

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Mathur, I am on my legs. Now, let us proceed in a little orderly way and dignified way.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: We always try to help in running the House in an orderly way and dignified way. But first they provoked us... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You should not get provoked.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Any unparliamentary references made from both the side* should be removed from the record.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): If there is anything, we will remove it from the record.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Let our record not *atmk*. Please remove unparliamentary references from the record.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): If there is anything unparliamentary, it will be removed. But if there is any expression of emotions and sentiments, it cannot be removed. This is not unparliamentary. The Members are entitled to express their sentiments... (*Interruptions*)... Mr. Kalita, again you have got up?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: I am telling you with all the force at my command that their Member has started making references.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: What *you are talking?

आप इस को समझते ही नहीं हो और *कर रहे हैं। ... (*व्यवधान*) आप समझना ही नहीं चाहते। हर बहस में बात करना कोई जरूरी है। पता नहीं क्या कहते हैं। ... (*व्यवधान*)

Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

डा० रत्नाकर पांडेय : यह क्या कह रहे हैं। ... (*व्यवधान*)

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : पांडेय जी अकल यहाँ लाया करो, बाहर मत बिठा कर आइयाँ करो।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भास्कर अन्नाजी मासोदकर) : राघव जी आपको कितना टाइम लगेगा। ... (*व्यवधान*) आपको कितना समय लगेगा ?

श्री राघवजी : मुझे कम से कम 10-15 मिनट लगेंगे। (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Pandey, you are going to speak on this Bill. You can deal with all those paces then. Now, Mr. Raghavji, how much time are you going to take?

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Ten to fifteen minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): No. There is a statement to be made now. We will take up the statement. Your speech will remain inconclusive. Hon. Minister.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: I will continue later.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Measures proposed to strengthen Public Distribution System

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Sir, the House will kindly recall that Prime Minister had made a statement earlier in the House on the Public Distribution System and promised that a comprehensive plan to strengthen the Public Distribution System would be placed before the House.

[Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed]

One of the top priorities of the Government is to revamp the Public Distribution System in such a manner that its benefits cover those sections of the people who need them most.

As a first step in this effort, Government plans to ensure that the Public Distribution System reaches out to the remotest corners of the country, especially areas where large numbers of the poorest of the poor live, namely, areas covered by the Drought Prone Areas Programme, the Integrated Tribal Development Projects, the Tribal Majority States, Desert Development Programme areas, designated hill areas and urban slums.

In doing this, Government's objectives are threefold;

(a) to evolve a delivery system that provides the specified essential commodities to the fair price shops at their door step,

(b) to ensure that the essential commodities are available to the consumers at pre-determined, affordable prices, and

(c) progressively expand the coverage of commodities to include every day essentials that have relevance to the nutritional and social needs of the consumers.

These ideas were placed before a meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System on the 23rd and 24th August, 1991 in which the Chief Ministers of States and State Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies participated. Based on very detailed and in depth discussions with the representatives of the States Governments and the Chief Ministers a concrete plan of action was chalked out on the steps to be taken in the next one month by the States. These are :

(a) Identification of Blocks and villages to be covered under this programme;

(b) Number of fair price shops required;

(c) Identification of additional commodities to be distributed through the PDS depending upon the specific need of the area concerned;

(d) Identification and creation of infrastructural and other requirements necessary to support the PDS operation such as storage points, transport and credit facilities; and

(e) Identification of ways by which the people of the area themselves can be involved in managing the public distribution system so as to eliminate leakage and malpractices.

In pursuance of this Plan of Action the State Governments were requested to initiate immediate action and to report progress made by them, by the middle of September, 1991. As on 16th September, 1991, we have received reports from 9 States and 4 Union Territories turning in detailed information indicating that they have completed the task entrusted to them in the first phase. 16 States and Union Territories are yet to submit information called for and these States have been requested by us in the meeting of the Central Consumer Protection Council held on 16th September, 1991 to complete the action required and submit compliance without further delay.

Prime Minister has invited the representatives of the State Governments to meet at Delhi towards the end of September 1991 so that we may review the progress made in the steps that we require to take in the first phase and also chalk out the next phases of action.

Prime Minister has particularly impressed upon the Chief Ministers and State Governments that the success of the Plan depends on the active involvement of people in exercising vigilance over the System.

Allocation of foodgrains for the Plan depends on the level of stocks available in the Central Pool. An optimum level of procurement of foodgrains is a sine non for a credible Public Distribution System. States have agreed that they will step up their efforts in this direction, in their part, the Central Government will

in the case of States that are marginally surplus or deficit, allocate a portion of the foodgrains procured by them for the PDS in the same State. Also, Centre would initiate measures for the procurement of certain manufactured items, that can go into the Public Distribution System. These efforts would have to be accompanied by stern action against blackmarketeers and hoarders.

The States have agreed that they would usher in a credible PDS on the above-lines, within a timeframe. The States and the Centre recognise this as a joint effort, in which the States have leading operational role. We have agreed to fully cooperate with one another to make this programme successful so that based on the lessons we learn in this effort, we may move on to streamline the public distribution system in the other parts of the country as well. Meanwhile, joint inspection teams consisting of officials of the Central Government as well as State Governments would be constituted to monitor and inspect the functioning of the PDS at the cutting edge level in the identified area?

The House will be kept informed of the progress of our efforts in operationalising this vital Scheme, from time to time.

Government is confident that it has full backing of this House in these efforts that we are making to give a new direction to the PDS.

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सरकार की ओर से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के संबंध में यह जो स्टेटमेंट आया है उसका मैं स्वागत करता हूँ। लेकिन स्वागत करते के साथ-साथ मैं आशंका भी प्रकट करता हूँ इसलिए कि कई बार सरकार की ओर से इस तरह की नीति निर्धारित हुई और पिछले बीस वर्षों का बहुत करीब से हमारा यह तजुर्बा रहा है कि जो भी सरकारी धोषणायें होतीं रही हैं वे कागज पर अधिक हुई हैं, व्यावहारिक रूप से कम हुई हैं। इसलिए कि हमारी जो मशीनरी है वह बहुत करस्ट मशीनरी है। बहुत नजदीक से करीब आज के बीस

साल पहले जब फूडग्रेन का पहली बार अधिश्रवण की बात चली थी और वितरण प्रणाली के द्वारा उनका जो वितरण था उस समय से इस तरह का तजुर्बा हम लोगों का होता रहा है। मैं स्पष्टीकरण में केवल तीन-चार बातें सरकार की ओर से जानना चाहूंगा। एक तो मंत्री महोदय ने अपने बयान में यह कहा है कि 9 राज्यों और 4 केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों की ओर से अब तक इनको इम्फॉर्मेशन मिल चुके हैं और 16 राज्यों और 3 केन्द्र शासित राज्यों की ओर से अभी इस संबंध में विवरण मिलना बाकी है, आपने क्या उसके लिए कोई समय-सीमा निर्धारित की है कि कब तक देश के सभी राज्यों से आपके पास इस संबंध में सीधी पूरी रिपोर्ट और पूरी बात-चीत आ जाए? नम्बर दो, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा सरकार से कि आपने इसमें यह कहा है कि इस सदन को हम विश्वास में लेकर सदन को बराबर इसमें जो प्रगति होगी इससे हम खबर करते रहेंगे, इन्फॉर्म करते रहेंगे। इस संबंध में मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा, मंत्री महोदय से यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि आप जब तक एम्प्ली लोगों को इसमें नहीं किसी न किसी तरह से सम्मिलित करते हैं तब तक यह संभव नहीं है। इसलिए मैं कह रहा हूँ कि सब से बड़ी अगर केन्द्र के पास मशीनरी है तो वह लोक सभा और राज्य सभा के सदस्य हैं। आप इस तरह का कोई भी कदम उठाएँ उसमें राज्य सभा और लोक सभा के सदस्यों को वाचडॉग की तरह से या उसके लिए किसी न किसी रूप में कोई कमेटी में आप उनको रीसपॉन्सिबल बनायें तब मैं समझता हूँ कि आपका काम ज्यादा कारगर होगा, क्या इस पर सरकार विचार करेगी या नहीं विचार करेगी?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री भास्कर अन्नाजी भासोदकर) : वाचडॉग का हिन्दी में क्या रूपांतर है?

डा० रत्नाकर पांडेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : अंग्रेजी के शब्द जो हिन्दी में प्रचलित हो गए हैं, उसमें ही यह एक शब्द है।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : देख-रेख की जो कमेटी बने उसके लिए है। अंतिम बात, मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि यह जो इन्होंने बनाया और अभी बिल्कुल उकाशत की

[श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह]

तरह से हमारे सामने इनका स्पष्टीकरण आ गया तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि प्रांतीय सरकारों से अथवा मुख्यमंत्रियों से केन्द्रीय सरकार की जो बातचीत हुई, उसमें किस प्रांत के मुख्यमंत्री की इस संबंध में क्या विचारधारा थी? मैं इन बातों को इसलिए जानना चाहूँगा क्योंकि हमारे यहां देश में जो राज्य सरकारें चल रही हैं, आर्थिक-नीति के तौर पर भी उनकी कोई नीति नहीं है, कहीं क्षेत्रीय सरकार है, कहीं वामपंथी सरकार है और कहीं दक्षिण-पंथी सरकार है और जन-वितरण प्रणाली में भी अलग-अलग प्रांतों की जो कार्य-पद्धति है, वह अलग है। उन सब का एकजुटता के साथ समीकरण केन्द्रीय सरकार किस रूप में कर रही है और जिन लोगों से आपने बातें कीं, उनकी अपनी प्रतिक्रिया क्या थी?

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: (West Bengal): Sir, the Statement is too long. It contains four pages, but in spite of the good wishes expressed by the Government the will is not so much exhibited here, I hope that in future we will have the experience of the Government's will. Now the questions that I want to put before the hon. Minister by way of clarifications are: What is the number of people under the poverty line covered by the PDS in each State and what is the number that would be covered under this scheme? What would be the price differential between market and PDS rates? Is there any plan to supply rice to the agricultural workers at the rate of Rs. 2 during lean period? What are the items now covered by the PDS and what would be the items covered according to this scheme? I would like to know whether the Government would supply all the essential items for example, West Bengal had identified 14 essential commodities under the PDS!—at the same rate all over the country. If the Government has any programme to fix prices at a suitable point to contain inflation, I would like to know whether the Government has assessed the requirements of the floodstricken people for food and other essential commodities

and whether any supply has been made to them.

Out of this statement another point that arises is this. What is the exact form of organisation that the Government wants to develop for speedy and effective implementation of this programme?

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this shows the seriousness of the Government and they are now acting according to time-bound programme. I am very happy to know this. I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. It appears to me from the Statement that all the people in the country will not be covered under the new PDS. As far as India is concerned, everyone at present is included and they have been given ration cards. It appears to me that only those who are living in slums or the areas which you have mentioned will be covered. I would like to know whether you have instructed the Government in different States—wherever every-body is given a ration card—that they will again issue new ration cards to the persons who are covered under this scheme.

Secondly, what I have seen as a Minister in this Department also is this. When sugar was given to the fair-price shops before reaching them it was going into the hands of private businessmen who were selling it in the black market. In such a situation, how are you going to see that all the goods which are meant for fair-price shops are actually given there and that the people should know in advance that so much quantity has been received on a particular date? I would like to know whether for that purpose the Government is going to see that in villages, the village Sarpanch, whoever is there, announces by ringing a bell that so much quantity has come and people can collect it so that it does not go into the black market.

Thirdly, what I have found, for example, in Banaswara area of Rajasthan is that the Government is giving wheat but the Advisers of that area do not collect

sume that wheat. All this what is going to the black market and is again sold to businessmen. I would like to know whether you will procure maize or jowar and supply instead of wheat to those areas where the Adivasis and others are consuming them so *that* those people will really get the benefit; otherwise they don't get wheat and again they have to buy maize in the open market. As far as vigilance is concerned, in Maharashtra we have a scheme that every fair price shop has a committee of five or six people who are the ration-card holders of the shop. I would like to know whether that kind of machinery has been discussed with the Chief Ministers so that there can be proper vigilance. There should be some voluntary organisation or consumer movement. Persons are there. I would like to know whether you are going to have this kind of vigilance committee so that they can go at any time to the shop and find out whether they are giving the items to the people according to the prescribed quantity; otherwise what happens is that I don't withdraw my wheat and the ration shop owner shows that he has given to Mr. Jagesh Desai so-and-so quantity of wheat, and that kind of goods will go to the black market. I would like to know to check such practices what kind of machinery you are going to have.

I want to give suggestions to improve the system because it is very fundamental. We want that the people should get those things, whether in hilly areas or in inaccessible areas. Are you going to have mobile! ration shops, say at least on a particular day? You cannot cover all the villages. If the population is hundred no person can run a ration shop because it is not economical. You can take the day as Monday. On Monday you will go to this village and on Tuesday you will go to that village. It can be announced earlier. I would like to know whether you are going to make this kind of arrangement.

Regarding items. We want some more items to be distributed through the fair price shops. I remember, Sir, in 1975—I

am talking about some 16 years before—through the fair-price shops we were supplying exercise notebooks, small tea packets, tubes like cycle tubes, washing soaps and edible oils. I would like to know whether you are going to supply small packets of tea, say costing one rupee per packet, because the Adivasis and other small people cannot purchase 100 grams packet. I want to know whether you will have that kind of an organisation through which you can give the goods in small packets which will really go to them. Sir, you have to expand the system to include pulses also. Are you going to procure pulses like urad dal, masoor dal, etc. Even for roti you require some dal. Vegetables have become a luxury. They cannot think of buying it. Even middle class people cannot think of buying it. I would like to know whether you are going to procure and distribute pulses at least in the Adivasi areas and where very, very poor sections of the people are living. If you are going to supply these things to them, I am sure, people will say that this Government is committed to see that the prices are not going up and at least Manmohan Singhji will be happy if these things are done and his work will be easier. (*Interruptions*). .. I am telling very seriously. Housewives and others will curse you if you are not doing this. I am very happy that the Prime Minister has taken it very seriously and now a time-bound programme has been drawn up. Will you kindly give the names of the States which have given the information and which have taken the initiative? Why have not the the other States given the information and taken the initiative? If the States are very keen they should go in a systematic way and then only this system can prove effective. I am very happy that the Minister has made a very good statement and a very good scheme and I am sure that my suggestions will be taken into account while formulating the policy.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at the outset I must say that the enumeration in the statement has some positive aspect in the sense that during a limited

[Prof. Saurin Bhattacharya]

time certain steps have been taken with a declaration that public distribution system should be made to cover areas where the poorest of the poor people live". So far so good. But the question is that this statement does not take into account, it seems, the existing public distribution system and how these things which have been enumerated here or the approach which has been given here will be integrated with the existing public distribution system which is not in existence all over the country but only in certain States like in my own State, in Mr. Desai's State, in Kerala and a few other States. How to integrate these things with the existing PDS is the question. Then the question of coverage has been dealt with by Mr. Desai and I need not go into it again. But that is important. We have been persistently demanding this thing. Why? So that the people are saved from the fluctuation of prices, from profiteering, from hoarding. Here also there is a mention, whatever be the figures, about 75 to 80 per cent of our population requires public distribution system if they have to make both ends meet. Therefore, the stretch of it is important..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You please put a question.

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: This is the question: How do they propose to integrate these things that are mentioned here with the existing public distribution system? What would be the stretch of it? The question of price, affordable price, is here. In spite of Dr. Manmohan's presence the question of subsidy looms large. A large section of our population would not be able to afford the things distributed through the PDS unless these are subsidised. About 50 per cent of our population..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): He will reply to it

PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: I hope all these things, although they might not have come in the statement, have been kept in mind and will be clarified by the Minister in the course of his reply.

डा० रत्नाकर पांडेय : माननीय उप-सभाध्यक्ष जी, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को प्रभावशाली बनाने के लिए जो नगरिक आपूर्ति और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री जी ने वक्तव्य दिया है, उसमें कई नई चीजों की ओर उन्होंने ध्यान दिलाया है और कई चीजें चली आ रही हैं। अभी कल मैंने अखबारों में पढ़ा था कि गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र के विचौलिये, दलाल जो अगली फसल पैदा होने वाली है, उसमें पांच लाख बोरी चबल की खरीद का सौदा कर चुके हैं, जहाँ जहाँ यह पैदा होता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिए मंत्री महोदय ने, यह न कह करके कि स्टेट सप्लायर है या यह हमारे विभाग की जिम्मेदारी नहीं है, इन होर्डर्स को जो अनाज को पैदा होने से पहले ही खरीद चुके हैं, उसको अलग करने के लिये या देश में इस स्टॉक में चोर-बाजारी और जमाखोरी करने वाले बड़े होर्डर्स की जो ब्लैक मार्केटिंग चल रही है और एक कृत्रिम बनावटी महंगाई पैदा की गई है, भाग करियेगा हमें, उसके लिए अब तब सरकार ने कोई ऐसा कदम नहीं उठाया है जिसकी हम इस सदन में तारीफ कर सकें, तो जो होर्डर्स हैं, ब्लैक मार्केटर्स हैं, जो प्रधान मंत्री जी ने सितम्बर के तीसरे हफ्ते में मीटिंग बुलाई है, क्या उससे पहले ऐसे लोगों के साथ आप कड़ी कानूनी कार्यवाही करेंगे ? अन्न ब्रह्म होता है और ब्रह्म के साथ ये ब्लैक मार्केटिंग कर रहे हैं जनता की अनिवार्य आवश्यकता की वस्तुओं को होर्डिंग करके और उनका कृत्रिम दाम बढ़ा करके नाजायज फायदा उठा रहे हैं और देश में भी बनावटी अभाव पैदा कर रहे हैं उन लोगों पर आपकी सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रही है ? प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जो बैठक बुलाई है, क्या उससे पहले कार्यवाही होगी ? प्रधान मंत्री जी को और आपके कैबिनेट को जो करना था कर दिया, माननीय मंत्री जी अब

आपको करना है। वितरण प्रणाली आपकी इतनी दूषित है कि राशन की दुकानों को लेने के लिये छोटे स्तर पर शहरों में हर जगह, हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में, ब्लॉक में—हर जगह घूसखोरी चलती है और जो आप वितरण के लिये देते हैं उसको ठीक से बांटा नहीं जाता है। जो समाधान आप वितरण के लिए देते हैं उसको ढंग से बांटा नहीं जाता है और टांग दिया जाता है कि चीनी नहीं है। जो जरूरी आइटम है, जिनका ब्लॉक में दुगुना दाम हो जाता है, उन सब चीजों का कृत्रिम अभाव दिखा दिया जाता है। तो ब्लॉक स्तर से लेकर ऊपर के स्तर तक आप ब्लॉक मार्केटिंग रोकने के लिए क्या कार्य-वही करने जा रहे हैं, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

महोदय, दो एक प्रश्न और मैं आपकी आज्ञा से पूछना चाहता हूँ। एक तो राज्य और केन्द्र सरकार के संबंध के बारे में है। अभी आपने कहा है कि 16 राज्यों और 3 संघ शासित प्रदेशों ने अभी अपेक्षित सूचना नहीं भेजी है। राज्यों में जो आपके डिपार्टमेंट को देखने वाले मिनिस्टर हैं, आप संसद का सत्र खत्म होने के बाद उनकी एक मीटिंग बुलाइये और उनकी रिपोर्ट लीजिए और उसे सार्वजनिक बनाइये। जो राज्य और संघ शासित प्रदेश ठीक समय पर सेंटर को रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजते हैं वे निश्चित रूप से केन्द्रीय सरकार की जो एक गरिमा है उसको कम करते हैं। इसलिए उन पर आप कड़ी कार्यवाही करें और तुरंत रिपोर्ट लें।

महोदय, जगह-जगह पर उपभोक्ता परिषदें बनी हुई हैं। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश उपभोक्ता परिषद का संरक्षक हूँ और हमने बहुत सी मीटिंगें की हैं। हम कोशिश करते हैं कि मिल-वटी सामान न मिले, स्वस्थकर सामान मिले। इसके लिए आपने बहुत से चिह्न बना रखे हैं। आई.एस.आई. मार्क बना रखा है लेकिन ये मार्क भी जाली लगने शुरू हो गए हैं। तो इससे निपटने के लिए आपको कड़े कदम उठाने होंगे जैसे हाथ काट लीजिए उन लोगों के जो चोरबाजारी करते हैं। आपका कानून इतना ढीला है, इतना लचर

है कि आप चाहते हुए भी कुछ नहीं कर पाते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ जो अनिवार्य आइटम्स हैं, जैसे चीनी का आपने कंट्रोल कर दिया है, वैसे ही क्या आप इन अनिवार्य आइटम्स जैसे खाद्य तेल, ज्वार, दाल आदि को भी कंट्रोल के माध्यम से बेचने की व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं? कल मैं साप्ताहिक हिंदुस्तान में एक लेख पढ़ रहा था कि जो 2 रुपए किलो सब्जी होती है वह उपभोक्ता तक 20 रुपए किलो में पहुंचती है। आप कागजों में महंगाई घटा रहे हैं और जनता और हम सब लोग जो मध्यम वर्ग के हैं, उनको निश्चित रूप से 20-25 परसेंट अधिक खर्च करना 3—3 रुपए 4—4 रुपए का आज एक टमाटर मिल रहा है। इस तरह से आप बात कुछ कर रहे हैं और समाज में कुछ और हो रहा है। इसको रोकने के लिए क्या चेक व्वाइट्स आप बना रहे हैं? सरकार का जो एक अनुशासन, नियंत्रण और दबदबा होता है वह कहीं देखने को नहीं मिल रहा है। कंज्यूमर्स के मन में आज यह बात चिता का विषय बनी हुई है कि महंगाई निरंतर बढ़ती जा रही है और जरूरी आइटम्स सही दाम पर नहीं मिल रहे हैं जब कि फसल बहुत अच्छी होने की संभावना है।

तो इन चीजों पर आप नियंत्रण करिए और जिन लोगों ने अभी तक रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजी है, उनसे आप रिपोर्ट लीजिए। आपने बताया है कि राज्यों की इसमें प्रमुख भूमिका है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि राज्यों की भूमिका और आपका कोऑर्डिनेशन यह इतना मजबूत तंत्र होना चाहिए कि उसमें सारी चीजें आ जाएं।

अंत में मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे आपने न्यू इंडस्ट्रियल पालिसी रखी है वैसे आप सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली में what are we going to do? It is already on the paper, but it should be implemented in public life as well.

उसके लिए आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं? केवल कागजी वक्तव्य नहीं बल्कि व्यक्तिगत वक्तव्य आपका क्या है, यह मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ?

श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य में कुछ बातें ऐसी हैं जिनसे डर लगता है कि कुछ ज्यादा समय लेंगे इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर बनाने में और उन ठिकानों का पता लगाने में जहां दुकानें खोली जायेंगी और उनकी संख्या तय की जाएगी। तो मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह कुछ निश्चित समय बतायेंगे कि जिसके अंदर यह सारा इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर बन जाएगा, दुकानों की संख्या तय हो जाएगी और वे जगहें तय हो जायेंगी।

दूसरी चीज यह है कि दुकानों पर तमाम सामान नहीं है। धीरे-धीरे क्रम से उनको बढ़ाने की कोशिश की जाएगी। तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस वक्त फौरी तौर पर उन्होंने कौन-कौन सी चीजें उपलब्ध कराना तय किया है और कौन-कौन सी चीजें उनमें और जोड़ना चाहते हैं ?

तीसरी चीज यह है कि मान लीजिए कि आसाम एक तरह का चावल पैदा करता है, उसके लिए उसका टेस्ट होता है, लेकिन आप आसाम का चावल उनको न देकर दूसरी जगह का चावल उनको भेज देते हैं। यह आम शिकायत है। आपने यह कहा है कि जिस क्षेत्र की पैदावार है उसका एक हिस्सा वहां देंगे। मेरा कहना है कि अगर उनकी जरूरत के लिए पूरा देना पड़े तो उनको दीजिए ताकि आपका दुलाई पर जो खर्चा आता है वह न पड़े। अरुणाचल प्रदेश के लोगों की शिकायत रही है कि उनका चावल, जिसके लिए उनका टेस्ट है, उनको नहीं दिया जाता है और दूसरी जगह का लाकर उनको दिया जाता है। वितरण व्यवस्था में आप के अधिकारी एक गांव के लोगों को उसी गांव की दुकान से सम्बद्ध न कर दूसरी जगह लगा देते हैं जिससे उपभोक्ता को परेशानी होती है। मैं समझता हूँ कि आप जो राहत देना चाहते हैं वह उनको मिल नहीं पाती है।

इसके अतिरिक्त आपने यह नहीं बताया कि जो मौजूदा व्यवस्था चल रही है और नई व्यवस्था जो आप बनाने जा

रहे हैं, क्या वह पुरानी व्यवस्था खत्म हो जायेगी या इसके साथ साथ काम करेगी इस पर भी प्रकाश डालियेगा।

एक चीज और पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपने कुछ सुझाव मांगे थे राज्यों से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के लिए ऐसे तरीकों का पता लगायें जिससे उस क्षेत्र के लोगों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के प्रबंध में शामिल किया जा सके ताकि चोरी और हेराफेरी समाप्त की जा सके। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या राज्य सरकारों से आपको कोई सुझाव मिले हैं ? और अगर मिले हैं, तो वे क्या हैं ?

आखिरी बात मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि निगरानी की जो व्यवस्था आपने की है, कुछ केन्द्र के अधिकारी और कुछ राज्यों के अधिकारी मिलकर निगरानी करेंगे। मेरा कहना यह है कि जो हालत अपने देश में भ्रष्टाचार की देखने में आती है, उसमें सप्लाय दफ्तर के अधिकारी व इन्स्पेक्टर वगैरह यही लोग जो इश्यू करते हैं, गड़बड़ करते हैं ; मान लीजिए चीनी इश्यू की तो वह दुकान पर नहीं जाएगी। आपने अच्छा किया कि दुकानों पर डेलिवरी देंगे। लेकिन वे लोग चीनी बीच में ही बेच देते हैं। तो क्या आप उनके साथ जन प्रतिनिधियों को भी जिनमें एम.पी. लोग भी शामिल हैं, उन निगरानी समितियों में शामिल करेंगे या नहीं ? यही मेरे कुछ प्रश्न हैं।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, before I proceed, I thank the hon. Prime Minister and also the Civil Supplies Minister for taking keen interest in the public distribution system. Sir, this is such a field that if the public distribution system is perfect in the States, it will naturally control the price rise in the country. Sir, the- Chief Ministers of various States and the Food and Civil Supplies Ministers of the States have been called here and meetings have been held. It is a welcome move. But in practice, Sir, to implement it, though it is a State subject...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: It is not a State subject. It is administered by the State.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I agree with you. It is administered by the States. But the Central Government has to give full support to the State Government for implementing this public distribution system in an effective manner.

Sir, practically, what is 'happening in the PDS shops? There is a Vigilance Committee appointed by the State Government. If a person belonging to the Vigilance Department goes there and finds any deficiency or malpractices, he writes in the note book maintained by the shopkeeper that this is the deficiency in the stock and whatever malpractices have been indulged in will be recorded. Sir, I know personally; a person came to me and informed me that the note book which was kept was replaced by another note book. The note book with the remarks of the Vigilance man was taken away by the person who is the shopowner and replaced.

Then, for one fair price shop there are a thousand or 750 ration cards. Naturally all the people are not going and purchasing ration items in the shop.

About 75 per cent of the people will purchase and the remaining 25 per cent of the stocks will be with the owner of the shop.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNUT MASODKAR): What is the clarification you want?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am telling about the problems faced by the people. I am giving examples. The shop, owner will show in the record. All items sold. He will dispose of 5 Per cent of the items in black market. Black market is not in the open market. Even in the public distribution system black marketing is going on. Now, what is the price of palmolive oil? *(Time bell rings)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): What is the question? No speeches, please.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am not making a lengthy speech. I would like to enlighten the Civil Supplies Minister about the prices prevailing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): I am distributing time. You are thinking of distributing something else. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Now, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether he will include more items in the public distribution system or not. Sir, there is bungling in ration cards. What happens is that bogus cards have been in circulation. Throughout the country it is there, in various States*. Apart from that, people in the affluent sections, who are drawing Rs. 7500 or Rs. 8000 per month as salary are also getting ration cards.

Mr. Minister, it is a very vital point. Also, a person who is a businessman earning a profit of one lakh of rupees a month, is also given a ration card. He is also getting the ration of poor men. Poor people should be given more ration.

Sir, in the Civil Supplies Department, what is happening is that the Civil Supplies officers and also the Food Corporation of India go for procurement at the sowing season. I have examples of...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please conclude.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I am not going out of the subject.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You are going out of time.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: On that I agree with you, Sir. Within two minutes I will finish. What the Food Corporation people are doing is that they go for procurement only at the sowing season. By that time, in the mandi and other places other people have procured the items and the remaining ones are of

[Shri V. Narayanasamy]

inferior in quality. Even the rice, of which the Price has been increased to Rs. 8, is very poor in quality.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): He has understood it. You please conclude.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Public Distribution System can be strengthened only through cooperatives formed by the village Panchayats and cooperative societies. I want to know whether the Minister will give importance to this system so that the people will get ration items in a proper form. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether they will encourage cooperative system in villages.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY (Orissa!): In para 3 of the statement it is written that the Government plans to ensure that the Public Distribution System reaches out to areas covered by the Drought Prone Areas Programme. I want to know whether the calamity-prone areas will be covered under this programme. This is my first question. My second question is regarding misappropriation and mismanagement in fair-price shops. I want to know whether it is on cooperative basis or not. My third question is whether there will be any card system or not.

श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह ठाकुर (मध्य प्रदेश): मैं सर्वप्रथम तो इस स्टेटमेंट के लिए आदरणीय मंत्री महोदय का धन्यवाद दूंगा कि उन्होंने एक बहुत अच्छा प्रयास इस स्टेटमेंट के माध्यम से सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को ठीक करने के संदर्भ में किया है। मैं उनसे कुछ क्लेरिफिकेशन्स पूछना चाहूंगा। यह बात सच है कि सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली में हर जगह घोर भ्रष्टाचार व्याप्त है। उसको दूर करने के लिये जो कदम आपने विचारे हैं वे वास्तव में स्वागत योग्य हैं। लेकिन इनके साथ साथ जो आपने प्रावधान किये हैं और आपकी जो मंशा है, क्या उसके साथ कुछ जो

गड़बड़ी करने वाले लोग हैं, भ्रष्टाचार फैलाने वाले लोग हैं उनके खिलाफ कुछ कार्यवाही करने का कानूनी प्रावधान इसमें रखा है या नहीं? नम्बर 5 के "क" पर आपने कहा है कि इस कार्यक्रम के तहत ब्लॉकों और गांवों का पता लगाया जायेगा। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अभी तक देश के सभी गांव और सभी ब्लॉक इस कार्यक्रम के तहत नहीं आये थे? उसी में "ग" बिन्दु में आपने लिखा है कि संबंधित क्षेत्र की विशिष्ट जरूरतों को देखते हुये सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली वस्तुओं का पता लगाया जायेगा। मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस समिति में क्या आप एम०पी०, एम०एल०ए० और जो जन प्रतिनिधि हैं उनको भी सम्मिलित करने की कृपा करेंगे? "इ" में आपने कहा है कि ऐसे तरीकों का पता लगाया जायेगा जिनमें क्षेत्र के लोगों को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के संबंध में शामिल किया जा सके त कि चोरी और हेराफेरी को समाप्त किया जा सके। मैं आदरणीय मंत्री महोदय की जानकारी में यह बात लाना चाहता हूँ कि मैं मध्य प्रदेश से आता हूँ, वहाँ जो सहकारिता मंत्री हैं उन्होंने अखबारों में एक वक्तव्य दिया है, वहाँ बी०जे० पी० की सरकार है, उनके सहकारिता मंत्री ने अखबारों के माध्यम से यह बात कही है कि बी०जे०पी० के कार्यकर्ताओं को सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली की सारी फैयर प्राइस शोप्स दी जायेंगी। ये फैयर प्राइस शोप्स वहाँ पर विकलांगों, विधवाओं, बुजुर्गों और बेरोजगार भाइयों और बहनों को प्रदान किये गये थे। यह बड़े दुख की बात है कि उन्होंने इस प्रकार का कदम उठाने की घोषणा की है। इस संदर्भ में मंत्री महोदय को भी जापन दिया जा चुका है। इस लिये मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस दिशा में कोई ठोस कदम उठाकर इस प्रकार से पक्षपात के इस प्रणाली को दूषित करने का जो प्रयास किया जा रहा है उस पर क्या आप कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे? आपने छठे बिन्दु पर कहा है कि आज तक आपके पास 9 राज्यों ने जानकारी भेजी है। तो कौन कौन से राज्यों ने जानकारी नहीं भेजी

है, क्या इसको भी बताने की कृपा करेंगे ? खाद्यान्न के बंटवारे के संबंध में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कई राज्यों में नागरिक निगमों की व्यवस्था की गई है। नागरिक आपूर्ति निगमों के माध्यम से जिन खाद्यान्नों का बंटवारा किया जाता है जो बेवजह से उन निगम के कर्मचारियों के खातिर जो उपभोक्ता हैं उनके ऊपर उसका वजन आ जाता है। तो क्या पूरे देश में, सभी राज्यों में ये खाद्यान्न नागरिक आपूर्ति निगमों के माध्यम से बाँटते हैं या यह केवल कुछ राज्यों में है और क्या इस पर पुनर्विचार करके इसको रोकने की कृपा करेंगे ?

एक और बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे कितने राज्य हैं जिनको खाद्यान्न का कोटा निर्धारित होता है और उन्होंने कोटा न उठाया हो ? अगर न उठाने वाले राज्य को जनता की तरफ से कोई शिकायत आती है तो क्या उस राज्य सरकार के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही करने की सरकार मंशा रखती है ?

अंत में मैं एक बात पूछना चाहूँगा। अपने एक संयुक्त निरीक्षण दल बनाने की घोषणा की है। तो उन दलों में अगर पब्लिक रिप्रेजेंटेटिव भी रखे जायें तो ये ज्यादा सक्षम हो सकते हैं। अंत में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने जो कुछ भी इसमें घोषणा की है, इसका जो कार्यान्वयन है वह राज्य सरकारों के माध्यम से होगा ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपके पास कोई ऐसा कानूनी प्रावधान है जिसके माध्यम से उन सरकारों के खिलाफ, जो आपकी इस मंशा के अनुसार काम नहीं करती हैं, उनके ऊपर आप कानूनी कार्यवाही कर सकें ? अगर आपके पास कानूनी प्रावधान नहीं है तो क्या आप भविष्य में कोई इस तरह का लेजिस्लेशन लाने का विचार रखते हैं ?

श्री राघवजी (मध्य प्रदेश) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष जी, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली में सुधार और उसको व्यापक बनाने की

दृष्टि से और विशेषकर जरूरतमन्द लोगों तक उन वस्तुओं को पहुंचाने के लिये प्रधान मंत्री जी ने जो चिंतन व्यक्त की है, जो पहल की है, इसका मैं अपनी ओर से और अपनी पार्टी की ओर से स्वागत करता हूँ। लेकिन इस वक्तव्य से कुछ प्रश्न हमारे सामने उपस्थित हो जाते हैं। इसके 5 ए में दिया है कि आइडेंटिफिकेशन ऑफ ब्लॉक्स एंड विलेज में इसका अर्थ यह है कि प्रत्येक राज्य कुछ विकास खंड और कुछ गांवों का चयन किया जायेगा और इसी प्रकार के तमाम अन्य राज्यों में कुछ विकास खंडों और गांवों का चयन किया जायेगा। इसका मतलब क्या यह है कि देश में दोहरी प्रणाली चलेगी ? कुछ स्थानों में तो यह नई योजना चलेगी और कुछ स्थानों में पुरानी योजना चलती रहेगी। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह दोहरा मापदंड चलता रहेगा ?

दूसरी बात, वर्तमान में जो शक्कर का वितरण प्रति व्यक्ति है वह सवा चार सौ ग्राम प्रति व्यक्ति है। तो सवा चार सौ ग्राम के लिये एक ग्रामीण अपने गांव से 5-10 किलोमीटर चलकर उस दुकान पर पहुंचता है और उसका पूरा एक दिन निकल जाता है और एक दिन की मजदूरी उसकी चली जाती है। तो यह जो शक्कर का कोटा है, सवा चार सौ ग्राम क्या यह पर्याप्त है और क्या सरकार इसको बढ़ाने की कोई व्यवस्था करेगी ?

तीसरी बात, वर्तमान में जो खाद्य तेल है वह ग्रामतौर पर गांवों तक पहुंचता ही नहीं है। सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के नाम पर, फीयर प्राइस शाप के नाम पर वहां से निकल तो जरूर जाता है लेकिन वह गांवों तक पहुंचता नहीं है और पहुंचने की व्यवस्था भी नहीं है। तो क्या इस बारे में सुधार किया जायेगा क्योंकि खाद्य तेल अत्यन्त आवश्यक वस्तु है।

अंतिम प्रश्न मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ...

श्री सरेंद्र सिंह ठाकुर : मध्य प्रदेश में खासकर नहीं पहुँचता है ।

श्री राघवजी : मध्य प्रदेश और कई राज्यों में नहीं पहुँचता है ।

एक अन्य प्रश्न में यह करना चाहता हूँ अभी जितना कोटा प्रति फेयर प्राइस शॉप दिया जाता है, आवश्यक वस्तुओं का, उस पर जो मुनाफा निर्धारित होता है, वह सब मिलाकर किसी-किसी दुकानदार को अनेक स्थानों पर इतना भी नहीं होता है कि वह उससे 300 रुपये भी बचा पाये । इससे वह अपने परिवार का जीवन-यापन नहीं कर पाता । इसलिए देखने में यह आता है कि ब्लैकमार्केटिंग होती है । तो क्या यह सुनिश्चित किया जायेगा कि अगर किसी व्यक्ति को कोई दुकान दी जाय तो उसको उसमें कम से कम इतनी आय तो मिले जिससे वह अपना जीवनयापन कर सके । इस प्रकार से मुनाफाखोरी और कालाबाजारी पर रोक लग सकती है ।

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I am glad that the hon. Minister has conceded the fact that the Public distribution system has to be revamped. But I am afraid that it is contrary to the wishes of the hon. Finance Minister, since the Finance Minister has earmarked only Rs. 2600 crores for food subsidies, and with the expanding programme of the Civil Supplies Ministry to distribute more and more items through the Public Distribution System, I think that more money is needed for it. The Finance Minister says that we have to tighten our belt. I hope the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Jacob, will try to compromise between the two to get more money.

Another point on which I would like to seek clarification is that it is a fact—now also knows pretty well—that in Andhra Pradesh, the Public Distribution System is working well when compared to other parts of the country. But at the same time, there is large-scale leakage and the Minis-

ter has promised that he would plug the loopholes in this system. There is an Essential Commodities Department. There is a Civil Supplies Corporation. There is a Vigilance Department. There is a Revenue Department. On the top of all these, there is the Food Corporation of India. In all these departments, there is large-scale malpractice. The Minister knows pretty well that there is a Mandal Revenue Officer for each Mandal covering about 50 fair-price shop dealers. It is a fact that every month, the MRO collects at the rate of Rs. 300 from each dealer amounting to Rs. 15,000, only for allotting a quota. Also, the Vigilance Department collects Rs. 1000 or Rs. 500 each month.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Now what is the clarification you would like to seek?

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: I would like to know what steps the Minister proposes to take to plug all these loopholes in Andhra Pradesh, in Karnataka, in Tamil Nadu as well as in Pondicherry. The present Public Distribution System is covering only 10 per cent of the total foodgrains production in the country. There is no relation between the procurement and the allotment from the Food Corporation of India or from the Central pool. For example, two States, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh, roughly produce the same quantity of rice. People of both the States are rice-eaters and the consumption of rice is equal in both the States. But the contribution of Andhra Pradesh to the Central pool is 20 lakh tonnes per annum, whereas, the contribution from West Bengal is about 80,000 tonnes or even less than 80,000 tonnes. But the allotment is the same. I would like to know as to what steps the Government propose to take to procure more from the rice-producing and rice-consuming State of West Bengal to augment this distribution. Neither the Food Corporation of India nor any other departmental agency is procuring coarse cereals, maize, pulses, vegetables, onions, life-saving drugs, etc. The Government is apathetic towards the problem of rising prices. As I mentioned the other day, there is no relation between

the prices of the bulk drugs and those of the retail drugs. The prices of retail drugs are 10 times more when compared to the bulk drugs but the Government is just keeping quite over this pro-7.00 P. N. blem. I would like to add, in this connection, that the Department supplies food cards for the Members. Is it warranted? They supply subsidised foodgrains and sugar to the Members, in the Parliament House Annexe, in the Super Bazar. This is interested for the poorest of the poor. Therefore, I want the Government to set an example. They should cut down this supply to the members, so that savings can start at home. These are the clarifications I wanted to seek.

श्री जोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान (आंध्र प्रदेश) : जन'ब वाइस चयरमैन साहब, मुअज्जिज मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो तफसीली स्टेटमेंट पेश किया है मैं इसका खैर मकदम तो जरूर करूंगा मगर साथ साथ ऐसा मालूम होता है कि पहली बार ऐसा पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम हमारे मुल्क में इंट्रोड्यूस किया जा रहा है और उससे पहले इस किस्म का कोई और सिस्टम नहीं था इस वजह से कि इसमें कहा गया है कि ब्लाक और विलेज को आइडेंटिफाई किया जायेगा। मैं समझता हूँ कि तकरीबन ब्लाक्स और विलेज को आइडेंटिफाई किया जा चुका है। फिर कौन से मुअज्जिज ब्लाक्स और विलेज हैं जिनको आइडेंटिफाई किया जायेगा।

दूसरी बात यह है कि मुअज्जिज मिनिस्टर साहब ने यह कहा है कि दूरदराज के मकामात पर इस सिस्टम को ले जाया जायेगा। क्या अभी उन इलाकों में यह सिस्टम मौजूद नहीं है और अगर वहाँ पर फेयर प्राइस शाप्स हैं तो इस वक्त उनकी तादाद क्या है और आप मज्बूत कितनी दुकानात का इजाफा करना चाहते हैं।

तीसरी बात यह है कि ग्राम तौर पर यह देखा गया है कि चीनी, गेहूँ, चावल और एडीबुल आयल्स सप्लाई किये

जाते हैं। क्या मैं मुअज्जिज मिनिस्टर साहब से जान सकता हूँ कि दालें जिनकी ज्यादा किल्लत है, वे भी सप्लाई की जायेंगी, क्या मेडिसिन्स भी इनके जरिये सप्लाई की जायेंगी। फिर तरकारियाँ हैं, जैसा कि आपको मालूम है इनकी कीमतें आजकल आसमान से बातें कर रही हैं। इतिहाई महंगी हो गयी हैं। एक गरीब आदमी के लिये तरकारी खरीदना दुश्वार हो गया है। इसलिये क्या मैं मुअज्जिज मिनिस्टर साहब से जान सकता हूँ कि वे तरकारियों को इसमें शामिल करेंगे?

ग्राम तौर पर यह देखा गया है कि मौजूदा जो पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम है उसकी जो बुनियादी खराबी है वह बॉगस कार्ड्स हैं, यानी दो दो, तीन तीन कार्ड्स एक एक फैमिली में पाये जाते हैं। फिर दूसरी बात यह है कि आप जो सप्लाई करते हैं वह उन तक पहुंचता नहीं, गांवों तक पहुंचता नहीं, बीच में माल प्रेक्टिस वगैरह हो जाती है। ये चन्द बुनियादी बातें हैं, इनको आप किस तरह से दूर करेंगे। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर आप इन चीजों को दूर करेंगे तो यकीनन यह सिस्टम कामयाब हो जायेगा और हमारी नेक तमन्ना यही है कि यह सिस्टम कामयाब हो। शुक्रिया।

آشہی خلیل الرحمن (آندھرا)

پرویز (جناب والس چهر میں صاحب - معزز مفسر صاحب نے جو تفصیلی استیتمنت پیش کیا ہے میں اسکا گھر مقدم تو ضرور کرونگا مگر ساتھ ساتھ ایسا معلوم ہوتا ہے کہ پہلی بار ایسا پبلک دستری بیوشن سسٹم ہمارے ملک میں انٹروڈیوس کیا جا رہا ہے اور

اس سے پلے اس قسم کا کوئی اور
سسٹم نہیں تھا۔ اسوجہ سے کہ
اسمیں کہا گیا ہے کہ بلاک اور
ولینجز کو آئیڈنٹی فائڈ کیا جائے گا۔
میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ تقریباً بلاک
اور ولینجز کو آئیڈنٹی فائی کیا
جا چکا ہے پھر کونسے معزز بلاک اور
ولینجز ہیں جنکو آئیڈنٹی فائڈ
کیا جائیگا۔

دوسری بات یہ ہے کہ معزز
منسٹر صاحب نے یہ کہا ہے کہ
دور دراز کے مقامات پر اس سسٹم
کو لیا جائیگا۔ کیا ابھی ان علاقوں
میں یہ سسٹم موجود نہیں ہے اور
اگر وہاں پر (فیئر پرائس شاپس)
ہیں تو اسوقت انکی تعداد کیا ہے
اور آپ مزید کتنی دوکانات کا اضافہ
کرنا چاہتے ہیں۔

تیسری بات یہ ہے کہ عام طور
پر یہ دیکھا گیا ہے کہ چیلی -
گیہوں - چاول اور (ایڈیل آئلس
سیلانی کیے جاتے ہیں - کیا میں
معزز منسٹر صاحب سے جان سکتا
ہوں کہ دالیں جنکی زیادہ قلت ہے
وہ بھی سیلانی کی جائینگے۔ کیا

میڈیسنس بھی انکے ذریعہ سیلانی
کی جائینگے - پھر ترکاریاں ہیں -
جیسا کہ آپکو معلوم ہے کہ انکی
آیمتیں آجکل آسمان سے باتیں
کر رہی ہیں - انتہائی مہنگائی ہو
گئی ہے - ایک غریب آدمی کیلئے
ترکاری خریدنا دشوار ہو گیا ہے -
اسلئے کیا میں معزز منسٹر صاحب
سے جان سکتا ہوں کہ وہ ترکاریوں
کو اسمیں شامل کریں گے۔

عام طور پر یہ دیکھا گیا ہے کہ
موجودہ جو پبلک کسٹری بیوشن
سسٹم سے اسکی جو بنیادی خرابی
ہے وہ بوکس گارنس ہیں یعنی
دو دو تین تین گارنس ایک فیملی
میں پائے جاتے ہیں - پھر دوسری
بات یہ ہے کہ آپ جو سیلانی کرتے
ہیں وہ ان تک پہنچتا نہیں -
گوں تک پہنچتا نہیں - بیچ
میں مال پریکٹس وغیرہ ہو جاتی
ہے - یہ چند بنیادی باتیں ہیں :-
انکو آپ کس طرح سے دور کریں گے -
میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ اگر آپ ان
چیزوں کو دور کریں گے تو یقیناً یہ
سسٹم کامیاب ہو جائے گا - اور ہماری
نیک تمنا یہی ہے کہ یہ سسٹم
کامیاب ہو - شکریہ -

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED; Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who, in the shape of clarifications, 'nave given some valuable suggestions and advice.

At the outset, I wish to clarify one t'ning. By this statement. We are not going to remove the existing system, or, we are going to cause another parallel system to come. What has been said in the statement is that we want to strengthen tne system, revamp the whole system and make it more effctive so that it can reach the poorest of the poor. This is the main thrust of tne whole scheme. The system has been there. Hon. Members are aware as to what commodities are supplied through the public distribution system The commodities are, rice, wheat, sugar, kerosene, imported edible oil and in some States softcoke. As the 'non. Members are aware, there had been a general dissatisfaction over the functioning of the system. A number of mal-practices, leak-ages, and some mal-administration at the State levels had been causing a sort of unrest all over the country. Here I must submit that from the day the Prime Minister was sworn in, from the day he became the Prime Minister, he gave the utmost importance to revamping the whole system of public distribution and this is the effort which we have made last month by inviting Chief Ministers of States, by inviting the State Civil Supplies Ministers and also the officers who are administering the system. There we had a thorough discussion with them for two days on various aspects of the system. There were elaborate discussions, exchange of views. We heard what their needs were and how the system is to be improved.

Another thing which I want to submit is faat under the existing system the Central Government used *to* allocate the commodities and the distribution was totally with the State Governments. How much commodity should be given to each card holder and each person was left to the State Governments. Whether it should be 10 kgs. or 15 kgs. or 20 kgs. that was entirely with the State Governments. The Central Government used to only allocate a particular quantity

of these commodities. Of course, in the matter of sugar there had been a uniform rule of giving 425 grams per person. I won't deny the concern of the Members t'nere have been so many leakages, so much of mal-administration in their system. Our effort has been to improve the System and try to plug these leakages, try to remove the difficulties the consumers were facing in getting those commodities. It was with that sole view that the whole system was tried to be revamped and we are in the process. Since the Prime Minister had made the statement in both the Houses, we are looking into the system, we are trying to revamp it. We have called the Chief Ministers and State Civil Supplies Ministers. We are bringing forward a comprehensive system to improve this whole scheme. The Prime Minister also promised that he would come with the scheme before the House. It is in pursuance of that assurance that this statement is made.

Now let me clarify as to what the coverage is. There seems to be some doubt in the minds of the hon. Members that the new system is going to replace the existing system. It is not like that. In the existing system we are making allocations. In particular areas, that is in areas covered by Integrated Tribal Development Projects, we had been giving the commodities at a concessional price, but it was only limited to those integrated tribal areas blocks and those blocks may be 700. I am not very sure about the number, but it is a little more than 700 blocks. By adding these new areas, that is the drought prone areas, tribal majority States, the desert development programme areas, designated hilly areas, urban slum. I am grateful to Shri Mohanty that he has pointed out a very, very important area that, perhaps, has to be included in this and I assure him that we will look into that. iDefinitely the calamity-prone areas are to be covered under this scheme, I agree. We will examine that and we will try to include those areas also which every year face some calamities and difficulties.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: And cyclone-prone areas.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Yes, cyclone also. Cyclone comes under Calamity . . . (Interruptions) . . . The honourable Member knows that the entire Andhra Pradesh is covered. The total population of Andhra Pradesh is covered.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Uttar Pradesh): You are sympathetic to your own State, Sir.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: No, not like that ... (Interruptions)...

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: It "Was introduced long back. It has been there since 1983.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, for the information of the honourable Members •Who are interested to know which of the States have responded to our queries, I may submit that the States are Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Rajasthan and West Bengal. The Union territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry have also sent their replies to our queries. For the information of the honourable Members, I would give the queries. Sir, the information that we sought was, firstly, identification of the blocks. As I just submitted, the original ITDP blocks are just over 700, but by adding these areas the number of blocks is going to be 1,600 or 1,700. So, the identification of those blocks, the population estimates and the past PDS allocation to the area, the number of Fair Price Shops needed in the area, estimates of the below-the-poverty-line families!, storage capacity required, identification of additional commodities and the quantum of additional commodities required and report on the doorstep delivery system. These are the things on which we sought information and the information has come. In fact, yesterday we had the Consumer Protection Council meeting and the same Civil Supplies Ministers from the States

have attended the meeting and I thought that the States which have not sent the information would come up with this information and give their statements. Perhaps, some have given and still we have to receive some information. I am again writing to those States to send the information immediately and we are again going to call the same Ministers to a Conference at the end of the month.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Send telex don't write letters.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I am calling them and we are again meeting at the end of the month.

Sir, while giving tin's information, some suggestions have also been given. The association of people's representatives....

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: I have suggested to you that you should also associate the Members of Parliament from both the Houses because I think they are the proper men and they are the proper channel also. You have also given the assurance in your statement that you will always give the progress report to the House.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: On State Committees Members of Parliament are also members.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, one correction. While mentioning the Union territories, I mentioned Dadra and Nagar Haveli. It is not to. It is Chandigarh. That correction I make.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: But not Delhi?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, these are the States which have responded and which have given this information. Now, about association of Members of Parliament with the Vigilance Committees or the Monitoring Committees, it is a matter of detail and we have to see whether Members of Parliament should be there or other locally available people...(Interruptions)... These are the things which I will look into.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Both at the State level and District level, Food Advisory Committees are already there and people's representatives like MLAs are already there.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: In different States different system are there. Where we have to associate them—that is a matter on which I will have to consult the State Government also. But my fort will be that some monitoring, effective monitoring must be there, effective vigilance must be there.

Sir, Sunilji asked the number which will be covered. As I just mentioned, the area that is going to be covered will be that about 1,600 blocks will be coming in that.

About the commodities, more commodities which are sought to be included, presently the State Government are at liberty to add any number of commodities to their public distribution system.

As Sivaji Saheb has just said, the allocation or the provision made by the Finance Minister is limited, and it may not be enough for the purpose. I can only assure you that the present subsidy on the foodgrains is about Rs. 2,200 crores. The amount is less. The Finance Minister is providing some more money. So, naturally, we will be covering that. If we still feel that some more money is required there are ways. ... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Let him complete. Sivaji let him complete it.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED; Sir, as I stated in the statement itself, our effort is to bring some more commodities, some more requirements of the common people under this system. For example an hon. Member suggested tea. Of course, we are trying to do it, and I am happy to say that the response from the tea-producers is very positive, and they have showed their willingness also to bring a considerable quantity to be made available to the common people at a concessional rate, in small packages.

About *dal* and edible oil, I want to make a particular submission that the position of edible oil has been a matter of concern for everybody. I share the anxiety of all the Members equally, I am equally having concern.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): You are personally affected.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I am also affected. Everyday I get letters, telegrams, telexes from Chief Ministers, Ministers about edible oil.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Not from your wife.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Are you going to request the farmers in Andhra... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Kindly, let him speak.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, the position in the matter of edible oil is that there is a gap of about 1 million tonnes. We have to go by the figures that are available about the production of oilseeds and about the availability of edible oil. But my own assessment is that more people have started eating, consuming more oil. One more thing the hon. Members have asked. I submit that it has been a general policy of the Food Corporation and the Ministry of Civil Supplies that the locally procured commodities must be allocated locally only. For example, in the State of Andhra Pradesh there has been a sort of arrangement between the Civil Supplies Ministry and the State Government that whatever rice is procured in Andhra, two-thirds of that rice they take back the State takes back and that only one-third of that rice is available for allotment to other States. Now, in the case of West Bengal the thing is different. There the procurement itself is not very much. These are things on which different State Governments will be having different views.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Are you having any figures of production of rice, consumption of rice, allocation from

[Dr. Yelamanchilli Sivaji]

the Central pool and procurement in regard to Andhra Pradesh and west Bengal?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I am submitting that it varies from year to year. For example, in the current year we have procured a huge quantity of rice from Andhra, that at the same time we have given a large portion of it back to Andhra Pradesh. In the previous year, subject to correction, I remember ...*(Interruptions)* The need has grown, but proportionately production has not grown. That is the crux of the problem whether it is edible oil or dals. In the case of the pulses the gap is of about two million tonnes. Though pulses have been put under OGL and we are free to import pulses from other countries and cheaper pulses are also available, the problem is where there is scarcity speculation grows. The result is that the common man suffers. We are making all efforts. The Oil Technology Mission has been set up to make efforts to increase the area of production under oilseeds. There has been some improvement in that, but the fact is that we used to bridge this gap by importing edible oil. Our imports of edible oil over the last ten years remained between five lakh tonnes and eight lakh tonnes annually. Now in one year we imported palm oil to the extent of 18 lakh tonnes. Since palm oil is cheaper and it has no odour, it has become very popular in the country. In every State there is a demand for it. Because of the foreign exchange crunch we have not been able to import a single drop of oil from March 1991 onwards. That is why the people are facing this difficulty. Now, as I told you when there is scarcity, problems of pricing on the domestic front arise. Speculation starts.

SHRI JAGESH! DESAI; Why don't you regulate the market?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Kindly beat- with me. I will tell what the situation is and what kind of action we are taking.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY; You are telling what we already know. We want to know how you are going to improve the system. If you share the cones that is not enough.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED; are trying to overcome the difficulty. are making efforts. The statements we make here, reflect on speculation the prices elsewhere.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Why don't say that you will give more of it and the prices will come down?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: We cannot bear with you, but the people who are living in the rural areas will not be with you. The people could not; even a drop of palm oil. Now, the question is, how are you going to meet the requirements? That is what we want to know.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED; For your information Pondicherry is getting more of oil.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY; I am thankful to you. but what about other States? I am representing all States here.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR Hon. Minister, I would like to know what amount you will give to Madhya Pradesh

SHRI JAGESH DESAI; You know Diwali is coming. I would like to know during the festival season will you give oil to the people or not?

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED; can only say that I am making all effort to give some oil to the States through the PDS.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY; This is a typical bureaucratic reply.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI; We don't you say oil is deleterious to health.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: What about Dais? *(interruptions)*

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Kindly let me complete. Don't interrupt. Regarding the question of forward trading in the foodgrains by the traders in Gujarat, we cannot do anything about it. What we can do is to check the hoarding and blackmarketing. We have taken measures in this direction. We have specified the stock limits for the traders. We have asked the banks not to advance credit to the trader's if they violate any rules. Time and again we have been asking the State Governments to activate their Vigilance Departments so that they can conduct raids on unscrupulous traders and try to dehoard the whole Stocks that they have piled up.

My hon. friend is very keen to know about the cooperative sector. Wherever the cooperative societies are coming forward to take up distribution work for the public distribution system it is being made available to them. But the whole problem is that the cooperative System which is existing in our country varies from State to State. The States of Gujarat and Maharashtra have a very successful system in running the cooperative societies. Their cooperatives are working well. But that may not be equally true with other States. They have not held elections to their cooperatives for the last 17 to 20 years. . . *(Interruptions)* . . . Regarding the quota of foodgrains and other things, there has been a general complaint. I have no doubt about it. I asked the FCI about the general complaint. They told me that there is a system in the issue of foodgrains. The recipient State or the organisation nominated by the State has an option to accept or reject the commodity if it is Sub-standard. They have to satisfy themselves about the quality of the grain. They can do this by a system where both the FCI as well as the recipient States will be having common samples of the grains. If there is any irregularity or any foul play somewhere during the distribution process, it is very difficult for the Central Government to check it because our Scope is very limited. The whole system of implementing the public distribution sys-

tem is vested with the State Governments. We will formulate the policy and they will implement it. ... *(Interruptions)*. ... I am not yielding.

Then, from the recipient organisation nominated by the State to the fairprice shop, again the same system is there. For example in Andhra Pradesh, there is no complaint against large scale distribution System. Of course, here and there, some complaints might be there. But they have evolved a very good system. They are having the door delivery system. In the last meeting of the public distribution system, I have recommended to all the States to adopt this system. The whole commodity is taken to the villages and they are delivered there. There is no complaint on that account. There might be complaints in other States. If some unscrupulous fair-price shop dealers do any mischief, the laws are there, different laws are there. To tackle any offence committed by anybody in the whole system, there are enough laws, enough legislations through which we can prosecute the people. The main points that have been asked by the hon. Members, I think, I have clarified.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Yes, you have covered.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: And, as I promised, after I get the full information.... *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Minister, you have covered all the points.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Thank you so much. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Svajl, I am not permitting you. Now, there is a message to be read by the Secretary-General