hrs.

Shri Annasahib Shinde: In regard to a C. B. I. enquiry, I have already made the position clear. In the beginning I said that we have no hesitation, but the legal aspect of it has to be gone into, when the State Government has instituted some enquiry already through the C. I. D., whether the C. B. I. can go into this or not will have to be examined. As I said earlier, I will take it up with the Home Ministry and the Law Ministry.

Shri Ranga : And report to us later.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : As far as the broad policies on fertilisers are concerned, perhaps the hon. Member is feeling that the policies give rise to malpractices. When there is a scarcity, naturally anti-social elements exploit the situation and there are malpractices.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani : The report says there were changes of policy from year to year, and as a result of the change in policy there was accumulation.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : With due respect to the hon. Member, I would say that I have also gone through the report, and that report does not refer to the Central Government's policies, but the policies of the State Government, because in the beginning they had only appointed co-operators as distributors and later on they changed, and the comment of the P. A. C. refers to that.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani : Yes, but you being the controlling authority, can give them guidelines.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : As far as the Centre is concerned, we have now given complete freedom as far as the indigenous production is concerned. There is no movement

restriction and indigenous manufacturers are free to appoint anybody as their distributors.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah : These are imported fertilisers.

Shri Annasahib Shinde : As far as imported fertilisers are concerned, I have already said that if somebody wants to become a dealer, formerly there was a restriction, but according to the new change that has been brought about by the Modified Fertiliser Distribution Control Order, anybody can become a distributor.

As far as the particular case of Andhra is concerned, as to who would be the Government nominee, the Government of Andhra has recently taken a decision that only co-operative societies will be entrusted with this work on behalf of the State Government.

As far as the other observations of the P. A. C. are concerned, the State Assembly is competent to take note of them.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu (Diamond Harbour) : I have got something very important to say.

Mr. Speaker : You cannot raise it without giving notice. This will not form part of the record.

Shri Jyotirmoy Basu* :

13.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

CORRIGENDUM TO THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals and Mines and Metals (Shri D. R. Chavan) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Corrigendum to the Annual Accounts of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 1967-68 and the Audit Report thereon, laid on the Table on the 11th August, 1969. [*Placed in Library: See No. LT-3165/70*].

* Not recorded.