

Crimes in Delhi

1480. Shri Arjun Singh Bhaduria: Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of crimes registered in Delhi in each quarter of the year 1957 and 1958 under the following categories:

(i) Murder, (ii) assaults on women, (iii) natural offences, (iv) dacoity, (v) robbery, (vi) theft, (vii) cheating and (viii) other crimes.

(b) the number of cases under each head in part (a) above which remained undetected and the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of cases sent up for trial and the convictions secured; and

(d) the number of cases, in which strictures were passed against the Police by the Judiciary and the action taken thereon?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) to (c). A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 14].

(d) In four cases strictures were passed against the Police by Judiciary. In three cases departmental action was initiated, two are still pending while departmental punishment was given in one. No action was found necessary in the fourth.

12 hrs.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

FOOD SITUATION IN UTTAR PRADESH

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of a number of adjournment motions, all relating to the food situation in Uttar Pradesh. It was only yesterday that I disallowed a question.....

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. When I am standing, no hon. Member ought to stand, for, that is meaningless. Again and again, I have been impressing upon hon. Members that they ought not to stand while I am standing, and that they ought not to speak while I am speaking. These are ordinary rules of decorum. I also find that whereas every time the hon. Leader of the House comes to the House, he bows, and when he goes away also, he bows, other hon. Members do not seem to take this House seriously.

I did not want to bring it to the notice of hon. Members.

Shri Nath Pai (Rajapur): So far as respect to you is concerned, we are second to none.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): We are always one in that respect.

Mr. Speaker: I would like this House to set an example to the rest of the Assemblies in this country. But I find hon. Members coming as if they come to any public meeting and then going away as if from public meeting. It is very wrong. I never wanted to express this. But the bowing is not personally to me; it is to the Chair and to the House as a whole. And hon. Members would not take a lesson even from the hon. Leader of the House who bows when he comes and goes.

Shri Nath Pai: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should be taken to task for that.

Mr. Speaker: It is not against any individual. All that I can say is that hon. Members.....(Interruptions) I have already said that when I am talking, hon. Members ought not to talk. Hon. Members will observe decorum so that the prestige of this House may get enhanced. Every hon. Member who has got something to place before the House will certainly place it before the House.

[Mr. Speaker.]

There are a number of adjournment motions tabled. It was only yesterday that I said that so far as this matter was concerned, it was a State subject. If some people unfortunately have committed suicide or some people are starving, I do not know to what extent the Central Government are responsible.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri (Berhampore): On a point of order..

Mr. Speaker: I would like to know one other thing also. A number of hon. Members have put in their signatures to more than one adjournment motion. Yesterday, some hon. Members went away from here and wrote to me that among the several Members whose names I read out, his name was not included. I, therefore, inform all hon. Members that I am not going to read the names of all hon. Members here. I have got as many as twelve names here. I shall call only one. There is no meaning in my calling every Member on every adjournment motion and then calling the names one after the other. If they want advertisement, hereafter, I shall put down the names of all hon. Members in the notice-board, and the Government or the newspapers or anybody else may look into it, and if anybody does not look into it, his attention may be drawn to it. So far as that is concerned, I am not going to take up the responsibility myself.

So far as the adjournment motions are concerned, I would like to know one thing from the sponsors. First of all, let them satisfy me. Hunger, or food, is a purely local subject or a State Subject. What is the responsibility of the Centre which has not been discharged in this matter? Almost every day, I am getting adjournment motions of this kind, when in some corner of India, there are some people who are not having sufficient food. Now, I shall call upon the hon. Members one after the other.

श्री सरदू पांडे (रसड़ा) : अम्बरनाथ महोदय, जहां तक केन्द्रीय सरकार की जिम्मेदारी का प्रश्न है, मेरा निवेदन यह है कि पिछले दिनों जब खाद्य समस्या पर बहस हो रही थी तो मैंने बताया था कि . . .

Mr. Speaker: What is the response-politics (Interruptions).

श्री सरदू पांडे : मेरे उसी पर आ रहा हूँ, उसी को मैं एक्सप्लेन करने आ रहा हूँ। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश में जो सत्ती गल्ले की दुकानें खोली गई हैं एक तो वे बहुत कम हैं और दूसरे जो गल्ला केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को दिया है, वह दूसरी स्टेट्स के मुकाबले में बहुत ही कम है। आज उत्तर प्रदेश की खाद्य समस्या बहुत कठिन है और इसी सदन के एक सीनियर मंत्री श्री शिंगला सक्सेना भूख हड्डताल किये द्ये हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में भी संकड़ों लोग सरकार का ध्यान इस और दिलाने के लिये वहां भूख हड्डताल कर रहे हैं, आन्दोलन चला रहा है और आप उत्तर प्रदेश .

Mr. Speaker: I am not going into politics (Interruptions).

श्री सरदू पांडे : . . . के किसी भी कोने में जायें, हर तरफ से यही आवाज आपको उठती नजर आयेगी कि हमारे केन्द्रीय सरकार के जो फूड मिनिस्टर हैं, जो खाद्य मंत्री हैं, उनको रिजाइन करना चाहिये, उनको इस्तीफा दे देना चाहिये। इमलिये में चाहता हूँ कि .

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That was not what I wanted to hear. All that I wanted to say is this. How is the responsibility imposed upon the Centre?

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Firozabad): May I submit a word on this? (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker: As to the Central Minister, there may be difference of opinion. Each man may not be liked in his own place. I have heard Shri Sarju Pandey sufficiently. Now, Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: If you look at List III in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, you will find under Entry No. 33 that—

"Trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of,—

(b) foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils".

are in the Concurrent List. So, food as such is not merely a State subject. The arrangement between the Centre and the States with regard to supply and distribution is something with which we are not concerned. That may be a departmental arrangement. But this Entry No. 33 imposes a constitutional obligation upon the Centre.....

Mr. Speaker: To take up distribution of food articles from end to end in this country?

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:.... for the production, supply and distribution of food articles whenever it legislates on these matters for the whole of the country.

Mr. Speaker: I have heard the hon Member sufficiently. Now, Shri S. M. Banerjee.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): My submission is that in this particular case, the food supplied from the Centre was at Rs. 14-8-0 per maund. The hon. Minister mentioned yesterday that 3000 fair price shops had been started in the KABAL cities and throughout UP. My information is that only 2,400 shops are functioning. Another point which has been referred to.....

Mr. Speaker: Who is responsible? The hon. Member must satisfy me and not go on with it.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would take only one minute to explain it.

Mr. Speaker: Who is responsible? The other day, the hon. Minister said, and he has been repeatedly saying on the floor of the House that the opening of fair price shops is not the business of the Centre but the business of the States.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: But there is supply and distribution.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let me finish. Another Minister.....

Mr. Speaker: Is it the complaint of the Members here that sufficient food has not been supplied?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Yes.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: Yes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Let me finish. Otherwise, it would be incomplete.

The Food Minister of UP had stated:

"Mr. Zaheer further stated that the Union Government had not approved UP's suggestion that zonal restriction on the movement of food between UP and Punjab should be abolished."

This is another thing which is directly concerning the Centre, and the Centre is becoming obstructionist to the entire movement

Then, there was a meeting of the Congress MLA's which was presided over by the Chief Minister where it was said as follows:

"Some Members suggested adjournment of the Assembly session."

The situation has reached to that extent that they are actually proposing suspension of the Assembly. And their slogan is to meet them in the streets. What I would submit is that this sort of slogan that if they want, they would meet the UP Opposition Members in the streets, I am afraid, will be the last nail in their coffin.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: In regard to this, the Centre has been supplying foodgrains to U.P. Now, the complaint is that they have not supplied them with adequate quantity of foodgrains. That is the difficulty. They have been taking over the responsibility of supplying grain to U.P. for the scarcity areas, but now they have refused to do that. Therefore, their responsibility is direct. Also, conditions have arisen there in which there is a fear of the constitutional machinery being broken down.

Mr. Speaker: That is another matter.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi (Bilhaur): Moreover, if this is the condition in the State from which our hon. Prime Minister, hon. Home Minister and hon. Food Minister come, what will happen to the other States?

राष्ट्रीय याचक (बाराबंकी) : अच्छी महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री जब गोरखपुर में स्केरमिटी एरियाज का दौरा करने गये तो उन्होंने खुल कर के यह कहा कि हमको अच्छी मात्रा में, काफी मात्रा में केन्द्र से साधारण नहीं मिल रहे हैं, इसलिये हमारे लिये असम्भव है कि लोगों को सप्लाई कर सकें और साथ साथ दामों में जो बढ़ातरी हो रही है उसको भी रोकना हमारे लिये असम्भव है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि यह सीधे केन्द्रीय सरकार से सम्बन्ध रखने वाला प्रश्न है। उन्होंने कहा कि दाम और सप्लाई का जो प्रश्न है यह केन्द्र से सम्बन्ध रखता है। इसलिये मैं समझता हूँ कि यह केन्द्रीय प्रश्न है और इस पर यहाँ बहस होनी चाहिये।

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): First, I shall take up the question taken up by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri. He has referred to Entry No. 33 in the Concurrent List. (Interruptions).

An Hon. Member: Why does he not resign?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I am put to a lot of inconvenience here. All hon. Members seem to be—at any rate, some of them,—under a wrong impression, with the result that occasionally, matters are brought up here which ought to be taken up with the State Government. What are the limits? Even yesterday, I said that I would like to know definitely the limits within which I could allow these matters to come up either by way of questions or by way of adjournment motion. I do not know. Possibly, hon. Members, or at least some of them, want that the entire food situation ought to be taken up by the Centre. I am at a loss to know what exactly the position is. Since these matters have been raised, I would like to hear from the hon. Minister thoroughly regarding this matter.

Shri A. P. Jain: That Entry lays down:

“Trade and commerce in,....
(b) foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils;”

Here it is not a question of either trade or commerce; it is a question of supply by the Centre.

Shri Naushir Bharucha (East Khandesh): And distribution.

Shri A. P. Jain: Not distribution

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members have raised a point. The hon. Minister is answering it (Interruption).

Shri A. P. Jain: The question raised in the adjournment motion does not come under item 33 of the Concurrent List.

You will remember that when the Food debate took place in this House, my Ministry issued a White Paper in which the figures of stocks with the Central Government were given. During the course of the debate, I also gave information as regards the quantities that were being supplied to

different States. Since then, the Food Minister of Uttar Pradesh has visited Delhi.....

Shri Naushir Bharucha: We are not on that; we are on the legal point only.

Shri A. P. Jain: I have dealt with the legal point, and I am coming to the others.

Mr. Speaker: First of all, the hon. Minister said that the particular provision of law quoted, the entry does not apply. The next point urged was that supply was not made by the Centre. I would like to know whether it is the responsibility of the Centre to supply to the States and whether there is any prohibition against a State Government purchasing and distributing and taking care of the citizens in that particular State. Unless the Centre has taken up the entire responsibility in its own hands, and in addition, prevents the State from proceeding with that responsibility, I am not going to charge the Centre with that responsibility. I would like to know whether there is any provision or any arrangement by which the Centre has undertaken the exclusive responsibility of gathering sufficient food and supplying it wherever there is necessity

Shri A. P. Jain: That was the point I was coming to.

The Centre has not taken absolute responsibility. Nobody, either the State Government or anybody there, is prohibited from making purchases in their own State or in some other parts of the country. Therefore, it is not the exclusive responsibility of the Centre to meet all the requirements of the State Governments. It is a fact that the Centre has been importing foodgrains from abroad. The Centre has also made procurement in certain States and out of the quantities imported or procured inside the country, the Centre has been doing its best to supply to the State Governments. But it is not the responsibility of the

Central Government to supply all the foodgrains which a State needs. We are doing our best, but it is not our constitutional responsibility to meet all the demands (*Interruptions*).

Several hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. One at a time.

Shri Nath Pal: May I point out this in continuation of the specific point which you have asked us to submit to you? In the first place, the entry in the Concurrent List referred to specifically mentions the words 'supply and distribution'. Secondly, he is trying to shirk his responsibility by saying that it is not entirely his responsibility. There is shortage of food, with which we are concerned and that can be filled by importing foodgrains. Now, no State in India can directly import. It is only the Central Government that can import foodgrains from abroad and distribute them. Then again, one State does not enter into any agreement directly with any other State; it is done through the Centre. So on both these counts, it is his basic responsibility and that is what we are concerned with.

Several hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Apart from this, what is the situation there?

Shri A. P. Jain: I may add that there is legally nothing to prohibit a State from making imports of foodgrains (*Interruptions*).

श्री अर्जुन सिंह भद्रीरामा (हटावा):
पंजाब से नहीं लाने दिया जा रहा है।

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members ought not to go on like this. He is replying to the points raised. Let us hear him.

Shri A. P. Jain: So far as the supply position from the Centre to U.P. is concerned, when the debate took place here, I mentioned that we had been supplying nearly 60,000 tons of

[Shri A. P. Jain]

foodgrains per month to U.P. Since then, the Food Minister of U.P. has seen me. I have also personally paid a visit to U.P. and as a result of discussions between ourselves, the Centre has agreed to give another quantity of 25,000 tons to U.P. in the month of September. That quantity has already started moving. Some special trains have been despatched from Calcutta; others are in the process of being despatched, and I am confident that I will be able to supply to U.P. during the month of September not only the normal quantity of 60,000 tons, but the additional quantity of 25,000 tons.

It is for the U.P. Government to decide where to open fair price shops and where not to open such shops. About two months ago, they had a little more than 2,000 fair price shops. The number has now been increased to 3,700, that is, there has been an increase of nearly 1,500 shops. They are setting up more of shops. Therefore, since the debate has taken place, instead of any deterioration, supplies have improved, the number of fair price shops has increased and the Centre has more than fulfilled its obligations as against what existed on the day of the debate (Interruptions).

Several hon. Members rose—

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What about prices?

Mr. Speaker: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the peculiar situation in U.P. which is leading to this kind of agitation as opposed to the position in other States in this country.

Shri A. P. Jain: The Opposition parties in U.P. have taken up a particular attitude. Some of them have gone on hunger-strike; some of them are trying to encircle the officers.... (Interruptions).

Mr. Speaker: I am putting questions. Hon. Members will keep quiet. I would like to know whether it is on account of the food shortage which is

peculiar to U.P., which is not prevalent elsewhere, that this course of action is being adopted or it is on account of other considerations and this is only an excuse.

Shri A. P. Jain: The position is this. The prices prevailing in U.P. are comparable with the prices prevailing in Bihar and in West Bengal. Now there is nothing which can substantially differentiate the position in U.P. from the situation obtaining in those States. But political parties in U.P. have taken up a particular attitude (interruption) some of them have started hunger-strike. Others have started encircling officers and preventing them from discharging their duties; others are going to make a raid on the grain godowns. They are led away more by political considerations. That is responsible for this deterioration of the situation in U.P., not the supply position, not the food situation as such (Interruptions).

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: No, no. I have heard enough. I am not going to allow any further discussion.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi: I want one clarification from the Food Minister. He has not replied to the point raised

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Whatever situation is going to be there somewhere in U.P., I am not going to allow it to be discussed on the floor of the House. I only wanted to know what exactly was the situation. At this stage, I am concerned with the admissibility of these adjournment motions.

So far as the primary responsibility in regard to food is concerned, it is that of the State Government.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: How?

Shri Naushir Bharmcha: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am entitled to my opinion. I am not bound to answer how I have heard both sides. It is not a new matter. This matter comes up here from day to day and we are looking into it. Yesterday it was brought up.

So far as the supply of food is concerned, it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments. Of course, the Central Government import large quantities and go to the aid of the various States by way of supplementing the supply. They also procure some quantity without prejudice to the State Government itself making similar procurement from within the zone.

So far as Andhra and other States are concerned, it has been stated on the floor of the House from time to time that Kerala can purchase from Andhra. The Centre also purchases from Andhra. (Interruption)

An Hon Member: We cannot

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow this kind of interruption, so far as I am concerned, when I am giving my ruling. Unless an hon Member wants to substitute his ruling for mine, I cannot understand this attitude. Hon Members lose patience suddenly on a small matter like this.

An Hon. Member. No, it is not a small matter.

Mr. Speaker: Let the hon Member resign his seat and go there and fight his own Minister in the State. I cannot allow this kind of interruption when I am giving my ruling.

Food is primarily the concern of the State Government. No doubt, the Central Government imports large quantities because it is always alive to the situation. It does not detach itself from the welfare of the people, whether in one State or another. So far as procurement of foodgrains is concerned, there is no impediment for

the State Governments to procure whatever they can from their own State and from other States in the zone. The Central Government makes purchases to be on the safer side and supplies to the States.

So far as U P State is concerned, the hon Minister has stated that there were only 2,500 fair price shops and now they have been increased to 3,700. Whether a larger number of such shops have to be opened, or whether they have not to be opened, is the concern of the State Government. The hon Minister has said that whatever assistance the State Government wanted is being given. So far as the quantity that is required is concerned, the only person who can decide that is the State Government, and not every individual Member here, who can come and say that the Centre must despatch so much foodgrains, otherwise it is impossible to carry on. Whatever quantity has been asked for by that Government is being supplied. So far as the Central Government is concerned, there is absolutely no default.

If further fair price shops have to be opened, hon Members or their representatives must take up the question in the State Assembly. They must take up the matter with the State Government. That is how it stands. The Centre has in no way committed any default so far as its responsibility is concerned.

All the adjournment motions are, therefore, disallowed.

Shri Braj Raj Singh: I wanted a clarification. (Interruptions)

Shri Naushir Bharucha: I want an explanation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order

Shri Braj Raj Singh: May I have a clarification?

Shri Naushir Bharucha: May I know whether the Central Government

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The Secretary will read the Message from the Rajya Sabha.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: The Food Minister must resign.

श्री नाशिर भारुचा : जब रोम जल रहा था तब नीरो बासुरी बजा रहा था ।

Some Hon. Members: We stage a walk-out.

12.25 hrs.

(Some hon. Members then left the House.)

12.25½ hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 1st September, 1958, agreed without any amendment to the Armed Forces (Assam and Manipur) Special Powers Bill, 1958, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 18th August, 1958."

12.25½ hrs.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their Eighth Report have recommended that leave of absence may be granted to the following Members for the periods indicated in the Report:—

Raja Mahendra Pratap (Mathura): Sir, you have been very kind to us; you have been very kind-hearted but the hon. Minister is hard hearted (Interruptions.)

Mr. Speaker:

1. Shri S. C. Choudhury
2. Shri M. Elias
3. Shrimati Lalita Rajya Laxmi

4. Shri C. Bali Reddy
5. Shri M. Gulam Mohiudeen
6. Shri B. Pocker
7. Shri D. S. Raju
8. Shri U. Muthuramalinga Thevar
9. Shri Indulal Kanaiyalal Yajnik
10. Shri Karsandas Parmar
11. Her Highness Maharani Vijya Raje Scindia of Gwalior
12. Shri Kamal Narayan Singh

I take it that the House agrees with the recommendations of the Committee.

Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.26½ hrs.

MANIPUR AND TRIPURA (REPEAL OF LAWS) BILL—contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh on the 2nd September 1958, namely:—

"That the Bill to provide for the repeal of certain laws in force in the Union Territories of Manipur and Tripura, be taken into consideration."

Out of the one hour allotted for all the stages of the Bill, 53 minutes now remain.

Shri Laisram Achaw Singh may continue his speech.

श्री अर्जन सिंह भवौरियः (इटावा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि कब तक लोगों को इस सदन को स्पागने के लिये आध्य किया जाता रहेगा ? इस मुल्क में भुखमरी फैली हुई है । लोग जहर खा कर के मर रहे हैं और हम कब तक इस चीज़ को बरदाशत करते रह सकते हैं ? आप कब तक लोगों को मजबूर करेंगे कि वे