

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Therefore, my submission, my humble submission, is that if there is anything repugnant to the general rights of citizens in any State, this Council of Ministers has a right to raise that question and discuss it. I felt like that... (Interruptions)... You kindly re-consider the matter, and I will again look into it tomorrow or the day after .. . (Interruptions.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Monoranjan Roy.

REFERENCE TO ALLEGED STARVATION DEATHS IN PURULIA DISTRICT IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI MONORANJAN ROY (West Bengal): Sir, in Purulia district in West Bengal, it is reported that at least nine deaths have taken place due to starvation in nine villages alone. It is not an official figure. In that district, having a population of 16 lakhs, 5 lakhs and 12 thousand persons are agricultural labourers who have no means of livelihood, except grass and roots, upon which they are living now. Sir, in the same district, which was known as the granary of West Bengal and was self-sufficient in the production of paddy, there is now extreme drought. The situation has become such that it reminds of the 1943 Bengal famine. This is the observation made by different persons in West Bengal and different papers. Sir, the Minister himself with regard to another district, has said that in that district two lakhs people do not get one meal in a week. The Minister is Mr. Zainul Abadin. This is their admission in Midnapur District living on grass and roots. The whole State is under famine condition. The people are not in revolt. That is the observation made by the Prime Minister. When she went to Howrah a few months back, she in her wisdom gave a speech. In that she said that though in 1943,

35 lakhs people died of starvation, but they did not revolt. That is our tradition. Yes, they did not revolt in 1943. but they revolted in 1945. I would like to remind the Government and the Prime Minister that if the situation is allowed to drag on like that, if famine is allowed to spread in the entire State and hundreds are allowed to die of starvation, there will be a revolt, and no one can stop that. That is my warning, Sir. No food has been rushed to those areas. One thousand women *gheraoed* the BDO, and it continues. This is the condition. What can the poor BDO do, unless food is rushed to that area ? The Food Minister comes here and gives a statement which is absolutely wrong. Under these conditions I again remind the House and the Government that things will not be allowed to go on like that.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal);
One word only ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, the practice must be followed. Now, Mr. Rabi Ray.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Only one word I want to add ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This practice is not followed.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I am sure that 1943 will recur again in Bengal and lakhs will die of starvation ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called Mr. Rabi Ray. You please sit down.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Whether the country is aware of it or not, I do not know.

श्री देवराव पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र) : मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रस्ताव है। आपकी अनुमति से यहां कोई भी इम्पोर्टेंट मीटर रख सकते हैं और वह रिफरेंस ऐसे होते हैं जो उस दिन के अखबार में हम लोग पढ़ते हैं। मेरा निवेदन

यह है कि जब कोई रिफरेंस यहां आता है तो उसका रिप्लाय नहीं मिलता है इससे यह होता है कि जो रिफरेंस यहां दिए जाते हैं उससे देश को एक तरफ की इन्फरमेशन मिलती है। मेरा प्रस्ताव यह है कि अगर कोई रिफरेंस आपको एलाट करना होता है तो मिनिस्टर कंसर्न से उसका रिप्लाय दिलवाया जाना चाहिए। वरना गलत फहमी पैदा हो जाती है। लोगों को देश के बारे में फैक्ट्स का पता नहीं चलता, स्थिति की सही जानकारी नहीं मिलती। इसलिए आप कंसर्न मिनिस्टर को बुलवाकर उसको एकजामिन करवाया करें।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will consider how the procedure should be adopted. The practice here is only one Member would raise an issue. But now a number of Members are raising the same thing. Therefore, I will have to consider whether I should continue this practice or not.

REFERENCE TO FAMINE CONDITIONS IN ORISSA

श्री रबी राय (उड़ीसा) : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से उड़ीसा की गम्भीर खाद्य परिस्थिति पर आपका ध्यान खींचना चाहता हूँ। अध्यक्ष महोदय, 7 तारीख को यू०एन० आई० की एक खबर निकली है। आप उड़ीसा के गवर्नर रह चुके हैं आपको उड़ीसा की आर्थिक स्थिति के बारे में पूरी जानकारी होगी। आज की जो खाद्य परिस्थिति है जिससे हजारों की तादाद में लोग मरने वाले हैं और मर रहे हैं उस की रपट आपकी खिदमत में पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहता हूँ।

"About 40 per cent of the population of Orissa is in the grip of severe drought and the rainfall during the last three months has been less than half of the average. A population of about 8 millions in nearly 15 gram panchayats are facing the natural calamity. About 50 per cent of the kharif crop has already

been lost in most of the districts. In June when agricultural operations started, the State had a meagre rainfall of 2.31 mms. In the following month when the operations should have been in full swing, the average rainfall was only 3.51 to 3.60 mms. as against the rainfall of 4.54 mms. in the first week of August in some parts of the State which raised hopes of rainfall that were short-lived."

"... in the report of the Sixth Finance Commission: there has been a provision of अध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी जो स्थिति है वह यह है। मनोरंजन साहब ने तो कुछ जिलों के बारे में बतलाया लेकिन मैं जो बता रहा हूँ वह उड़ीसा के बारे में है और सारे राज्य का सवाल है। आपको मालूम है कि उड़ीसा राज्य की पूरी जनसंख्या की 70 प्रतिशत जनता दारिद्र की सीमा रेखा के नीचे है। आज जो स्थिति है उससे जाहिर है कि व्यापक रूप से भुखमरी और स्टारवेशन शुरू हो गया है। उड़ीसा में कभी हम लोगों ने नहीं सुना था कि साढ़े तीन, चार रुपए किलो अनाज मिलेगा। मैं आपकी खिदमत से यह कहना चाहता हूँ इस सारी स्थिति के बारे में उड़ीसा सरकार का कहना यह है कि :

Rs. 1.5 crores for State Budget for this and the Central Government is expected to give an equal amount, the total of which has been held extremely inadequate."

सवाल यह है कि अभी यह जानकारी हम को मिली है कि उड़ीसा की जो नालायक सरकार श्रीमती नन्दिनी सत्यधी की है . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't use that word.

श्री रबी राय : उसके चलते-चलते 3 लाख टन चावल की कांग्रेस दल के लोग डीलर्स से लेकर स्मगलिंग कर रहे हैं। इससे गम्भीर स्थिति पैदा हो जाती है। वहां की उड़ीसा