

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The House will take up the next item of business.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): Sir, would you give me a hearing for a moment? Shri Kamath has asked for your guidance and I heard you to say that he is welcome or any Member of the House is welcome to go and discuss with you as to how these matters can be brought up. The use of the ordinance-making power, at this particular time, an attack on the principle of the autonomy of universities—the Minister is talking about it—is something very serious. Would you, therefore, tell us, and assist us in the matter of bringing this up in the House by whichever mechanism you think fit. We are ready to go and meet you in your Chamber.

Mr. Speaker: I objected to the matter being raised in this manner. If I just allow this, then how can I bar out others? The leaders of responsible groups should realise that difficulty of mine. It should not be raised in this manner.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: Why should you take us to task? It is being done by almost everybody, every day. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

श्री बड़े (खारगोन) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप हम को डांट देते हैं लेकिन दूसरों को हमेशा समय दे दिया जाता है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप लोग इस को आपस में ही समझ लें ।

12.35 hrs.

MOTIONS RE. FOOD SITUATION AND SITUATION ARISING OUT OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the

motion on the food situation and the drought situation. More than eight hours and 50 minutes have been taken up; eight hours and 50 minutes in the regular way, and one hour and 30 minutes more by the House sitting for extra time. I am not including the one hour and 30 minutes in the 15 hours. Therefore, six hours and 10 minutes remain. Shri K. L. More.

Shri Indrajit Gupta (Calcutta South West): Will the Minister reply tomorrow?

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Minister be replying tomorrow?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): It looks like that, Sir.

12.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri K. L. More (Hatakanangle): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to make a few observations on the food situation of our country. It is rather unfortunate that we are obliged to discuss to this food situation under the dismal shadow of drought and famine which forebodes starvation, ruin and stalking death not only for the human beings, but the cattle all over the country. As we are aware, recently we had to face the dangerous war on the battle front. Now we have to face a more dreadful war on the food front. We hope and trust that our whole country, especially our patriotic farmers, will rise to the occasion and meet the challenge, as was met by our jawans on the battle-field so gloriously.

It is most relieving and encouraging that the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture, Shri Subramaniam,

[Shri K. L. More]

has in this critical situation given a bold and realistic lead by presenting a stark picture of the food situation and by outlining various measures to avert the crisis.

I will deal with this problem with reference to production and distribution. I will take up distribution first. Distribution has two aspects, namely storage of foodgrains—making available the foodgrain stock—and secondly their proper distribution through some system like rationing. The extent of success on both sides depends upon how we lay down a sound national policy. Without an effective procurement system, both for meeting current consumption demands as well as for building up an adequate storage of buffer stocks against future lean years and other similar emergencies, it is physically impossible to maintain any kind of control over either distribution or prices of foodgrains. Only a uniform policy of procurement and levy throughout the country would bring more stocks to the government. Maintenance of State zones and liberty to follow any method of procurement is harmful to the national interest. In this connection, I want to quote what Mr. K. M. Munshi, ex-Union Food Minister, said in February, 1952. He said:

"A part of our difficulty is created by inter-State bans.... If the inter-State bans are removed, all marketable surpluses would be available for those areas where the black market or free market prices are double or treble the controlled prices. The deficit States, therefore, are justified in complaining that there is no equality of sacrifice."

The hardships attendant upon food storage can be greatly mitigated if both surplus and deficit States cooperate with each other keeping in view the national interest and the principle of equality of sacrifice. But it is more advisable to invoke the power of Parliament under article

249 to legislate upon State subjects pertaining to agriculture in the national interest.

The enduring solution of this problem is wholesale nationalisation of food trade. This will secure, through effective machinery, a dominant position over supplies and will assure a stability and reasonableness in price level. This is with regard to internal procurement.

Now, Sir, I will proceed to procurement from outside. The need for augmenting internal procurement of foodgrains through imports from outside countries is unavoidable and should be welcomed. Whatever one may say about the effect of large scale food imports on the country's production, in the context of the present situation, it is unquestionable. PL. 480 should be welcomed and Government also should negotiate to procure foodgrains from outside countries.

I now come to another aspect, and that is regarding distribution. In this respect, the hon. Minister has now decided to introduce statutory rationing, but that decision about statutory rationing is only in respect of big cities. This will cover only 10 per cent of the national population. Therefore, the rest of the population will be left to obtain their requirements from the open market. This will entail great hardships. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture to introduce statutory rationing throughout all parts of the country.

Now I come to the production aspect of the food situation. In spite of our slogans in the past and even in the present, we have not tackled our food production on a war basis, nor have we devoted a single plan exclusively for agriculture. Our Plan should be agriculture-oriented. Only recently our Minister of Food and Agriculture has come forward to lay down a sound policy and he has now sponsored re-orientation of programme of agricul-

tural production. Here also I would like to expect that top priority should be given to irrigation. From the recent failure of monsoons we must take the lesson that only irrigation projects will save us from such situations.

I now turn to one problem in my State of Maharashtra. Maharashtra has got less facilities of irrigation. Only 6.5 per cent of the cultivable land is under irrigation. Moreover, area to the extent of 30 per cent of the total area is under constant scarcity conditions. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture and the hon. Minister for Irrigation and Power to take up irrigation projects in Maharashtra.

I want to say a word about drought and famine conditions in Maharashtra, because the food deficit there has increased from 2.2 million tons to 6 million tons. So the Central Government should rush immediately to the help of the State Government and give more foodgrains to Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra is doing its level best to avert a calamity, but without aid from the Centre it is not likely to succeed.

Lastly, I will place only three or four suggestions before the hon. Minister and this House.

The Centre should give sufficient food quota to Maharashtra. Every financial help to the agriculturists should also be extended, specially, seeds, fertilizers and other problems must be solved. Similarly, there should be fodder banks for the cattle and employment security and food-grain security must be given to the famine-stricken areas of Maharashtra.

With these words I end my speech.

Shri Balakrishnan (Koilpatti): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I pray that the coming new year must be generous and prosperous for the country because the year 1965, which is going to end its own life soon, was a very bad year for our country. It had

brought two enemies—one Pakistan and another drought. We are not afraid of Pakistan, but we are worried about the drought conditions.

The failure of the monsoon made our people unhappy. In many places, even in my village, even though now there is rain, unfortunately, there was no rain earlier and the crops died. In my village there are 18 tanks but even in one single tank there is no water. There is no water even in wells. Very bad news is coming from Mysore and other parts that people are loitering for drinking water.

Before we think of long-term policy, I must request the Government to think of emergency measures for the relief of the people by giving them work. Labourers are now becoming idle because there is no work in the agricultural fields and they must be given work by way of silt-clearing, digging wells, deepening of wells, construction of new tanks and small channels. Free feeding should also be arranged to help the poor people. I do not think, it is now necessary, but even if it is necessary in the most affected areas, I request the Minister to see that free boarding also is arranged.

I am sorry to say that nothing has been done to open fair price shops in villages. I do not want fair price shops to be opened during the season but in the off-season people, who are producers and who are supplying foodgrains to the Government, are left uncared. So, I request the Government to see that fair price shops are opened in the villages. The other day I met the Assistant Collector of Madurai to open fair price shops in villages and he told me, "It is very difficult because in every Taluka there are hundreds and hundreds of villages; so opening of fair price shops in every village is very difficult". Anyway, I request the Minister to see that fair price shops in the off-season period at least are opened.

Regarding the short-term policy, minor and medium schemes also

[Shri Balakrishnan]

should be included. Taking advantage of this I request the Minister to see that three medium schemes are expedited in my taluk. In every speech of mine I am talking about the Palar-Porundalar, Khuthirayar and Vardamma River Schemes. These are very medium schemes and only a small amount will be required. So, I request the Minister to ask the State Government to expedite these schemes.

Regarding long-term policy, we cannot depend on imports always; so, we have to make our country self-sufficient. We have already brought most of the suitable land under cultivation; so, only through intensive cultivation can we make our country self-sufficient. Intensive cultivation, education and research are important. If America has become a surplus country it is because of advanced science and research. Apart from America, there are so many Asian countries, like the Philippines, Japan, Vietnam, Indo-China and so many others, which are producing more and more food through research and education. It is not impossible for us to make our country self-sufficient through the method of intensive cultivation and through the application of research. I am glad that our Food Minister is fully aware of this and in every speech he has emphasized the necessity of research. Here, I want to emphasize one important point, that is, that before any new change takes place, there should be a change of outlook and a change of social attitude amongst the farmers. Our Prime Minister has given a very pertinent slogan: Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan. If at all the Prime Minister has given this slogan, it is not to be shouted on the political platform. But he wished that this slogan is penetrated in all the houses of the farmers. Unless the farmers are convinced that it is their bounden duty to grow more food for the benefit of the country, it is very difficult to improve the production of food-grains. I must say that the existing

agency is not fully successful—of course they are trying—in approaching to touch the heart of the farmer. There should be a proper agency which should mingle with the peasantry. We can give a lecture to them but unless we mingle with them, it is very difficult to get the results. A farmer may not understand what he sees and what he hears but he can understand what he does. So, unless there is a proper mingling with the peasants, it is very difficult to change their outlook and to improve production.

Then, there is another difficulty and that is for each and every help, the farmers have to approach different Departments. So, there should be a proper co-ordination amongst various Departments which are working under the Department of Agriculture. For example, for loan, the farmer has to go to the *tahsildar*; for fertilizer, he has to go to another Department and so on. There is a lot of delay. No timely help is being given to the farmer. There should be a proper co-ordination amongst the various Departments which are working under the Department of Agriculture in various States.

Regarding consolidation of land holdings and other things which I have mentioned in my substitute motion, I would like to tell the Government that either the Government must make the law and do it immediately or let the Government say that it is not necessary to have any land ceiling or anything of the sort. The matters like the tenants' rights, the consolidation of holdings, etc. are very important in order to enthrone the farmers to produce more.

Lastly, regarding absentee landlords, there are many industrialists who are possessing very large holdings and they are being cultivated through other tenants. How can you expect more production there? I am told, in U.K. no absentee landlord is allowed to have his land. The Gov-

ernment takes over the land on a long lease for 50 years or 100 years and hands it over to the tenants for cultivation and for increasing production.

With these few suggestions of mine, I conclude.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in discussing food and agriculture year after year and session after session, the Parliament is customarily confronted with the dreary prospect of reaping a harvest of excuses and alibis. Ineffectiveness, inefficiency, inertia and lack of vision and dynamism appear to be the seeds of this highly questionable crop of excuses and alibis. May I very respectfully say to the hon. Food Minister that in future he would have to serve to the nation a better quality and a greater quantity of food and that neither the culinary skill nor an appetising menu would be considered to be adequate substitutes for actual and wholesome food.

I would emphatically assert that nothing short of a revolution in our thinking on agricultural matters is likely to bring us nearer the goals that we enjoy upon ourselves. As Pope said in his essay on 'Man':

"If in vain our toil, we ought to blame the culture and not the soil."

I am sure the hon. Minister would agree that, if in spite of the efforts that we are making, if in spite of girding our loins, if in spite of the fact that the Government has thrown the gauntlet to face this gigantic problem, the results are not produced, the blame would lie squarely at his doors.

I am glad that the hon. Food Minister has made a bold promise to the country, the promise that the hitherto elusive goal of self-sufficiency would be achieved by the end of the Fourth Five-Year Plan. I hope that

this promise has been made with a full sense of responsibility and that it is intended, at any cost, to be fulfilled. I would like, in this context, that the Food Minister tells us his strategy to achieve this goal, he tells us in detail what phases he proposes for the growth of Indian agriculture and for breaking through the circle of stagnation in which it finds itself. I would also like that the Food Minister outlines before us, at least in brief, the outcome of his conversation and talks with Mr. Freeman, when he was recently in Rome.

More often than not, the Food and agricultural policies of our country have been dedicated to paper programming. They have talked either in Olympian terms or in quixotic terms; they have been shrouded in a sort of esoteric mystery. These policies have been cluttered to a commonplace creche. That is why the Minister's statements and promises have often appeared to be apodictic and have proved to be apocryphal. These statements have often been made in the past with utmost glibness and confounding in consistency.

I only hope that Mr. Subramaniam means business this time. If he does, I am afraid the impact of his thinking and his intentions has yet to be felt in the working of his Ministry as well as in the working of the Food and Agriculture portfolios in the States. To illustrate this, I would crave your indulgence to bring to the attention of this august House three revealing instances of the most culpable neglect during the last three months and I would like the hon. Minister to say if, in fairness, he could claim any benefit of doubt in spite of this highly incriminating evidence.

The first matter to which I wish to invite the attention of the House arises from a news item appearing in *The Hindustan Times* of 3rd September, 1965. It emanates from Ferozpur. It says:

"Nearly 15,000 tonnes of broken rice worth Rs. 84 lakhs are dete-

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riorating in Punjab as the Government is not taking any steps to lift these stocks for the last eight months, which is resulting in heavy national losses."

The second report is from *The Hindusthan Standard* of Calcutta dated the 24th October, 1965. It says:

"Nearly 1,000 tonnes of wheat are rotting in two sheds of the Calcutta Port Commissioners. The Port authorities brought the matter to the notice of the Regional Food Directorate of the Indian Government many times but to no effect. The two sheds, numbered 6 and 7, are in Strand Road. The bags in the sheds are lying there since 1963. The condition of Shed No. 7 is also no better. It is further alleged that a large quantity of wheat is also wasted through unloading operations."

The third instance, to which I wish to make a reference, also finds place in *The Hindusthan Standard* of Calcutta of 5th November, 1965, under the caption "Vanishing Rice". It says:

"From the Government godowns in Calcutta, rice worth about Rs. 10,000 disappears every day, thanks to the porters, sweepers and some other men connected with the godowns."

"The estimate is not ours" says the Staff Reporter, "A report in this connection was placed to the high officials of the Food Directorate and some recommendations were also made. What actions, if any, were taken are not yet known."

It concludes by saying:

"The most daring theft is carried out by the blackmarketeers who bring lorries.....According to one calculation they remove over 100 quintals of rice a day."

13 hrs.

These are instances which are sickening to say the least. These are instances for which there can be no excuse whatever. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us whether he does not consider these two samples of the sluggish and ineffective way in which the food and agriculture portfolios have been functioning not only at the Centre but very much more so at the States. I would also like him to tell us as to whether he realises the full magnitude of the destruction of foodgrains by rodents, pests and wasteful consumption in the country and, if so, what is the extent of such waste and what he is doing to prevent or eliminate such wastage.

The hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture is in the habit of making often refreshingly perspective and outspoken statements. One such statement he made recently, on the 6th of November which appeared in the press under the caption "Union Ministries Empires in themselves". For once, it appears he saw the light. Here is what he had to say:

"Food Minister Mr. Subramaniam said here today that unless the rigid boundaries between the Union Ministries that were sovereign empires in themselves were pulled out and team spirit created in the administration there would be no solution for this country."

I do not want to read the whole statement which is as damning as it can be as a serious indictment of the way in which the Government can function. I am whole-heartedly in accord with this statement. What I would like to know is what kind of co-ordinating machinery he has in mind now, what kind of remedial measures he has in mind now, what kind of overall administrative machinery of which he spoke in this statement he has in mind now. He must give us in this debate a blueprint of his idea, both in the field of techno-

logical growth, in the field of agriculture, as indeed in the field of administrative streamlining of the food and agriculture portfolio.

I should like very much to know whether the Agricultural Production Board which had been constituted specifically, it seems at the instance of the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture, is being reconstituted. This was thought to be the highest co-ordinating body in the country for drawing up agricultural development programmes and for implementing and over-seeing the implementation of the emergency food plan for the nation. The other day it was reported that the Minister is of the view that this should be reconstituted, that some more Ministers should be added to it. But all that came out later on was that he hopes to have the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance added to the Agricultural Production Board. If this is his idea of the Agricultural Production Board performing its functions adequately, I am afraid it will just not be. I would like to know whether the Government has given any thought to the possibility of reconstituting the Agricultural Production Board under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister himself and, as a logical corollary to this, of requiring States to entrust the food and agriculture portfolio invariably to their respective Chief Ministers.

The hon. Minister is fond of repeating that the State Governments are themselves sufficiently responsible and it is not for the Centre to direct them and to chide them. I would like to know whether the Minister is in a position today to say that satisfactory working arrangements exist in respect of rationing, procurement and of development of agriculture in the country, particularly in respect of collaboration and co-ordination with the State Governments.

The hon. Minister must give us a clear statement in respect of ration-

ing, which has already created a lot of confusion. I would not accuse the hon. Minister of creating panic by giving a realistic assessment of the situation which this country is confronted with but I would certainly like him to give us a break through as to what the definite thinking of the Government is in respect of rationing and whether they have taken all adequate steps to see that all the State Governments fall in line with the thinking of the Central Government in this matter.

I would also like to make a brief reference here to the PL 480 programme. While dependence on foreign food is not a very salutary situation to find oneself in, I agree with the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture that merely by shouting slogans or by asking for cessation of PL 480 supplies we cannot solve the food problem of this country. It has to be borne in mind, however, that the diminishing surplus of the United States of America will be largely responsible in the near future for a phased stoppage or a phased staggering or reduction in PL 480 supplies to this country. It has also to be reckoned with that the United States finds itself in a non-too-happy position in respect of its own balance-of-payments situation. If these two facts are reckoned with, are taken into account, I am sure the Government would import an even greater sense of urgency to the plan of self-sufficiency.

Here I should like briefly also to make a reference to the vast magnitude of the spectre of famine which hangs over a number of States throughout the country. I myself come from a State which has been chronically famine-stricken. But the spectre of famine in Rajasthan is something fearful to contemplate today. I have it on the authority of the State Government that something like 55 lakhs of people would be affected by the impending famine in Rajasthan. Unofficial estimates put it as considerably much more. Therefore, it would be pointless and it would be

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doing a disservice to the cause of ameliorating the situation of suffering humanity if we were to say that the States are trying to exaggerate the situation in order merely to get larger allocations. I hope that the hon. Minister would give us what his famine plan is in respect of the coming year in respect of the clear and imminent situation of famine with which a number of States in the country are confronted. I would also like him to consider the possibility of revising the Famine Code which has been in force since time immemorial and which on expert examination has been found to be extremely inadequate and improper for the various exigencies of famine with which the country is confronted.

Lack of co-ordination is something of which we are often talking about. It seems that it is one of the favourite subjects not only in political discussions but also in the studies of the working of the administration. I would cite only one such instance. It was illustrated, I think in a very large measure, in the way in which the Government handled the whole question of constituting a Desert Development Authority. I am deeply grateful, and the people of the desert areas would be deeply grateful to my hon. friend, Dr. K. L. Rao, who initiated a high-level consideration of this scheme at my instance. And as one who could take a major part of the pride for having initiated this scheme, I have been pained to find that it has been delayed for nearly two and a half years now. This is a scheme which is concededly one of the finest ideas that could be implemented for breaking through stagnation, for finding land for our larger population, for increasing production and for changing the very face of the economy and the lives of the people of desert areas. But there has been very considerable delay, I am happy to find that the Government has now given the indication of its mind that it is to start functioning by next year. But I am constrained to remark that the reduc-

tion from Rs. 10 crores outlay to Rs. 5 crores is not a welcome move and does not spell, does not augur too well for the idea. I would like in this connection to fortify my submissions by a brief reference to what our Estimates Committee has to say in this respect. The Estimates Committee, while considering the Arid Zone Research Institute at Jodhpur and its work which is of an excellent quality and of a far-reaching character, has made this recommendation in very forceful terms. The Committee has said:

"The Committee hope that the Desert Development Board would be set up at an early date with representatives of the Central and State Governments to draw up a co-ordinated programme for the development of the desert area. The Government should ensure that the results of research carried out in the Central Arid Zone Research Institute and elsewhere are applied with advantage in the field. The Committee also hope that adequate resources for development of the desert area would be made available."

If I may cite briefly some of the figures in respect of the arid tract in this country and what it could do for solving the problem of food and for breaking through the problem of stagnation in our agriculture, I would say that the arid tract in the country covers an area of about 4,77,645 sq. k.m. This is a huge land mass, and the only way to put it to productive use would be to set up this desert development authority with ample resources, with a kind of autonomy, if necessary, with a lot of drive and dynamism, and unless this is done I think that our hopes for a new kind of life at least in the arid tracts of this country would be mere hopes and dreams which would just not come true.

I would like in this connection to make a brief reference to the need and the possibility of extensive Israeli

collaboration. It seems that the Israelis had offered to the Government of India for extending their assistance in the matter of desert development. I am not concerned at this time with the politics which happens to characterise our relations with Israel.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Wrong politics.

Dr. L. M. Singhi: But it is well known, and I am sure the hon. Minister who is so deeply interested in the modern technology and its application to the problems of agriculture and food would concede this that Israel is the one country which is in the forefront of those who have been able to solve the problem of desert development in a magnificent way, in an outstanding way and in a way which would be worth emulating for us. I know it that a Minister of the Government of Rajasthan had actually gone to Israel and he had submitted plans to the Government of India for fruitful collaboration. But this did not come to be. I am sorry to say that politics which should have had no relevance to the problem of development was allowed to override the claims of development of this country, when we rejected or evaded the issue of collaborating with Israelis and borrowing their know-how in a really big way. We could have done it not only on a governmental basis, but it could have been done on the basis of voluntary organisations adopting the techniques and borrowing their know-how in respect of desert development.

I would also like to mention briefly here the suggestion of Prof. Martin Jones of Oxford in this connection. He has said that in those areas of India which suffer from chronic scarcity of water and low rainfall, one effective way of solving the problem would be to introduce a scheme of a pipeline which would carry water from one place to another. It may sound somewhat revolutionary. But this has been considered by the leading hydrologists of the world to be the only effective

way and the most economical way of bringing the water from areas where there is water logging, from areas where water creates problems for the hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power, where excess water creates problems of famine and all kinds of difficulties and dislocation. It would be only right for the Government to consider the possibility of adopting this scheme of laying pipelines carrying water from areas where water is ample and where water is in excess, to areas where water is scarce. This will particularly solve the problem of water evaporation which happens to characterise all our canals schemes; since particularly the water is so precious we cannot allow it or afford to allow it to evaporate. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us whether this idea has been considered in any great detail or whether even now he is prepared to consider this idea, its economics and its feasibility in somewhat greater detail than has been done so far.

On one earlier occasion when the present hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture was not in charge of this portfolio I had put this question, and I found that the then hon. Minister in charge had shown complete ignorance of any such idea being known, but I am sure the hon. Minister in charge now would have something to say in this respect.

I would also like to emphasise the need for organising and streamlining fodder banks in areas of chronic scarcity and famine. I come from an area where as I have mentioned there is famine chronically. Three years in five years are years of famine or scarcity. There, fodder has been very scarce and the cattle population is in great jeopardy. This is all the wealth of the common people in those areas. I hope the hon. Minister would be able to ensure that the scheme for establishing fodder banks in not too distant places is streamlined and implemented in a full and ample measure with generous support from the Centre.

[Dr. L. M. Singhvi]

We have a great deal to do in respect of land improvement. We have even more to do in respect of applying the fruits of research in the field of agriculture. We have a great deal to accomplish in respect of utilising idle rural man-power which I think is one of the greatest problems that we are confronted with. But the basic thing is that we need that dynamism, that vision, of which the hon. Minister every once in a while speaks with refreshing candour but which I have yet to see being implemented in a full measure in the policies and in the programmes of his Ministry and the Ministries in the States.

The problem today is a problem of keeping the wolf away from our doors. I think that those who approach the problem of food imports with doctrinaire antipathy are doing a distinct disservice to the country and to an understanding of our problems. I think that they allow themselves wilfully to dodge and evade the issues that really confront us. I am sure that the realism with which the hon. Minister has spoken on this issue would characterise his dealings in this respect.

12.18 hrs

[Shri P. K. Das in the Chair]

I would conclude in a minute, by referring to one thing, and that is, by tendering advice which may be gratifying and perhaps very easy to give but which it will not be easy to implement. I realise that, but the advice is that the details have necessarily to be worked out by the hon. Minister. This Parliament cannot even in a debate of 15 hours discuss the issues which concern the actual implementation of policies. On policies there is today very little variation of opinion. The basic thing is that new urgencies must be put before the nation, that Government must learn not to blink the issues but they must learn to grapple with them and to see them in the face. Government must tell us realistically and with all sincerity as

to what they propose to do to fulfil the emergency food plan, to achieve self-sufficiency in food and to see that the country does not continue to face this perennial problem of shortages even in the most basic commodity, namely food and agricultural products in the country, for, it would be to our abiding shame if this is allowed to happen. We are a country which has a large population which is engaged in agricultural pursuit. Here is the United States which had only 8 per cent of its population engaged in agriculture and yet she finds enough food to export and to feed other countries. That technological break-through has to be achieved, and I would like the hon. Minister to give us the details of what he has in mind, a blue-print of self-sufficiency in food and agriculture in this country.

Shrimati Remka Ray (Malda):
Mr. Chairman, the Food Minister has called attention to the natural calamity that has taken place due to the widespread failure of harvest, and naturally to meet this failure, special emergency measures have to be taken.

Before I go into this, I should like to know however how it is, and why it is, that in all these years we have heard so much about buffer stocks being build up, the much vaunted buffer stocks about which eloquent speeches were made in this House time and again ever since, in fact PL-480 wheat was brought into the country for the first time, but that today when we have actually to face a bad harvest, they are not forthcoming. It seems that the present Food Minister is as much the victim as the country. All this has vanished and disappeared—food stocks which were to have been buffer stocks for an occasion like this, how else to account for the food Minister's alarm?

Then I would like to say a word about this reorientation of programmes of agricultural production. For many years we have been hearing

about these programmes. When the mid-term appraisal was published, it came as a shock to the country as to how the low rate of food production was the main factor affecting the rate of economic growth. We had heard then a good deal about what was to be done. Again we hear about it. Mere repetition of all that, need for fertilisers, good seeds, modern techniques, water—even water was mentioned—and irrigation, will not by itself constitute a mantra which will yield results. This is something that we have to realise. I am not blaming the Food Minister because I know he has his handicaps.

Then I want to lay special stress on one point which has not been mentioned even in the statement this morning in answer to a question relating to special efforts in the matter of defence and food and that is, the tenurial system that obtains today. All this talk about the tiller of the soil becoming the owner of the land has remained talk only. We have enacted legislation on this, but actually it has not been implemented. During the budget session, in the debate on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Food, I drew attention to Ludajinsky's report, a report not of a communist, but of a Ford Foundation Member regarding the package programme districts of India. The report points out unerringly that apart from the UP, land legislation has not come in and that that is one of the major reasons why agricultural production has not gone up.

We here today talk about joint stock companies that are going to be brought in in this field, by the same industrialists who have exploited the situation in the industrial field. It would have been preferable to have kept the old zamindari system in being because they were the people who knew and understood the potentialities of the land, I would say that today one most urgent need in the long-term is to see that the tenurial system of land is changed so that what we have said we want to have comes

true. An ounce of fact is worth a ton of theory.

Then there is no doubt that we have laid stress so many times—I am sure the Minister will agree with me—that the administrative system needs complete revolutionising. It is no use tinkering here and there and talking of co-ordination and various other things, when results do not come about, when the man in the field is not inspired enough and does not get the facilities he is supposed to be provided with. Agricultural credit does not reach the person who needs it. There are so many other things that go wrong—I have not the time to detail them as our party's time is limited to a few minutes for each Member. But I merely mention them, because unless something is done in regard to these, even now all our plans will fail.

Then we talk about self-sufficiency in food. We have forgotten Mahatma Gandhi's message and the proper interpretation of it, of which the charkha was the symbol of self-sufficiency of the village. He had pointed out with an unerring finger even when freedom's battle was on that this is a matter of vital importance to us. But did we, when freedom came, follow it and translate it into practice? On the other hand, we carried our westernised imitation to such an extent of imitating western ways that we forgot what we had to do at the grassroots in this land of ours. We try that, big we not scoffed at Gandhian economics to the extent that we have done, perhaps today we would not be facing the sorry plight which we are confronted with. It is really a matter of great shame that we have not been able to do anything on this account, because we are others. I do not say that we should not take from the west and adopt it to our requirements here. For instance, a great deal can be learnt in this country about intensive agricultural production in Japan. But we must remember that whatever we take from abroad must be capable of being adapted to our own country, to

[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

the grassroots in this country, by our farmers. Unless that is done, unless we realise this even today, even this emergency plan for increasing production, will again fail.

Coming to the emergency plan to tide over the difficult short term period, the review on the food situation circulated to us says that we must have statutory rationing and maximisation of internal procurement. But why this hesitant, halting approach since the beginning of last year. In West Bengal, statutory rationing came into force a year ago; in Madras, it is in operation. In many other Southern States it has come. The Food Minister, I know, pleads with the States. But somehow or other there is a great feeling in this country that while we talk about unity, we are not united in one of the vital things. There is no such thing as one price for such a vital commodity as food; there is no urge to see to it that if there is statutory rationing, it shall be there not only in the cities in deficit States but also in surplus States. There is no one policy for the country. Unless we have this even in this emergency, when famine almost stares us in the face, I do not know what is going to happen.

West Bengal has brought in monopoly procurement. They have said it specifically that in a time of such difficulty, the lives of people must be saved at any cost. Even though it is a deficit State, it has enforced monopoly procurement of rice. At the same time, we have to realise that even there the production of rice this year was 4.9 million tonnes as against 5.7 million tonnes last year. The requirements of rice alone are 6.2 million tonnes. Central assistance is promised, but whether it will come in respect of rice, we do not know. If it does not come for wheat in sufficient measure, I think the whole system will break down, in spite of monopoly procurement.

It is easy to say that West Bengal is doing a good thing in having monopoly procurement, but it is not so easy to implement it. I have been recently in the districts to see how difficult is the operation with the present administrative structure. Yet I say that this challenge is being met by the Chief Minister in a bold manner though it means taking a calculated risk. It is a challenge which the whole country should meet, in an equally bold manner. If monopoly procurement could take place in a deficit State like West Bengal; then the whole country, with the Food Minister at the helm and the units of the Food Corporation of India and the State Governments in the field, we should immediately go in for monopoly procurement throughout the country without any hesitation.

Even in the matter of statutory rationing, in Delhi, today is the 6th December. It is due to come into force on the 8th December. I ask, why this delay for so long. The psychological approach is extremely bad. The fact that Delhi has been lukewarm in going in for statutory rationing itself does affect many of the States. They are watching. Those States which are reluctant to follow and do what you want are watching to see what is happening here.

Before I end, I have just two more points, I hope you will give me time. One of them is that I hope that immediately the method that has been adopted in West Bengal both in regard to the levy and in regard to the categories to whom statutory ration is given in the city and towns, will be followed not only in Madras where it is being done, not only in some of the Southern States, but throughout India as one policy of the Central Government, and that all States will not only follow this policy but that it will be Centrally-directed.

I want to say one word about the political exploitation that is taking place. This is a very serious state of

affairs. In West Bengal, where the Chief Minister and the Government have taken the only possible steps and are trying to bring in a system by which an equitable distribution takes place and an equitable levy is made on production, naturally, there are difficulties, but these are exaggerated by every opposition party, including the so-called left parties, and they are trying to see that it does not succeed, because they feel that the West Bengal Government is doing what they themselves have been preaching all this time and they do not want the Congress Government to succeed.

Mr. Chairman: I think she should conclude now.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: In our own party and in any party there are persons who are reluctant, but there is also this thing, that so far as political exploitation is concerned, it is there.

With one word about Dr. Lohia I will end. Dr. Lohia talked about famine conditions, but has Dr. Lohia seen famine conditions as I have seen in 1943 in whole of West Bengal, when people died as they were coming on the streets? There is no question of malnutrition, they fell dead and their children were picked up on the streets and put in orphan homes.

Mr. Chairman: You have taken five minutes more than the time allotted.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: With these words, I hope the Minister in charge and the Government will implement emergent measures on a countrywide basis immediately.

Shri P. C. Boroah (Sibsagar): India is a vast agricultural country. Seventy per cent of our population are agriculturists. We have the largest area under irrigation in the world, about 16 million acres. We have invested more than Rs. 2,000 crores in

agricultural planning during the last 14 years, and we have spent more than Rs. 2,600 crores in food imports. In spite of all this, today it is our misfortune that we have to debate the food crisis.

The hon. Minister himself has said that the situation is alarming. So, I need not go into that. The time at my disposal is short. I, therefore, straight-away want to come to the measures by which it may be possible for us to overcome this crisis.

I want to divide these measures into three parts: immediate, short-term and long-term. Among the immediate measures, I would like to suggest that we should not create a panic in the country by emphasizing the scarcity. The more the panic, the more the tendency to hoard, and it will be difficult to procure whatever marketable surplus there may be.

The other day hon. the Finance Minister sensed that probably there is still some surplus left, because, with a record production of 88 million tons of last year and 8 million tons of imports, it is not likely that all this would have been consumed. There might be some surplus. If we create panic, it will not be possible for us to procure this surplus.

A right leadership is wanted. Like *gram dan*, *bhoodan* and recently *Swarna dan*, let there be a *sashya dan* movement. At least 2 million tons of foodgrains we can possibly have from this source.

We are incurring a loss of 11 million tons of foodgrains annually due to flood, storage loss, and losses in milling, handling etc. Can we not save at least 20 per cent of this loss? In milling rice, we get 62.2 per cent, while in U.S.A. and Japan they get 75 per cent. So, the policy of polishing rice not over 4 per cent should be strictly enforced. Out of these savings, we can get, another 2 million tons.

[Shri P. C. Borooah]

Guest control order should be strictly enforced. Leadership should appeal for reduced consumption of foodgrains in festivals and ceremonies, not only in the towns, but also in the villages. One million tons of foodstuffs is wasted annually by the housewives and hoteliers. From there we can save at least one million tons if we take proper steps.

Thus, under these three immediate measures that it may be possible to have 5 million tons of foodgrains.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द (करनाल) : यह मंत्री-
गण जो भोज में फंड बंद करते हैं इनको भी
कमी करनी चाहिए न ?

श्री प्र० अ० बक्ष्जा : वह भी कमी
होना चाहिए ।

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : उन्हीं को चाहिए
न ?

Shri P. C. Borooah: With this 5 million tons plus monthly imports, I think we may somehow meet our immediate needs and avert the famine we are nearing.

Under short-term measures I am happy to find that Government have already taken up double-cropping. This is very important. In my part of the country, only 5 per cent of the cultivable land is under double-cropping. So, 95 per cent of land lies waste 6 to 7 months a year. If we enforce double-cropping, provision must be made for regular supply of water. For this there should be more liberal provision for tubewells and power pumps.

We are badly short of fertilisers. It is not likely to be had adequately for a very long time to come. In this context, I am sorry to say that we have not done anything to stop cowdung being wasted or burnt. It is a very important thing. It is said that the manurial value of a ton of cow-

dung is Rs. 95 while its fuel value is only Rs. 40. It is also calculated that 37 million tons of coal-equivalent of cowdung is burnt every year. It could have produced 9 million tons of extra foodgrains. This will be equal to the production of 12 Sindris.

A large quantity of tea waste is burnt by the Central Excise authorities every year in the 10,000 tea gardens of the country. It is a good manure. Instead of burning, utilisation of it as manure should be ordered.

There should not be any hesitation in welcoming joint stock companies operating in cultivation. I am happy to learn that the offer of Associated Cement Corporation has been accepted by the Government, and they are soon going to have joint stock farming nearabout Khem Karan in Punjab. It is a good move.

Price parity between indigenous food crop and cash crop and also between indigenous wheat and imported wheat should be fixed immediately.

Credit to the peasant should be linked with productivity and not with creditworthiness. It should be made available to the peasant in time, and as far as possible in kind, like supply of manures, supply of seeds, implements etc.

Another important suggestion, I would like to make is this that rebate in land revenue and rebate in interest on loans to peasants for excess production from a base year such as 1964-65, should be allowed. This will give an impetus to the cultivators to grow more.

So far as long-term measures are concerned, I do not want to say much. I support the scheme that Government have proposed for the Fourth Plan emphasising only three points. Firstly, standardisation of the manufacture of pesticides. At present we are manufacturing 120 varieties but

there is no need to have as many as that number. Secondly, stress should be laid more in the development of agricultural research. Thirdly, the stature of agriculture should be raised. I suggest that the agriculture department should be in charge of the Chief Ministers or at least No. 2 person in the Cabinet. The Deputy Commissioners of the districts should be made directly responsible for the agricultural programmes of the districts. Similarly, BDOs should be so placed in their respective blocks.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to say something about my own State. Agriculturally, my State is very rich. It is the highest foreign exchange earner among the States of India; its main products are rice, tea and jute. She can produce more. Similarly, fisheries also could be developed there. But there are two perennial problems in the State: erosion and floods. I was thinking that I can catch the attention of the Irrigation Minister but unfortunately he is not here now. There is only the Deputy Food Minister. Through him I would like to submit this point to be conveyed to the Irrigation Minister. The mighty Brahmaputra which is known as the only male river of the country, like a spoilt child assumes the sight of a furious ocean when in floods bringing sorrow and misery to many. If Brahmaputra is tackled, it will produce enough of rice and fish to feed the whole of the eastern region including Bihar. During his recent visit to the State the Prime Minister said that Assam should be the granary of India. If these two difficulties are overcome, it would become the granary in true of the term and we will be placed in a position to give a goby to the controversial PL 480.

Shri Muthu Gounder (Tiruppattur):
Sir, I do realise that I will be doing no service to any one by repeatedly saying the same thing about the gravity of the situation or by drawing a gloomy and more gloomy picture about the situation, that will arise in the first half of next year. Also the food

Minister was careful on that day when he started his speech. He was modest in his estimate when he said that we would be short only by ten million tons. I can say that the deficit will be not less than twenty million tons. When we had a bumper crop of 88.4 million tons in 1964-65, we were still short of nearly seven million tons which was made by PL 480 imports. When there is a scarcity spread all over India, the shortage is 20 million tons. We have to find ways and means to cover up that shortage. There is no point or purpose in bringing out new slogans; we have to be realistic in our approach to overcome these troubles. Government has come forward with a slogan: miss a meal. Some big politicians and responsible newspapers too write editorials that by missing a meal we would be solving our food problem because we will be saving 1/14th of foodgrains, that comes to 7 per cent and they say the deficit is about that percentage. But this slogan will not solve the problem. Even now about 15 crores of people are missing more than one meal. Some people are missing a meal not only on Monday but every night, I mean, people of high calibre, upper strata of society. They do not take meals in the nights perhaps on account of indigestion or old age, but they take as substitutes apples, oranges or some dry fruits such as badam or pista and then milk and honey and plantains and so on; thus they are missing seven meals. If at all government thinks that they can solve this problem by missing meals, we have to miss the meals for two days. I do not know how many are prepared to miss so many meals. Such slogans are diverting us not to take serious action towards more production. Such slogans have not taken us to our goal. We should be realistic in whatever we do. At present there is no other way but to get imported foodgrains. As a farmer I can say that we cannot do any magic and produce enough in six months or one year. We have to depend on imported foodgrains under PL 480, not only for the next six months but for some years. By laun-

[Shri Muthu Gounder]

ching a very strict drive to grow more food we can reach our goal. We have to start intensive cultivation. The farmers are ready to do it but the government is not ready to equip them with modern equipments. Soldiers are ready at the borders of our country to fight Pakistani intruders or the Chinese. So also our farmers are ready on the food front to make use of the soil. As the government failed to give our jawans the modern weapons from indigenous production, government is also failing to provide our farmers with modern equipment. What is intensive cultivation? Intensive cultivation means using hybrid seeds and high quality varieties that can withstand diseases like blasts, etc. We need water also intensive cultivation can be done only in those places where there is assured water supply for irrigation. In our country seventy million acres, one-fifth of the total acreage under plough, gets assured water supply. In that area we can do intensive cultivation. We should have good seeds, hybrid maize, hybrid jowar hybrid cholam, paddy, etc. They have become very popular. We have also to use three times more fertilisers. If you use 100 lbs. of ammonium sulphate or 50 lbs. of urea for one acre of ordinary variety paddy, we have to utilise 250 lbs. of nitrogen, 250 lbs. of ammonium sulphate to grow the hybrid variety. When we are short even in respect of the production of these ordinary varieties, where are we to go to these fertilisers? The Government have always been hoping to get them; all these 17 or 18 years, the Government have all along been indulging in this slogan, and they did not try their utmost to get fertilisers. If they had tried their utmost, tried their best, by this time we would be self-sufficient in fertilisers. Our Food Minister, who is thorough in farming and who comes from a district where intensive cultivation is at its best, knows everything and he knows that without fertilisers we cannot do anything. Without getting fertilisers, the Government is only going here and

there to get some collaboration with America, this government and that government, and trying to do something. The Government has failed so far.

Our Food Minister used to say not only here in this House but also everywhere outside also, that if we put in one ton of nitrogen, we can get 10 tons of foodgrains, especially paddy. He used to say it often. So he knows the trouble and he knows the remedy also. But I do not know how and why his hands are tied up and his ideas are not being implemented. There is something wrong in the Government structure itself. That is all I can say, and that is the most difficult thing nowadays.

Now, to make intensive cultivation, you want implements, and how are the implements to be supplied? What are the implements required? We want tractors. Our Government should know that we are now using about 20,000 tractors. Of these 20,000 tractors, 10,000 tractors are Russian-made. A Russian-made tractor of 14 h.p. is brought to the Bombay port at a cost of Rs. 3,500 per piece. But it is sold in the market for Rs. 5,100. Now there are indications that the Government want to raise the price. I would request the Government that the tractors are to be brought in bulk, in thousands, by the STC and they should be sold to the ryots without even the excise duty.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : माननीय सदस्य को पता नहीं है कि रूसी ट्रैक्टर पांच हजार रुपये में कहीं नहीं मिलता है। बल्कि वह इस समय घण्टारह बीस हजार रुपये में मिलता है।

Shri Muthu Gounder: A 14 h.p. tractor costs only Rs. Rs. 5,100 even in the Gaziabad Engineering Co., in Delhi, and they are selling it at Rs. 5,250; for the 28 h.p. tractor, they demand Rs. 7,500, and for the 45 h.p. tractor, they want Rs. 10,000. The

28 h.p. tractor, which is of an indigenous production, while the Russian tractor costs about Rs. 10,000, the Indian tractor costs Rs. 20,000.

श्री रामेश्वरानन्द : वह चलता कितने दिन है ?

Shri Muthu Gounder: We have the Fergusson tractors manufactured by TAFE at Madras and the price per tractor is nearly, Rs. 24,000 with implements. The same tractor, with the same horse-power, can be got at Rs. 12,500 with implements if it is Russian-made. These so-called industrialists and manufacturers in India want to exploit the situation. They know that the Government is giving much concession for these agro-based industries or the industries that are useful for developing our agriculture and so they exploit the situation. They are parasites on farmers; they have got commission agents; to sell one Fergusson tractor, they pay a commission of Rs. 3,000. TVS, a leading firm in South India get nearly Rs. 3,000 as commission per tractor, and they are making crores of rupees in the name of agriculture and the farmer. The Government, if they are sincere, can purchase from Russia 10,000 more tractors in one year. The people are ready. In my constituency, in my district, we will purchase 500 tractors on one day provided the Government give them at Rs. 5,000 each. It seems that the STC is now issuing orders not to sell them. Therefore, those companies which are selling the Russian tractors are not selling them. So, we are in a handicap. The Government should come in and take up that business. Whether it is Russia, a communist country, or any capitalist country, we should get anything that we can get from those countries. Let us get foodgrains from America under PL 480, let us purchase tractors for Russia under rupee payment and under easy terms. Let us popularise this. The Government has now a scheme: according to the statement of the Food Minister in answer to the questions in the consultative commit-

tee, they want to manufacture tractors. I know the price of the tractors which are indigenously produced. We have a lot of experience in respect of the Fiat and Hindustan motor cars. Anything made in India will be completely worthless. The so-called ISI and the Tariff Board will only connive with them to produce very sub-standard stuff, and the agriculturists will have to bear all these difficulties in this respect. There is nothing wrong if the Government gets thousands of tractors from Russia, because Russia is giving them, I suppose, on rupee payment basis. If we have those tractors, if the farmer is provided with tractors, there will be a big revolution in the very farming itself.

We now say there is scarcity of fodder. I think it will not be out of place to mention it here: in a farm like mine, an ordinary farm of 40 acres, after introducing one tractor, I have dispensed with eight pairs of bullocks. I have left them free to go anywhere. Let them go to the slaughter-house or any other place. In spite of my having 40 acres of excellent, irrigated land. I was not able to maintain one cow even; now I am having eight cows. I am giving the entire fodder to the cows. Hitherto, I could not give the right, excellent fodder to the cows, because the bullocks were being used to plough the farm, and they had to get the fodder. Now, after resorting to the use of the tractor, fodder is available. The Government of India is trying, and the Food Department is also saying, that we will be having fodder banks. I do not know where they will get fodder from, to have the banks. Even last year, there was scarcity of fodder in Rajasthan. There will be fodder scarcity for ever. We should be very realistic in this. We are now bringing lands under cultivation; grazing land, pambaoko land, and any land, for putting them under cultivation, because we want food. There are no lands left without cultivation, lands which

[Shri Muthu Gounder]

can be used as grazing ground. Also, we are now cultivating cash crops like cotton, sugarcane, jute and so on. Therefore, there is no possibility of getting any fodder. If we cultivate maize or corn or paddy, there are chances of getting some fodder. But we are now cultivating cash crops, and growing cash crops is not also a luxury. India wants, the Government wants, cash crops because if we do not produce cash crops, there will be an utter failure in the very economic structure. We can get more income, whether it is in dollars or sterling, only by selling our agricultural produce and not by other means. Therefore, cash crop is not a luxury. We are now indulging in the cultivation of cash crops; and so we do not get enough fodder. So, to get fodder or to solve the fodder problem, all the farms should be mechanised. In the world, you cannot find any country having enough milk without mechanising their farms. In America there is abundance of milk; in Holland or Denmark or in Belgium and other European countries, they have got enough milk; we are getting this milk powder from America, because American farms do not require bullocks or horses or anything. They are completely mechanised. They have got tractors and other machines. Therefore, they use the entire fodder for milching cows. That is why they are able to produce so much milk, and therefore, they send their milk powder here. So, only by mechanising our farms we will be able to find fodder and save our cattle and solve our milk problem.

14 hrs.

Not only that. For our programme of intensive cultivation, the farmers should be given more incentives. Shri Karuthiruman of the ruling party also, whenever he gets an opportunity, used to impress upon the Government the need for giving incentive and a remunerative price for the farmer. A

farmer who is intelligent does not nowadays cultivate food crops unless there are some compelling reasons like, say, the land is not fit for cash crops. This year we have enough rains in Madras State. So, very soon myself and my friends will start cultivating, not food crops but cash crops. I would be going tomorrow and I will utilize the late rains to cultivate cotton, not rice. Because, by cultivating cotton I will get not less than Rs. 1,000 per acre within three months. By cultivating rice I will get Rs. 500 and for that I will have to answer so many officials. They will come to my house and say "your levy is so much" and take away whatever little I have got. I am already determined, like all other intelligent farmers, not to produce foodgrains at all. I am asking other farmers in my constituency also to do likewise. While the industrialists are making money, while they are minting money, while this Government is introducing de-control of cement in order to enable some of the industrialists to get some more money, I think we should also be intelligent enough to grow commercial crops, cash crops. This is our motto and there is nothing wrong in that. Only a farmer who cannot cultivate commercial crops will cultivate foodgrains. For example, I am also cultivating paddy in areas where I cannot cultivate anything else.

Therefore, if the Government is serious in increasing food production, it should give a filip or incentive to the farmer and price is the only incentive. When Shri S. K. Patil was the Food Minister, after a tour of America and European countries he made a speech in a farmers' forum and those words are even now ringing in my ears. He said that the only incentive that can be given to the farmers is the price incentive and there is no other incentive. If the farmer is convinced that by growing food crops he can get more than by cultivating commercial crops, he will certainly do it himself: there is no need for him to be convinced by the BDO, technicians

and other officers. There is absolutely no necessity for that. He knows his job only too well. Therefore, unless there is parity between the prices of foodgrains and commercial crops no farmer will undertake the cultivation of foodgrains.

I find that the Food Minister is not present here now. I may say that in his own Coimbatore district nearly 2,000 acres are under sugarcane crop. Then, in other areas they grow chilly, onions, turmeric, plantain etc. but not foodgrain. Only 5 per cent of the cultivable area is under food crops. Now the new hybrid-cholam has come into vogue and we are told that we can get twice the yield by cultivating that.

Mr. Chairman: He should conclude now.

Shri Muthu Gounder: I think my party has got 25 minutes.

Mr. Chairman: He can take another two minutes.

Shri Muthu Gounder: In a debate on food those Members who are really farmers should be given more time. Further, we do not participate in the discussion on other subjects where we have no interest. Farmers like me should be given more time to give our experiences.

The vagaries of the monsoon, the erratic monsoon, is a common feature all over India. We have to find a way to fight against the erratic nature of monsoon and sinkink of wells is one of the methods. In Madras State the districts of North Arcot, South Arcot and Salem have nearly 4 lakhs wells out of which 2.5 lakhs have electric pump sets. So, even if the monsoon fails, it does not affect the agriculture of those districts because they draw water from wells. I would suggest that the same should be done all over India as this is one of the ways of overcoming the failure of monsoon. This year we had late rains. Last year we had abundant rains. The year before last there was failure of

monsoon. So, the failure of monsoon is a common feature and we have to find ways to overcome it.

As far as DMK party is concerned, we are not interested in making political capital out of the difficulties of the people. This is a problem of feeding the people. It is a humanitarian problem. In our State also the price of foodgrains has gone up. So, Government should come forward to give subsidy in prices. I would suggest that Government should give 25 per cent subsidy in the existing price of paddy and that subsidy should not be recovered from the consumers. If the Government are to provide subsidy, they have to give Rs. 150 crores. We are now spending Rs. 1,000 crores for purchasing foodgrains from America and other countries. If we spent a portion of that amount for giving subsidy to the farmers it will certainly help our agriculturists and it will increase our production.

Then I come to the shortage of fertilizers. We are exporting oil cakes to the tune of Rs. 40 crores. At least for the time being, we should ban the export of oil cakes, because this is a very good organic manure.

Mr. Chairman: His time is up. He should conclude now.

Shri Muthu Gounder: Then I want to say that tapioca is produced in a large measure in Kerala. Thousands of acres of land in Kerala are under tapioca cultivation. Now taploca is being sent from Kerala to Madras for commercial purposes at the rate of 500 tons a day. I think it is high time that the Government imposed a ban on the export of tubular tapioca into Salem district. When I was recently in Malabar the people there were complaining that they were not able to get enough tubular tapioca because of its despatch to Madras State. Therefore, it is high time that Government puts a ban on this.

Shri Linga Reddy (Chikballapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say a few words. The hon. Minister of Food has made a very objective analysis of the food situation and also

[Shri Linga Reddy]

the drought conditions in the country. While doing so, he has supplied us with enough material. I am very glad that he has started off re-organising the Agriculture Department and re-orienting the Agricultural Production Board. He has also given us a review of the food position and also the drought conditions in the country. I am also glad that he and his officers have been taking very keen interest in going round the several parts of the country and in placing before the State Governments the emergency food programme. I wish the State Governments, specially the Agriculture Departments of the States, also take as much active interest as the Central Food Ministry had been taking. Just as there is coordination here through the food production board, it is very necessary that there should be a coordination organisation at the State level also. The activities of the ministries of panchayati raj, community development, irrigation and agriculture should be coordinated at the State level also, just as it is being done here.

Shri Sheo Narain (Bansi): It has been decided on the first day that those who catch the eye of the Chair will be called.

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid, I cannot go beyond the list. The list is already there. I am calling according to the list.

Shri Linga Reddy: It is very necessary that some more steps have to be taken with a view to step up agricultural production programme. Hon. members might have seen in the papers recently that the Programme Evaluation Organisation that has been set up has given a report to the effect that the feeder channels are not being dug in the major irrigation projects. If we have to grow enough food, it is very necessary that the feeder channels should be dug very efficiently and quickly. If that had been done and if sufficient steps had been taken earlier,

I am sure this food shortage would not have occurred at all.

In addition to paying attention to major irrigation projects, it is also very necessary that we should pay sufficient attention to minor and medium irrigation projects also. The hon. Food Minister in his statement on "Methods to combat scarcity conditions" has made out a very pertinent point, namely, creation of irrigation facilities by all sources—major, medium and minor—will go a long way in meeting the challenge of drought conditions.

Shri Sheo Narain: There is no quorum in the House.

Shri Linga Reddy: Therefore, it is very necessary that we should pay special attention to the creation of minor irrigation potential in the drought areas.

Shri Sheo Narain: I have raised the point that there is no quorum.

Mr. Chairman: There is quorum.

Shri Linga Reddy: I am glad the Food Minister has been pleased to set up a Desert Development Board. Just as the Desert Development Board is being set up with a view to reclaim the deserts and supply work to the people and grow more food, it is also necessary, with a view to combat famine, to set up a Famine Relief Board, both at the Central and State levels. Ours is a predominantly agricultural country and we have been thinking of self-sufficiency in food for the last 15 years and more. But still I am afraid we are far from that goal. Drought conditions of a very serious magnitude occur in our country very frequently.

I am glad the government has been thinking of a crop insurance scheme. But that is yet to see the light of the day. With a view to combat famine conditions in a season like this, where there is total failure of rains for such

a long time in the whole of India, I wish there was a famine insurance scheme also. I urge the government immediately to promulgate an order on famine and cattle insurance and also create a famine relief fund. If there is a Famine Relief Board, at the Central and State levels, on an occasion like this, when there are calamities of the kind we have—failure of rains, floods, etc.—it will be very easy for the ryots to depend upon the Famine Relief Board and the famine insurance scheme to have some relief.

14.15 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Just a few days ago, I had occasion to go to my constituency. Things are very bad there. There is a total failure of rain. There is failure of both south-west and north-east monsoons. The ryots will not even get a two-anna crop. People have no work. The landless people and even the landed peasantry do not get any foodgrains at all. I drew the attention of the government the other day to a letter sent by the Chief Minister, Shri Nijalingappa, to this government. I am glad that the government have agreed that they would rush foodgrains and also give Rs. 20 crores to Mysore. I am afraid they have not yet taken the decision. It is very necessary they should take the decision and act in time. The people have to be saved. We want them to fight in war against Pakistan and China and other menaces. Unless they are strong, how can they fight? But they do not have the purchasing power at all. It is necessary that we should go to their rescue now and organise sufficient famine relief works.

I am glad the Food Minister has been moving the world organisation FAO with regard to the organisation of the Inputs Development Bank. It is necessary that our ryots should have cheap credit, good seeds, agricultural implements and other inputs if they have to increase their food production. At

present, they have various kinds of difficulties. Unless they pay back, they will not be given agricultural credit. To pay back, they do not have the foodgrains at all. They are not in a position to raise crops because of the failure of the rains, so, how can we expect them to pay back? Therefore, it is necessary that we should declare certain chronically famine-stricken areas as famine areas and come to their rescue.

With these words, I welcome the food policy of the government and request the government to rush relief promptly to the several Areas, where there is need to save the people and also the cattle. What is worse in this famine situation is people are selling away their cattle for a song because they are not in a position to maintain them. There is no fodder. They are organising four or five fodder banks at present, but it is necessary that we should organise as many fodder banks as possible in each State.

श्रीमती जमुना देवी (भावघा) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन में करीब 10 दिन रोज से खाद्य के विषय के ऊपर चर्चा चल रही है। मैं बहुत ध्यानपूर्वक इन चर्चा को सुन रही थी। हमारे खाद्य मंत्री जी ने किस प्रकार से कृषि उत्पादन की समस्या को हल किया जाये इस के सम्बन्ध में चर्चा के लिये यहाँ प्रस्ताव रखा और गुंजाव मांगे कि हम किस ढंग से इस स्थिति में मुक्त हो सकते हैं। यह एक सगहनीय कदम है। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक तरफ इस देश में वर्षा की कमी हुई और दूसरे मंडल देश पर छाया है दूसरी तरफ दूसरा मंडल हमारे सामने चीन और पाकिस्तान के हमले का बना दुश्मा है। मैं कृषि मंत्री जी से यह ज़रूर कहना चाहूंगी कि एक तरफ चीन और पाकिस्तान के मुकाबिले में हमारे जवान जिस उत्साह से और हिम्मत से आगे बढ़े हैं, चाहे वह उड़ा छ का इलाका हो, चाहे इच्छागिर नहर हो या चाहे स्यालकोट पर हमला हो, अपने जी जान

[श्रीमती जमुना देवी]

को झोंक कर जिस तरह से इन क्षेत्रों में प्रगति पायी है और प्रांगे बढ़े हैं, ठीक उसी तरह से कृषि विभाग को भी मौजूदा स्थिति का मुकाबिला करने के लिए प्रांगे बढ़ाना चाहिए। हमारे मंत्री मुबह्मदप्पु जी को देखना चाहिए, यह जो दिल्ली में कृषि भवन बना हुआ है वह 18 साल तक कागजों पर ही स्थायी से इरीगेशन करता रहा, पेन के द्वारा लिखकर हल चलाया करे और स्थायी से इरीगेशन करता रहे, इस प्रवृत्ति को छोड़ना है, और देश में जो कमी पैदा हो गई है खाद्यान्न की उस पर ध्यान देना है। तो कृषि मंत्री जो और फूड मिनिस्टर को चाहिए कि अपने कृषि के क्षेत्र में जितने भी अधिकारी और जितने भी प्रान्तों के ऐग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर हैं उन सब को एकत्रित करके, वह उनसे यह प्रतिज्ञा करवायें कि जिस तरह से जवान प्रांगे बढ़े हैं उसी तरह से आज की मौजूदा स्थिति का मुकाबिला करने के लिए हमारे कृषि क्षेत्र में प्रत्येक भाग के अधिकारी और कर्मचारी अपने जो जान में जुटेंगे और उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए कोशिश करने में पौछे नहीं रहेंगे। यदि वह यह प्रतिज्ञा करें तो हो सकता है कि इस कृषि के क्षेत्र में जो स्थिति पैदा हुई है उसका हम मुकाबिला कर सकें।

उपाध्यक्ष जी, सबसे पहला काम उत्पादन के बढ़ाने का जो है उसकी तरफ में ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ कि कृषि, पावर और इरीगेशन यह जो तीन विभाग हैं इन को एक ही मंत्री के पास होना चाहिए या और दूसरे मंत्री के पास भी हो तां उन मंत्रियों की एक जिम्मेदारी हो जाती है कि वह एक दूसरे को सहयोग देकर जल्दी से जल्दी उस योजना को मंजूर करके उस काम को प्रांगे बढ़ाने का प्रयत्न करें। अगर एक दूसरे विभाग से सहयोग नहीं होता है तो इस क्षेत्र की तरक्की करना हमारे लिए मुश्किल है। मैं चाहती हूँ कि पावर, इरीगेशन, और फूड कृषि का जो काम है यह एक ही

मिनिस्टर के पास होना चाहिए ताकि कागजों के घाने जाने में समय नष्ट न हो और कृषकों को जल्दी से जल्दी उसका फायदा मिल सके और देश का उत्पादन बढ़ाने में मदद मिल सके।

मैं आपका ध्यान पी० एल० 480 की तरफ दिलाना चाहती हूँ। पी० एल० 480 के समझीने ने 18 साल के अन्दर हमारे काश्तकारों को निरुत्साहित किया है। यह हमारे लिए बड़े शर्म की बात है कि इस तरह से अमेरिका से और बाहर के देशों से अनाज मंगा मंगा कर देश के लोगों को खिलाने रहें और वहाँ पर हमें खर्च करने की आवश्यकता महसूस होती है लेकिन हम अपने कृषकों की मदद करने के लिए खर्च करना आवश्यक उतना नहीं समझते। हमारे प्रान्तों में जो जमीनें बेकार पड़ी हैं, हमारी जो सिचाई की योजनायें अधूरी पड़ी हैं, किसानों को बीज और खाद को ठीक ढग से व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाती, उस पर ध्यान न देकर यह पी० एल० 480 का अनाज मंगा मंगा कर, उसे खिला खिला कर लोगों का स्वास्थ्य भी हम ने खराब किया है और देश के काश्तकारों में निराशा घाई है। लेकिन फिर भी मैं आप को विश्वास दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि इस देश का काश्तकार इतना निकम्मा नहीं है कि वह अपने देश को पालने के लिए समय पर अनाज न बोये। आप जाहे यहा भाषण करते रहें, दिल्ली में बैठ कर उपदेश देते रहें लेकिन किसान ही ऐसा हैं जो समय पर उत्पादन बढ़ाने पर ध्यान देता है। रहा सवाल यह कि कमी है तो पी० एल० 480 पर ज्यादा दिन निर्भर नहीं रहना चाहिए और इस परिस्थिति को जल्दी से जल्दी हल किया जाना चाहिए। आज बहुत से प्रान्तों में अकाल की स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। यह मैं नहीं कहती कि अनाज न मंगाया जाय, लेकिन इस प्रवृत्ति को हमें कम करना है और आज की परिस्थिति में तो मंगाना ही पड़ेगा।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह पी० एन० 48० का जो प्राज है यह हमारे गरीब लोगों के लिए है

श्री शिव नारायण : किम गरीब को भिन्नता है ।

श्रीमती जमुना देवी : प्राप चुनचाप बैठिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, गरीबों के लिए जो बिलों और कारखानों में काम करते हैं जो बहरों में मजदूरी करते हैं, उन लोगों के लिए यह प्राज है । मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ कृषि मंत्री जी से कि पालियामेंट के कितने अम्बर हैं जो पी० एन० 480 का गेहूँ खाते हैं । बड़े बड़े लोगों को अच्छा गेहूँ, अच्छा मास, हर चीज उपलब्ध हो जाती है । मुशबत जो है वह गरीब लोगों की है । वह पूरी तरह नहीं मिल पाता ।

मैं वितरण व्यवस्था की ओर ध्यान दिवाना चाहती हूँ । हमारे मंत्री जो क्या अन्य मंत्रियों फूड प्राबलम पर भाषण करते हैं और जैनी कि स्थिति बतायी जाती है कि बहुत गम्भीर स्थिति पैदा हो गई है तो इस ढंग से लोगों के सामने एक भय का बात/वरण पैदा करना, कोई बहुत अच्छी बात मैं नहीं मानती हूँ । मैं मानती हूँ कि स्थिति खराब है लेकिन जनता को घबरे रखने और मुकाबिला करने के लिए हिम्मत बंधाने की बात कहनी चाहिए न कि इस ढंग से बार बार कहना चाहिए कि भयंकर स्थिति है । भयंकर स्थिति है तो प्राप करेंगे क्या ? प्राप तो केवल भाषण देते रहेंगे, काब्र बोलते रहेंगे । तो ऐसी स्थिति में ऐसी बातें कहना बन्द किया जाय और जो सही स्थिति है उसको पूरा करने के लिए प्रयत्न किया जाना चाहिए ।

मैं मध्य प्रदेश की ओर ध्यान दिवाना चाहती हूँ । मध्य प्रदेश अन्य

प्रान्तों को प्राज देता रहता है चावल गेहूँ धादि, लेकिन शासन ने वहाँ पर कोरबा में फटिलाइजर कारखाना चलाने को सोचा था । रकम भी करीब डेढ़ लाख के खर्च हुआ मगर वह फिर स्वीकृत कर दिया गया । इसी तरह से इरीगेशन के मामले में तथा की योजना लीजिये, सारी योजनायें धधूरी पड़ी हुई हैं । शासन की यह नीति होनी चाहिए कि जब प्राप ने किसी एक योजना का एक बार सर्वे किया है, और उस पर लाख दो लाख रुपया खर्च हो गया है तो और धीरे धीरे रकम देकर उस काम को समय के अन्दर न पूरा करना यह अच्छी बात नहीं है । इसलिए जो भी काम शासन हाथ में ले उसको जल्दी से जल्दी पूरी रकम देकर उस काम को पूरा करना चाहिए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, फूड के सम्बन्ध में मैं कहना चाहती हूँ, जो वितरण व्यवस्था चल रही है, प्राप देखेंगे, मैं प्रापने चुनाव क्षेत्र की ओर प्राप का ध्यान दिनाऊंगी, अभी तो स्थिति इतनी भयानक नहीं है, प्राज कम से कम दो टाइम में एक टाइम तो फिर भी खाते हैं, लेकिन शासन की जो वितरण व्यवस्था है वह बिल्कुल खराब है । कलेक्टरों के हाथ में प्राप ने वितरण अधिकार दे रखा है । कलेक्टर लोग प्रापने प्रापने लोगों को विशेष प्राज दे देते हैं और गरीब लोगों की ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है । मेरी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी में म्यूनिसिपैलिटी एरिया में जो हालत है, 500 ग्राम प्राज प्राज दिया जा रहा है जबकि उस क्षेत्र में गेहूँ नहीं होता है । वर्षा की कमी के कारण बड़ी भयंकर स्थिति पैदा हुई है । तो इस प्रादिवासी क्षेत्र में, म्यूनिसिपैलिटी एरिया में जहाँ 500 ग्राम विदेगी गेहूँ, 500 ग्राम देशी गेहूँ और एक किलो चावल यह महीने का राशन दिया जाता है तो इन्टीरियर में जहाँ ग्रामीण जनता रहती है उनको क्या हालत होनी होगी ? तो शासन को चाहिए कि मुख्य मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में इस बात को रख कर वितरण

[श्रीमती जमुना देवी]

की व्यवस्था को ठीक करे। मैं चाहती हूँ कि गरीब जनता को इस मौजूदा वितरण व्यवस्था में और ज्यादा राहत मिले, ऐसी व्यवस्था मासन करे। यह जरूरी नहीं है अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं साल भर में एक बार बोलती हूँ, बहुत कम समय मिलता है

उपअध्यक्ष महोदय : रूपा करके खत्म करें। बहुत लोग हैं।

श्रीमती जमुना देवी : तो मैं आप के द्वारा यह चाहूँगी कि शासन जो लगान की वसूली है वह घनाज के रूप में वसूल करे तो उससे शासन को घनाज इकट्ठा करने में काफी सहूलियत होगी। और किसानों को भी राहत मिलेगी। जो खाद, बीज और छोटे इरिगेशन की योजनाएँ हैं उनकी ओर शासन विशेष ध्यान दे।

और जो गमलों की योजना बताई जाती है, मेरी तो समझ में नहीं आता कि इन गमलों से कौन सा उत्पादन बढ़ाया जा सकता है। मैं ने अपने यहां गमलों में कुछ बीज डाल कर देखा लेकिन पैदा नहीं हुआ। जब हमारे देश में इतनी जमीन बेकार पड़ी है तो गमलों द्वारा उत्पादन बढ़ाने की बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती।

Shri J. B. Kripalani (Amroha): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this food problem has been with us ever since we attained independence. It was said that we would solve it at the end of the First Five Year Plan. The Five Year Plan accomplished its targets and yet we were far from being self-sufficient in food. In the Second Five Year Plan, our late lamented Prime Minister said, not only will we be self-sufficient but we will have enough to export to earn foreign exchange. Then, there was one Food Minister, Shri Munshi, I think, who said that he would have the country self-sufficient in food during his tenure of office. When he could not make the country-

self-sufficient, he said that the country must have self-control—instead of self-sufficiency, self-control. Then, there was one distinguished Food Minister to whom some seed merchants went and said, "Sir, we want to import seed for cabbages"; and his reply was, "You imported seeds for cabbages last year; you want seeds for cabbages even this year!" He very conveniently thought that cabbages grew just like mangoes from year to year.

Such has been our misfortune and every Minister, who promised self-sufficiency, went his way and we are where we are. Not only we are where we are but we are in the worst condition. This has been stated here by speaker after speaker.

Last year we had a bumper crop and yet 6 million tonnes had to be imported from abroad. Even this grim situation, as the Food Minister calls it, has been realised when there is difficulty of getting food from America under PL-480; otherwise, they would yet have been sleeping. Also, there has been a military emergency. They have come to realise that the soldiers do not walk on their feet but on their belly and if they have no food there can be no fighting.

This criticism has been voiced by many Members here, but I am intrigued by the figures that are given by the authorities. They say that in 1950-51 our production was 55 million tonnes and now it is 88 million tonnes. That means, an increase of 55 per cent. I humbly submit that though we have been producing many, many babies, I do not think we have produced 55 per cent of babies. The increase in population has been only about 30 per cent.

I take it from another point of view. We produced, we are told, 88 million tonnes. Take away 13 million tonnes for seeds, bad storage and loss through other causes. There remain 75 million tonnes net and if we divide it with the population, it comes to at least 18

ounces per head including children and old men. I ask the Food Minister how there is this difference between the figures and our requirements. From these figures it would appear that we do not require anything from outside; if at all, there must be a little surplus.

That apart, I have certain suggestions to make to the Food Minister and to the authorities in general; it is that they should take stock of what is happening. They have taken upon themselves the construction of big valley schemes. They are very good, but their period of gestation is very long. What we require is immediate relief, and immediate relief, in my humble opinion, can come only from small irrigation schemes, tanks and ordinary wells. Last year, I hear that with great advantage the UP Government had been able to dig 80,000 wells and they have done well in this.

Then, the second thing is that there should be good seeds available to the peasant at the proper time, and also fertilisers. I think it would be very reasonable to suggest that each State should have two or three fertiliser factories, at least one in every State. Then, the peasant must get some credit. Even today, in spite of our State Bank, we find that 80 per cent of credit is supplied to the cultivator locally by the bania or by the bigger landholders and they get their loans at an exorbitant rate of at least 25 per cent. Take the industrial field. I do not see how any entrepreneur can produce results if he gets money at the rate of 25 per cent and also with his very meagre amount which he has saved from his previous investments. It would be impossible for him and what is impossible for the industrialist, we think, is possible for the agriculturist. This is absurd.

We must remember that there are two crores of holdings in India. In these two crores of holdings about 50 per cent of the holdings are of twenty acres or more and it is in these holdings that our production per acre would compare with the production

of other countries. Where do we lack is in the other 50 per cent where the peasants have not enough land and where there has been fragmentation. There our production per acre is the lowest.

Now, how are these things to be remedied? I would advise the Food Ministers and his companions to cast off their prejudices and go to Israel. This land has converted desert into garden. How have they done it? They have not done it through cooperative farming. We also cannot do it with cooperative farming. At the rate at which we are going, it will take a century, if at all, we can be self-sufficient. The only method, where so many holdings are concerned, is to have a cooperative shop in every group of villages. In Israel they have got such shops, and they have also in Yugoslavia. What purpose does this shop serve? It keeps all the instruments of production, and these implements are given periodically to people on some small rent. It also keeps good seeds and these are also given to people. These are called service cooperatives. They also give loans and when the crop is ready, they also take over the excess crop from the peasant and sell it for him in the market or keep it for him. They have the storage facility. Unless these things are done, I am afraid our agriculture cannot advance.

Our Food Minister has very kindly devised a plan of food rationing. I am very sorry to say that our authorities never learn by experience. This thing was tried after the Second World War and it was Gandhiji who decried it, and there was one Minister who had the courage to scrap that scheme of rationing and the heavens did not fall. Rationing implies that the authorities take upon themselves that they shall supply the needs of the population. Under the conditions in which we are living, this can only be done when there are stocks, and now I am told there are no stocks. The situation is grim. Why are there no stocks? Last year, we had a bumper crop. This

[Shri J. B. Kripalani]

year is a lean year. This is nothing unusual. We have always throughout the centuries some bumper-crop periods followed by lean periods. There is nothing unusual in this. Last year, even when they had a bumper crop, they were importing food from outside in order to build up buffer stocks. They said that they were going to build up buffer stocks. But what do we find this year? There are no buffer stocks to be found. As to where the stocks went is something which the Food Minister must explain, as he has to explain many other things. What happened to them? We do not know what happened to those stocks.

Sir, I am in U.P. sometime back and there were what are called the fair price shops and there were cards for those fair price shops. The authorities wanted to renew those cards and it was found that in one city of Kanpur—you will not believe it—there were 4 lakhs of ghost cards. I do not know where from these ghosts came. This rationing also is very unscientific. For instance, I take only one chapati and will get what my servant will get. If there is to be any scientific rationing, it must be according to the income of the people. The rich have many other subsidiary sources by which they can supplement their food. The poor people have no such subsidiary sources with which they can increase their food supply. Of course, I remember once one great man said: Why don't the people eat bananas if they get no food? He did not know that the food crop matures in about 3 to 4 months and that the plantain crop matures once a year. And, moreover, today even the middle-class people cannot afford to have bananas. How can the poor people have bananas? It just reminds me of what Marie Antoinette is supposed to have said—she did not say it, but some child of her said it. There was a great rush of angry people at the doors of the palace and she asked, "What is this confusion about?" And the officers told her, "They want bread"; And her child

said, "If they have no bread, why do they not take cakes?". This is our condition. This is the advice we are given again, like that of Mr. Munshi, that we must exercise self-control. What is the meaning of self-control? There are big compounds with the Ministers and they are to pull out their flower beds and plant vegetables. I have a little experience. I have also a little compound and I put seeds in it and spent some money on it. I did not get vegetables worth the money that I spent. Such things are said by those who have never done any field work in their lives, who have never seen what fields are, who do not know how peasants live and who merely are concerned—I suppose they are paid for it with delivering long speeches and long lectures to us and are always telling us that tomorrow or the day after the millennium will come.

When we say that our people are starving, they tell us that there is no starvation death. I say—I am not a doctor—but I say that nobody dies of starvation. Starvation brings about some disease or the other. The Government can very well say that the man did not die of starvation but died of heart-failure or kidney trouble or something else. People live starving for years. They do not die of starvation. When they die, they must have died of some disease or the other. This is how the Opposition arguments are met. Fortunately enough, even Congressmen have risen to the dangerous situation and they have also begun to criticise the Government as Members of the Opposition.

श्री वि० सि० चौधरी (मयुरा) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं खाद्य और कृषि मंत्री जी को जो प्रयत्न वह खाद्य समस्या को हल करने के लिए कर रहे हैं, उसके लिए बधाई देता हूँ, और धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं धाबा करता हूँ कि उनके वे प्रयास सफल हों। यदि वे सफल नहीं होते हैं तो इसके बिच्

दोष किस के सिर पर होगा। उन्होंने कृषि उत्पादन का मूल्य पिछली वर्ष कम नहीं होने दिया और इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि हमारा उत्पादन बढ़ा। लेकिन उत्पादन अपेक्षित मात्रा में नहीं बढ़ रहा है, उसके मुख्य-मुख्य का कारण है, इसको हमें देखना होगा। सबसे पहली बात तो यह है कि उसके द्वारा जो उत्पादन किया जाता है, उसका उसको उचित मूल्य मिले। इसके लिए उन्होंने कुछ व्यवस्था तो अवश्य की है इसलिए मैं उनको बधाई देता हूँ। लेकिन मैं उनसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर वह खाद्य समस्या को हल करना चाहते हैं तो सबसे पहले कृषकों की समस्या हल करने पर विचार करना होगा। जब तक कृषक की समस्या हल नहीं होती तब तक खाद्य उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ सकता। कृषक की समस्या हल होने के साथ-साथ खाद्य समस्या अपने आप हल हो जायेगी। आज तक हमने कृषक की समस्या को हल करने का विचार नहीं किया है। उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए अगर पार्लियामेंट के ऊपर के कमरे में एक प्रदर्शनी लगा दी जाती है किचन गार्डन बगीरह की, या मूर्छी पाशन कंसे हो, इसके लिए अगर एक प्रदर्शनी की जाती है और उसके लिए हजारों रुपये खर्च कर दिया जाता है, तो इससे समस्या हल होने वाली नहीं है। जितना इन एग्जीबीशंस पर खर्च होता है अगर वही रुपया किसी किसान को दे दिया जाये तो मैं समझता हूँ कि उत्पादन वह अधिक करके आपको दिखा सकता है। पाक बगीरह या किचन गार्डन बगीरह है अगर उनके उत्पादन के खर्च को आप देखें तो जैसा कि आचार्य कृपलानी जी ने अभी कहा है वह खर्चा शायद दो सौ रुपये मन गेहूँ का बँट गया और जहाँ तक सब्जियों का सम्बन्ध है शायद बीस रुपये किलो सब्जी बँटेंगी। जितना रुपया आप इस तरह के कार्यों में खर्च करते हैं अगर यही रुपया किसानों को दे दिया जाये, जिनके पास पैसे की कमी है

तो वे इसकी अपेक्षा कई गुना उत्पादन बढ़ा कर आपको दिखा सकते हैं।

समस्या को हल करने के लिए क्या किया जाना चाहिये, क्या-क्या समस्याएँ हैं जिनको हल करना हमारे लिए जरूरी है, इस पर विचार नहीं किया जाता है। बाहर से धन्न मंगाने पर ही सब से ज्यादा जोर दिया जा रहा है। बाहर से धन्न मंगाने का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे ज्यादा और दुर्भाग्य और शर्म की बात हमारे लिए दूसरी नहीं हो सकती है। गांव में रहने वाला जो किसान है अगर वह सबसे ज्यादा शर्म महसूस किसी बात में करता है तो इस बात में करता है कि धनाज के लिए उसे दूसरों के दरवाजों पर जाना पड़ता है। वह कर्जा मंगाना है, अपनी भूमि को बेच सकता है लेकिन धनाज मांगा जाये, इसको वह बर्दाश्त नहीं कर सकता है। इससे ज्यादा शर्म की बात उसके लिए कोई दूसरी नहीं है।

खाद्य समस्या को हल करने के लिए यह नारा दिया गया है कि एक वक्ता का खाना छोड़ दिया जाये सप्ताह में। जो एक वक्ता का खाना इस तरह से नहीं खाते हैं वे फल बगीरह खा लेते हैं और भ्रष्टाचार में निरुत्सव होते हैं। लेकिन जो दूसरे लोग, किसान व ग्रामीण और साधारण श्रमिक हैं सदियों के दिनों में जब धनाज की कमी होती है तो वे धाम तौर पर खाना एक वक्ता ही खाने हैं और किसी किसी दिन तो दोनों वक्ता का खाना उनकी नहीं मिलता। इमतिथे मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए आपको कृषक की समस्या को हल करने पर जोर देना होगा, उनकी समस्या को हल करना होगा। जब किसान की समस्या हल हो जायेगी तब धन्न की समस्या भी आप से आप हल हो जायेगी। साथ-साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि खाद्य समस्या तब तक हल नहीं होगी जब तक आप बाहर से

[श्री दि० सि० चौधरी]

गल्सा मंगाना बन्द नहीं करेंगे। इसको मंगाने में हमें जो बेगर्मी दिखानी पड़ती है, हम को जो शर्म धाती है उसका घन्त करने के लिए और अपने प्राप अपनी समस्या को हल करने के लिए एक करोड़ लोग भी मर जायें तो भी हमें इसकी परवाह नहीं होनी चाहिये, किसी तरह की क्रान्ति होती है तो भी हमें परवाह नहीं करनी चाहिये। क्रान्ति से प्रापकी कुर्सी को बर हो सकता है लेकिन देश को इससे कोई ख़तरा नहीं होगा। विदेशों से धन्न का प्रायात प्राप बन्द कर दें, किसानों पर प्राप इस मामले को छोड़ दें, उनको प्राप सभी सम्भव सहायता दें, उनको प्राप साधन दें, उनके लिए सिबाई का प्रबन्ध करें, वे प्रापको इस समस्या को हल करके दिखा देंगे। जब तक बच्चे की उगली पकड़ कर प्राप खड़े रहेंगे तब तक बच्चा मरने प्राप चाना नहीं तीव्र सकता है। विदेशों पर निर्भर प्राप न रहें, उत्पादन बढ़ जायेगा।

प्राप योजनायें तो बहुत बनाते हैं लेकिन प्राप यह नहीं देखते हैं कि वे किस तरह से अमल में आती हैं, कौन-कौन सी व्यावहारिक कठिनाइयाँ रास्ते में आती हैं। लिखने को तो लिख दिया जाता है कि कम्पोस्ट खाद बनाई जाये लेकिन वह कैसे बन सकती है, इस और ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है। अगर सरकार चाहती है कि कम्पोस्ट खाद बनाई जाये तो केवल गड्डे खुदवा देने से ही काम नहीं चल सकता है। किसानों के पास धात्र और कोई ईंधन नहीं है। इस वास्ते वे गोबर का ही इस्तेमाल करते हैं। ईंधन के लिये धन भी नहीं है। प्रापको चाहिये कि प्राप गोबर को उन से खरीद लें और उनको प्राप कोयला दें। सरकार कम्पोस्ट खाद बनाये और उसे किसान को दे। वे अगर कोयले का इस्तेमाल करेंगे तो गोबर बच जायेगा और कम्पोस्ट खाद उससे बन सकती है और उसका इस्तेमाल हो सकता है। अगर वह गोबर का इस्तेमाल ईंधन में

करें तो उसके पास ख.। पकाने के लिए क्या साधन होगा, इसका ध्यान नहीं देखते हैं। उसके पास ईंधन कहाँ से प्रायेगा, इस समस्या को प्राप हल नहीं करते हैं। केवल मात्र प्राप यह कह देते हैं कि कम्पोस्ट खाद बने।

हमारा सब से बड़ा दुर्भाग्य यह है कि कोई एक ऐसा व्यक्ति नहीं है जिसके सामने समस्याओं को रखा जा सके, कोई दो चार भी ऐसे व्यक्ति नहीं हैं जिनके सामने समस्याओं को रख कर उनका समाधान कराया जा सके या वे समस्या का समाधान सुझा सकें। किसानों को समस्या को हल करने के लिए, उनके रुपये पैसे की जरूरतों को हल करने के लिए लगभग तीस अरब रुपया रिजर्व बैंक ने कोप्रोमोटिव सोसाइटीज को दे रखा है और उस पर यह प्रति वर्ष चांवीस करोड़ रुपया ब्याज का लेता है। इस कर्जों को कोप्रोमोटिव सोसाइटीज को वापिस करने के लिए किसान बाहरे से कर्जा लेता है और उसको बारह करोड़ रुपया केवल घाठ दिन के लिये ब्याज का देता है। उसके बाद फिर सोसाइटी से लेकर बोहरे को घाठ दिन बाद वापिस कर देता है। यह जो बारह करोड़ रुपया है इसको बचाया जा सकता है अगर नीति में संशोधन कर दिया जाये। किसानों को यह बारह करोड़ रुपया रिजर्व बैंक की गलत नीतियों की वजह से देना पड़ता है। मैंने एक एसोशियेशन मैनेजिंग डायरेक्टर की बनाई थी और एक डेप्युटेशन चीफ मिनिस्टर से मिला था। उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं, केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास जाओ। यहाँ प्राये तो इन्होंने कहा कि प्लानिंग कमीशन के पास जाओ, हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं। वहाँ गये तो उन्होंने कहा कि हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं, रिजर्व बैंक से जा कर बात करो। वहाँ गये तो उन्होंने कहा कि रिजर्व बैंक कुछ नहीं कर सकता है तब तक जब तक कि सब

बैठ कर इस पर विचार न करें। बाद में हमारा डेप्युटेशन भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री, श्री अबाहरलान जी से तीन बार मिला। लेकिन आज तक कुछ नहीं हुआ है। शार्ट टर्म लॉन्ग (अल्प कालीन ऋण) की इस गलत नीति के कारण, सिर्फ़ आठ दिन के लिए जो बारह करोड़ रुपये किसान को देने पड़ते हैं, वे न देने पड़ें यदि इस गलत नीति को त्याग दिया जाये। इसमें संशोधन कर दिया जाये तो जो हानि होती है यह दूर हो जायेगी और खाद्य समस्या को हल करने में कुछ सुविधा हो जायेगी। किसान को जो प्रतिरिक्त धन देना पड़ता है यह नहीं देना पड़ेगा।

मैं मथुरा से आता हूँ। वहाँ मैंने देखा है कि किसानों ने बीस लाख रुपये भूमि बंधक रख कर केवल ब्लोक में कर्ज लिये हैं, उससे इंजन खरीदे हैं, कुएं खुदे पड़े हैं लेकिन उनको सिमेंट नहीं मिलता है। इस बात को हम ने डा० राम सुभग सिंह जी के सामने भी रखा था जब वे मथुरा गये थे। धरम समय पर पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं होती है तो खेती खराब हो जाती है। धरम भी वहाँ पर धरम पंद्रह या बीस दिन में पानी का प्रबन्ध नहीं होता है तो सारी की सारी खेती समाप्त हो जायेगी। स्टेटमेंट्स दे देने से या नुमाईश कर देने से यह समस्या हल नहीं होगी। सैकड़ों कुएं खुदे पड़े हैं। सैकड़ों बोरिंग हो गये हैं। पम्प पड़े हुए हैं, सैकड़ों इंजिन पड़े हुए हैं, उनके रुपये उसमें फंसे हुए हैं, धरम सिमेंट नहीं मिलता है तो उसका कोई उपयोग इस फसल के लिये नहीं हो सकता है। जो कोटा सिमेंट का था वह भी नहीं मिलता है। सीमेंट वाले कहते हैं कि हमारे पास है ही नहीं। प्राफिट ज्यादा लेने की गं से बर्ह कोटा भी नहीं पहुंच रहा है। धरमको चाहिये कि धरम सिमेंट का जल्दी से जल्दी उनके लिए प्रबन्ध कर दें। कैपिटलिस्टों को फायदा पहुंचाने के लिए सिमेंट की कीमतें बढ़ाने से काम नहीं चल सकता है, इस तरह

में उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ सकता है। सरकार ने कर्मचारियों को धरमदेश दिया है कि लक्ष सिंचाई का प्रबन्ध करो। मेरे जिसे में कर्मचारी धरमदि मने हुए हैं, किन्तु बिना सिमेंट के क्या करें। सरकार ने ट्रेक्टरों की कीमतें बढ़ा दी हैं। क्या धरम समझते हैं कि इनकी कीमतें बढ़ाने से उत्पादन बढ़ सकता है। क्या इससे किसान को फायदा होगा? क्या इससे समस्या हल हो सकती है। समस्या को धरम धरम हल करना चाहते हैं तो मजबूती से धरमको हल करना होगा। बोड़े से कैपिटलिस्टों के डर से, बोड़े से कर्मचारियों के डर से, उनके दबाव में धरम धरम काम न करें उनके पास ताकत नहीं है। ताकत उसके पास है जो वोट धरमको देता है। ताकत उसके पास है जिसने धरमको वोट दे कर यहाँ बिठाया है। जमीन जो बोना है, जो खती करता है, दूध दही पैदा करता है, कृपास ऊन पैदा करता है उसके पास ताकत है। जिसका बेटा मिलिटरी में काम करता है और देश की रक्षा करता है, ताकत उसके पास है। लेकिन सुविधायें धरम सरकार किसको देती हैं। सुविधायें धरम उनको देते हैं, जो बड़े शहरों में रहते हैं : जो धरमको धरम, दूध, ची, धरमदि पैदा करके देता है, उसकी तरफ धरम ध्यान दें। धरम उत्पादन के साधन किसान के पास हैं। जो खोग इनके धरम से फायदा उठाते हैं, जो खुद उत्पादन न करके इनके द्वारा जो उत्पादन चीजें होती हैं, उससे लाभ उठाते हैं उनको धरम सहायता प्रदान करते हैं। देहली में एक करोड़ बालीस लाख रुपये का धरम धरम धरम इसलिए उठा रहे हैं देहली बाजों को डेरी का दूध सस्ता मिले। धरम करोड़ों रुपये का धरम इसलिए उठाया जा रहा है कि विदेशों से गेहूं मंगा कर कि जहर बाजों को सस्ती दरों पर दिया जा सके, उनको फायदा पहुंचाया जा सके, जहर के पूंजीपति उत्पादन नहीं करते हैं। वे क्यों फायदा उठावें फायदा वे उठावें जो मिलिटरी में आ

[श्री सि० सि० चौधरी]

कर लड़ते हैं, जो खेती करते हैं कारखानों में काम करते हैं आप किसान को साधन दे दीजिये फिर आप इसको उसके ऊपर छोड़ दीजिये वह आपका काफी धन पैदा करके दे देगा। सुविधायें जो उसको चाहियें वे उसको आप मुलम कर दीजिये।

आप उत्पादन बढ़ाने की बात करते हैं। लेकिन उत्तर प्रदेश में किसान पर लगान की दर बढ़ा दी गई है। किसान पर आप टैक्स लगाते हैं, उससे आप पैसा लेते हैं लेकिन आप देखें कि वह पैसा कहां से देता है। किसान के पास धीर कोई प्रतिरिक्त कमाई का साधन नहीं है। दूसरे कामों पर खर्च करने के लिए उसके पास पैसा नहीं वह साथे कपड़े पहनना है धीर खाना खाता है। टूटे फूटे मकान में रह रहा है। वह अपने बच्चों तक को नहीं पढ़ा पाता है। जब आप उस पर टैक्स लगाते हैं तो जो वह उत्पादन में पैसा लगाता है उस में कमी करके आपको बस धंधा करता है। उत्पादन में पैसा लगाने के लिए उसके पास कम रह जाता है धीर उसका परिणाम यह होता है कि वह उत्पादन बढ़ा नहीं सकता है।

आप यह न समझे कि किसान एक तरह का यंत्र है। यह भी आप न समझें कि जिस तरह से गाय दूध दे देती है उसी तरह से दूध देने वाला पशु किसान है। यह भी आप न समझें कि खाल समस्या को हल करने का वह साधनमात्र है। बल्कि आप यह समझें कि किसान स्वयं एक समस्या है धीर उस किसान की समस्या को आपको हल करना है। किसान को अगर आप सुविधायें दे दें धीर उसकी समस्या को आप हल कर दें तो किसान का उत्पादन अपने आप बढ़ जाएगा।

अन्त में क्या मैं मंत्रीजी से यह आशा कर सकता हूँ कि रिजर्व बैंक के अधिकारियों

को बुला कर आज जो बारह करोड़ का ऋण होता है, इसको रोकेंगे? कोई संशोधन करने की बात आप करेंगे? जो कुछ पड़े हुए हैं, उनके लिए आप सीमेंट देंगे। जो इंजन पड़े हुए हैं उनको काम में लाने की आप कोशिश करेंगे? दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जो बहुत सी बातें हम कहते हैं उन पर गम्भीरता से विचार नहीं किया जाता है। जो बुनियादी समस्याएँ हैं उनको हल करने की कोशिश नहीं की जाती है। ऐसी बातें की जाती हैं जिनसे प्रष्टाचारियों को फायदा होता है जिनसे कैपिटलिस्टों को फायदा होता है। इन बातों को न करके अगर किसान की समस्याओं को हल करने या हम भरसक प्रयत्न करें, उसको सुविधायें दें, सब काम बन्द करके इसी वषट मंत्री महोदय सूचना भिजवा दें कि सब सीमेंट कुओं के लिए वे बिना जाएँ, जितने कुओं के लिए सीमेंट की आवश्यकता है, वह पूरी कर दी जाए तो आप देखें कि कौसे धन्य की समस्या हल नहीं होती है, अगर आप ऐसा कर दें कि एक बरस तक सीमेंट मकानों बगैरह के लिए इस्तेमाल नहीं होषा, केवल कुओं के लिए इस्तेमाल होगा तो आप देखेंगे कि सिंचाई की सुविधा कैसे आसानी से सुलभ हो जाती है। अगर आप देश की बरसकी चाहते हैं देश में उत्पादन को बढ़ाना चाहते हैं, तो बाहर से गेहूँ मंगाना बन्द कर दें धीर इस वर्ष उतना खपया किसानों को दें। इसके बाध भगले वर्ष अगर उत्पादन न बढ़ सके तो आप हमको जो सजा चाहें दें सकते हैं।

15 hrs.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : श्री विद्यानकार ।

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय (बपोह):
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह माननीय सदस्य तो पचासों दफे बोल चुके हैं, अब मध्याह्न को भीका मिलना चाहिये।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : महिलार्ये काफी बोल चकी हैं ।

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar (Hoshiarpur): The matter of food is a matter of national policy, and rightly many Members have drawn the attention of the House to the national policy that we should adopt. I am not speaking only of the period for which the food portfolio has been handed by our present Food Minister, but I feel that for the last several years this problem has been confronting us, and we have not yet been able to evolve a firm national policy, short-range policy as well as long-range policy. At present it appears to me that we are speaking with two voices. On the one hand, our Prime Minister in everyone of his speeches just tries to arouse the people for making effort to become self-reliant. Self-reliance is his slogan, in every sphere, and specially so when we are discussing food. On the other hand, I was a little disappointed at what the hon. Food Minister had stated. I know that he is entirely for self-reliance, and he is as anxious as I am or as anybody else in this House might be, for pursuing a policy of self-reliance. But I was disappointed when in his speech he had spoken with a tone of despondency. He has said that the situation is such that we have to depend on foreign imports and we cannot at present pursue a policy of self-reliance. I appreciate to what he has stated. I know that he desires that we should make efforts. But it confuses people when we speak with different voices. Some emphasis was being laid on the efforts to be made and there was a passion and a desire among the public that we should become absolutely free from the foreign economic bondage. The hon. Minister has stated in his speech that the situation has further been made difficult because of the uncertainties of the import programme. I feel that this is the impression that has been created on the public mind, that although we are trying to become self-sufficient and self-reliant, yet at present we

cannot become self-reliant; at present we cannot do away with foreign imports; at present we cannot do away with the PL-480 imports, and at present we have to surrender and yield before the pressure of the foreign aid-givers. The hon. Minister has also talked about the monsoon failure. We have been listening to this monsoon business since the pre-independence days. A famous Finance Member at that time had said that Indian finance was a gamble of monsoon and weather. We are listening to the same thing today also. I know that the difficulties are there, but during the last eighteen years we ought to have been able to do something to overcome those difficulties. At present, it appears to me that because the aid-givers continue to change their mind and mood, the stoppage of flow of foreign assistance or its renewal has become as fluctuating as our proverbial Indian monsoon, and, we are now feeling doubtful whether foreign aid would come or not.

The hon. Minister has said in his statement that the aid that we were receiving under PL-480 from the USA during the last four or five years was of the order of about 3 to 6 million tons a year. Unfortunately that programme is still uncertain. These uncertainties are facing us today. But I do not find in the hon. Minister's speech anything to indicate what we are going to do if these uncertainties continue to persist.

So far as the foreign aid is concerned, and so far as the aid under PL-480 is concerned, I would like to point out one thing. Recently, the Food Minister had been in Italy and he had met Mr. Orville Freeman there. When the hon. Minister met Mr. Freeman there and discussed food with him, I am sure he must have been remembering the words that Mr. Freeman had stated in 1961. On 23rd March, 1961, he was at that time the Secretary for Agriculture in USA, and at that time he had stated that "Food has become a weapon of diplomacy; food is persuasive and food is power". So, when we talk of PL-480

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and foreign assistance, we should always remember that there will be influences from all sides and we shall be pressurised, but we have to resist these pressures. Our political independence depends on our economic independence. If we were dependent on foreign aid even for our food I feel that it is not a good thing for us. We should feel a sense of humiliation when the American Ambassador goes about rebuking us and admonishing us that we had not been producing enough food. From what is appearing in the newspapers about our Prime Minister's visit to the USA and his talks at Washington etc., and the speculations that are being attempted in the newspapers, it appears that the American aid-givers are trying to get certain assurances from us, assurances with regard to our policy in respect of Pakistan, our policy with regard to food production, our policy with regard to the Fourth Plan and the way it would be formulated, whether there would be emphasis on agriculture or on industry and so on; they want that we should now give more emphasis on agriculture rather than on industry; we ourselves feel that we should lay more emphasis on agriculture, but naturally we feel rather hurt when we are admonished by foreigners that we had been neglecting agriculture and we have been laying stress on industry. After all, it is our business that we should see that our agriculture and industry both should prosper.

Recently, there has been the question of importing fertilisers which are very necessary. But with the import of fertilisers, if pressure is going to be put upon us to change our price policy for the fertilisers, or to see that we raised the prices of fertilisers or that we should change the policy with regard to the production of fertilisers or inviting foreign investments in regard to cement, fertilizers and steel production, or such other matters, naturally we feel that our policies should be formulated under such pressures and naturally we feel ap-

prehensive about our future and about safeguarding of our freedom.

I would submit that while we have become and more and more dependent on foreign aid and we have been laying more and more emphasis on importing PL-480 grains and other aids, we have not laid adequate emphasis on the importance of the producers. Our economy has been consumer-oriented, rather than growingly becoming producer-oriented. In our country, a peasant or a labourer has no high status in the society; he has no prominent position in the society. We have always been giving greater importance and a better status to the consumer or to the trader and financier we had resolved that we shall introduce State trading in agricultural products but we have not been able to introduce it so far. We wanted to introduce agrarian reforms, but we have not been able to pursue that policy consistently. Now we are thinking of giving more power and more scope to industrialists to come into agricultural field, from joint stock companies to engage in agricultural production. We are expecting that they will bring under cultivation more land and produce more food for us.

In all these matters, I think we should have a definite national policy properly linked with our ultimate aim. What is our ultimate aim? What kind of social structure do we want to see established here? What place do we want to give to the producer and to the peasant and to others? I think in the present set-up the peasant is neglected. From the overall point of view, it is time we formulated a definite national policy that should fulfil and satisfy our overall objective, I am sure the Minister of Agriculture will agree that such an approach is called for to achieve our objectives as quickly as we can.

Shri Mohammed Koya (Kozhikode): The hon. Minister of Food gave us a gloomy picture of the food situation in the country. It was really a very serious situation that he has pictured before us. I have seen re-

ports in the Malayalam press about a still gloomier situation on the food front in Kerala. Today's newspapers say that if supplies do not come either from Madras or Andhra—which under the present circumstances is very doubtful—or from foreign countries, the rice content of the ration would be reduced to 4 ounces. I hope when the hon. Minister replies to the debate, he will allay the fears of the people of Kerala.

As far as increasing production in Kerala is concerned, the Kerala Government has decided that they will produce 50,000 tonnes more rice. There is an impression that Kerala is a liability as far as food is concerned. The fact is that we are producing precious cash crops which earn a lot of foreign exchange for the country. We must have an all-India policy under which crops will be demarcated or cultivation in certain selected areas most suitable for their cultivation. There are certain crops which can be grown only in Kerala, e.g. coconut, rubber, cardamom. These commodities are earning a lot of foreign exchange. There are many other commodities grown in Kerala sent outside Kerala—I mean cash crops. So when it is said that Kerala is deficit in food and it has to be fed from outside, I say it is because we are producing other crops which are more suitably raised there. If it is contended that we must somehow make up the deficiency in food ourselves even by giving up the production of other precious cash crops, then that must be made clear.

There is no all-India policy in this regard. Even in Kerala, we have no policy about what kind of crop should be grown where. I have seen rubber being cultivated in the coastal areas of Kerala. In some places where rubber can be cultivated profitably, tapioca is raised.

So there must be an all-India survey. We must decide which area is most suitable from the point of view of increased production of which crop. The peasant must be told about this. If you go to UP, you see large areas

in Western UP under sugarcane. Government must have an idea as to which place is best suited for which crop. This must be part of an all-India policy. The peasants must be told where a particular crop is to be cultivated. But at present we see that sometimes some States behave as if they are independent States following independent policies. In Kerala, we always depend upon Andhra Pradesh and Madras for food. The position in those States now is not very satisfactory. Madras suffered from a severe drought; they were praying for rains; now the prayer is that the rains may stop because due to continuous rain recently, the State is threatened with floods. Even now we are at the mercy of the vagaries of the monsoon. As Shri Vidyalankar said, our cultivation has become a gamble in rain. The formulators of the Plan should have foreseen all these things. It was said that everything was seen and everything would be all right. But these things were not foreseen.

We are now passing through a serious crisis, but we are going about as if we are in normal times. Nothing serious has been done to size up the crisis and concert measures to overcome it. All these efforts must be put through on a war footing because the crisis is so serious and demands nothing less. Allotments for minor irrigation and medium irrigation schemes should be made expeditiously. But there is red-tapism as usual. There must be some emergency plans in regard to these irrigation schemes which will yield results in two or three years. Redtapism must be completely got rid of. An emergency conference must be held to chalk out courses of action and all efforts should be made to get over the crisis. State Governments must be told to go on with minor and medium irrigation schemes. New schemes of this category should also be taken up. Additional money needed should be found for the same.

As far as Kerala is concerned, we cannot bring more land under cultivation. The saturation point has been

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reached. As regards the yield also, we have reached the maximum possible. The only thing we can do now by way of additional effort is to tap the sea. The Arabian sea has been kind to us. An economic survey undertaken by Dr. Lokanathan has revealed how with so much of investment we could get so much of food. They have formulated a plan also. That was in normal times. Now that we are passing through an abnormal situation, Government must formulate a scheme for mechanising fisheries. More trawlers should be obtained from Japan, Norway, Sweden and other advanced countries which have experience in this field. More equipment should be obtained and larger and more advanced craft should be put to the sea so that fishing operations could be undertaken over extended areas farther into the sea.

While more food from the sea should be obtained by way of fish, there is another aspect to this. I think Government has not tackled that with seriousness. Various Ministries are involved here. As regards the transport of fish, if you ask the Railway Ministry to stop a train for five, ten minutes at a fishing centre, they say they cannot do it, the passengers cannot wait. There are fishing areas in Malabar where we find it very difficult to transport the fish to other places where it is needed, with the result that fish caught is wasted. Shri Subramaniam will be surprised to know that in our area, for want of transport to take the fish to other places, fish caught are used as manure for coconut trees. There is no co-ordination between the departments concerned. What is the use of saying that a train cannot stop at a fishing centre for a few minutes to load urgently needed fish to other centres? And this in an emergency when people are dying of starvation. As I said, there is absolutely no co-ordination and awareness of the seriousness of the situation facing the country. There must be co-ordination between the

Railway and Food Ministers and between them and our State Government. But as a matter of fact, the various Ministries at the Centre function in water-tight compartments with no co-ordination. I would request the Food Minister to see that at least some co-ordination is effected with the Railway Ministry so that some arrangements may be made for transporting fish from fishing centres in Malabar to places where they are urgently needed.

Shri Rajeshwar Patel (Hajipur): I take this opportunity to congratulate the Food Minister who took the House into confidence and told us in very plain words that the country is facing a very grim food situation. The Prime Minister also, in some of his statements made during the last few days, has reiterated the same facts. Not only is the situation bad today. Very rightly he is apprehensive of still worse days ahead.

In fact, just as the Food Minister said, conditions are verging on famine in a large part of our country. Yes, it is true. I wonder if the Food Minister has taken care to inform himself that independent India, for the last 18 years, has been importing foodgrains at the rate of 3½ million tons every year. At the rate of six men for one ton of foodgrains, it means food for 20 million people for the whole year. If this country could not have food for 20 million persons every year during the last 18 years, I do not understand calling this particular year as scarcity year or a year where famine is threatened.

As we know, and as Shri Vidyasakar said, in India agriculture has always been a gamble on the monsoon. It has not been so only during the last 20 or 30 years. If we look at the history of this country for the last 200 or 300 years, we will find that famine has been a very re-occurring feature of our economy. Fur-

only, when there was no transport system, scarcity conditions used to result in famine and the entire area used to be affected. High and low were victims alike. But today famine condition does not mean absolute scarcity or absence of foodgrains. Even during the Bengal famine in 1943, on the one hand people were languishing for want of food, and yet food was there. So, the mere fact that food is available does not go to prove that famine conditions do not exist. My contention is that India has been facing famine conditions all these years.

Perhaps as the Food Minister has hinted, and hinted in almost very clear terms, the attention of the Government and the Food Ministry particularly has been drawn to this aspect of the question this year because of the uncertainty of the supplies from America. The only difference that is there in regard to our food situation is the uncertainty of the supplies under PL-480. If perhaps PL-480 supplies were assured in advance, even our present Food Minister perhaps may not have given much thought to these scarcity conditions in certain parts of the country.

Hon. Members have been trying to tell us in the debate during the last three days that unfortunately during these 18 years we have not put agriculture on a proper basis. In fact, I do not disagree with them. I go a step further and say that the Government of India never had a food policy, never had an all-India food policy, they never understood the agricultural problem, nor are they understanding it today.

This morning's newspaper says that the Food Minister is fighting a big battle to win Rs. 700 crores of foreign exchange to buy fertilisers from abroad and Rs. 70 crores for pesticides. I wonder if the Food Minister realises that fertilisers without irrigation mean only burning of the seeds and so more. He has to realise that the famine conditions that face this

country today are not due to lack of fertilisers, but due to lack of irrigational facilities. I will leave it there for him to follow my point, because there is very little time.

Shrimati Lakshminanthamma
 (Khammam): Also fertilisers.

Shri Rajeshwar Patel: If you only care to examine the resources of fertilisers in this country, not only 140 crores but 340 crores tons of fertilisers can be produced in this country if only the Government or the country had a plan for producing fertilisers in this country. World's 25 per cent of cattle population is here, and instead of giving the farmers gobar gas plants, we are thinking in terms of having chemical fertilisers. I wonder if you have studied what the Americans and others who have been using fertilisers for 50 years have to say about chemical fertilisers. They are not very happy with it, but because they do not have any other fertiliser resources, they are forced to look to chemical fertiliser. Chemical fertiliser is no boon.

Unfortunately, the whole trouble in this country is, and again it is to the credit of the present Food Minister that he made certain observations yesterday in Chandigarh to the effect that the Agriculture Ministry is composed of 75 per cent of ignoramuses who have nothing to do with agriculture or who do not have the rural mind. The pity is that hardly many people realise that the Indian farmer is the best farmer in the world. I have had occasion to meet many a farmer in different parts of the world, and I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that the Indian farmer knows all about farming, and he certainly knows much more and many times more than what any Indian agriculture graduate does. Instead of trusting him to deliver the goods, we are trying to have all kinds of fancy schemes. These fancy schemes cannot produce food. We have to take these people on trust who have ceased to trust us because we are not

[Shri Rajeshwar Patel]

worthy of their trust. We have been trying to help ourselves in many ways, not the farmer. We have been demanding for nearly 18 years, or 14 to 15 years since Parliament came into being, that there should be a firm policy with regard to prices. The Government, for some reason or other, has never been able to see the logic of it, and now if the country is faced with such a situation, what wonder? The country, according to time, has come to only the logical conclusion of the policies that we have been pursuing so long.

If we want that the agriculture of this country should look up, then we have to decide boldly. It is not the question of Central responsibility or State responsibility I wonder if it is realised that the 4 crores holdings that are in this country could possibly be the concern of either the Centre or the States. It has to be the concern of the individual owner, and the only thing that the Government here or in the State can do is to organise the resources in a manner that they can easily take advantage of them, to organise credit for them, to organise and create a situation where they can easily get taccavi loans not through the medium or agency of brokers or the so-called co-operatives. The co-operatives hardly serve one per cent of the farmers, and that too the top ones, and I am afraid that the sum of Rs. 250 crores that has been made available by the Reserve Bank for the co-operatives is largely utilised to finance the purchase of foodgrains by the bigger and more prosperous farmers. They are the persons who have advanced money to the smaller ones and they are hoarding stocks in their homes. That is how the money is being utilised.

So, if we really mean business, and unless we mean business, the results as not only in the past 18 years but even in coming 1800 years may not be satisfying because there is already a recorded history of 200 or 300 years where we can find that the country

has never been self-sufficient in food. If we now want the country to be self-sufficient, then we have to face facts.

15.29 hrs.

[SHRI SONAVANE in the Chair]

Take for instance a small unit called the block. In a block, there are about 60 to 70 thousand persons, there will be about 40 to 50 thousand acres of land. Acharya Kripalani rightly emphasized that while we may not have any objection to the grandiose schemes of the river valley projects whose gestation period is long, we must not and should not have neglected the small scale irrigation programmes. Right here, in Delhi itself some enthusiastic men like Mr. L. K. Jain and others sunk a deep tube-well at a cost of Rs. 60,000 out of which Rs. 40,000 was paid to men who were unskilled workers and Rs. 5,000 was spent on the machine. 200 acres are being irrigated every year for the last four years adding nearly Rs. 600 per acre income to the farmers. There also they have very clearly demonstrated that the input of the so-called fertilisers adds only Rs. 100 while the input of water adds Rs. 600 per acre. Therefore, there should be greater importance on irrigation facilities which could be built up with any foreign aid. With Rs. 700 crores which the Minister is seeking to spend over the purchase of fertilisers, if he could spend this Rs. 700 crores at the rate of Rs. 50,000 per tube well for which he does not have to spend a single paisa by way of foreign exchange, he will have put up nearly 1,40,000 tube wells in this country which could be done within five years. 1,40,000 tube-wells will take care of 1.48 crores acres of land...

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member should conclude now.

Shri Rajeshwar Patel: I am concluding, Sir. The benefit would go to about 1.80 crores acres of land. These

is no dearth of areas where the sub-soil water table is high.

When we were passing the law regarding the taking over of the Imperial Bank, Government promised in this House that when it is changed into the State Bank there would be 400 rural units. To this day it had not been done. We took over zamindari and we abolished unsurious institution of the village money lenders. I could understand those steps. We wanted the co-operatives to take the place of the money lenders; we had not succeeded in doing it. If at all we have partially succeeded, there the benefit went really to the big farmers and the small farmers who are more than half of the total were left high and dry for their requirements of capital. The food Minister must have known even during these eighteen months of his office that agricultural operations not conducted in time do not yield the same result as those conducted in time. Time is the essence of the whole thing. Therefore, the small farmers must get irrigational facility and fertilisers in time. All these can not be in the nature of things the concern either of the Centre or to the States. Therefore, the suggestion is that a commercial organisation could be set up in each block with one bank which could have direct dealings with the people and not through agents who are always there available to the poor farmers. Of the taccavi loans that are given today ultimately what reaches the hand of the farmer is not more than thirty per cent.

Mr. Chairman: Shrimati Shakuntala Devi . . . (Interruptions). Those who want to speak will have to catch my eye. Only one lady stood up and she was called.

श्रीमती शकुन्तला देवी (बंका)

सभापति महोदय, स्वतंत्रता-प्राप्ति के घटाहू साल के बाद भी याप हमारी सरकार की जनता को भरपेट खाना नहीं दे सकती है इस से हमारे देश में कूड़ की समस्या बहुत जटिल होगी या रही है। सरकार इस बारे

में बहुत चिन्तित है कि इस को कैसे हल किया जाये। लेकिन मैं निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि केवल सोचने से या क्राइलों में प्लानिंग करने से यह समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती है। बल्कि खेतों में जाकर काम करने से ही यह समस्या हल की जा सकती है। हमारी सरकार केवल क्राइलों पर ही धन खर्च प्लान बनाती है, लेकिन उन को समुचित रूप से कार्यान्वित नहीं कर पाती है। उस ने किसानों को सुविधायें देने के लिए बहुत से प्लान बनाये हैं, लेकिन बेचारे गरीब किसानों को कोई सुविधा नहीं मिल पाती है, जिस से वे धन खर्च के काम में सफल नहीं हो सकते हैं।

हमें पहले सोचना होगा कि खेती के काम में किस चीज की सबसे पहले जरूरत होती है। ऐसा करने पर ही हमारी सरकार एक अच्छी कूड़ पालिनी बना सकती है और कूड़ की समस्या को हल करने में सफल हो सकती है। सबसे पहले पानी की व्यवस्था करनी होगी, ताकि हमारे देश की एक एक भूमि को पानी मिल सके। तभी हम खाद और ट्रैक्टरों का उपयोग कर के अपनी उपज बढ़ाने में सफल हो सकेंगे। हम जानते हैं कि अभी भी बहुत सा इलाका ऐसा है, जहां एक इंच भूमि के लिए भी इरिगेशन का कोई इन्तजाम नहीं है, बल्कि हम वहां पर केवल मानसून पर ही निर्भर करते हैं।

हमारे विहार में खाद्यान्न की हालत यह है कि इन गांव चावल इन फटाक के हिस्से से बिका या। अभी भी बागह या गेरहू फटाक के हिस्से से चावल बिक रहा है। इतिहास में प्रायः तब चावल इतना महंगा नहीं बिका या।

खाद्यान्न के क्षेत्र में सरकार के असफल होने का यही कारण है कि सरकार धन खर्च पर से कड़ाई से काम नहीं लेती है। यहां बड़े बड़े प्राक्सिर्स तो कुछ काम करते हैं, लेकिन जो सरकारी प्राक्सिर्स जिसे, गांव और ब्लॉक में हैं, उनके कारण वहां पर केवल

[श्रीमती शकुन्तला देवी]

घांघनी ही मची हुई है। वहाँ पर केवल उन्हीं लोगों की बात सुनी जाती है, जो उन की खेव गर्म कर पाते हैं।

मैं भ्राप को एक उदाहरण देना चाहती हूँ। राबगीर इनाका पिछले चार साल से एक सूखा क्षेत्र है। वहाँ धान की फ़सल नहीं हो रही है और रबी भी नहीं हो रही है। वहाँ केवल चार पांच लाख रुपये की ज़रूरत है। अगर वहाँ चार पांच लाख रुपये खर्च कर के इरिगेशन का इन्तज़ाम कर दिया जाना है, तो वहाँ करोड़ों मन धान उपज सकता है। भ्राप जानते हैं कि वह इनाका बिहार का सब से उपजाऊ इनाका है। वहाँ के किसान अपनी मेहनत के बल पर एक एक खेत में तीन तीन बार धान की फ़सल दा कर लेता है। लेकिन इस साल धान की फ़सल बोने में असमर्थ हैं, क्योंकि धान के लिए खाद (फ़ाईबर) बहुत आवश्यक है और खाद को वहाँ पर बहुत कमी है। अगर ये लोग राज्य सरकार के पास जाते हैं, तो राज्य सरकार की तरफ से कहा जाता है कि हमारे पास खाद नहीं है, हम कहाँ से? तब ये केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास जाते हैं तथा वे माननीय मंत्री जी के पास अपनी एक पेटिशन भी भेज चुके हैं और मिल भी चुके हैं, लेकिन आज तक उन को एक छटाक खाद भी नहीं मिल पाई है। वहाँ इस समय एमोनियम सल्फ़ेट का खाद 120 रुपये बोरे के हिसाब से मिल रहा है, और वह भी केवल ब्लैक मार्केट में—खुली मार्केट या गवर्नमेंट की किसी दुकान में खाद नहीं मिल पाता है।

इसलिए माननीय मंत्री जी से बेरा निवेदन है कि वह केवल "अधिक धान उपजाओ" के नारों में न धूसे रहें, बल्कि वह रीयल काम की तरफ़ अधिक ध्यान दें, ताकि हम स समस्या को हल करने में सफल हों। आज सरकार भी क्राइलों पर बड़े बड़े प्लान बनाये

जाते हैं, लेकिन किसानों की ज़रूरतें समय पर पूरी नहीं हो पाती हैं जिससे वे प्लान विफल हो जाते हैं। मैं किसान परिवार की लड़की हूँ। मैं जानती हूँ कि खेती किस तरह से की जाती है। अगर अनाज बोने में एक दिन की भी देर हो जाती है, तो फ़सल खराब हो जाती है। मैं भ्रापको अपना एक अनुभव बताना चाहती हूँ। मैंने यहाँ पूसा इन्स्टीट्यूट से हाइल से मंगाया गया गेहूँ का बीज, सोनारा-64, 28 पये में बीस किलोग्राम लिया। मैं ने र जा कर मुंगेर डिस्ट्रिक्ट के संग्रामपुर ब्लाक के बी० डी० प्रो० के कहा कि मैं ये बीज लाई हूँ, भ्राप इस को बोने के लिए अपने इलाके में अनाज कीजिये। कहा जाता है कि अच्छी खाद और समय पर पानी देने से इस सीड से अस्सी मन प्रति एकड़ की उपज हो सकती है। वह बेचारा टाइम पर खाद नहीं दे सका और इसलिए मैं टाइम पर उस को बो न सकी।

इस स्थिति में सरकार उपज बढ़ाने के लिए कैसे कह सकती है? इस प्रकार हम कैसे खेती कर सकते हैं? यह धांधला करने से कि दिल्ली के राजपय पर खेती करो, हमारी फूड की समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती है। फूड की समस्या अगर कोई हल कर सकता है तो किसान ही कर सकता है, दूसरा कोई नहीं, अगर उसे समुचित सुविधा मिल सके।

जहाँ तक धालू की खेती का सम्बन्ध है, हमारे बिहार में भगले साल दस लाख टन ज्यादा धालू की उपज में कमी होने का अनुमान है। इस में काफी कमी आ जायेगी। इसका कारण यह है कि खाद नहीं मिलता है। धालू बोने के लिए पर्याप्त मात्रा में खाद मिलना आवश्यक है। ऐसी अवस्था में दो या तीन टफ़ा फ़सल नहीं पैदा की जा सकती है। इस वास्ते यह बहुत ज़रूरी है कि खाद का इन्तज़ाम किया जाये। अभी किसान खोम अपने बीज वाले धालू एक रुपया या

४ सेर बेच रहे हैं, बूँक उसके पास खाद नहीं है धीर बिना खाद के बो नहीं सकते हैं। जिससे उसे भारी घाटा सहन करना पड़ रहा है। मैं चाहती हूँ कि इस धीर भी ध्राप ध्यान दें।

जहाँ तक ध्रापधारों का खेती करने के लिए सम्बन्ध है, मैं निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि जिस तरह से लड़ाई के मैदान में फौज के लिए ध्रस्त्रों ध्रीर शस्त्रों की जरूरत होती है, उसी तरह से खेती के मैदान में खेती के ध्रापधारों की जरूरत होती है। रशियन ट्रेक्टरों सब से कम दामों में मिला करते थे। ध्रब ध्राप ने उनकी कीमत भी नौ दस हजार रुपये कर दी है। वे समय पर मिलते भी नहीं हैं। ध्राप दुकानों पर जायें इनको खरीदने के लिए तो दस हजार रुपये में भी ये जल्दी नहीं मिलते हैं। ध्रगर ध्राज कोई लेने जाये तो उसको कहा जाता है कि चार पाच नहींने के बाद मिलेंगे। ध्राप ट्रेक्टरों को चाहे विदेशों से मंगायें या देश में ही इनको तैयार करें, लेकिन यह जरूरी है कि किसानों को सस्ते दामों में इसको मुलभ किया जाये। साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहती हूँ कि किसानों को ये ध्रासान कियतों पर मुलभ होने चाहियें। ऐसा ध्राप के पास कोई प्लान नहीं है कि इन को कियतों पर दिया जा सके। ध्राप एक ऐसा नियम बनायें जिससे दस साल की कियतों में किसान को ट्रेक्टर मिल सके। इस तरह के जब तक ध्राप टांस कदम नहीं उठायेंगे तब तक ध्राप की जा नीतियां हैं वे सफल नहीं हो सकती हैं।

बिहार में बटाईदारी का जा कानून है वह भी उपज में बड़ा बाधक है। वह किसान जिसके पान दस बीघा खेती की जमीन होती है, जो उसकी पैचुक सम्पत्ति है, वह कहीं कलक के तौर पर काम या कुछ ध्रीर काम करता है या मजदूरी करके कुछ काम कर सिया करता है ध्रीर ध्रपनी जमीन को बटाई-दारी पर दे कर थोड़ा बहुत ध्रन्न प्राप्त कर

लेता है तथा गरीब बटाईदार जो उसको लेता था उसको भी कुछ थोड़ा बहुत फायदा हो जाता था। ध्रब बटाईदार के डर से लोगों ने सारी जमीन उन से छीन ली है ध्रीर छीनने के बाद वह चाहे परती पड़ी है या कैसे भी पड़ी है उसका कोई ध्रच्छा उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है। उसको बे बो कर वे उसको ऐसे ही छोड़ देते हैं ध्रीर जिससे कोई खास उपज नहीं होती है। इस जमीन में भी काश्त हो सके ध्रीर उपज बड़ा सके इसके लिए यह जरूरी है कि यह जो बटाईदारी का कानून है इसको या तो खत्म किया जाये या इस में संशोधन किये जायें। उदाहरण के लिये एक ध्रादमी ध्रगर, पटना में कलक है तो ध्राप जानते ही हैं कि उसको कितनी ध्रामदनी होती है। उसको सौ दो सौ रुपये माहवार ध्रामदनी होती है। उसे बच्चों को पढ़ाना, लड़कियों की शादी करना, इस थोड़ी ध्रामदनी से उसका गुजारा नहीं चलता है। ध्रगर जमीन को बटाईदारी पर दे दिया जाये तो उसको कुछ ध्रीर ध्रामदनी हो सकता है ध्रीर दोनों को फायदा हो सकता है। लेकिन जब इस तरह से नहीं होता है ध्रीर जमीन को बो कर छोड़ दिया जाता है तो इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि या तो कुछ भी वहाँ पैदा नहीं होता है या बहुत थोड़ा पैदा होता है। इससे उपज बढ़ाने में सहायता नहीं मिलती है। इस वास्ते इस कानून में ध्राप संशोधन करें।

जहाँ तक ज़ोनल सिस्टम का तात्सुक है ध्रनाज के वितरण में इसमें बहुत गड़बड़ी पैदा होती है। ध्राप देखें कि पंजाब में तो चना बीस रुपये के भाव से मिलता है लेकिन हमारे यहाँ बिहार में वह चालीस रुपये के भाव पर मिलता है। बिहार के लोग ध्रधिक चना खाते हैं। लेकिन उनको चना मिलता नहीं है। इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि वे चाहे गेहूँ ध्रीर चाहे चावल ज्यादा खाते हैं जिससे गेहूँ चावल की कमी हो जाती है। उनके सामने ध्रीर कोई चारा ही इसके सिवाय नहीं है। मैं प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि

[श्रीमती शकुन्तला देवी]

जो यह जॉनल सिस्टम की नीति है इस में आप संशोधन करें और आप ऐसी व्यवस्था करें जिससे सारे हिन्दुस्तान में अनाज के दाम एक रहें। प्रत्येक भारतवासी का हक है। उसे समान अधिकार मिलें।

अन्न में मैं इतना ही कहना चाहती हूँ कि आप अपनी नीति को ठोस करें और जो भी प्रेक्टिकल हो वह करें और कागजी फाइल की ओर आप न जायें।

श्रीमती मिनीमाता (बालोदा बाजार) : समापित महोदय, हमारे देश को स्वतंत्र हुए आज अठारह बरस हो गये हैं। पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना में हम ने आशा की थी कि हम अन्न समस्या को हल कर लेंगे। लेकिन हम उसको हल नहीं कर पाये। द्वितीय योजना में फिर हम ने आशा लगाई थी कि हम अस्सी प्रतिशत किसानों को जोकि काश्तकारी करते हैं, उनके उत्पादन के साधनों को उन्नत बना कर अन्न समस्या को हल कर लेंगे। लेकिन उस समय भी हम धोखे में रहे या हम को धोखे में रखा गया। तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना भी समाप्त होने जा रही है। माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने हमारे सामने रिपोर्ट पेश की है और उस में काफी विषय दिये गये हैं, लेकिन उन विषयों में से मुझे केवल दो विषय उचित जंचे हैं। एक विषय तो काश्तकारों के लिए दीर्घकालीन ऋण का है और दूसरी छोटी सिंचाई योजना से सम्बन्धित है। हमारे काश्तकारों को केवल पानी चाहिये। बिना पानी के काश्तकारी नहीं हो सकती है। पानी के बगैर उनकी फसल सूख जाती है। अगर मानसून पर ही हम भरोसा रखते हैं तो हो सकता है कि हमारी अन्न की समस्या हल ही न हो पाये। कभी भी हम फेल हो सकते हैं। मंत्री महोदय

से मेरा अनुरोध है कि छोटी सिंचाई योजनाओं को वह प्राथमिकता दें, उनको वह प्रगतिशील बनायें। अन्न की समस्या जन साधारण की समस्या है। खाद्य की समस्या केन्द्र की समस्या नहीं है। यह समस्या जो साधारण जनता की है, इसको क्यों नहीं मंत्री महोदय हाथ में लेते हैं और काश्तकारी को उन्नत बनाने के लिए, वह हर विषय को, हर सुविधा को काश्तकार को नहीं पहुंचाते हैं? मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि कब तक हम इस देश के नागरिकों को भुलावे में रखें? आज हम अन्न की समस्या को हल करने के उपायों पर विचार कर रहे हैं, इसके बारे में सोच रहे हैं और कह रहे हैं कि इस समस्या का हम कुछ न कुछ हल निकालेंगे। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि इस तरह से भुलावे में डाल कर हम क्या काश्तकारों का समाधान कर सकेंगे, और अगर कर सकेंगे तो कब तक के लिये। हो सकता है कि एक दिन ऐसा आ जाये जबकि जनता के रोप का हमें सामना करना पड़े। अगर जनता में रोप पैदा हो गया तो जनता को सम्भालना सरकार के लिए कठिन हो जायेगा।

जहां तक दीर्घकालीन ऋणों का सम्बन्ध है मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि यह बहुत ही अच्छा विचार है। जब तक आप काश्तकार को दीर्घकालीन ऋण नहीं देंगे तब तक वे काश्तकारी को उन्नत नहीं बना सकेंगे। जब जब इस सदन में अन्न समस्या पर बहस होती है तब तक हमारी सरकार अपनी सरकारी फाइलों के द्वारा एक योजना बना लेती है जिससे न ही काश्तकार को और न ही जनता को कोई सुविधा होती है बल्कि कठिनाई ही होती है। पिछले सेशन में जब अन्न समस्या पर चर्चा चली थी तब एक फूड कारपोरेशन का जन्म हुआ था। अब जब चर्चा चल रही है तो शायद एक एग्रिकल्चरल कारपोरेशन का जन्म होगा। इस तरह की जो चीजें हैं आज की व्यवस्था में वे बढ़ेंगी चटेंगी नहीं।

ये जो कारपोरेमंड बनती हैं ये कारपोरेशन नहीं होती हैं बल्कि कुरप्शन होता है। यहां बड़ी करप्शन होती है। बड़े कास्तकारों से पैसा लेना हो तो वह मिल जाता है। छोटे छोटे कास्तकारों का जहां तक सम्बन्ध है उनको इन से कोई फायदा नहीं होता है। जब तक ध्राप छोटे कास्तकारों को प्रोत्साहन नहीं देंगे उनकी सुविधाओं का ख्याल नहीं रखेंगे, उनकी आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति नहीं करेंगे तब तक कास्तकारी की जा समस्याएँ हैं, वे हल नहीं हो सकती हैं, तब तक हमारा उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ सकता है

हमारे कास्तकार किसी बात में किसी से पीछे नहीं हैं ध्राप उनको पानी दे दीजिये फिर देखिये वे क्या क्या करके ध्राप को दिखाते हैं। जिस तरह से हमारे फीजी जवान सीमा पर दुश्मनों के साथ लड़ रहे हैं उसी तरह से हमारे कास्तकार जमीन की एक एक इंच जमीन के साथ लड़ कर उसको उपजाऊ बना कर ध्राप को दे सकते हैं।

हमारी दो बुनियादी जरूरतें हैं, एक धन्न की धीर दूसरे कपड़े की। ये जो दो बुनियादी जरूरतें हैं, ये पूरी होनी चाहियें। मैंने बजट सेशन में भी मंत्री महोदय से प्रार्थना की थी धीर धन फिर करती हूँ कि हमारी दो धलग धलग योजनाएं होनी चाहियें एक तो प्रतिरक्षा के बारे में धीर दूसरी धन्न के बारे में। जब तक हम इन दोनों योजनाओं को सफल नहीं बनायेंगे तब तक हम अपने देश को सफलतापूर्वक ध्रागे नहीं बढ़ा सकते हैं। हम जब बाहर से धन्न मंगाते हैं, विदेशों पर धपनी धन्न की जरूरतों के लिए निर्भर रहते हैं, तो इससे हमारी कमजोरी ही बाहिर होती है। हमें चाहिये कि हम अपने पैरों पर खड़े हों धीर दूसरों पर निर्भर न करें।

खाद्य समस्या को हल करने में योगदान देने के लिए सभी राज्य प्रस्तुत हैं। किन्तु बिना केन्द्र की सहायता के राज्य धपने

प्रयत्नों में सफल नहीं हो सकते हैं। मैं मध्य प्रदेश की ही मिसाल ध्राप को देती हूँ। मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने एक ध्रापातकालीन योजना बना कर केन्द्र के पास भेजी है। इस योजना में तीन सुझाव हैं। एक तो खाद्यान्न के बारे में, दूसरा छोटी सिंचाई योजनाओं के बारे में धीर तीसरा जिस को हम रहट कहते हैं, लिफ्ट इरिगेशन कहते हैं, उसके बारे में है। इन तीनों योजनाओं का जो कुल खर्चा कार्य चलाने का है वह 2078 लाख रुपया है। यह एक विस्तृत योजना है जोकि ध्राप के पास भेजी गई है। मध्य प्रदेश के संसद् सदस्य खाद्य मंत्री से मिले भी थे। उन्होंने कुछ सुझाव भी दिये थे। लेकिन धभी तक कुछ नहीं हुआ है। वह योजना ध्राज भी मंत्री महोदय की ध्राफिस की फाइलों में धघर से धघर चक्कर काट रही है धीर हमारी सरकार को कोई उसके बारे में संतोषजनक जवाब नहीं मिला है। थोड़े दिन पहले मध्य प्रदेश के खाद्य मंत्री जी मध्य प्रदेश के संसद् सदस्यों से मिले थे। उनके कथनानुसार केन्द्र की सहायता के बिना मध्य प्रदेश का काम नहीं चल सकता। उन की प्रेस रिपोर्ट भी केन्द्रीय खाद्य मंत्री महोदय ने पढ़ी होगी। उन्होंने बतलाया कि मध्य प्रदेश का खाद्य उत्पादन पिछले वर्ष से 35 लाख टन से भी कम हुआ है। हमारा छत्तीसगढ़ विस्तार क्षेत्र, जो कि मेरा चुनाव क्षेत्र है, हमेशा से महाराष्ट्र धीर गुजरात को धन्न देता रहा है। धभी मैं धोपाल गई थी, ध्राज ही वहां से ध्राई हूँ। वहां से हमें यह समाचार मिला है कि एक छटांक धन्न भी लोगों को नहीं मिल रहा है। जिस दिन मैं ध्रा रही थी, मेरे रिश्तों के सामने एक ध्रादमी ध्राया धीर कहने लगा कि मुझ से धार ध्राने पैसे ले लिया जाये धीर मुझे कहीं से एक छटांक बाबल दिला दिया जाये। जब यह हालत उस छत्तीसगढ़ की है तो ध्राप धन्दाजा जना सकते हैं कि दूसरी जगहों की क्या हालत होगी। हम ने मंत्री महोदय को लिखा था कि छत्तीसगढ़ में बांरिश न होने की वजह से

[श्रीमती मिनीमाता]

वहाँ भ्रष्ट की समस्या भयंकर होने वाली है। मंत्री महोदय ने मिलने का समय भी दिया था। मध्य प्रदेश के हम कुछ सदस्य उन से मिलने गये। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि भ्रष्ट का तो सर्प्लस एरिया है, भ्रष्ट को इतनी चिन्ता करने की जरूरत नहीं है। इस को सुन कर मुझे हमारे छत्तीसगढ़ की एक कहावत याद आ गई। एक भ्रादमी दांत निकले हुए नदी में डूब रहा था। उस को देख कर एक भ्रादमी ने कहा कि देखो, वह भ्रादमी डूब रहा है, नहीं वह हंस रहा है। यही हालत हमारे मध्य प्रदेश की है। वहाँ की भ्रष्ट की स्थिति संकट में है लेकिन मंत्री महोदय का यह विचार है मध्य प्रदेश के लिये कि वह एक सर्प्लस एरिया है।

मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार का कर्तव्य केवल भ्रष्ट पर कब्जा करना ही है, उन का कर्तव्य किसानों को मदद करना और छोटी सिंचाई योजनाओं को ठीक ढंग से चलाना नहीं है। हमारी पूर्व पीढ़ियों से हमें सुनने को मिला था कि जैसे कलकत्ते में सन् 1942 में भ्रष्ट पड़ा था उसी तरह से छत्तीसगढ़ में सन् 1902 में भ्रष्ट पड़ा था और स्थिति यह आ गई थी कि भ्रादमियों ने जोड़े-से भ्रष्ट के लिये भ्रष्ट बच्चे को बेचा था। भ्रष्ट हमारे पड़ोस में एक भ्रादमी है जिस ने एक किलो चावल के लिये भ्रष्ट बच्चे को बेचा था। वह भ्रादमी भ्रष्ट भी जिन्दा है। सन् 1902 में कहते हैं कि छत्तीसगढ़ में ऐसी स्थिति आ गई थी कि भ्रादमियों को भ्रष्ट बच्चे भी भ्रूण कर खाते देखा गया था। इस बार भी हो सकता कि छत्तीसगढ़ में ही स्थिति आ जाये।

कम उत्पादन होते हुए भी पिछले वर्ष मध्य प्रदेश ने गुजरात, महाराष्ट्र, दिल्ली, मैसूर तथा अन्य राज्यों को 50 हजार टन ज्वार और 13 हजार टन चना तथा अन्य भ्रष्ट दिये थे। जब मध्य प्रदेश की नीति इतनी उदार है तो केन्द्र की नीति मध्य प्रदेश

के लिये इतनी कंजूसी क्यों है। दो सालों से देखा गया है कि मध्य प्रदेश में गेहूँ की फसल भ्रष्ट नहीं रही है। इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्र को हम को सहायता करनी चाहिये थी, लेकिन भ्रष्ट तक हम को सन्तोषजनक ढंग से केन्द्र से जवाब नहीं मिला है। भ्रष्ट देश एक संकट से गुजर रहा है, विदेशी भ्रष्टमणों ने हमारी भ्रष्ट खोल दी हैं। हम को यह निश्चय कर लेना चाहिये हम को भ्रष्टनी जरूरत के लिये स्वावलम्बी बनना पड़ेगा। कमसे कम भ्रष्ट के मामले में विदेशों पर निर्भर रहने से, उन के गुलाम होने से, किसी भी समय हम भ्रष्ट संकट के घेरे में आ सकते हैं।

श्री शिवभूति स्वामी (कोप्ल) : सभापति महोदय, इस भारतवर्ष का चित्र हमेशा से जरायती का रहा है। जब तक हम इस बैंकप्राउंड में, पूरी समस्या को न देखें और उसी दृष्टि से भ्रष्टने देश की हुकूमत का वांचा न बनायें, उस वक्त तक हम किसी भी तरह से कामयाब नहीं हो सकते। इस मुल्क में 200 सालों तक जो ब्रिटिश हुकूमत रही है उस ने जो पालिसी भ्रष्टने बजट की रखी थी वही पालिसी भ्रष्ट भी इस हुकूमत की चल रही है। इस जमाने में भी हम ने इस बजट की पद्धति को नहीं बदला है।

Mr. Chairman: I will request hon. members not to approach the Chair. If they want to communicate anything to the Chair, they may send slips.

श्री शिवभूति स्वामी : भ्रष्टादी से पहले के जमाने में हम विदेशों से कपड़ा या जो दूसरी चीजें मंगवाते थे, उस का भी विरोध किया गया था। यहाँ तक कि गांधी जी ने तो, जो कपड़ा इम्पोर्ट किया जाता था, उस को जलवाया भी। जिस दिन तक हम भारतवर्ष में बाहर से भ्रष्ट मंगवाना बन्द नहीं करेंगे, उस वक्त तक, वह हमारी भ्रष्टादी पर लानत की तरह बना रहेगा। निहाजा हमारे साथ या भ्रष्ट मंत्री को यह कीर्ति करनी चाहिये

कि हम इस देश में बाहर से धन्न मंगवाना बन्द करें ।

मैं खाद्य मंत्री को बधाई देना चाहता हूँ कि उन्होंने साफ लफ्जों में हमें बतलाया कि कितनी गम्भीर खाद्य समस्या इस मुल्क में है और दूसरे महकमे उन से सहयोग करने से किस तरह बाज रहते हैं । यहां पर धरर मैं यह कहूँ तो कोई ज्यादाती नहीं होगी कि जो हमारी बजट बनाने की पालिसी है, वही ठीक नहीं है । हमारे इस मुल्क में जो भी धामदनी ध्राती है वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा एग्रिकल्चर सेक्टर से ध्राती है । जब उसकी 50 फी सदी धामदनी हम एग्रिकल्चर से हासिल करते हैं, जो कि इस मुल्क के करीब 80 फी सदी किसान देते हैं, तब क्या बजह है कि हम धरने बजट को एग्रिकल्चर को बढ़ावा देने वाले धौर इर्रिगेशन क्ले बढ़ावा देने वाले ढांचे में नहीं ढाल सकते धौर इस के लिये ज्यादा पैसे नहीं दे सकते । सिर्फ़ बातों से या बयानों से या काश्तकार को इधर उधर 10, 20 करोड़ या 100, 200 करोड़ रु० मुहैया कर देने से धौर हजारों करोड़ों का धन्न बाहर से मंगा कर, कुछ होने वाला नहीं है । इस तरह से ध्राप धरने उत्पादन को कामयाब करने के लिए कुछ नहीं कर सकते । हम को हर तरह से देखना है कि : इस मुल्क का बजट एग्रिकल्चर को बढ़ावा देने वाला हो । ध्राप कह सकते हैं कि ध्राजकल इमर्जेन्सी है । लेकिन धरर इमर्जेन्सी से पहले के बजटों को देखा जाये तो पायेंगे कि इस स्टेट को बैलफेधर स्टेट कहा जाता था, एग्रिकल्चर स्टेट कहा जाता था, लेकिन बैलफेधर प्रोधाम के लिये धब तक क्या किया गया है । बैलफेधर प्रोधाम की बात जान कर ध्राप को ताज्जुब होगा । 'सेंट्रल बजट इन बीफ' हमारे सामने रखा गया है । जब तक इमर्जेन्सी नहीं थी, तब तक 21 फी सदी एग्रिकल्चर की तरफ जाता था, लेकिन धब सिर्फ़ 10 फी सदी ही रखा गया है; उस से ज्यादा नहीं । ध्राप जितने बैलफेधर धौर

प्लैनिंग की बात कर रहे हैं उस में प्लैनिंग, बैलफेधर धौर एग्रिकल्चर सब कुछ मिला कर, इस डिपार्टमेंट का खर्च 10 फी सदी रखा गया है । धौर इस में से भी एग्रिकल्चर से ताल्लुक रखने वाला रुपया सिर्फ़ 2 या 3 फी सदी है, इस से ज्यादा नहीं । जिस मुल्क में 80 फी सदी लोग खेती से ताल्लुक रखने वाले रहते हों, उस में 3 फी सदी बजट का खेती के लिये रख कर, धरर यह सोचा जाये कि इस से खाद्य समस्या हल हो जायेगी, यह धरने को धोखा देना है, मुल्क को धोखा देना है धौर धरनी ध्रात्मा को धोखा देना है । इसलिये मैं ध्रपील करना चाहता हूँ इस हाउस के सदस्यों से कि वे जल्द से जल्द इस बात पर विचार करें धौर कम से कम बजट का 50 फी सदी एग्रिकल्चर के लिये मुहैया करें ।

धौर मुल्कों में चांद तक पढ़वने के लिये रिसर्च चल रही हैं, एटोमिक एनर्जी के ऊपर ध्राप भी 20 या 25 करोड़ रु० खर्च करते हैं, लेकिन धरने मुल्क के धन्दर नदियों का इतना पानी बह कर समुद्र में चला जाता है, क्या ध्राप उस को जमा कर के, खेतों तक नहीं पढ़वा सकते, क्या हम इस नदी के पानी को लिफ्ट इर्रिगेशन के जरिये से खेतों में नहीं पढ़वा सकते हैं ? शहर में धरर बिजली बन्द होती है तो बन्द होने दीजिये, धन्धेरा होता है तो होने दीजिये, लेकिन पहले बिजली की ताकत से पानी लिफ्ट करके जमीन को दिया जाय । ध्राप को यह सुनकर ताज्जुब होगा कि यहां पर कोई राष्ट्रीय नीति एग्रिकल्चर की या खाद्य समस्या की कुछ भी नहीं है । धरर कुछ सोच-विचार है भी तो इतने मुहकमे बढ़ गये हैं कि, उन में ध्राप हाथ पैर नहीं चला सकते । यहां तक कि मिनिस्टर के मन में रहते हुए भी एग्रिकल्चर की यह समस्या या दूसरी समस्या हल हो सकती है, तो भी उसको करने से वह बिलकुल कासिर हैं, बिलकुल मजबूर हैं । इस एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का फार्मर्स की दृष्टि से

[श्री शिवमूर्ति स्वामी]

शीफ़ारियंटेशन हांना चाहिए; यह डांचा बिलकुल बदलना चाहिए ।

16 hrs.

बहुत बातें कही जाती हैं कि फटिलाइजर सप्लाई किया जा रहा है । लेकिन क्या सिस्टम है प्राप का फटिलाइजर सप्लाई करने का ? स्टेट का जो कोम्पारेटिव यूनियन है, उसके द्वारा प्राप डिस्ट्रिक्ट कोम्पारेटिव यूनियन को देते हैं । डिस्ट्रिक्ट वाले तहसील को देते हैं और वहां से विलेज में जाता है । इस तरह से पांच जगह से होकर जाने में 18-20 रुपये उसका मूल्य हो जाता है । और इस साल तो मैसूर यूनियन का जो फटिलाइजर था, उसके सम्बन्ध में बहुत सी शिकायत और तार भी था चुके हैं । जहां पर कि इरिगेशन होता है, वहां पर सप्लाई बिलकुल कंट्रोल रेट से नहीं हुई । व्यापारियों के पास 70 और 65 रुपये में एक थैला बिकाऊ होता है, तो वहां की कोम्पारेटिव सोसाइटी को खारिज किया जाय क्योंकि वहां की यूनियन में ही अर्क भाँकटिंग की शिकायत आयी, पेपर में निकली है । तो इन तरह से जो ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन चल रहा है, तो मौके पर खाद न मिलने की वजह से, पानी नहीं मिलने की वजह से बहुत नुस्खान हो जाता है । नानी के बारे में तो जो मिनिस्टर शर्मा रेड्डी ने कहा है कि केन्द्र में प्रोजेक्ट का विकास जल्दी से जल्दी उसको पूरा किया जाना चाहिए, मैं उसका पूरा पूरा समर्थन करता हूँ । केन्द्र जल्दी से जल्दी उन प्रोजेक्ट पर प्रयत्न करे । लेकिन जब तक यह राशन डिस्ट्रिक्ट चल रहा है, रिश्म के पानी का शगड़ा चल रहा है, इस शगड़े को खत्म नहीं करेंगे, तब तक खान नहीं चलेगा । मेरी खास शिकायत इरिगेशन मिनिस्टर श्री के. एल. राय से है । वह इस पानी के शगड़े को खत्म नहीं करने दे रहे हैं । मेरा विश्वास है कि जब तक वह इस पद पर रहेंगे, यह पानी का शगड़ा खत्म

नहीं होगा । क्या वजह है कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट का ट्रिब्यूनल नियुक्त करके इस शगड़े को समाप्त नहीं करते और उसके बाद केन्द्र इस प्रोजेक्ट को अपने हाथ में लेकर पूरा कर सकता है, लेकिन यह क्यों नहीं करते ?

रायलजीमा का जो फेमिन डिस्ट्रिक्ट एरिया है, वह कर्नाटक में है । अरर तुंगभद्रा प्रोजेक्ट में उसको इरिगेशन मिल सकता है । लेकिन अरर तुंगभद्रा प्रोजेक्ट का सर्वे 1890 में हुआ था और उस जमाने में 12 करोड़ रुपये का अन्दाजा उसके लिए हुआ । लेकिन 60-70 वर्ष हो जाने के बाद भी, आज तक यह अरर तुंगभद्रा प्रोजेक्ट क्यों नहीं लिया गया ? उसका फाइनाल सर्वे नहीं हुआ । इस प्रोजेक्ट को जल्दी से जल्दी लिया जाना चाहिए ।

फेमिन कंडीशन मैसूर में किस तरह से है, उसका हाथ में यहां पर बताऊं तो यह कहेंगे कि मैं विरोधी होने के कारण विरोधी दृष्टिकोण से ऐसा कह रहा हूँ । लेकिन यह चीफ मिनिस्टर का पत्र मैं प्राप को पढ़कर सुनाना चाहता हूँ, उसके एक दो सेंटेंस सुनाना चाहता हूँ । इसी कापी फूड मिनिस्टर को भी भेजी जा चुकी है :—

"The condition in the rural areas is indescribably bad and every day it is deteriorating. Will you kindly help me. As you know, I said in the Working Committee of the AICC that an extremely precarious food situation is prevailing in Mysore and not even 50 per cent of the expected annual production of foodgrains will be possible this year on account of the total failure of rainfall."

उसके लिए 9 लाख टन की उन्होंने मांग की है । हां, कुछ प्राप भेज रहे हैं, लेकिन भेजने का और तरसीम करने का तरीका इतना बुरा है कि जिसकी वजह से ठीक से

लोगों को मिल नहीं पाता है। कोप्रोपरेटिव सोसाइटी वाले जाते हैं तो उनको नहीं मिलता है। ऐसी ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव डिफिकल्टीज हैं बड़े-बड़े मिल वाले जाते हैं, कृष्णा मिल वाले जाते हैं तो मिल जाता है। करोड़ों रुपये का इसमें गड़बड़ हुआ है और यह सब निकायतें प्रायी हैं। इसलिए ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का जो लक्ष्य है, उसको भी ठीक करना चाहिए।

जब तक यह बजट जो है, इसका पचास परसेंट प्राप ऐग्रीकल्चर के लिए मुहैया नहीं करेंगे, तब तक केवल बातों से यह काम हल नहीं होगा और यह पानी का झगड़ा तब तक खत्म नहीं होगा, जब तक केन्द्रीय सरकार सुप्रीम कोर्ट का ट्रिब्यूनल बिठा कर, इस को हल नहीं करती।

सभापति महोदय : मिस्टर जे० धार०
मेहता

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय : मैंने पचासों दफा कहा, सब को मौका दिया, हमको क्यों नहीं देते ? (ष्यबधान) . . . प्राप मेरा अपमान करते हैं। कितनी दफा मैंने कहा। प्राप ने सब को मौका दिया, मुझ को मौका नहीं देते।

Shri J. R. Mehta (Pali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the pointed attention of the hon. Food Minister and this august House to several paradoxes and anomalies which are bedevilling our food policy. It may be that they are matters of commonplace, but my grievance is that even these commonplace matters are being overlooked.

The first anomaly is that the producers in the State which produces the most get the least out of it. The producers there get the least prices. We talk of incentives to the producer, but can we think of a greater disincentive than this?

Secondly, people are taking more and more to cash crops, and yet we say we want to produce more and more food. Earlier in the debate,

we heard an hon. Member here, who claimed to be a farmer and who solemnly averred that he will not sow any cereal on an inch of land if he can help it. Unless you control the cash crops either with incentives or by legislative action, we cannot hope to get more production.

Thirdly, we fix the maximum prices without the capacity to enforce them. We cannot enforce them because we have not sufficient stocks. The result is that we create black-market and that blackmarket leads to higher prices and inflation.

16.08 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Another anomaly is that we fix the maximum prices of cereals and we do not fix the maximum prices of coarse grains. The result is that in places where there is no rationing or in cities, we get coarse grains at higher prices than the cereals. Last year when I was in Calcutta I found people giving cereals to cattle because there the people are given half wheat and half rice under compulsion. Those who do not use wheat they give it to the cattle. We talk of rationing without sufficient stock needed for the purpose. Shri Kripalani was rightly complaining that this is not the way to make rationing successful. Then, we have rightly or wrongly paralysed the trade without realising that in our present state of economy, when a very large percentage of our farmers have only marginal surplus to give and when we want some agency which can knock at their door to mop up that small surplus, we have not found any alternative agency which can do this job.

We talk so much about fertilisers and yet all these years we have not done very much to make ourselves self-sufficient in fertilisers. The way we are planning we do not know when these deficiencies will be made up and yet, in our obsession for chemical fertilisers, we have neglected the use of whatever green manure

[Shri J. R. Mehta]

or compost that can be available in the country.

In this context I have a feeling that we have done a lot of disservice by running down the cow because the cow, whatever else it may be is a miniature fertiliser factory and if we could use cowdung by finding some alternative substitutes which could be used for fuel, we can make up for much of this deficiency in fertilisers.

We talk of agriculture being raised to the level of an industry as a means for increased food production and yet we have left nothing undone to reduce our holdings to small bits. Fragmentation has gone apace and we have done nothing to consolidate the holdings and make them economic.

We complain of diversity of agencies for implementation and yet we have done nothing to bring about unified control. The agencies for the implementation of the programmes of agricultural production, we are told, are several and they suffer from several drawbacks. This the hon. Food Minister had admitted in this pamphlet which has been circulated amongst us.

I can go on multiplying these anomalies and paradoxes but whatever I have said should, I think, suffice to convince the House that everything is not going on well and what I mean to stress is that unless we can resolve all these paradoxes and anomalies, whatever we might do and whatever might be our intentions, we shall not be able to achieve our goal.

The greatest paradox, of course, is that the ultimate responsibility lies with the Centre—at least, everybody takes it that the ultimate responsibility of feeding the people is with the Centre—and yet we are at the mercy of the States. They can do whatever they like. There is no uniform policy even now as regards

distribution, procurement, rationing or so many things. My submission is that unless these anomalies and paradoxes are rectified, we shall always be in difficulties.

We had the hon. Food Minister telling us that all the Chief Ministers are co-operating with him. I think, this is only a political statement. My apprehension is that he has made separate and secret treaties with each of them and, therefore, cannot complain on the floor of this House. This is probably mixing politics with food. In any case, I should like to say that notwithstanding our fervent appeals to keep food free from politics, we should keep in mind that the local politician is too much of a politician to abide by this advice. With considerable pain I have to say that I know of an instance in a State when a year back a highly placed politician and a member of the Government was preaching to the cultivators that they should not bring their grain into the market because that was the time when they could have their revenge on the urban people.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member's time is up.

Shri Shinkre (Marmagoa): He is making very good points.

Shri J. R. Mehta: I will touch upon two other aspects briefly of the situation. One is that we are talking ad nauseum about putting in more and more inputs—fertilisers, seeds, irrigation, credit and all that—but may I ask respectfully, do our cultivators not know all these things? The difficulty is not that they do not know, but the difficulty is that whatever inputs are available are not readily made available to them. The seed does not reach them in time; the water is not given them in time; the fertilisers do not reach them in time—whatever we have in the country. So my suggestion is that we should have a depot in each district where all these things should

be stocked for a year in advance so that they do not arrive too late after the crop has been sown.

One word about Rajasthan and I will have done.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All that you have said applies to Rajasthan.

Shri J. R. Mehta: My State is in a very bad way and the situation is worst ever. The Rajasthanis do not complain; that is the difficulty. They are used to famines and, therefore, they do not complain as loudly as other States do. But I wish to emphasize that the situation there is as worse as it can be and, therefore, I will appeal to the Food Minister to pay special attention to Rajasthan. In this connection I would specially appeal to him to think of advancing the construction of the Rajasthan Canal because if we can cut down the period of its construction and reduce it by five years and complete the whole construction in two years, probably we would have gone a long way in meeting the food shortage of India.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee.

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपको पचास दफा कहा, पर आप पीछे वालों को समय नहीं देते ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will go on even till seven o'clock if you want, but Members must have patience and sit here and should not demand quorum.

श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप हमको मौका नहीं देते । पीछे वालों को भी मौका दीजिये ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : आप शारदा मुखर्जी नहीं हैं, आप बैठ जाइए ।

Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee (Ratnagiri): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,

Members who have spoken before me have contributed in a large measure to matters regarding irrigation and other agricultural problems; therefore, I am not going to add to their opinions, but to say that as far as I can see the food problem hinges on two important aspects—firstly, on the increased production of food-grains and, secondly, equally important, the distribution of the food-grains. Therefore, during the short time at my disposal I am going to speak mainly on the question of distribution.

The fact that the brunt of this debate has fallen upon the Food Minister is, I think, rather unjust because of the various aspects of this problem. He can only carry the burden of a very small part of the responsibility. Therefore I would say that looking at it from the economic point of view, prices in general had been rising of all commodities. Consumer prices, particularly of the working class, had an upsurge, starting from December, 1963. In January 1965 the price level had gone up to 161.1 and in August 1965 to 166.4. As prices kept on going up, so did the industrial wages. Therefore the purchasing power of the people had gone up and it was only natural that the foodgrains should find their way into the markets which could give them better prices. While the prices have been going up, unfortunately the industrial production has had a deceleration and, therefore, although the industrial growth in 1963-64 was 9.1 per cent, in 1964-65, it dropped to 6.4 per cent. One can say, especially judging from the place I come, roundabout Bombay, where agriculture, in any case, is not a very paying thing and people have to come to the cities, that the industrial growth has not been as fast as one would have liked it to be. There has been a double pressure. Taking all this into consideration, the prices which prevailed in the cities have also affected agriculture. There is no reason why the agriculturist should sell his product at a lower

[Shrimati Sharda Mukerjee]

price than what he would get in markets which do not necessarily come within his State but which the Government says he should cater to. If we want to cope with this situation, it is necessary that the agricultural supplies should be stepped up and this can be the only thing which can have any impact on the prices and on our economic growth.

One of the interesting facts is that it is not the agricultural produce which has gone down but it is the marketability of these things which has come down. For instance, in 1960-61, the production of rice was 34.2 million tons and the procurement was only 8.8 lakh tons. In 1961-62, the production of rice went upto 34.8 million tons and the procurement was only 5.1 lakh tons. In 1962-63, the procurement of rice was 4.7 lakh tons. In 1963-64, the production of rice was 36.9 million tons and the procurement was only 7 lakh tons. Only in 1964-65, when the Government came in in a strong way that the procurement improved a bit. The production of rice was 38.7 million tons and the procurement was 12.8 lakh tons. In the case of wheat also, we see the same thing. The production has gone up but the procurement has not kept pace with it. Similarly, we see that it is not that the food production has gone down. For instance, in 1963-64, the total production of foodgrains was 79.4 million tons and in 1964-65 we had a rise of 10 per cent in production. We also had higher imports. In 1963-64, the import was to the tune of about 4½ million tons and during the last year, the import was to the extent of 6 million tons. But in spite of that, in last summer, we had the worst crisis of food shortage.

What I want to point is that it is the responsibility of the Government to see that two things are done. One is, that the produce is brought in adequate quantity into the market and, secondly, that the distribution is

effected in such a way that it does not go only to those who can pay higher prices but that it is available in sufficient quantity to the poor man.

The Food Minister has told us that he is greatly concerned about the food imports. He has told us that we have, unfortunately to depend very heavily on the imports of P. L. 480. But these P. L. 480 imports seem to be increasing every year. Our food production increases every year and it seems that the position of shortage does not improve. This is what the Reserve Bank of India Currency and Finance Report says. It says that out of the total assistance that our country has had during the first four years of the Third Five Year Plan, upto the end of 1965, aid authorisation from the U.S.A. under P. L. 480 programme amounted to Rs. 1,386 crores or about one-half of the total assistance from that country. It is estimated that in 1964-65, the net foreign assistance is higher by Rs. 188 crores than in the previous year. The Report says that the P.L. 480 assistance in 1964-65 amounted to Rs. 306 crores whereas during the previous year it was to the tune of Rs. 216 crores. I read in the newspapers this morning that we are expecting even a higher allocation or a higher allotment of import of foodgrains to the tune of 11 million tons from America as against 6 million tons last year. This is indeed a sad state of affairs. In fact, I would say that the P.L. 480 import has been the bane of our life and as long as we continue to depend on it, I am afraid, we shall make no effort whatsoever either to increase production in the country or to distribute it in such a way that it can reach the poor man and that it does not go only into the mouths and the pockets of the rich men and the middle-men.

I know there are limitations as to the controls which the Central Government can effectively impose. I should say that the Central Government has at least superficially the

promise of cooperation from various sections of communities and from various States. But in point of fact this does not happen at all. We have the zonal system, the single-State zones. But how far does this single-State zone operate? How far is it true that there is no smuggling out of those States? Even in the case of deficit States where the Central Government provides the grain to feed that States—the Central Government provides 10 times the amount that it undertook to provide earlier—still there is a deficit. In the case of surplus States, where the promises are given that so much grain will be supplied to the Centre or to the adjoining States, these promises are not being kept. I do not want to find fault with anyone. But the fact is that the zonal system has not proved as successful as it was hoped and I would, therefore, suggest to the Minister that he should reconsider this and that he should perhaps reinstitute the old system under which there was the southern zone for rice, Madhya Pradesh was linked up with Gujarat and Maharashtra and there was the eastern group of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. I suggest this because, at any rate, if there were shortages, the Central Government would be liable to the commitment of less amount of grain than it is today. Today the commitment of Central Government is 23 lakhs. Last year, it was able to procure 15 to 16 lakh tons of rice and with the drought that the country is facing today, probably it will procure 12 lakh tons. There will be a shortage in the procurement of rice. How does the Central Government hope to make up that deficiency and provide 23 lakh tons to which it is committed—10 lakh tons for Kerala, 6 lakhs tons for Maharashtra and so on?

With regard to fixation of prices which has been recommended by the Foodgrains Prices Commission, I would say that the support price is a very good idea but where the maximum price is below the ruling market price, it will just not work. No

farmer can be persuaded to hand-over his grain at a price which is not remunerative and which is not in keeping with the market rate. The Government has suggested that there should be a monopoly procurement and that there should be a levy. In my State of Maharashtra, where there was a monopoly procurement for jowar, the State was able to procure only 7 per cent of the production. In Andhra Pradesh, where the annual production of rice is 46 lakh tons, the Government was able to collect only 5 lakh tons. So, both the levy system and the procurement system have not been as successful as the Government would have liked them to be.

The Minister has said that there should be discipline and co-operation. May I just say that he may have either discipline or co-operation; he cannot have both. If any one does not act as he is expected to, then you take the law in your hands; you take the responsibility to see that he is punished; otherwise, you cannot have discipline. In the Army one is shot at sight. If it is co-operation that you want; then you must go along the way that other people expect you to go. You have to come to some compromise. This is the decision that he has to take. But the fact is that he cannot have both discipline and co-operation then the State policy will not work.

Lastly, may I say that already there is some amount of panic in the people due to the military danger on our frontiers and let us not have a further alarm and panic because of food shortage. We are short of food, but we are not that short. Let us create confidence in the people.

Shri Himmatsinhji (Kutch): Hardly a session passes without our discussing the food problem. This problem of food is discussed in this House as well as outside the House, but the more we discuss it, the worse it seems to become.

[Shri Himmatsinhji]

Recently the Prime Minister made an announcement that the nation should grow more food. Perhaps he had in mind the approaching rabi season, and that is why he made this clarion call to the nation. At that time I was in my area the farmer was running about, going from pillar to post, to get crude oil for his pumping sets; there was hardly oil enough to irrigate his normal crops. How could there be any possibility of his growing more food. Apart from that I do not know whether the hon. gentlemen who sit opposite, who adorn the treasury benches, know exactly as to what are the difficulties that the farmer has to go through; if they were known to them, then we would not be facing this situation; the farmer would not be suffering from these difficulties. The farmer has to contend with not only the vagaries of weather, but has also to face the corrupt officials right from the smallest revenue officer upto the Mamlatdar or Tahsildar as he is known in many parts of the country. Apart from that, in my State at least there is another difficulty which he has to face, i.e., the Panchayat administration; the Collector is there, the District Development Officer is also there; there are two sets of people working there; it is confusion worse confounded as far as the poor man in the village is concerned.

Mere slogans and messages are not going to produce food. We have to back them up by properly calculated action. I wonder, out of all the things that are written down in official pamphlets, etc., how many are really put into action. We see jeeps running about in the country; we see money being wasted, but the farmer has yet to get his benefit from all those projects.

We are going through a period of acute food shortage. Even Government have admitted that. But we still persist in the old methods. It is rather strange that no one tries to go deep into the real cause of this

chronic complaint. The farmer must get the incentive. But where is the incentive? The hon. members who spoke before me have talked of incentives also. Agriculture is also an industry and whatever the farmer does, must pay to him. Some hon. members said that there should be a curb put on growing cash crops. I do not think that it would help because after all, the farmer has to see to the profit that he has to make; if he cannot make profit out of the crop that he grows—foodgrains—then he goes in for growing cash crops.

Let us now come to the facilities which are supposed to be there for the farmers—the land mortgage banks, various societies, etc. They have now become a complete machinery for strengthening the Congress rule. Those people who deal with these problems do not seem to be sympathetic either. In the year before last, there was a famine in our part—a complete famine in North Gujarat. I was touring. It happened to be the time when Panchayat elections were also going on. I asked one farmer about the machines he had. He said, "what could I do; I cannot vote for anybody else except the Congress because they have given me this machine, this money, the subsidy, etc. are given to me. I am also allowed to run it for grinding flour." But that is only a side show. He is not supposed to do that. If that was known officially, he would not get his subsidy. These things go on.

Then we talk about rising prices; in every walk of life there has been a rise in price, but so far as the farmer is concerned, no attention has been paid. The best incentive that he can get is remission of land revenue. If the States and the Centre could reduce their unproductive expenditure and free the farmer from paying land revenue, it will be a good enough incentive and I am sure, the results will be seen within a short

period. If that could not be done, at least the Centre and the States could resort to levying the assessment of land revenue in kind instead of cash; that will help the Government also to procure the food which they want to do compulsorily now. There too, some bold action will be necessary; it is no use their saying this or that. We have heard from the Government that we would have self-sufficiency by a certain time; yet, as the hon. lady member has quoted, we are still importing millions of tonnes of food-grains. We were at a loss as to what to do when the United States recently said that they might not be able to give all the food that we required. In the circumstances, the earlier we try to become self-sufficient, the better for the country; the better for the honour of the country. The present shortage is due mainly to faulty distribution. So many speakers before me have spoken against the zonal system. Why should there be these zones? If there is a free movement of grain, I have no doubt that there will be no difficulty for the people at large. It is because of these restrictions now and the rationing that will come that the situation will become worse, and I have no doubt about it. Besides, the farmers will go in for cash crops on a greater scale if they do not get through procurement, rationing etc. remunerative prices.

There is also the question of irrigation. Time and again we have talked about irrigating more and more lands. Yet nothing seems to have been done. I do not mind if certain projects are cut but more money is allocated for irrigation. Medium—and small-scale irrigation works should be taken up immediately, particularly in areas which perpetually suffer from drought etc., because in North Gujarat, Rajasthan and many other places, there is no subsoil water and it is very necessary that every drop of water that comes down through rain should be conserved. It does not matter if with a small dam we cannot irrigate

many acres of land, but that will at least help the subsoil water to rise, the water table to rise.

I would have liked to say much more, but since my time is up, I would conclude by saying this. Let Government show courage and do away with all these restrictions, and I have no doubt that the country will not suffer as much as it is doing now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Dr. Melkote.

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राव : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बताइय कि मुझे मौका देंगे या मैं चली जाऊँ ?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : घाप बँधिये ।

Dr. Melkote (Hyderabad): One of the most essential things or rather the most important and essential thing to avoid famine is to give adequate quantities of water to the land. The farmer is prepared to work even in the worst drought conditions; seed is available and manure is available, but what is lacking essentially is water. I would like to concentrate, therefore, on only one aspect, and that is this question of supply of water. During the past eighteen years, Indian has done exceedingly well. What the British Government did in a period of 15 years we have done in one year, and we have been giving water in increased quantities. But in spite of it, famine conditions are prevalent in India, and the condition is extremely serious. Therefore, the prime essence of the whole situation is the adequacy of water, particularly when the rains fail.

It is essentially due to this that large irrigation projects have been thought of. But let us not forget that even today, after all these years, food is produced not so much under the big irrigation projects as under wells or small tanks or medium-sized projects. The medium-sized projects are also not very many. In the south alone, in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, Madras and Kerala,

[Dr. Melkote]

there are nearly 1,15,000 tanks and they irrigate about 10 to 15 million acres. The lands which do not come under the PWD irrigation system form about 50 per cent. The remaining 50 per cent comes under the medium-sized and the large-sized dams. But then, as a result of the facilities available for irrigation under the big projects in the south and possibly the whole of India, not more than 2 million acres have come under the plough, whereas in the south alone under the small tanks more than 10 million acres are being irrigated. If today food is being produced in the country, it is not so much the major irrigation projects as the small irrigation projects that are of very great importance in its production. As I said, more than 50 per cent of the tanks which have an irrigation potential of 10—50 acres only—these come under revenue—are not being attended to, and for years and years they are neglected. 10—50 acres is not a small thing in our country, because under the well irrigation system, we may be able to irrigate about two to four acres only. But here 10—50 acres is a sizeable area of land and it must also be remembered that the small tanks which irrigate these acres constitute 50 per cent of the total irrigation potential.

On account of storms and other things, about 3-4 per cent of these tanks get damaged annually. Tanks are constructed in a series and when they get damaged, they do not get attended to for a period of five, ten and even fifteen years. During this period of 18 years, we have provided plenty of money to State Governments to repair these small tanks, but still only 30 per cent of these small tanks have been attended to, 70 per cent not attended to at all, to the detriment of our food production. Under the major irrigation projects, electricity is produced and on these Rs. 70—Rs. 80 crores are being spent. In the TVA, if they spend Rs. 100 crores for this purpose, they spend

anything between Rs. 200 and Rs. 300 crores on development of the land. Here we are prepared to construct the tanks and canals and possibly take the water up to the land, but for development of the land, not more than Rs. 2 crores are given annually under each project. Therefore, it will take more than 100 years to develop many of these lands served by major irrigation projects, which produce electricity for the industrialists all right. Electricity can be taken up; it can be made to flow higher up also and plenty of land can be irrigated. But it is not done even today. One of the important aspects of the major irrigation projects is that very little is being done to see that the land is developed, and therefore they are not yielding anything. The minor irrigation projects which come under revenue are neglected. As I said, small tanks which irrigate 15—50 acres get breached to extent of 3-4 per cent and still they are being neglected. Though a good deal of repair has taken place recently, it is not sufficient to meet the needs of the situation today. If today there has been a failure, it is essentially due to this that water is not made available from major irrigation projects. Though they store a considerable quantity of water, it cannot go out to the land because the land is not sufficiently developed. This is an aspect of the question which needs serious examination. I was Minister in charge of PWD in Hyderabad for five years and I had the question examined. If we have to tackle this question on a war footing, it means sending engineers to all these tanks on a war footing to attend to their repair. Now most of these engineers go to work in the major irrigation works where they learn something. Many of them do not go to the minor irrigation projects, unless they are forced to do so and detained in those projects. Unless in the course of the next two or three years, all the small tanks are repair-

ed completely, we will not be able to cope with the situation. This is one of the most important aspects of the question which has not received the attention it should. Unfortunately, Dr. K. L. Rao is not here today. It is his duty to attend to this aspect of the matter. Tackling the question on a war footing would mean making available plenty of water for cultivation to the cultivators.

People have spoken of manure, fertilisers and all those things. They are essential indeed. But the main thing is what I have detailed. If we are deficit in food, it is not so much a matter of the quantity of rice produced. India produces 36 million tonnes of rice out of a total world production of 70 million tones. Still we want more rice. India consumes the maximum quantity of rice. If water is given, again it is utilised by the industries. It is jute, it is cotton, it is sugarcane, it is oilseeds, and many of these things, because if the land is irrigated and they put in cash crop, they get plenty of money. So, unless food is subsidised to the same extent as cash crops, there will not be incentive, and people will not grow food. This is the second aspect of the question.

The third aspect of the question is that when we go to the bank, if we have a cash crop they are prepared to give Rs. 1,000 per acre, but for food production they would not give even Rs. 40. If this is the situation, where is the incentive for the farmer to grow food. He wants to have a better life, he takes to cash crops, and spends that money. There is absolutely no incentive for the farmer to grow food, his aspect of the question has to be gone into in great detail, and a war footing would mean a war footing on all these fronts.

In the village sector, there is a lot of unemployment. We want to intensify agricultural operations. There are plenty of Harijans living there who have not got much land. Unless we

give better incentive for labour in the village sector and employ them in agriculture and utilise them to the maximum extent, again agriculture will be a failure. In many parts of the country it is these people who work on the agricultural land. If only the farmer gets the advantage and if incentive is not given to the worker, why will he work? This again is another aspect of the question. Government should see that the minimum wage is raised for all agricultural labour, so that they get a part of the benefit that the agriculturists reaps.

These are some of the points—many other points have been made and I do not want to repeat them—which I thought I should make for the benefit of the House.

श्रीमती सहोदरा बाई राय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कभी कभी आप अन्याय करते हैं। आपको महिलाओं को पहले ही मौका देना चाहिए।

यह जो खाद्य का संकट है इसमें पुरुषों के ऊपर इतनी जिम्मेदारी नहीं है जितनी कि महिलाओं के ऊपर है क्योंकि गृहस्थी का सारा भार महिलाओं के ऊपर ही रहता है, बच्चों से लगाकर पति आदि सब का भार उन पर रहता है। उनको ही सब का प्रबन्ध करना पड़ता है। अब गले का राशन होने वाला है, आधे किलो एक किलो जो कुछ भी हो। पुरुष अधिकतर खाना खा जाते हैं, और महिलाओं के लिए बहुत कम बचता है। महिलाओं को ज्यादा खाना चाहिए क्योंकि उनके साथ दूध रहते हैं उनको भी दूध पिलाना होता है। इसलिए पुरुषों से महिलाओं को ज्यादा खाना देना चाहिए। ऐसा होगा तभी ठीक से वे व्यवस्था कर सकेंगी।

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री त्यागी) : बढ़िया से बढ़िया कपड़ पहनती हैं, सोने के जेवर पहनती हैं।

श्रीमती सहोबरा बाई राय : हमें भी तो बोलने दीजिए ।

हमारे देश में कम से कम 22 या 23 करोड़ महिलाएं और लड़कियां हैं, वे भी उत्पादन के काम में मदद करती हैं ।

हमारे प्रधान मंत्री कहते हैं कि हफ्ते में एक दिन उत्पास करना चाहिए मेरा कहना है कि पुरुषों को भी महिलाओं के साथ एक दिन सप्ताह में यह उत्पास करना चाहिए ।

मैं मध्य प्रदेश से आती हूँ । मध्य प्रदेश में दो सालों से पानी नहीं बरसा है । पार साल कम बरसा था इसलिए गल्ला थोड़ा हुआ । इस साल भी नहीं बरसा इसलिए गल्ला और कम हुआ है । छत्तीसगढ़ में तो घाना चार घाना से ज्यादा घान इस साल नहीं है । इसलिए मैं कृषि मंत्री जो से कहना चाहती हूँ कि इस साल मध्य प्रदेश उनको चावल या गेहूँ नहीं दे सकता क्योंकि वहां कम हुआ है ।

मध्य प्रदेश के भरोसे के ऊपर महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात ज्यादा रहते हैं । वह समझते हैं कि हमें मध्य प्रदेश गल्ला देगा, इसलिए कि महाराष्ट्र वाले मूंगफली, तिनो और गुजरात वाले जरदा बोते हैं । इससे वह करोड़ों पैसे कमाते हैं और भनाज के लिए मध्य प्रदेश के भरोसे रहते हैं । अब वह संभल जाएं, हम एक पाई का भी गल्ला उनको नहीं देंगे, न महाराष्ट्र को और न गुजरात को । वह अपनी जमीन में जरदा और मूंगफली की जगह गल्ला बोएं, बाजरा और ज्वार बोएं, घान बोएं । महाराष्ट्र वाले मूंगफली ज्यादा बोने हैं और भनाज मध्य प्रदेश से चाहते हैं । इस से वह करोड़ों रुपये कमा कर धामदानी करते हैं । और अपने

घरों में सोना रखते हैं और मध्य प्रदेश को ताना लगाते हैं कि आप हम को गल्ला नहीं देते । मैं कृषि मंत्री से कहना चाहती हूँ कि उनको अब गल्ले के लिए मध्य प्रदेश पर निर्भर नहीं रहना चाहिए । हम भी संभल गए हैं और आपकी चालाकी समझ गए हैं । हम गल्ला देने वाले नहीं हैं । इस साल मध्य प्रदेश में हालत खराब है । दो चार जिलों को छोड़ कर अन्य जिलों में भूखमरी की हालत है । मध्य प्रदेश में दमोह सागर जहां से मैं आती हूँ वहां तो कुछ तहसीलों में गल्ला हुआ है लेकिन किसान 80 रुपये विबंटल गल्ला देता है । वहां किसान से गेहूँ 80 रुपये विबंटल मिलता है । *से गेहूँ का भाव 62 रुपये है । लेकिन किसान इससे कम पर नहीं देता । इसलिए मेरी प्रार्थना है कि आप जो बाहर से गल्ला मंगाएँ उसमें से मध्य प्रदेश को भी दें । ऐसा न समझें कि वहां की हालत ठीक है ।

गल्ले का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए मेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है कि जिलों के कलक्टरों को आप हिदायत करें कि जो किसानों के लिए सुविधा हो जानी है वह उनको ठीक समय पर देने का प्रबन्ध किया जाए, जैसे तकाबी है, बीज है, बैल-बधिया इत्यादि है । आज हालत यह है कि जो सहायता सरकार से मिलती है उसके साथ एक विच्छू का डंक लगा रहता है । पांच रुपये पटवारी को देना पड़ता है, तहसीलों को देना पड़ता है और देते देते नाक में दम हो जाता है । तब काम ही पाता है । इसके अलावा किसानों को हर काम के लिए जिले की तरफ दौड़ना पड़ता है । इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि आप सरकारी नौकरों को आदेश दीजिए कि वे देहातों में जाकर खुद किसानों को तकाबी और बीज आदि की सुविधाएं दें जिससे किसान को शहर

की तरफ न दीड़ना पड़े। हमको गल्सा बने के लिए मिलता है नवम्बर में धीर हमारे यहां बुवाई होती है अक्तूबर में, पंजाब में नवम्बर और दिसम्बर में बुवाई होती है, मगर हमारे यहां तो अक्तूबर में होती है। पंजाब में तो कुगनी फसलें होती हैं, वहां नहरें बचीरह है, सिंचाई के साधन है। हमारे यहां सिंचाई के साधन नहीं है। इनलिए मैं खाद्य मंत्री से प्रार्थना करती हूं कि वह समु से एक नहर हमारे मध्य प्रदेश के लिए लावे...

एक माननीय सदस्य : उसका पानी तो खारा होता है।

श्रीमती सहोबराबाई राय : भाते भाते वह भीठा हो जाएगा।

मेरी प्रार्थना है कि किसानों के लिए सिंचाई की सुविधा होनी चाहिए। छोटे-छोटे तालाब बनाने चाहिए, छोटी-छोटी नहरें बनानी चाहिए, हमारे लिए बिजली होनी चाहिए। अब आपको दिल्ली धीर बड़े शहरों को छोड़ कर देहात की तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए।

दूसरे देहात में आज खेतों में काम करने वालों की कमी हो रही है। जो हरिजन और आदिवासी लोग खेती में काम करते थे वे अब खेती में काम करना पसन्द नहीं करते, वे शहर की तरफ दौड़ गए हैं, वहां कोई तांगा चलाता है, कोई होटल खोले हुए हैं और कोई बड़ई का काम कर रहा है और कोई दूसरा काम किए हुए हैं। जो लोग देहात में खेती का काम करने वाले थे वे शहर की तरफ दौड़ गए हैं। अगर उनको पूरी मजदूरी मिले तो वे देहात में काम करें। इसकी व्यवस्था होगी चाहिए। वे लोग खेती का काम पसन्द नहीं करते, उसमें मिट्टी में काम करना पड़ता है और धूप व पानी

में कड़ी मेहनत करनी पड़ती है और मजदूरी का सवा रुपया या डेढ़ रुपया मिलता है। अगर मजदूरों को कम से कम दो रुपया रोज खेती में काम करने की मजदूरी मिले तो वे देहात में रह सकते हैं।

एक धीर बात है। अभी देहात में पुरानी मालखुजार की पद्धति चली आ रही है। वे लोच काम के लिए मजदूरों को बुलाते हैं और वे काम नहीं करते तो उनको मारते भी हैं। पुलिस को कहा जाता है तो थानेदार भाते हैं, पर उनको मुरगी खिला दी जाती है या कुछ रुपया दे दिया जाता है तो काम खराब हो जाता है। वह चले जाते हैं और कोई एन्क्वायरी नहीं करते। देहात में मारपीट के सिवा कुछ नहीं है।

देहात में बहुत सी जमीन बंजर पड़ी है जो ट्रैक्टर द्वारा खेती के योग्य बनायी जा सकती है। पर वह लोगों को नहीं दी जाती। आज हालत यह है कि अगर किसी के पास चार एकड़ जमीन है तो उसके पास बैल नहीं है और साधन नहीं है। इसलिए बहुत से देहात के लोग शहर की तरफ चले जाते हैं। इसलिए किसान को कम से कम आठ दस एकड़ जमीन दी जानी चाहिए।

17 hrs.

मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहती हूं कि वह मध्य प्रदेश की तरफ ध्यान न लगायें, क्योंकि इस साल वहां से उन को कोई गल्सा मिलने वाला नहीं है। वह यह न सोचें कि मध्य प्रदेश से धान मिलेगा। हमारे प्रदेश की स्थिति बहुत खराब है, जिस को सम्भालना हमारे लिए मुश्किल हो रहा है। जब हमारे अपने खाने के लिए पर्याप्त धान नहीं है, तो हम दूसरों को कहाँ से देंगे? मैं उन को

[श्रीमती सहोदराबाई राय]

यह भी कहना चाहती हूँ कि भ्रमरीका से पी० एल० 480 के अन्तर्गत भ्राने वाला गेहूँ पहले मध्य प्रदेश को देना चाहिए। भ्रभी दो साल तक भ्रमरीका का गेहूँ बन्द करने की जरूरत नहीं है, क्योंकि उसके बिना हम लोग मर जायेंगे। जब भ्रगले दो सालों में हम भ्रपनी स्थिति को सुधार लेंगे, तब पी० एल० 480 के गेहूँ का मंगाना बन्द कर दिया जाये।

हमारे देश में मुल्ला, मौलवी और पंडे आदि बहुत से बेकार लोग हैं। वे मुफ्त का पैसा खाते हैं और मजे करते हैं। पंडे लोग काशी, इलाहाबाद आदि तीर्थ स्थानों में यात्रियों को परेशान करते हैं। मेरा सुझाव है कि उन लोगों को भी कृषि के काम में लगाया जाये, ताकि हमारे यहां भ्रभ्र का उत्पादन बढ़े।

मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि हमारे यहां बिजली के साधन उपलब्ध किये जाने चाहिए, ताकि खेती और कल-कारखानों के लिए बिजली मिल सके। देहात में जो सरकारी पैसा बांटा जाता है, वह देहात में ही दस-दस गांवों के लिए एक जगह बांटा जाना चाहिए, जिस से हम लोगों को डिस्ट्रिक्ट के कार्यालय की तरफ न भागना पड़े।

मैं यह भी चाहती हूँ कि कलेक्टर, तहसीलदार और पटवारी आदि सरकारी अधिकारियों को भी ठीक तरह से काम करने के आदेश दिये जाने चाहिए। ये लोग काम में रोड़े भरते हैं। अगर कोई लोग हमारा तख्ता पलटेंगे, तो ये तहसीलदार, पटवारी आदि सरकारी कर्मचारी ही पलटेंगे, क्योंकि वे रिश्तत लिपे बिना कोई काम नहीं करते हैं।

जिस से मेल-मुहब्बत हो, दोस्ती हो, जो पचास रुपये उन के हाथ में दे दे, वे सिर्फ उसी का काम करते हैं और दूसरों को कहते हैं "ब्लडी फूल"। जब तक ये प्रघायें खत्म नहीं होंगी, तब तक कृषि नहीं बढ़ सकती है।

कृषि मंत्री जी से मेरी प्रार्थना है कि वह देहात की तरफ निगाह रखें—वह केवल दिल्ली में ही न बैठे रहें, बल्कि देहात की तरफ भी जायें और देखें कि वहां क्या हालत है।

हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में खेती का काम बहुत थोड़ा है, इसलिए काश्तकारों को बहुत कम काम मिलता है। इसी प्रकार मजदूरों के लिए भी कोई धन्धा नहीं है। इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि मध्य प्रदेश में नये उद्योग घंघे खोले जायें, जिस से हमारे यहां के मजदूरों को काम मिले। अगर सरकार हम लोगों को खेती के काम में सहायता देगी, तो हम उस को काफी गल्ला दे सकेंगे।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Minister will reply tomorrow. This debate will not be carried to tomorrow. Members who are anxious to speak will resume the debate after 5.30 today, after the half-hour discussion is over, and as long as Members are here, provided the quorum is not demanded, we will continue.

17.04 hrs.

*HINDUS DEBARRED FROM COMING TO INDIA

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री (बिजनौर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब भारत और पाकिस्तान, एक देश के दो भाग बने, तो