

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): There the matter ends now.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: It was to be furnished to the House.

SHRI MD. SALIM: The Assurance Committee is in possession of that.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will they look into it?

SHRI MD. SALIM: Sure, they will look into it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE) But is it before the Committee, Mr. Salim?

SHRI MD. SALIM: Yes, it is

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN: (Miss Saroj Khaparde): Then there is not point indiscussing this subject in the House. The Committee will take care of it.

**डा० रणवीर सिंह:** मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि यह दिल्ली यूनीवर्सिटी का स्टूडेंट था और इसकी आमदनी

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Will you just yield for a minute?

**डा० रणवीर सिंह:** और बहुत से इकजाय्पुस है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापरडे):** जैसे कि अभी सलीम साहब ने कहा है कि उनके पास यह लिस्ट आई हुई है और यह कमेटी के सामने विचारधीन है। जब यह चीज कमेटी के सामने विचारधीन है और जिस विषय को आप यहां पर चर्चा के रूप में या स्पेशल मेशन के रूप में सदन के सामने रख रहे हैं तो मुझे लगता है कि इसके कोई मायने नहीं होते हैं क्योंकि यह जो कमेटी है, वह इसकी गहराई में जाएगी और इसकी छानबीन करेगी। अच्छा होगा कि आप इस विषय में उसकी चर्चा न करें और इसके साथ साथ यह विषय भी कोर्ट के अधीन है और मुझे लगता है कि जो मामला कोर्ट के सामने विचारधीन है उसके बारे में सदन के सामने विचार करना ठीक नहीं है।

**डा० रणवीर सिंह:** इन नामों का मेशन कोर्ट में है... (व्यवधान)।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापरडे):** जब कमेटी के सामने इन नामों की लिस्ट आई है तो कोर्ट के सामने भी होगी।

**श्री सतीश अग्रवाल:** ठीक है आपका काम हो गया।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापरडे):** आपका काम तो 75 फरसेट से ज्यादा 90 फरसेट हो गया है।

**डा० रणवीर सिंह:** तो इस कमेटी को डाइरेक्शन दीजिए कि इसको जल्दी करके हाउस के सामने रखे।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापरडे):** वह तो जरूरी करेगी। कमेटी का यह काम है कि जल्दी करए, एक्सपेडाइट करए।

**श्री सतीश अग्रवाल:** यह डिमांड (कुमारी सरोज खापरडे): बाजिम है लेकिन कमेटी के सामने तभी कोई मामला जाता है कि उसका निपटारा जल्दी हो सके और इसीलिए उसके बारे में हमने चर्चा करना मुनासिब नहीं लगता है।

**डा० रणवीर सिंह:** ठीक है। धन्यवाद।

OR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Please assure us, Madam, that he is going to say all this before the Committee.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): He is going to mention the names of all persons who were awarded or rewarded with dealerships or whatever it is. That list was already published in the newspapers. Now, Shri Md. Salim says in the House that he is having the list with him. This matter has already gone before the Committee. The Committee is going to enquire into the whole affair.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Even after that, if the hon. Member feels it necessary, probably, this matter is the latest, he can pass on the paper to the Chairman of the Estimates Committee, he will look into it.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Yes, he can.

**Serious Damage to 28,000 tonnes of wheat of FCI lying at Rajkot**

SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT (GUJARAT): Madam Vice-Chairman, I want, ot draw the attention of this hon House and, through you, the attention of the hon, Civil Supplies Minister, to the serous damage caused to the stock of

28,000 tonnes of wheat — it is almost destroyed — which was lying in Rajkot district, because of torrential rains. There was a warning from the National network, from the Gujarat Doordarshan, from the weather forecasting laboratory and also from the newspapers that within 48 hours there would be a serious cyclone, with winds blowing with a velocity of about 80 kilometers per hour and there was likely to be a large scale damage in certain parts of Gujarat. In these areas wheat was lying in the open. Now it is stated that we have got a lot of stock of foodgrains, several million tonnes. Just a few minutes ago, in the Central Hall of Parliament I met the Chairman of the Food Corporation of India, who is my friend. I asked him about the position regarding the storage capacity of the Food Corporation of India. He goes on telling people that they are procuring larger and larger quantities of foodgrains year after year. But what is the capacity of our godowns where we can safely keep the foodgrains?

It appears to be a very serious question, and the damage it has caused is worth about Rs. 14 crores. The damage that has been caused is to the tune of Rs. 14 crores.

Madam, during the discussion that other day on the massacre in Bihar, it was being debated whether we should

give a compensation of Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakhs. We were debating whether it should be Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakhs. But here, at just one place, a damage to the tune of Rs. 14 crores has occurred. I am sure, I am hundred per cent sure, that this is not the only place, this is not an isolated incident, where the foodgrains are kept in the open. Sometime back, I had been to Kandla. In Kandla also, a huge amount of foodgrains are kept in the *open*. Similarly, there must be so

many places where the foodgrains are lying in the open.

Now, on the one hand, we are talking of a financial crunch. We are talking of doing something which is necessary to do, but we say that we have no money. On the other hand, thousands and thousands of tonnes of foodgrains are lying in the open in various places in the country. I would like to know from the Government: What is the policy of the Government? Does the Government want to procure foodgrains and leave it to Nature, particularly, when there are pre-Monsoon showers? And pre-Monsoon showers are there. Even in regard to the hike in the prices, of petroleum products, there was a pre-Monsoon shower. In this case, in spite of the pre-Monsoon showers, no care was taken to save the foodgrains.

I now learn that the Department is trying to hand over the damaged foodgrains to the traders. But the traders are refusing to take it. There, the question would be one of rate. What is the rate at which the traders would like to take the damaged foodgrains. In this case, it is damaged wheat. Madam, you would be pleased to know that this damaged wheat would be passed to the flour mills; The flour mills would prepare flour out of it and they would sell it to the fair price shops and other shops. Ultimately, it would be consumed by the poorer sections of the society.

The question is this requires an enquiry, this requires a clarification from the Government, this requires a very serious thought by the Civil Supplies Minister—as of today, in how many places in different States, foodgrains are lying in the open and what is the total quantity? As you know, Madam, the rainy season is on now. Further rains would come. As it is, there are floods in many parts of the country. I very much apprehend—leaving apart Rajkot where, as I said, the damage is to the tune of Rs.

14 crores—that the foodgrains lying in the open at various places must have been damaged. Therefore, a specific policy should be laid down. There should be a change in the attitude of the Food Corporation of India which is one of negligence and one of being irresponsible. They do not take even the minimum care of providing some plastic material to cover the foodgrains in order to save it. Even this has not been done. As a result, the foodgrains have been damaged, foodgrains for which we have paid, foodgrains which the farmer has produced and given to us to enable us in building up a buffer stock. We did not take proper care to protect the foodgrains from being damaged and from being lost. In only one case, the damage is to the tune of Rs. 14 crores. If you were to go into the loss suffered in the entire country on this account, it may run into several crores.

Therefore, Madam, through you, I would like to request the Government to conduct an enquiry into this. The rainy season is going on. An enquiry should be held to find out as to which are the places where foodgrains are lying in the open, what is the extent of damage caused and what action should be taken to save these foodgrains from damage and destruction. Apart from this, there should be a specific policy in regard to provision of godowns to store the foodgrains, which we have procured from the farmers by paying even the support price and we should see that it is not damaged and destroyed, but that it goes to the fair price shops, it goes to the traders and, ultimately, it goes to the hungry and the needy. Foodgrains should not be allowed to be damaged like this; this is a concrete example I have given. This requires an investigation by the Government and care should be taken by the Government to see that such a thing does not happen henceforth. For this purpose, a chain of godowns should be built all over the country so that such a damage does not recur and such a loss is not caused to the exchequer.

Thank you, Madam.

SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMAN-BHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Madam, I would like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri Brahmakumar Bhatt. It is a very serious matter that the damage to the foodgrains is to the extent of Rs. 14 crores.

Yesterday our Prime Minister pointed out that about 3.8 per cent of our people live within a monthly income of Rs. 750 only, and they live in very pitiable conditions. On the one side we have people who have not got enough food to eat while on the other side crores of rupees worth of foodgrains are damaged in this way and nobody takes care of it. I would like to know what amount of foodgrains were damaged all over the country in this season, because cyclones were there all over the country. Just as it happened in Gujarat, there must have been damages in the other States also. Secondly, why were the foodgrains kept in open godowns? As I know the system, in many States, some godowns are open godowns and some are semi-open godowns. But foodgrains cannot be stored in that way. I want to know whether the Government has any plan to provide full-fledged godowns to protect the foodgrains which we muster and which the farmers produce with all their labour, facing all kinds of constraints. I would also like to know what action the Government proposes to take against the persons who are responsible for it. They should have a full inquiry and also find out what can be done so that such incidents do not happen. Also, just as we have a full-fledged food policy, we should also have some food preservation policy also. I hope the Government will take it up seriously.

Thank you, Madam.

**Plight of Armymen Fighting against Insurgents and Terrorists in Kashmir**

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): Madam, I wish to draw the attention of this august House to the sad and pathetic plight of our securitymen in the Kashmir