

built up public sector as the core sector to be in the commanding height of our economy, but the whole misfortune is that this privatisation lobby is working out its evil designs in the name of Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru.

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (Bihar):
Particularly, the Government itself is doing that.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: It is a well-known fact that private electricity concerns were confined to few cities only, but now after it has been completely nationalised, it has spread in far-flung area. Lot of money from the public exchequer has been invested and now its returns have started coming to the benefit of the masses. But what I find is that attempts are being made to privatise the industry. Therefore, Madam, through you I want to convey to the Government that there can be no compromise on the principles of socialisation, no compromise on the question of attempt to privatise the public sector undertakings. If big businessmen are keen to invest money, let them invest money in some other sectors, but let them not try to invade our public sector undertakings. I wish that this feeling is conveyed to the Government.

Reduction in food allocation to Kerala from the Central Quota

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala):
Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the Food and Civil Supplies Minister through you, to a very important matter of public importance.

A new situation has already arisen in Kerala due to a big cut made in the allotment of rice supply in the last three months. It is a fact and the Government of India knows it very well that Kerala is a perennial deficit State in the question of rice and we are getting regular supplies from the Central Government. It is also a fact that we have got a well-organised public distribution system in Kerala. I am not exaggerating when I say that a vast majority of the people in Kerala are dependent upon the public distribution system. We regularly get more than one lakh—1.25 lakh tonnes of rice per month.

During the lean months, i.e. June, July and August, for the last two decades we were regularly getting 1.45 lakh tonnes per month because during the lean months even open market does not operate properly. So the whole population has to depend upon the public distribution system. But this year, I do not know what the reason is, we got only 1.25 lakh tonnes in the last two or three months.

Now the Onam holidays are coming. As far as Malayalis are concerned, Onam is a big festival. But I do not know what is the attitude of the Minister, because in this Session on 29th July, I asked a particular question. Unfortunately it became an Unstarred Question; so I am helpless. But I got the reply. My question was: whether the State Government of Kerala have requested the Centre for a special allotment of rice for the Onam festival and also for an increase in the lean months of further allotment of rice. The answer given shows either the Minister does not know what Onam is, or the man who prepared the answer for the Minister does not know what Onam is. Anyway I am reading the answer. It is a wonderful answer: "Government of Kerala has been requesting for an increase in the monthly quota. However, it has not been found possible to accede to the request of the State Government". I have asked for a special allotment for the Onam festival. For that there was no reply. I hope Mr. Jacob will listen to me because he will associate himself with me. Today morning I came to read in the papers. All right, I have it, I do not want to go to other items. Anyway, when I asked this question, the Minister did not give me a proper reply. It shows the indifferent attitude of the Government towards a vital problem affecting the whole of the State of Kerala and its people.

So I would like to make a request through you, Madam. Onam is a big festival as far as Malayalis are concerned and for the last two decades, I would like to remind the Minister, and even during the period of British Government, they used to supply a special quota for the Onam holidays. But unfortunately this year, I do not know what will happen to the people of Kerala because the

[Shri N. E. Balaram]

reply given to me says that it is not possible to accede to the request of the Kerala Government. I make a request through you, Madam, to the hon. Minister and the Government...

AN HON. MEMBER: That let there be no Onam this year.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Let there be no Onam if you are treating us like that. I hope the Kerala people are a part of Indians and Kerala is a part of India and during the Onam festival Government of India will not make us starve in those days. So I make a request to reconsider the whole position and to give us more rice. He has already given only 1.25 lakh tonnes. I want to mention that for the last ten years—I want to remind Mr. Jacob because he is sitting here and no other Minister is here.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Yes, yes, I am here.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM: This time we are given only 1.25 lakh tonnes as allotment for this month. We have got ten days of Onam. We require more rice. For the last ten years we were getting 1.65 lakh tonnes for Onam months. Why do you reduce the quantum now? Onam is there, people are there. The number of people has increased but you say that you have got enough food stocks. Why don't you give us, please? We are also a part of India. So, I request the Minister concerned through you, Madam, to pay some attention to the poor people in that part of the country. That is all I would say. Thank you.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN (Kerala): In support I only want to add two sentences.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You just say that you support it. Mr. Baby has given his time.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN: The stock is there in Kerala. In spite of that rice is not being given to the people. That is absolutely wrong.

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Madam, thank you for permitting me to associate myself with Mr. Balaram's Special Mention. Before I associate myself with the Special Mention, I would like to know whether the honourable Minister, Mr. Jacob, is also associating himself with the Special Mention.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Not only associating but I have taken a lead over you.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Thank you, Madam, the question is, the honourable colleague of mine has said that he does not know the reason for the Central Government not acceding to the request. I would like to mention that we have had the same experience on earlier occasions also, so far as the people of Kerala are concerned. During the years 1957-59, this was the attitude of the Central Government. Again during 1967-69, we had a similar experience of shortage of food supply from the Centre. Again, in 1980-82 we have had a similar experience. And, after the present Government led by Comrade Nayanar came to office, during the time of Christmas we had a very bad experience. Taking recourse to the provision of overdraft on the Reserve Bank the Central Government played an unpleasant game, an uncivilized game, in order to prevent the State Government employees from getting their salaries during Christmas days. Now again, at the time of the national festival of Kerala—during Onam—the same attitude is being adopted. The honourable Minister, Mr. Chidambaram is present here. In the case of the people of Tamil Nadu, thanks to his intervention, I think there is very, very, very proper supply of foodgrains to the State of Tamil Nadu. But the same kind of attitude is not being shown to the people of other States. If this is the attitude, then, not only will the people of Kerala starve but they will also develop a very bad opinion about the Central Government—because the Central Government is

following, to say the least, a very uncivilized approach towards non-Congress (I) State Governments. So, such allegations should not be allowed to come up and I hope the Central Government will change its attitude and take appropriate and immediate steps so that supply of food-grains is made to the State of Kerala.

SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN (Kerala): Madam, I associate myself with the statements made here and through you I make a request to the Government that in view of the fact that Kerala is the greatest producer of cash crops and is swelling the foreign exchange reserves of India, we have a right to demand more rice and, therefore, the Government should not import politics in the matter of supply of rice.

The Prevention of Corruption bill, 1987— Contd.

DR. G VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, it is always the policy of the Central Government to blame the States. You lay the economic policy, you lay the political policy. But when the question of atrocities on Harijans comes, you blame the State Governments. About corruption you blame that the State Governments are not taking action.

With one glance any man of the road can understand who has built up black money which is running a parallel economy in the entire country. It is to the tune of Rs. 50 thousand crores in this country as is estimated. Who is responsible for that? According to the Finance Department itself, more than Rs. 25,000 crores of capital has flown out of the country. How can money from our country go abroad except through corrupt means? That means, all-pervading corruption has been built up systematically in this country in order to support the rule of the capitalist class and the landlords. This has been going on for 40 years.

As in the case of the Postal Bill, when it came up, the Minister was telling that

it was continuation of the policy. After all, one Government will have to take charge from the other Government, and the Bills naturally will flow to the coming Government. If this is the attitude, then, things would become very difficult.

After all, there are certain things. The hon. Minister has stated, all the previous laws which were existing have been consolidated and some definitions have been given, especially for "public servant", "public duty" for "quick disposal of cases", "appointment of special judges and trial on day-to-day basis". All these measures are very much welcome. About punishment also, deterrent punishment of one year to seven years' imprisonment and fine or two years to seven years' imprisonment.

But the difficulty comes in about the will, the vigour with which the Government pursues these matters. I want to say, after all, the hon. Minister got this Bill passed in Lok Sabha, I think, in May last year, on the 7th of May, 1987. Today we are discussing this Bill in this House. What about that one year? Defending the Bill, the hon. Minister wanted to speed up the entire matter so that the Government can establish cleanliness. But one year it has taken for the Government to reappear with the Bill. Whatever it may be....

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The Business Advisory Committee has to give time.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: That is quite true. You may have excuses for many things.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have come to this House several times and waited for the Bill.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: That is not the question at all. It was never put on the agenda in the list of business.