

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE NATIONAL TEXTILE CORPORATION LTD. AND THE RELATED PAPERS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Textile Corporation Limited, for the year 1971-72, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Corporation [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5168/73 for (i) (ii).]

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE INDUSTRIES (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) ACT, 1951

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I also beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Industrial Development Notification S.O. No. 259(E) dated the 3rd May, 1973, under sub-section (2) of section 18A of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5169/73.]

NOTIFICATION UNDER THE INDIAN TELEGRAPH ACT, 1885

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications, under sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885:—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 526, dated the 23rd April, 1973, publishing the Indian Wireless Telegraph Rules, 1973.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 529, dated the 23rd April, 1973, publishing the Indian Wireless Telegraphy (Commercial Radio Operators Certificates of Proficiency and Licence to operate Wireless Telegraphy) Amendment Rules, 1973.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5170/73 for (i) and (ii).]

ADDENDUM TO THE STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE RAJYA SABHA REGARDING GOVERNMENT DECISIONS ON THE REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION REFORMS COMMISSION ON POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: I also beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of an addendum to the statement laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha, on the 3rd May, 1973, regarding decisions taken by Government on some major recommendations contained in the Report of the Administrative Reforms Commission on Posts and Telegraphs. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-5170/73.]

CLARIFICATIONS IN RELATION TO STATEMENT ON DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): Sir, the statement given by the hon. Member yesterday is a very complacent statement.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

It gives details of what happened last year and how the drought situation was dealt with in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and other places. When we gave the Calling Attention Motion early, what we wanted to know was about the situation in UP and Bihar now, because according to the reports, the drought situation is getting very serious. I am sorry that in spite of

[Shri Krishan Kant]

the fact that drought afflicts some part of the country every year and we spend crores of rupees, there is no visible effect of the schemes that are undertaken.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Krishan Kant, you ask the question.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I am coming to that, Sir. There is no visible effect of the schemes that you are putting and you are spending money on them. In the bulletin of the Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture on the drought relief programme, it is mentioned that a provision of 6 crores of rupees had been made for Bihar but only 89 lakhs of rupees have been spent during the year 1972-73 up to December last year. Sir, in Uttar Pradesh, a provision of 12 crores of rupees was made, and only 4.34 lakhs of rupees have been spent. I want to know whether this is the method by which you want to fight the drought and whether the Government of India has drawn up any programme so that the drought situation does not recur year after year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he knows that according to the reports people have already started moving from the villages to the towns and cities. And that is in Uttar Pradesh. And it is reported in the Indian Nation of July 19 that people have already started moving from the rural areas of Mirzapur to Banaras. There the khariff has been destroyed and the Bhadai crop has also been destroyed. In the light of that, may I know from the Government as to what they are going to do?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You must be brief. There are a number of people.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : But this is a very vital question. I will take a minute or two more. Last year, we dealt with this matter. The hon. Minister has made a mention of two things in the statement. Number 1: if the Uttar Pradesh and Bihar Governments come to them, they will give relief and help them as far as

they can. And number 2: They have mentioned that about Rs. 148 crores were made available to the States in addition to the short term loan for this so-called crash agricultural programme. What has happened to the crash agricultural programme? When Rs. 160 crores were spent last year in the States, Rs. 37 crores were given to Bihar. What has happened to these amounts? There has been the same Government the same Minister, spending all the Rs. 37 crores. Yet the production has come down. How? There is some *golemal* going on there. In Bihar it is reported that procurement of foodgrains is not from the farmers but from the fair price shops. The grain is being taken, collected and sold like that. And that is the collection by procurement. Another point which he has not mentioned is about deaths. The Government may accept about the deaths or not. Here is what an editorial of the Indian Nation mentioned. A correspondent of the Indian Nation had gone to Jamui and reported that one of the families consisting of husband, wife and a married daughter has committed suicide by taking poison saying that they could not go on without food for a number of days. Whether the deaths have taken place or not, people are taking poison because they cannot have food.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You will have to end.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I would like to know whether the Government of India feels that the Bihar Government is really competent, if it is given all the assistance, to utilise and give it to the people. Sir, here is a very interesting statement by a simple and innocent Chief Minister who says on the 21st of July: "We waited for rains till today. Now the time has come to take up the matter very seriously." Sir, here is a Chief Minister who says, "We waited for Lord Indra. Now we take the situation seriously." Do you think that this State Government, this Chief Minister and such people sitting there can solve the problem even if you give all the money to them?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Was it the new Chief Minister or the old Chief Minister?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Mr. Ghaffoor.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Then he will say "Allah". He will not say "God".

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know whether the Government of India, taking into consideration the kind of State Governments it has in the States and seeing their incapacity, is going to give all the money to them or whether it will have its own people there so that all the programmes, irrigation programmes, minor irrigation programmes, etc. are implemented? The Gangetic basin in Bihar and UP is such that if you had tubewells there, if you had electrified them, with all the instructions given last year, and if you had implemented the crash programme, then, this shortage would not have been there. May I know whether there is not bungling in Bihar and UP? What is the Government going to do about meeting the situation in both the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (**SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE**) : I appreciate the concern of the honourable Member...

DR. TRIGUNA SEN : Do you?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, fortunately much of the information which the honourable Member is giving to the House is a week old, because recently, during the last five or six days, both Bihar areas and East UP region have received very widespread rains. We ourselves were worried about the developing situation because we thought that there would be considerable damage to the kharif crops in those areas if we had no rains there, and naturally.....

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : There is no point in talking about the rains which

we are having today. What about the present starvation deaths? Provide something for the present and not talk about the coming rains. The rains are coming now all right. But what about the starvation deaths that are taking place just now?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his answer. You are going to get your chance.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Mr. Deputy Chairman, I have no objection to the Minister talking of rains coming now. Even with the present rain, the Bhadoi crop has been completely destroyed. He is not referring to that. I want to know what the situation is?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We are aware of the implications of the delayed rains. But what is to be appreciated is because of the wide-spread rains now there is a basic change in the situation now, because, as I said, we ourselves were worried about the impact of lack of rains on the national economy as a whole. But now we have widespread rains in the drought-affected areas also. The drought-affected areas in the South, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Mysore and Andhra have received very good rains and there has been extensive kharif sowing. What the honourable Member has to appreciate is in this country high fluctuation in production of food-grains comes because of shortfall in production of coarse grains. This year fortunately all the areas, mainly growing coarse grains, have received very good rains. With this rainfall in Bihar and UP I am hopeful—Members may say I am over optimistic—that the country is in now for a very good kharif crop. And therefore, honourable Members need not unnecessarily create panic or unnecessarily create a feeling that there is going to be a lot of difficulty in the coming period. I know some difficulties would be there. But because of these rains I think we are in for a very good kharif crop this year. That is number one. Secondly, as far as

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde.]

production aspect of the problem goes, he said that large amounts were given to the State Governments and he wanted to know whether those have been properly utilised or not. I cannot say of marginal cases, there may be marginal cases here and there, there may have been some wastage, etc. But I wish the honourable Member had accompanied me to Gujarat or Maharashtra. For the first time in the history of this country a very useful work was carried on by these State Governments with the guidance of the Centre. We insisted that the content of the work should be productive . . .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I am asking about Bihar and U.P. You are not coming to that.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I am coming to that. But you had asked about these other States also. I am sorry the honourable Member forgets his own questions. He asked whether the amounts that had been given were spent or not. He referred to the amount of crores of rupees given by the Government of India and asked whether they were used properly and usefully. I am replying to that part of the question. As far as that part of the question is concerned, for the first time, very large productive works were taken up by these State Governments for drought relief. I think that would go a long way in providing protection to the drought-affected areas. Then the honourable Member referred to starvation deaths. I think my senior colleague has already mentioned about it on the floor of this House. We have no independent machinery to verify this thing, but any allegation made or any information of starvation deaths given here, we take it very seriously and we refer it to the State Governments. And so far no State Government has reported any such deaths. They have said that they have made necessary enquiries and they have not corroborated any case of starvation. If we get any information as a result of enquiries from the State Governments, we shall be glad to share our information

with this honourable House. Then, as far as Bihar and U.P. are concerned, in Bihar there is a popularly elected Government....

SHRI J. P. YADAV (Bihar) : But there is no popular Minister there.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : . . . and to the extent possible we have helped them. Now we have lot of experience in fighting drought, especially after that notorious drought of 1966-67 in Bihar and U.P. Then for the first time irrigation works were taken up. Similar activities could have been taken up this time also. But now rains are there, transplantation will be taken up. In eastern U.P. paddy could not be sown earlier. But bajra could be sown. Even in normal years transplantation takes place till the end of August. Therefore, we need not be panicky. Things are expected to proceed well. But in a large country like ours, there may be some pockets here and there where the rainfall fails or where there are deficient rains. For that we will take adequate care. We will consult State Governments and whatever assistance is required will be given.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : He has not replied to two of my questions. Have you any plans for Bihar and U.P. to provide permanent work of irrigation? The Minister said that since the rains are there, it may not be required. That is again a complacent outlook. For starting irrigation works, are you prepared to set up your own cells there?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : There is a well-set practice under which Central teams visit the States and there are broad guide-lines to the effect that the content of the work should be productive. Basically they are irrigation works, tube-wells, lift irrigation, bunding of nullahs, etc. We will give necessary funds to the State governments for this purpose.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : उपसभापति महोदय, सरकार की खाद्य नीति असफल रही। मंत्री महोदय ने अपने विवरण में सूखे से उत्पन्न हुए खाद्य

संकट को बताया है, लेकिन साथ ही साथ जो उन्होंने अनाज की खरीद का काम अपने हाथ में लिया उससे तो महगाई और भी बढ़ गई। बिहार के बारे में आपने बहुत कम बताया। वैसे तो श्रीमन्, बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री रेल भवन में कैद है, चाहे पाड़े जी हो चाहे गफूर जी हो। वे दिल्ली का दरबार करते-करते बिहार का दरबार करते नहीं हैं। खासकर जिम्मेदारों हमारे कृषि मंत्री पर है। इसलिए, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ, केदार पाड़े की मिनिसूरी में भी और अभी की मिनिसूरी में भी यह बार-बार कहा जा रहा है कि जितना अनाज वे केन्द्र से चाहते हैं उतने अनाज का 25 प्रतिशत भी केन्द्र पूरा नहीं करता है, जिसके कारण बिहार के किसी भी फेयर प्राइस शाप पर आज अनाज नहीं है और जिससे वहाँ भुखमरो, भुक्कड़ों, नगों और बेकारों का प्रदर्शन होता है और बिहार सरकार अन्न देने के बदले लाठी और गोली दी जा रही है। अभी हाल ही में वारसेलीगज (जिला नवादा) का काण्ड हुआ, जहाँ अनेक भूतपूर्व विधायक पीटे गए, जेल गए और जेल में भी मार पड़ी। तो आज अनाज की कमी के कारण सरकार को लाठी और गोली चलानी पड़ती है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ, वहाँ की सरकार ने कितना अनाज प्रति माह मांगा है और कितना अनाज आपने उसको दिया ?

दूसरी बात में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार बार-बार कहती है उत्पादन अधिक बढ़ाने के लिए। जिस समय रबी के पीछे लग चुके थे, उस समय आपने रुपये दिए उत्पादन-वृद्धि करने के लिए। लेकिन उसमें न द्यूबबैल का काम हो सकता है, न पम्पिंग सेट बैठ सकते हैं। तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ, जैसा कृष्ण कान्त जी ने कहा, कि जो रुपये दिए थे, उस रुपये का क्या हुआ ? क्या खर्च नहीं हुआ ? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या आपने कोई ऐसी मशीनरी सेट-अप की है जो देखे कि जो आपने रुपये दिए हैं, उत्पादन बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से, उनका सदुपयोग हुआ या नहीं ?

इसके साथ ही, जैसा आप बताते हैं कोई स्टेट की आपकी खबर नहीं है, यद्यपि नित्य प्रति

अखबारों से भी समाचार आप कलेक्ट करें तो मालूम होगा देश में सैकड़ों लोग भुखमरी के शिकार हो चुके हैं। इसीलिए हम जानना चाहते हैं, क्या आपकी नालेज में किसी भी सोर्स से मालूम हुआ है कि कितने मानव और उसके साथ-साथ मवेशी भी इस अकाल के कारण मौत के शिकार हुए हैं ?

क्या आपने अखबार में खबर देखी कि महाराष्ट्र में बैल न मिलने के कारण लोग खुद हल को चला रहे हैं ? श्रीमन् मैं एक बात और जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह अकाल बिहार में कभी बाढ़ के कारण और कभी सूखाड़ के आती रहती है और इस बार देश के अधिकांश भागों में, प्रदेशों में इस तरह की हालत पैदा हो गई है। इसलिए मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कोई ऐसी योजना या कोई ऐसी कार्यवाही वह करने जा रही है, जिससे भविष्य में इस तरह का सर्वव्यापी अकाल देश में फिर न पड़े।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, if my honourable friend has some grievances against the Bihar Government, I have no replies for that. But my own feeling is that as soon as the drought situation started developing there, the Bihar Government took immediate steps for providing employment to the people and they also approached the Centre both for financial assistance

श्री नवल किशोर (उत्तर प्रदेश) वहाँ तो आपस में अगड़ा हो रहा है और इस चीज को कौन देखता है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : and also for foodgrains. As I said earlier in reply to Mr. Krishan Kant, during the last week and particularly during the last two days, there has been a considerable improvement in the situation in Bihar which has received very wide-spread rains.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : वे तो प्रश्न के उत्तर को टालने की बात कह रहे हैं। इस वर्ष जो हुआ वह तीनों ही गया है, लेकिन आगामी वर्षों में फिर इस तरह की स्थिति पैदा न हो और

[श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव]

भगवान न करे फिर इस तरह की स्थिति पैदा हो . . .

श्री उपसभापति : उन्हें अपना जवाब तो समाप्त करने दें। उनका जवाब पूरा भी नहीं हुआ और आप बीच में बोलने बैठ गये। उन्हें जवाब पूरा करने दीजिये।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Let me complete my reply and if you have any queries, you can ask later.

Sir, as I said earlier, there is a quantitative change in the situation as a result of the wide-spread rains. If the rains would have really not come, then really the situation would have been very difficult and perhaps we would have been required to organise relief measures on a very extensive scale. As I said earlier, even if there is a need now in certain areas we are not hesitant to help. But as far as food requirement is concerned, we will take into consideration the reasonable requirements. But what is to be understood is—and I would very much like to have the co-operation of the honourable Member in this—that in Bihar we find that though we are giving the required quantity of foodgrains, there is no proper distribution arrangement. Unfortunately, in Patna, for instance, we find there is a population of about 4.55 lakhs while the units operating are for 24 lakhs.

AN HON. MEMBER : For the whole of the country.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Not for the whole of the country. What is necessary is that when we allot foodgrains to the State Governments, we have to ensure that it reaches the needy persons, it reaches the persons with lesser purchasing power and the people with fixed incomes, etc. Therefore, these are the matters that are to be taken into account and so far as Bihar in particular is concerned, we have drawn their attention to this aspect and they have to make proper distribution arrangements.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : बिहार तो आपके सबसे नजदीक में है।

SHRI , ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Therefore, in Bihar, before large quantities are sent there, we have to strengthen the distribution arrangements and ensure that the foodgrains reach the needy people.

are taking up particular relief measures by and large they should be for providing

Then, Sir, about the general policy the honourable Member said that when we employment and the amount that we spend should be usefully spent. It is for both the purposes, that is, for providing employment and, at the same time, for increasing the agricultural production. Now, Sir, the honourable Member also raised another question as to what happened to the amount which was spent last year as part of the emergency production programme. I can only submit that specific schemes were identified and the money spent for them. I would again concede—I cannot say about marginal cases—that here and there wasteful expenditure might have been incurred. But, by and large, our reports from Bihar indicate that so far as last year's emergency production programme is concerned, the substantial amount which have been given by us have been used for the same purpose, for the lift irrigation schemes and for having more irrigation schemes for increasing agricultural production.

श्री नवल किशोर : श्रीमन्, मैंने यह नोट पढ़ा।

मुझे बड़ा अफसोस है कि शिन्दे साहब जैसे आदमी की तरफ से यह नोट आया। जैसी गम्भीर स्थिति है उसका कोई दिग्दर्शन इससे नहीं होता। मालूम पड़ता है कि आपकी मिनिस्ट्री को बड़ा आत्म-संतोष है कि हमने बड़ा कमाल किया, बड़ा पैसा खर्च किया, बड़ा प्रोजेक्टिव काम किया, मगर जो स्थिति है उसका अहसास इस नोट से नहीं होता। अब मैं कुछ बातें आपसे जानना चाहूंगा। यह आप जानते हैं कि कुछ क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं जिनमें आमतीर पर डाउट होता रहता है। उन एरियाज को आप इयरमार्क कर सकते हैं और वह इयर-मार्कड है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन एरियाज

के लिए गवर्नमेंट की लागू टर्म स्कीम और पोलिसी क्या है ताकि वहां ड्राउट न हो। दूसरी बात यह है कि जिन क्षेत्रों में बारिश भी हो गई है, वहां आबपाशी की स्थिति अब तक क्या थी, वहां खाद नहीं, बिजली नहीं, बीज नहीं। इस सबके न होने के बाद आप समझते हैं कि बड़ी पैदावार होगी तो मैं नहीं जानता कि उसकी बेमिस क्या है। आपने पिछले साल—अगर मैं हिमाचल सब जोड़ूँ—700 करोड़ से ज्यादा खर्च किया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि 5 स्टेटो में महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, राजस्थान, मैसूर और आन्ध्र प्रदेश में पापुलेशन के हिसाब से कितनी महायना दी गई और बटा की कितनी पापुलेशन एफेक्टेड थी? 60 लाख टन आपने दिया, उसका स्टेट-बाइज ब्रेक-अप क्या है। मेरी इन्फार्मेशन यह है कि ड्राउट की इमदाद में भी पालिटिक्स ने काम किया। आपने कुछ प्रदेशों की पापुलेशन के अनुपात से ज्यादा इमदाद की है। मैं नाम नहीं लेना चाहता; क्योंकि शिन्दे साहब भी इन्बाल्व हो जाएंगे। दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ—दुकानें तो आप खोल देते हैं, लेकिन क्या कभी यह भी देखते हैं कि उन दुकानों में गल्ला है या नहीं? क्या आप बता पाएंगे कि उन दुकानों में फी आदमी कितने किलो हर माह अनाज दिया गया?

श्री कृष्ण कान्त : प्रोक्योर कर लिया।

श्री नवल किशोर : प्रोक्योर करने की बात नहीं कह रहा हूँ। इन्होंने कहा कि बारिश हो गई है। बिहार के अन्दर 50 लाख आदमी भूख के कगार पर, स्टारवेशन के कगार पर खड़ा है। आपने पापुलर गवर्नमेंट की बात कही। बड़ी अमरनाक बात है कि वहां सूखा है और पांडे जी की लोण टांगें खींच रहे थे, जैसी कि कहावत है:

“Rome was burning and Nero was fiddling”.

मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि ईस्टर्न यू० पी० में जितनी आपको सूचना है उसकी बारिश नहीं हुई है। सरकारी अफसरों की रिपोर्ट है कि 50 परसेंट अर्ली पैडी डेस्ट्रॉय हो गई है। तो यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर प्रदेश को और

बिहार को अब तक आपने कितनी इमदाद भेजी है जैसे मैं और कितनी इमदाद भेजी है अनाज में?

[Time bell rings]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE : Sir, I am one of those who try to observe as much discipline as possible....

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Kerala) : There are others also...

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE : I am one of those. I did not say, 'I am the one'.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am trying to explain. There are a dozen names.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE : Only one question.

यह तो सूखे की बात हुई। उद्दीसा में बाढ़ आ गई है। कही सूखा है तो कही बाढ़। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन लोगों ने सूखे में काम किया वहां उनको, औरतों, आदमी और बच्चों को फी दिन के हिसाब से कितनी मजदूरी मिली?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, as far as the general situation is concerned, I have already made certain observations. But the hon. Member has still some doubts that what I am saying is not perhaps a correct assessment. I know the hon. Member is such a senior politician. But we also have some means of knowing the position in eastern U.P. Twenty per cent of the land destroyed can be used for bajra sowing because...

SHRI M. P. SHUKLA (Uttar Pradesh) : You are not aware of the position now...

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : You can ask independently...

SHRI M. P. SHUKLA : I will not get time; therefore, I am saying this now...

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : According to the technical advice, up to the first week of August, bajra sowing can take place. Some other strains of rice can be transplanted. I think the hon. Member would also concede that the position would have really been difficult but the rain has made all the difference. After the rains, what are the problems? These problems are providing seeds, providing *taccavi*, etc. These problems we take up with the State Governments. We attend to these problems and even if after that there are some parts where employment needs to be provided, we take necessary steps. The hon. Member made an observation that this statement is self-praising. What I have to submit for the sympathetic and kind consideration of this hon. House is that this country has experienced one of the most unprecedented drought during the last year. I must tell you that because I come from the hard-core area of drought. Last year, though I could not speak publicly, I was frightened. I thought that the situation might get out of our control and we might not be in a position to manage the drought. That was my own impression. Later on the drought relief operations were organised. Whatever may be the weaknesses of those operations, I must say that for the first time such large scale operations were organised in this country and never before such things had happened in this country. The 1966-67 drought was nothing as compared to last year's drought and Shri N. G. Goray who toured those areas, will corroborate what I am saying.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : Wait till I speak.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : What I am saying is a fact because you have seen those areas. If we faced such an unprecedented drought by providing help, food and employment to people, I do not think we will fail if some difficulty arises in East UP and Bihar.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh) : East UP and North Bihar are three times of Gujarat, Mysore and

Maharashtra drought affected areas. The problem is much more serious than what it was last year.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We are aware of it. I think we will not fail in our duty to take all necessary steps to face the difficulties. We will stand by our people whatever may be the difficulties and we will see that in such a difficult period the people are given necessary help.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN (Tamil Nadu) : Before I put my questions for clarification, I want to read 4 lines from the statement.

"Central Finance Assistance for drought relief totalling Rs 191.365 crores was released during the year 1972-73 and a further amount of Rs 97.85 crores has been given to various State Governments in the current financial year."

'Besides, under the Emergency, Agricultural Production Programme, formulated and implemented to increase the production of rabi and summer crops, a sum of Rs 148 crores was made available to the State Government in addition to short term loan of the order of Rs 99 crores for agricultural inputs.'

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You ask the clarifications. The statement is already before us. If you go on quoting from the statement, you will be consuming time. We are already short of time. I just told Mr. Nawal Kishore that there are a dozen speakers.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : I am going to ask my clarifications. Sir, this Government has no immediate and direct control over the territory or the people in this country. They are having control only through the State Governments. The State Government is a limb of the Central Government. I find that whenever this financial assistance is given to Maharashtra, Andhra or UP, there is a practice of sending a Central team to the States. Only after getting their report,

they are given financial assistance. It is something like suspecting one's own limbs. The State Governments are supplying all the facts and figures and they give their requirements after taking the situation in the State into consideration. Even after getting the report of the State Government, the Central Government is sending a team. They tour all over the State for weeks together. Then they return and submit their own reports. Only after that, they fix the amount of assistance that is to be given. This is only, I think, for delaying or reducing the amount required by the States. I would like to know whether this practice will be given up at least in future.

My next question is this. We know prevention is better than cure. Every year we are having these sorts of statements and discussions about drought. Instead of having this, I would like to know whether the Government is going to think over or formulate any permanent scheme to meet the drought situation which we are facing every year in different parts of the country.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I am sorry the hon. Member does not seem to be well conversant with the procedure we follow in providing relief or giving assistance to the State Governments. It is a very well established procedure because according to the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission the State Government themselves have to provide for certain amounts in their budget for natural calamities like drought, famine etc. Whenever such a situation develops they have not to wait for any direction or advice from the Centre. They have immediately to take up the work and as soon as they come to the conclusion that the amount provided in their budget is inadequate for meeting the requirements of the situation, they write to us saying that they would like to have Central assistance because the amount provided for in their budget is likely to be exhausted. So, they need not wait. They are supposed to continue and take up the works depending upon the situation. Then the very purpose of sending a Central team is to avoid redtapism.

20 RSS/73--6.

Earlier what used to happen was that after the report was sent to the Centre, the representative of the Planning Commission or the Ministry of Agriculture used to go there, discuss the matter with the State Governments and thus a lot of time was wasted in this. Red-tapism was involved. Now the Central teams are constituted wherein there are representatives of the Planning Commission, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance. They submit a combined report. There is no red-tapism and this system is working very well. Our experience is that this system needs to be followed, there is no need to modify this system basically.

As far as the second part of your question regarding permanent measures is concerned, actually the Government has taken up a Rs. 100 crore permanent programme for drought-prone areas in the 5th Plan. The provision in the drought-prone areas is to be made more. After all, it is a long-term problem, it is not a magic. We cannot provide protection to these areas by doing some activity for a year or so. Apart from the measures that we are taking, we have a permanent programme of Rs. 100 crores for the drought prone areas. Fifty-four districts in the country have been identified and we propose to extend this programme to these areas in times to come.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI (Maharashtra) : The situation is worsening very fast and there are certain aspects of this question arising out of the drought situation last year which are becoming very acute. What I find both from the statement which was presented to us and from the various replies, it is just these aspect of the question to which the Minister has not replied. I want to place a very simple fact. You have the experience of Maharashtra although the problems do exist elsewhere also. In Maharashtra nearly 40 to 50 lakhs of workers were employed on the relief works. Now rains have come. It is a fact that ploughing and sowing has started, yet not even 6 or 7 lakhs of these workers

[Shri S G Sardeshi]

have gone back. Let us ask this question. Why is it that the majority of the workers are still there? It is for the simple reason which everybody knows, that last year there was a tremendous destruction of cattle. Now these people want cattle, they want arrangements for ploughing, they want seed, they want other implements. They want lots of things and they want credit. Unless these things are given, despite the rains, you won't have all the sowing or ploughing that you want. I am just returning from these areas. A number of peasants have told me about this. The Government has come out with a statement that they are going to do this and that but I can say that the ploughing has become very difficult. These are the questions that we have to face, not something which we did last year, which we discussed.

The second point is, these relief works which are still continuing, they will have to continue further until they are able to go back. The wages have been reduced. Actually, the supply of grain has been reduced from two to three kilos. I have seen in many places, because of the rains, their living and working conditions have become very difficult. And the problem of epidemics is also there. These are the questions on which the Government should concentrate and not tell us something which they did last year.

Now, so far as the supply of grains is concerned, you know that there are parts of Maharashtra which, despite last year's drought, had good crops. The Khandesh District had a very good crop, a few districts in Vidarbha had very good crops of jwar. Now, what happened last year? Despite all the statements of the Government, the actual levy on the procurement of jwar was very badly done. I come from an area where actually organised, disciplined and peaceful dehoarding is going on. There is no looting, nothing of the kind. I must say that in certain places even the police cooperated because they knew what the alternative was. Huge quantities of grains were dehoarded

in an organised fashion, they were distributed and the money was given back to the owner. These things have been done. This jwar is there. Do not tell me that there is no jwar in Vidarbha and Khandesh districts. Recently, all restrictions on the movement of jwar have been withdrawn and jwar is selling between Rs. 2 and Rs. 2.50 a kilo in those areas. Of course, they claim to send it to Ahmed Nagar, Sholapur and Aurangabad.

These are the three issues which, according to me, are most important and vital and which are today facing us; it is not something which happened last year. Firstly, there should be a tremendous supply of cattle and credit for new sowing and this must be done, otherwise the sowing will not be completely done. Secondly, the state of relief work of the workers should still continue because, due to the rain, their living conditions are not good. Thirdly, without a powerful, organised dehoarding drive, you will not be able to supply grain to them or their requisites.

These are the living problems of the day.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : As far as the last part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, I have no difference with him. If it can possibly be done and if the grain can be dehoarded, in the public interest, I am one with him. And that has been the Government of India's approach generally in these matters.

Now, as far as the other problems mentioned by the hon. Member are concerned, I am aware of some of these problems. For instance, there has been a large-scale cattle mortality and there has been a bullock shortage. Now the State Government have made district-wise provision for providing taccavi loans for purchasing them.

SHRI YASHPAL KAPUR (Uttar Pradesh) : It is a post-mortem on the previous year's drought. What about the present drought which is facing us in Eastern UP? I am sorry. People from Maharashtra and other places shout and they get a chance.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Mr. Kapur, you can also ask.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : There is the wet drought also, it is a great problem.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Let me complete my answer.

Sir, the taccavi has been made available and district-wise quotas have been given to district collectors. And very quickly disposals are taking place in some of these areas, both in Gujarat and Maharashtra. But the point is, it is not easy to create bullocks, even if money is provided.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI : Tractors.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : One has to understand the practical difficulties. In this country we cannot provide cultivation of millions of acres immediately by tractors, where there is a limited stock. Something has been done. It will have to be a long-term measure, not a short-term measure. But about the other point which has been raised by the hon. Member, despite a very good rainfall in the drought areas, still relief operation are being conducted because we know that there is time till the next crop comes. What has happened is a very peculiar phenomenon because in a drought period, that was the first time in India that all people got secured employment.

Only recently, last week, I went there. I saw the agricultural operations have started. Sowings have taken place. Weeding has to be done and all. Therefore, why not now reduce the number because the financial burden also, both on the Government of India and on the State Government, is very heavy. But I find that there is resistance and even very small farmers think that it is better to have permanent employment instead of going to the farm. But the Government of India's advice to the State Government is to gradually reduce the number as the agricultural operations increase and not to do it drastically so that it should not hurt the people too much. I think the State Governments are taking

necessary steps accordingly. I am glad in these areas there is tremendous amount of satisfaction over what has been done and what is being done. What I would like the hon'ble Member is to extend his co-operation, not to create dissatisfaction now that the relief operations must continue on the same scale as they were going on in the month of April and May. I think that would not be correct. I hope the hon'ble Member will appreciate that.

SHRI PRITHWI NATH (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the situation is tragic and I feel unhappy at the feeling of complacency that is being expressed by the Minister of Agriculture. That feeling is so clear, Mr. Deputy Chairman, in the statement itself. I will only quote one sentence, He says:—

"I am glad to say that with the co-operation of the people and timely and effective steps we have emerged successful from this great ordeal."

The hon'ble Minister feels as if we have passed through the ordeal.

The other thing is that I find that he is placing too much reliance upon the rains that we had in Uttar Pradesh or in Bihar. About Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Deputy Chairman, with your permission I would like to read out only one news item appearing on July 25. It is from Mr. Satish Chandra, Chief Adviser to the U.P. Government. He says:—

"Food situation in eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Jaunpur, Azamgarh, Ballia, and Ghazipur districts is 'difficult' and is likely to 'worsen by the end of August'."

This assessment was given by Mr. Satish Chandra, Chief Adviser to the Governor, while addressing political workers and a few trade representatives here today."

The food situation is going from bad to worse and he does not expect any amount

[Shri Prithwi Nath]

of help in the form of rains to the State of Uttar Pradesh. The Food Minister advises the people to get wheat and all these things from the western districts. Now, Mr. Deputy Chairman, in this condition for the Minister of Agriculture to deserve congratulations or to claim for congratulations or to feel happy in his statement, to my mind, is strange.

Secondly, I feel he is placing too much reliance upon the rains that U. P. had. This statement from Mr. Satish Chandra is dated July 25. I hope he is a responsible officer. He also knows what are the effects of rains in eastern U.P. And, as just now my friend, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has pointed out, the magnitude of the problem could be understood by how many people are affected by the drought in Eastern U.P. and Bihar. That is one thing.

About the second thing that I would like to know is this. My friend, Mr. Nawal Kishore, has pointed out but he could not get a reply. We have spent huge amounts, as my friend, Mr. Shinde, said, Rs. 148 crores. I want to know how much money has been spent upon each State. Ninety lakhs of people are employed as labour. What is the State-wise break-up? What is the proportion that Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are getting? They are the States with human masses. This is the area which is chronically drought-affected. That is my problem. So I would like the Minister of Agriculture to explain this position. He claims that he has become an expert on relief. On this I congratulate him. The country is facing drought every year and so he has become expert. But I would like him to become an amateur so that he passes on some of his experience to his successors in the matter of drought. So, Mr. Deputy Chairman, the Minister should explain this point.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I would very humbly submit. . .

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: One minute, Mr. Deputy Chairman.

SHRI D. D. PURI (Haryana): He should be given ten minutes. He is from U. P.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I cannot deviate from the procedure that we have laid down.

SHRI D. D. PURI: We can sit for about ten minutes longer. He has been raising his hand.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not only Mr. Chandra Shekhar. There are several others who have been raising their hands.

SHRI D. D. PURI: We can sit a little longer.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: If that is the attitude I know how to speak. I shall also adopt that method. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, if it is your wish that I should not speak in spite of the fact that there is something like the discretion of the Chair....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Will you listen to me also. You have been very unkind to me.

Did I ever say that you should not speak? You have spoken several times when I was in the Chair. I have allowed you even out of turn. So it is not that. There are certain times when you cannot afford to have time.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: All Chair . . .

SHRI D. D. PURI: Sir, we can do away with the lunch hour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have been doing away with the lunch hour. I have been giving only half-an-hour for lunch in the last two or three days. But there must be some limit.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: And the limit should be taught to the persons who do not know the limit.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I cannot make any distinction here. My difficulty is that as long as I am in the Chair, I cannot make any distinction between Members.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I know your difficulty, but you should know my difficulties also. It is not that because you are in the Chair, only you have difficulties and we have no difficulties.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I know everybody's difficulties.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : I have many more difficulties than many of the people sitting here.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I would only submit for the kind consideration of hon. Member that I have never claimed myself to be an expert in drought. Perhaps I am also a layman like the hon. Member himself. But what I have been claiming is that the Government of India has considerable experience now and in co-operation with the State Governments, we are trying to give relief in the case of calamities of vast magnitude. That is the only humble claim that I am making. As far as East U. P. and other areas are concerned, we are aware of their problems. As has been pointed out by Mr. Chandra Shekhar, because of the density of population and less purchasing power there, if, agriculture is affected there, the adverse impact there will be much more than in many other areas. Therefore, we are aware of these problems. What I submitted was, supposing there had not been even last week's rain, the situation would have deteriorated very much, and perhaps the difficulties would have been manifold. I am not saying that all difficulties are over. Neither have I claimed that agricultural production would not be affected at all. What I am saying is, because of widespread rains in these areas, there has been a qualitative change in the situation, though some of the problems would still be there. We will have to face them.

Then the hon. Member raised the question of State-wise allocation. Now, drought relief allocations are not made on the basis of States ; they are made on the basis of the population affected, the areas affected, the agricultural production affected. Last year, it is well known to the hon. Member and to the hon. House, the areas which were affected were mainly Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, the efforts were concentrated in those areas. But as far as the emergency production programme is concerned, to which the hon. Member made a reference and mentioned Rs. 148 crores, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar got a very large share. The reason is that in those areas there is a considerable quantity of underground water resources ; they have a very large and rich potential of underground water resources. My own feeling is that large amount should be invested here. We have been giving an adequate share to these areas, but then the problems of these areas are very acute and very difficult and they will have to be solved on a long-term and short-term basis.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Goray.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, I want to make a submission for your consideration. I have given my name and I have got my time. I request that both of my colleagues may be accommodated and given my time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Goray.

श्री गणेशो लाल चौधरी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमान्, मेरा एक व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है और वह यह है कि क्या कोई दूसरा सदस्य अपना टाइम किसी दूसरे सदस्य को दे सकता है ? यह तो आपके डिस्कशन पर है कि जिसकी तरफ आपकी आख हो जाय वही बोलेगा ।

श्री उपसभापति : श्री कुलकर्णी का नाम पहिले से ही मेरे पास आया हुआ था । अगर हम को कांग्रेस पार्टी के किसी दूसरे सदस्य को बुलाना

[श्री उप-समापति]

होता, तो मैं श्री कुलकर्णी जी को बुलाता। इसी-लिए उन्होंने कहा कि हम तो बोलना नहीं चाहते हैं और अगर कोई कांग्रेस की तरफ से किसी को बुलाना चाहे तो श्री चन्द्र शेखर को बुलावे।

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Sir, I confine myself to this statement and the questions arising out of this. Just now, my friend has also pointed out that nearly 50 per cent of the cattle in Maharashtra was destroyed and the same thing must have happened in Gujarat, Rajasthan and other places. Sir, here I have got a picture of the Maharashtra peasants. And it is not the bullocks but the human beings that have gone under the yoke and they are ploughing on their own strength. This is the condition in Maharashtra. And some thing drastic will have to be done so that the rains can be taken advantage of. Otherwise, many of the small peasants—the bigger peasants may have bullocks but the small peasants have lost their cattle—will become poorer at the end of this monsoon season in spite of the fact that the monsoon has been very kind. This is the first thing. Secondly, Sir, I would like to ask the Minister as to what has happened to this Rabi Crash Programme? So much money—nearly Rs. 150 crores—had been invested. And even in Maharashtra crores of rupees were invested. Now, I have got the figures from the Additional SDO, Akola Dist. In spite of the fact that Akola Dist. was one of the Districts which had fared well so far as jawar and wheat were concerned, we are surprised to read from this authentic paper that whereas the quintals demanded from the agriculturists was of the order of 59,348 the procurement was only 6,185 quintals. This document is signed by the SDO, which is an authentic copy. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what has happened to the production of this Crash Rabi Programme? Is it not a fact, as has been pointed out by one of his colleagues in the Lok Sabha in a public statement, that it was the richer peasantry who got this money, use it and raised bumper crops and did not give the Government what was required to be given. Only 10 or 15 per cent of what was

produced had to be given. The rest went straight to the blackmarket, to those people who were ready to buy wheat at Rs. 150 to Rs. 180 per quintal. Is it a fact or not? If it is a fact, what is the use of pumping in more and more money, crores of rupees taken from the ordinary taxpayer to fatten these rich farmers, who do not given anything in return? Thirdly, if you recall or refresh your memory, you had said that the wheat that we would require would be of the order of 1.5 million tonnes and that we are trying to get it from foreign sources. At that time, the estimate made by the American experts was that India will require nearly 5 million tonnes of food-grains. I am sorry to state here that it is those experts who proved true and the local experts have completely failed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many millions of tonnes of foodgrains he is importing or he plans to import from America and other countries. Because unless you import the foodgrains, it is not possible for you to overcome this. You are an irrepressible optimist. But I would like to point out that it will not be possible for you to tide over this crisis which is looming ahead and is likely to continue for the next two or three years.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, It is true that small farmers' economy is very badly affected as a result of drought because they have to lose cattle and income from agricultural production. And I think it will take perhaps two to three years for them to completely recoup their economy, if monsoon does not fail again. We are aware of that problem.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Will you have a special credit policy?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : I made a mention about it. We shall consider some special credit policy. But normally the taccavi loans are made available for the purchase of bullocks.

I must convey my impression to the hon. Member of my recent tour. We thought that large areas would remain unsown because the means of cultivation would not

be there I have recently come from Ahmednagar which is one of the worst areas in the country, almost an arid zone. And there I found extensive sowing taking place. The farmers have been cooperating with each other. A number of things are being done. But the point is the Government has done quite a lot of

1 P M things. Quite a lot of seed has

been provided. In a large number of cases taccavi loans have been provided. Not only that. In Ahmednagar district alone 10 lakh acre bajra sowing was done which never happened in the history of this district. And the same thing has been repeated in nine districts. So the same thing was done in Gujarat also. Bajra sowing is taking place. It is a good thing, because we were afraid that it would affect sowing, but that has not affected sowing to that extent.

Then about the crash programme I do not think this is the relevant occasions to discuss the problems of the crash programme. But since the honourable Member has raised this question, I would only submit for his consideration that the main content of the crash programme is to organise irrigation schemes, pumping sets, tubewells, lift irrigation, diversion of river channels and so on to the fields, etc. And I think the money which was meant for it has been spent for that purpose.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT Are you sure?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE I am sure about it. Except the marginal cases, I am sure about it. But the point is in Gujarat and Maharashtra and parts of Mysore, though the irrigation schemes were put up, there was no water and they were not really useful for the last year. They would be useful now. Lift irrigation schemes were put up with the assumption that September-October rains would be there and they would be flowing. But last year as a result of drought the streams got dried up and whatever irrigation schemes were put up were really

not useful. Therefore, to that extent production in those areas was not there. There was no addition to the production in those areas, there was some addition to the production but not to the extent expected. There were some other factors also which adversely affected production. Production was affected because of shortage of power, for instance. As is known to the entire House, last year many other factors came in our way and they were beyond our control. There was power shortage in UP. There was power shortage in other States also where farmers could not get adequate power to run their tubewells, etc. Even if water was there, pumping sets were there, they could not irrigate their crops because, as the honourable Member knows, for this high yielding variety, if timely water is not given, the entire seed is upset, and so production is adversely affected.

SHRI N G GORAY Mr Shinde, do not evade the issue. The issue is very simple. I was trying to point out how in Maharashtra there were districts which did well in production of wheat. I am talking of production. I am not talking of the difficulties that intervene. In spite of that, what you got by way of levy or procurement was almost nil. There you are just feeding the rich farmer.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE After all, Maharashtra, as you know, being a very heavily deficated State, the prices were very high, and as you know, there wheat production is also very insignificant. But I wish the Maharashtra Government had succeeded a little more. There was resistance from the farmers. And I must say that farmers in this country somehow or other did not reconcile to the prices and though there was some reference to the Government policy, there was some difficulty and the farmers did not reconcile to this. These are the difficulties which came in the way of procurement. Then the other point made by the honourable Member was about imports.

SHRI N G GORAY You do not want to reveal the figures perhaps.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : They are known to everybody now.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : At least I am not aware of it. I can only say, I have one point on which I am not prepared to concede at all to my friend. He said our calculations were wrong while some foreign experts have proved correct. May I submit what I had said earlier—I would reiterate—I was referring to the gap between the demand and the supply last year? Last year, though it witnessed one of the worst droughts, the gap between our requirement, our demand and the supply was actually not more than a million tons. Though we contracted to purchase two million tons, the arrivals up to June were one million tons and that really helped us to meet the situation though there was some distress here and there.

As far as the coming year's requirements are concerned, I think the Government of India is well aware of them. We are assessing the situation from time to time. Suppose in east U.P. and Bihar there was no rain last week. Then our requirements would have been changed. Now that there are rains, I think the country is going to have a good kharif crop. Government of India would take adequate care to see that necessary imports are made in order to meet the requirements of the public distribution system. Though there will be some distress and difficulties and hardships, I would assure the hon. Members that Government of India is confident that there will be no dislocation and we will see that we are in a position to manage the food economy with local procurements and imports.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : कब तक इस स्थिति को आप समझालेंगे ?

श्री सीताराम सिंह (बिहार) : श्रीमन् उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सूखे के सबंध में जो चर्चा हो रही है उसमें भाग लेते हुए बहुत दुख के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस देश में तमाम गलत कृषि नीतियों के चलते देश के अधिकांश हिस्सों में आज अकाल और सूखा है, चाहे वह महाराष्ट्र हो, या गुजरात हो,

या राजस्थान हो या उत्तर प्रदेश हो या बिहार हो। जहाँ तक बिहार का मवाल है आज छूट छूट खबरें आ रही हैं कि वहाँ अनाकी फँस गयी है। कहीं ट्रक लूटे जाते हैं, कहीं ट्रक लूटी जाती हैं वहाँ कानून और व्यवस्था कुछ नहीं रह गयी है। तीन-तीन भूतपूर्व मुख्य मंत्रियों के बयान अखबार में आये हैं। श्री महामाया प्रसाद सिन्हा का बयान है कि 500 आदमी वहाँ भूख से मर गये। श्री केदार पांडेय और कर्पूरी ठाकुर का बयान है कि वहाँ सैकड़ों लोग भूख से मर गये, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन को यह जानकारी है कि बिहार में जो आज लाखों लोग भूख के कगार पर खड़े हैं और जहाँ सैकड़ों लोगों की मौत हो गयी है, उन को बचाने के लिए कौन से कारगर कदम सरकार उठाने जा रही हैं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि बार बार मंत्री जी ने अपने भाषण में कहा कि खास कर मौसम की खराबी और प्रकृति के प्रकोप के कारण यह अकाल और सूखा है। तो आखिर योजना किस बात के लिए है। स्थायी योजना भी चले और स्थायी इस देश में भुखमरी और अकाल भी चले, यह दोनों बातें कैसे हो सकती हैं। हर कायर और बुजदिल आदमी अच्छाई का सेहरा अपने माथे पर लेता है और बुराइयों का कबूक दूसरे के माथे मढ़ देता है। जब कभी मौसम साथ देता है और फसल अच्छी हो जाती है तो हुर्रि हुर्रि कहते हैं और वह कृषि मंत्री का कमाल हो जाता है और जब मौसम साथ नहीं देता तो उस का कलक मौसम पर होता है। आखिर सरकार किस बात के लिए है। सरकार तो जनता के हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए है, उस की भलाई के लिए है, उस का इंतजाम करने के लिए है। क्यों टैंक बमूला जाता है। अगर प्रकृति के भरोसे ही इसान को मरना और जीना हो तो सरकार किस काम के लिए है ? किम मर्ज की दवा है सरकार ? (समय की बंदी) श्रीमन्, मेरे साथ थोड़ा न्याय कीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति : आप तो भाषण देने लगे हैं। आप क्लैरिफिकेशन पूछिये।

श्री सीताराम सिंह : तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस स्थिति का मुकाबला करने के लिए, भूख से लोगों को मरने से बचाने के लिए क्या वे बिहार को अकाल क्षेत्र घोषित करने की व्यवस्था करायेंगे और अकाल कानून के तहत युद्धस्तर पर मानवीय दृष्टिकोण से बिहार की जनता और देश के और हिस्सों में जो लागू भूख से मर रहे हैं उनको बचाने के लिए कोई स्थायी योजना चलायेंगे ? और जहाँ तक अतिवृष्टि और अनावृष्टि का सवाल है, यह तो स्थायी है । तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह अति वृष्टि और अनावृष्टि से निपटने के लिए और प्राकृतिक प्रकोपों से बचने के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कोई विकल्प, कोई योजना उनके दिमाग में है ? यदि कोई योजना है तो वह बतलाने की कृपा करें ।

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, such queries as the honourable Member just now put have been raised earlier and I have already replied. About the starvation deaths, if the honourable Members gives me the particulars, I will refer them to the State Governments for necessary inquiry.

Then, Sir, as far as the question of declaration of drought or scarcity or famine is concerned, the State Government is fully competent to take such action as it deems fit depending upon the nature of the situation there. It is a State subject and the State Government can do that.

As regards the question as to what our long-term approach for protecting these areas against these calamities concerned, I have already made my position clear.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Panda.

श्री सीताराम सिंह श्रीमन् प्वाइट आफ आर्डर । मेरा प्वाइट आफ आर्डर है । ऐसा है कि मंत्री जी से मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—बिहार के मन्त्रिमंडल के बारे में कृषि मंत्री जी ने बताया कि वह सक्षम है लेकिन हमको आशंका इस बात की है कि बिहार

का जो मन्त्रिमंडल है वह जनता को नहीं बचायेगा, क्योंकि कुछ मंत्री मिथ्या जी की कोठी में और कुछ बरुआ साहब की कोठी में कैद हैं ।

श्री उपसभापति . देखिये, सीताराम सिंह जी, बिहार मन्त्रिमंडल क्या नहीं कर रहा है वह तो बिहार असेम्बली में उठाइयेगा ।

SHRI K. C. PANDA (Orissa) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have got nothing to say on this. I only sympathise with the people of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Bihar and other States also. But I am sorry, Sir, that the honourable Minister has forgotten to mention Orissa in his statement here.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : You have got floods there.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : Or, Sir, he intentionally does not want to say that there is something worse in Orissa now though the Orissa Government, which is being presided over by the agent of the President, has declared more than nine districts as drought-stricken areas and several deaths due to starvation have been reported by the papers. And, Sir, one of the papers, "Samaj", which has a wide circulation, and which is also considered to be independent, has also reported these things publishing pictures and these are from Keonjhar, Bhowanipatna, Bolangir districts and parts of Sambalpur and other areas. But, Sir, that is also being denied. I want to know categorically from the honourable Minister whether they are going to change the Famine Code which was formulated in this country in the 19th century; it was formulated before 1900, I believe. It should be revised now according to the circumstances which are changing nowadays and which have considerably changed after independence. That is One thing ... (Time Bell) ... Sir, I have got something to say about Orissa and so, I want some more time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Then be brief.

SHRI K. C. PANDA : Yes, Sir, I am brief. Then, Sir, the people from the drought-stricken areas fled to the canal-irrigated areas for work and they have found to their utter surprise that the Hirakud canal was dry and there was no water to irrigate the lands and no water to produce electricity and they were very much frustrated. The works of different departments which were scheduled to be started have been stopped although the Government is boasting of its crash programmes, the Small Farmers' Schemes and other schemes. But the scheduled programmes of the PWD, the rural engineering organisation, etc. and of certain other organisations were stopped. But, on the other hand, they have now declared Orissa a surplus State and have transferred about 25,000 tonnes of foodgrains from Orissa to outside areas as the people have no power to purchase foodgrains. But what I find is that they have given dehydrated peas to the rice-eating people in lieu of work. At least they should give half of rice and half of peas. These people have to go at night, after the day's work, to some other place or some other persons to exchange peas for rice because they and their children cannot remain only on peas though they have to remain like that. These are the conditions, Sir, now prevailing in Orissa. Now, just at the advent of the rains, as we call in Oriya, the "GAJA MARUDI" that is, the germinated seeds sown earlier dried up. The second time they had sown. But, after the floods, it was washed away. Now the problem will be for Mr. Shinde to give them seeds. And I have already said, many kinds of seeds they are giving are not germinating properly. These are the problems for Orissa. I want to have a categorical assurance from Mr. Shinde that he is going to take personal interest in Orissa, because Orissa is now under President's rule.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, in answer to the last query of the hon. Member, I can say that I can take personal interest in Orissa. There should be no difficulty about that.

Then, Sir, I am sorry that I am not in agreement with the hon. Member's assessment of the situation in Orissa. Though the monsoon was slightly delayed there, Orissa has been having for the last two or three weeks extensive rainfall, or, if I may say so, excessive rainfall, and at least to my knowledge, there is no severely affected drought area there...

SHRI K. C. PANDA : But the Orissa Government had declared...

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : This was when monsoon was delayed at an earlier stage. The monsoon was slightly delayed. But, all the same, we will get in touch with the Orissa Government and find out the position and if there is any need we shall take necessary steps in this regard.

Only one important point has been raised by the hon. Member. He says that it is the same traditional, old Famine Code. Now, the Government made its position clear that Famine Codes are within the competence of the State Governments; they can frame, change and modify them. We have advised the State Government to modify their Famine Codes. Most State Governments have brought them up to date. But as a result of a number of suggestions made on the floors of both the Houses, we have taken up the initiative ourselves. We have started examination of all the Famine Codes of the States, and we propose to work out and evolve certain broad guidelines for the State Governments. We would consult the State Governments and, if necessary, Members of Parliament also through the Consultative Committee. Now, all the State Governments, I must say, do not stick to the old norms, whether it is a question of wages, whether it is a question of declaration of scarcity and drought areas, etc. Most of the State Governments now take necessary steps according to certain set patterns. If there are any suggestions of the hon. Members in regard to this, I am prepared to welcome those suggestions so that it would be helpful for us to work

out the guidelines for the State Governments.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to be a little sentimental. But you should understand my agony and distress. I do not think that my pleading will change the attitude of the Government of India or perhaps it will better realise the situation as it is obtaining. But I shall tell my honourable and distinguished friend, Mr. Shinde, for whom I have the greatest regard, that by good words and intelligent statements he can create a good impression but he cannot change the reality of the situation. The reality is that starvation death is steering in our face and it is going to take over the whole Government of India and the whole country in the coming few months if our attitude remains that of complacency.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I know the futility of my statement. Last year, in September, when I said that the food situation is going to be very grim, I was accused of creating a panic, not by small people but by high-ups who are responsible to run this country and those who run the Food Ministry. They said that I was creating undue panic. But what is the situation in eastern U.P.? Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is not for the first time since the days of the British that they have declared this area as chronically deficit area. You see any famine report during the British *raj*. These eastern U.P. districts and north Bihar have been described as chronically deficit areas. Not only this, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, but the Asoka Mehta Committee devoted a full chapter and said that these districts in eastern U.P., including Rae Bareilly, Partap Garh, Balia, Ghazipur, the whole Division of Gorakhpur, Banaras, Allahabad, Faizabad and Lucknow, are chronically deficit areas. They said that something should be done. Sir, again another Commission was appointed by the Government of India, i.e. the Patil Commission. They also came to the same conclusion. Successive reports were received but nothing

was done. Now, Mr. Shinde says there have been some rains. But he has perhaps forgotten that Parliament was given a solemn assurance that the Rihand dam which was being constructed, will provide electric power to the poor peasants of the Eastern U.P. Now the whole power goes to the Hindalium, the Birla Aluminium Factory. I have nothing to say about it. What is the opinion of the State Government today? They say that they cannot provide power to anybody for three years. With the total collapse of machinery both at the political level and also at the electricity level, I don't know with what magic the situation is going to be met.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the same is the situation of North Bihar. If you take it together, it will mean a population of 40 to 50 million people and if scarcity situation prevails in this country, then no ingenuity of human mind or no statement in this Parliament House can save the situation and people's suffering. Sir, I have been hearing this logic for the last 20 years. They always say: if you can give a specific case of starvation death, the Government will enquire into it. Now, starvation death is not death by a bullet so that you can say that the man got the bullet and died. Starvation death means death by malnutrition which may be due to hunger or poverty. In extreme cases of scarcity, these deaths by malnutrition and starvation increase. This debate has been going on for 20 years. I am sorry that a person like Mr. Shinde wants a clear definition between death from hunger or starvation and from malnutrition. Every time an explanation is given from the Government side that the death was not because of starvation. It was because of malnutrition. Is it the way we are going to deal with such a serious national crisis? Sir, I warn the Government because I feel that it is my duty and because I have still some lurking hope that our pleadings with the Government may have some effect and the Government may be better aware of the developing situation in East U.P. and North Bihar. Sir, if large scale developmental activities are not taken

[Shri Chandra Shekhar.]

up, if there is no special programme for power generation and if there is no programme for providing irrigation and employment, nothing is going to help.

After three years of pleading with the Government of India and the U.P. Government, I got a mini steel plant for my own district in joint venture. Now, the Government of India has said that for five years there is no question of starting the work on that mini steel plant because we cannot give power. The agreement has been signed. Everything has been finalised. It is in the budget. But the Government says that there is no question of starting the work for 5 years because there is no power. Do you think that the hungry people are going to wait for 5 years and the unemployed people are going to loiter in the streets for five years? Are they going to be fed by the good-worded and very sweet statements of my friend, Mr. Shinde? The situation is perilous. I think the remedy lies in searching our own hearts. It is not only that the State Government will consider. Delhi will have to consider whether this life of pomp and show and this display of wealth being allowed at the highest echelons of society and poverty can co-exist. If you are to do something for the starving people of India who are the victim of natural calamities, then please try to observe austerity at the highest level. But nothing has been done and you have not initiated anything. With the Ashoka and the Akbar flourishing with black money, with the Oberai entertaining people spending black money you cannot solve the problems of U.P., North Bihar, Maharashtra or Rajasthan. Change your mind, change your attitude, change your tactics, change your strategy. Unless and until you change your strategy these people are doomed to death and these parliamentary institutions and statements in these institutions either by me or by my friend, Mr. Shinde will have no validity.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Sir, the hon. Member has raised some fundamental issues. I have full sympathy along

with him for the cause of the poor people, as it is known that East U.P. and North Bihar are really poor areas in our country. But recently, three months earlier, I had toured East U.P. and I was really surprised to find, with whatever limited knowledge and understanding I have of agricultural problems, that it is one of the most fertile lands in U.P. There is tremendous potential of underground water there, but that has to be harnessed. Chandra Shekharji has said that that has to be harnessed and resources have to be made available, and I think that is the substance of what the hon. Member has said. I think as a result of the failure of rains the U.P. Government is now struggling to work out some plans I think the main content of the scheme is going to be as to what extent the water resources can be harnessed. But in a limited debate like this—I know my limitations—I shall not be in a position to meet all the points raised by the hon. Member. But I am quite clear in my mind that in this country, unless resource mobilisation is done and unless we concentrate our resources particularly in problem areas where the soil and water potential is rich, many of our problems will get difficult.

As far as the food situation is concerned, the Government of India is aware of the difficulties prevalent in the situation itself; but may I assure my hon. friend, Chandra Shekharji—because he feels that I use sweet words and perhaps create some other impression—and humbly submit for his kind consideration that I speak what I sincerely and honestly feel? Perhaps, according to you my assessment may be wrong—that is a different matter.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Your assessments are correct but your statements are not.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I would only say that there has been a very substantial shortfall in the production of foodgrains last year and that is why prices have gone up and the prices are hitting

hard the poor areas and the poorer sections of our society and that is why distress has been there. It is not due to the failure of rain alone. There are many other factors in the economy which are causing hardship to the people. The Government of India is aware of it and I can only say that we shall try our level best to help these people.

REQUEST RE LAYING ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE OF THE KAPUR COMMISSION REPORT ON BHARAT SEWAK SAMAJ

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you to the fact that Mr. Justice Kapur has submitted his Report on the inquiry held into the Bharat Sewak Samaj. Therefore, I request that the Report should be laid on the Table of the House at the earliest possible opportunity. As you know, the Sachar Commission Report was laid on the Table of the House immediately. Then why are they leaving out the BSS Report? I hope the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will see to it that within this week or next week that Report is laid on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned still 2.15 P.M. today.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-nine minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at fifteen minutes past two of the clock, **MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** in the Chair.

THE MANIPUR APPROPRIATION BILL, 1973

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur for the services of the financial year 1973-74, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

In March last Parliament had approved four months' supply for the current financial year in respect of Manipur in order to carry on the administration of the State pending detailed consideration of the Budget. The Lok Sabha has on the 24th July, 1973 now voted the Demands. The Bill before the House arises out of the Demands passed by the Lok Sabha and the expenditure 'charged' on the Consolidated Fund of the State of Manipur, amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 47.16 crores, including the sums earlier voted 'on account'.

Details of the provisions included in the Budget were given in the documents circulated to the House in March last. I would, however, like to indicate that against an outlay of Rs. 7.67 crores last year, the State's Plan in the current year will be of the order of Rs. 8.9 crores. Emphasis in the Annual Plan is on communications and social services in the context of the need for creating minimum infrastructure for development and provision of educational and health facilities to the people, a bulk of which are from the weaker sections of the society. In addition, sizeable outlay on certain Centrally sponsored plan schemes is also provided for in the current year's Budget. These include expenditure on the Loktak Lift Irrigation Scheme, Regional Medical College and 132 kw. power transmission lines.

The question was proposed

श्री बिरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा (मध्य प्रदेश): माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मनीपुर के बारे में यहाँ ऐप्रोप्रिएशन बिल पास करना पड़ रहा है। इसका कारण आप को ज्ञात है। प्रेसिडेंट रूल वहा पर इम्पोज किया गया है। मनीपुर की विधान सभा थी जिस को समाप्त कर के वहा