

the year 1971-72, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon

[Placed in Library See for (i) and
(ii) No LT-5580/73]

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company

[Placed in Library See for (i) and
(ii) No LT-5624/73]

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND
POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA)**
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a Supple-
mentary Statement (in English and Hindi)
on the flood situation in the country

[Placed in Library See No IT
5513/73]

Recent unearthing of huge stocks of food-grains and other essential commodities in certain parts of Delhi

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the recent unearthing of huge stocks of foodgrains, cement and vegetable oil in certain parts of Delhi and the measures taken by Government to unearth such stocks for speedy distribution among the public.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ANNASAHEB SHINDE) Sir the Govern-
ment have, in the recent past, more than
once requested the State Governments and
Union Territory Administrations to under-
take appropriate steps to maintain ade-
quate availability of essential commodities
at fair prices. However, in the present

The Government are determined to continue their efforts to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities and to secure their equitable distribution at fair prices to the community. Government would succeed in this if maximum efforts are made to ensure higher level of production of these essential commodities and at the same time strong action is taken against black marketeers etc. However, it is not possible to deal with the menace of black-marketiers and hoarders with the executive efforts alone. There is an urgent need to mobilise public opinion against them. I would request hon. Members to lend a helping hand to the Government in its efforts.

[MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Sir I am a little surprised that the statement does not refer to the fact that the recent raids on the 24th and 25th have been initiated and organised by the public and in this case under the auspices of our party under the de hoarding campaign. I am surprised that he has also not mentioned the fact that earlier the Youth Congress had earlier reported to the Civil Supplies Department.

about certain areas where stocks had been hidden and demanded action by the Department. But they did not take any action. This should be noted in the statement that political parties and the people are moving to de-hoard stocks. They should congratulate and welcome them. It is for me to congratulate the Youth Congress. As far as our party is concerned, the public knows what they did.

Sir, the Government says that it passed an order. But nothing was done. No action was taken by the authorities by the Delhi Administration on your instructions and directions. No action was taken by the Civil Supplies Department or other agencies concerned. It was left to the public to act in this matter.

Now is the hon. Minister aware that on the 24th of this month, on last Friday, residential areas in Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar and also Jaipuria Mills area were raided by the members and supporters of the Communist Party in conducting the de-hoarding campaign? Is he aware that stocks were recovered which were hidden in a garage? There were pulses, gram, sugar and so on. The stocks were seized there. In the Jaipuria Mill area, Communist de-hoarding campaigners located 16 godowns in the Jaipuria Mills. The mill is closed and another factory has now turned into a godown for hidden stocks. There our members and workers broke open the locks of 5 godowns and discovered 2 lakh bags of pulses and various other things worth about two and a half crores of rupees. Sir, the premises were cordoned off by the volunteers, and then pulses were recovered. Why these things were not discovered before and unearthed before? Why was it left to non-official organizations to find out this thing? The Government should explain this.

Then Sir, on the 25th of this month, the CPI volunteers and others went and raided 11 godowns in the Anand Parbat area, Sarai Rohilla, Madipura and one other area where similar stocks, cement and other things in huge quantity were hidden. Why were not these seized before? Currently, another raid is almost in progress; it should start at half past twelve. Some more hidden things will come out. This is the result. People are acting. But the Government is not acting.

Sir, I want to know whether the Civil Supplies Department made any investigation. Sir, on the 24th, after the raid to which I have made a reference earlier, what the Civil Supplies Department did was that they raided some fair price shops. That is all. After the big raids were carried out to which I have referred, the Civil Supplies Department called a meeting at 7-30 p.m. and the meeting went on till half past ten at night and the wholesalers were present. They decided to put out a story to cover up their sins that all these things had been discovered by the Civil Supplies Department and the story was given to the Press. Except "The Hindustan Times" Sir, no paper published this kind of a cock and bull story by the Civil Supplies Department. Has there been any investigation into this? Has there been any investigation as to why the Civil Supplies Department after the raid called a meeting of the wholesalers and deliberately put out a story of this kind?

Sir, the intensely corrupt department is the Civil Supplies Department and as you know from the papers, the Home Minister had called a meeting late last night and discussed this matter and the Minister in charge or the Councillor in charge of this Department, Mr. Bahl, is responsible for it. Sir, the Civil Supplies Department had not moved an inch all these days after you have given instructions to them. Have they been asked to explain their conduct for their inaction till we went into action and till the Congress people also took some action? Is the honourable Minister aware that about three weeks ago, the Youth Congress people had informed the Executive Councillor, Mr. Bahl, who is in charge of the Civil Supplies Department, about an area where in the godowns many things had been hidden. After that, Sir, what did the Civil Supplies Department do? The Civil Supplies Department called the wholesalers and gave them the warning and then the things started moving from the hidden stocks and the Youth Congress people went there and stopped them and caught hold of them. Have you taken any action against those officials who passed on the information to the wholesalers having got it from the Youth Congress volunteers? Therefore Sir, now the Civil Supplies Department people are

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

trying to regularise by issuing permits which expired eight months earlier! This is another side of it Sir, the Congress workers carried out the raids on some halwai shops in Patel Nagar and there they seized 175 tins of vanaspati and no action has been taken against those people who had hidden these things. Each tin of vanaspati contained about 16 kgs of vanaspati. The Civil Supplies Department people came and took no action against them.

Now Sir the Civil Supplies Department people have announced the prices under the DIR of pulses and various other things which are 40 per cent higher than the prevailing market prices and, again, these things will be sold only through the fair price shops. But they have given higher prices than the prevailing market prices.

Then Sir, I come to the question of the licensing orders. Have they re-examined this Order? Sir any wholesaler, under this Order, can stock unlimited quantities for an unlimited period. Why should it be so? Pulses and oil-seeds are not at all covered by this licensing Order. Then again Sir the wholesaler has to inform under the law within 48 hours of the purchases he makes of anything. That too is not done and this is not done in connivance and collusion with the Civil Supplies Department.

Another shocking thing has been revealed and mention should be made of this. In all the raided places stocks have been found. But secret stocks are placed with the nationalised banks and even to the extent of 75 per cent of their value credits have come from the nationalised banks to the wholesalers. How is it Sir? Has the Minister taken it up with the authorities concerned as to why the nationalised banks should be financing this kind of a trade? Why should the nationalised banks be giving crores and crores of rupees up to 75 per cent of the value of the stocks to the black trade of the wholesalers? Sir we have already asked and the Ministry is probably aware of one thing. The Warehousing Corporation godowns are supposed to be under the FCI and they are meant to give facilities to the agriculturists. It has been found that 90 per cent of these Warehousing

Corporation's godowns have been placed at the disposal of the wholesalers and not agriculturists. Now Sir this is another thing. My suggestion, therefore, would be that the stocks in these godowns should be seized at once and raids should be carried out in co-operation with the people and arrests should be made of the concerned persons under the DIR. Then Sir the Foodgrains Licensing Order should be changed with a view to preventing evasion and corruption of this kind and statutory rationing should be introduced in Delhi in respect of rice, vanaspati, sugar and certain other things and there should be an increase in the number of the fair price shops also.

Finally, Sir as far as the Civil Supplies Department is concerned, well I want a thorough inquiry into the working of this Department. Our opinion is that the Civil Supplies Department is an agency of the wholesalers in Delhi. They are taking money. Corruption, bribery and all kinds of things are rampant there and it is a matter of shame. Even Mr Dikshit, Home Minister, is concerned about it. The Executive Councillor Mr Bahl has singularly failed to discharge his responsibilities. Therefore it is a fit case for a thorough investigation as far as the Civil Supplies Department is concerned and we should ask the Government here to take serious action against the Department and to find out from them why they behaved in this manner before and after the raids took place.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE Sir at the outset before I go into the points raised by the hon. Member I would like to submit that some of the political workers some belonging to the Youth Congress and some belonging to the CPI did a good work and they deserve to be congratulated. I say this only with one proviso that nobody should take the law into his hands.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA When the hidden stocks are there what can you do?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE I am making a general observation. If they do not take the law into their hands I would welcome such activity anywhere in any part of the country against hoarders.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) If you expect the customers to take up this activity, what is your police for? Are we supposed to do this?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA They are taking bribe

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE Within the framework of law, we welcome such activities against the hoarders and black-marketiers. The hon. Member asked why a reference was not made to some of his party workers. Sir, the Calling Attention Motion was not in regard to the raids of 24th alone.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA On a point of order, Sir, I gave it on the 24th. The Calling Attention is about the recent unearthing of huge stocks of foodgrains, cement and vegetable oil.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE Let me explain. Naturally a number of other raids have also taken place. So far the Delhi Administration has raided and checked about 100 godowns in Delhi. In fact very large stocks of commodities have been found and counted. The counting is still going on and these godowns have been sealed by the Delhi Administration. The hon. Member wants to know why no action has been taken. Of course one gentleman has been arrested and the action against others is being considered. Naturally there are certain commodities which are not controlled. Therefore there were no stock limits for those commodities. Naturally the question arises whether there is need to fix the stock limits in regard to commodities which are not controlled. My Ministry's view and the Government of India's view is that it is desirable to prescribe the stock limits of all scarce commodities. It is presumed that the State Governments should prescribe the stock limits for various commodities while giving licences to the dealers. If the Delhi Administration has not done so, I will advise the Delhi Administration to prescribe the stock limits for all the basic commodities even if they are not controlled because action can be taken against the hoarders under the various Acts only if stock limits are prescribed.

It is very desirable and I welcome the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Then, he referred to certain godowns in certain factory premises. Now, the law will take its own course if it is found to be in contravention of any law or order. Naturally, action will be taken against anybody who may be responsible for hoarding these commodities.

As far as the fixation of prices by the Delhi Administration is concerned, I saw the controversy in the Press also. I cannot submit, Sir, that if the prices are to be fixed, they should be fixed under the Defence of India Rules. We have authorised all the State Governments to fix the prices under the Defence of India Rules, so that if anybody contravenes that order then action can be taken against him. As far as the pulses case is concerned, the Delhi Administration had not approached us for fixing the prices of pulses. If they approach us, we will help them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Mr. Shinde will admit that I talked to him on the 24th night on the telephone. He said that it is for the Delhi Administration. We are in Parliament in the Centre and in the Capital of India. You know by now how scarcities are created.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE It is true that the hon. Member was good enough to inform me on the 24th itself and immediately after that I took it up with the Chief Executive Councillor of Delhi and told him that a very strong action needs to be taken and nobody should be spared if he has contravened the law in the present difficult situation. I was only making a limited observation about the fixation of prices of pulses. I said if the Delhi Administration wants to fix prices under the DIR we will authorise them and we will sanction the fixation of such prices. It seems that some informal fixation of prices has taken place but there is some controversy about it. According to the Press reports I think they were fixed a little higher than the market prices. We will go into that and we will give the necessary advice to the Delhi Administration in regard to that which would help the consumers because

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whatever prices are fixed they have to be fixed in the interests of the consumers

As far as nationalised banks are concerned if any nationalised bank has made any advance against commodities for which a statutory limit of stock has been prescribed we will take up the specific case with the Finance Ministry and the Banking Department but if they are credits given to those commodities for which there is no specific stock limit prescribed or over which there is no control, naturally I do not think that the banks can be blamed for that. It can be a matter for review of the approach.

Then Sir a statement has been made by the hon. Member that the godowns of the Warehousing Corporation are being allowed to be used for stocking some of these commodities. I may inform the hon. Member and the hon. House that a few months earlier when the Food Corporation had very large stocks most of these capacities with the public sector agencies were being utilised by the Food Corporation but when the stocks of the Food Corporation are not there naturally the Warehousing Corporation cannot keep these capacities unutilised. Legally they are within their power in allowing these capacities to be utilised but the only thing is that these godowns should not be allowed to be used for hoarding commodities.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: They have been caught in that.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The only thing is if anybody has in contravention of the orders used these godowns we will take due note of the observations made by the hon. Member. We will go into the case and investigate the case very specifically.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, he has to say something about the Civil Supplies Department. That is why I said that the Home Minister should also come here for answering this. I know your difficulty but

kindly say something about the Civil Supplies Department of Delhi. Whatever you pass cannot work so long as that Department is a den of corruption.

SHRI BANARSI DAS (Uttar Pradesh): The problem will be solved if you appoint a CPI member as your Adviser.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: My friend Mr. Banarsi Das can go if he like. Why are you lingering in the party thing here? I believe you are an honest man, I have no objection, you go.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): The whole call-attention motion has arisen out of two developments having taken place in Delhi. One is action by the political parties Congress and CPI and the second is the recent fixation of prices by the Civil Supplies Department of the Delhi Administration. That is why the controversy has arisen. It would have been better if the Home Minister had also been present here so that they could have told us what action has been taken for delhi ration. So far only one person has been proceeded against for hoarding. The whole of the DIR and MISA has been used for catching only one person. This shows the seriousness the Government is attaching to dehoarding. The difficulty in the way of the Civil Supplies Department is the wholesalers should be delinked. Is it or is it not a fact that a few days back a delegation led by Mr. Maheshwar Dayal and including Mr. Baniram Gupta of the All India Grain Merchants Association who have been opposing the foodgrains takeover. Mr. Ramnarain Jain and Mr. P. R. Mittal, had gone to the Prime Minister and assured her that they would like to sell foodgrains and other items at fixed rates and at a lower price than the blackmarket price and they wanted to impress upon the Prime Minister how patriotic they had become? And it is with these same persons and in conjunction with them that Mr. Bahl gave a radio talk and praised the wholesale dealers for the help they were giving in Delhi. It is because of that prices were fixed which were higher than the market price. Is it so or not? I would like the hon. Minister to really clarify the whole issue because the people are being misguided. Only one or

two newspapers came out saying how a fraud is being played on the people of Delhi by the Civil Supplies Department and how Mr. Bahl fixed prices higher than the market prices. May I know whether the hon. Minister will say something in reply—and not say that he will advise the Delhi Administration—whether the prices were formally or informally fixed or not. If it was so, what action are they going to take? Is it not time that he advised the Home Minister and the Government of India to remove Mr Bahl from the Civil Supplies Department? Remove him from the Executive Councillorship or at least remove him from the Civil Supplies Department where the whole “Golemall” has taken place directly with his connivance and with his support.

Another point I would like to raise, besides the points raised by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, is that at present no profit is fixed either for the retailer or for the wholesaler. If the wholesalers are really genuine—they have said that they will open 40 fair price shops in Delhi on a no profit no loss basis—why do they not sell grains at these 40 fair price shops at the wholesale rate, so that the people of Delhi can get cheaper foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds? I would like to know, when he has accepted the suggestion of Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, whether an order will be immediately issued today itself for including pulses and oilseeds under the essential commodities and for which prices can be fixed under DIR. Then, about the limit of hoarding, may I know whether he will be able to tell us by this evening or by tomorrow as to what will be the limit to keeping stocks by wholesalers and by retailers? (*Time Bell rings*) Last point and I would finish. Now, the foodgrains control order is being taken advantage of. If a foodgrain consignment comes here, for 48 hours you can keep it without telling the Civil Supplies Department. Whenever anybody goes to catch hold of hoarders they say that the consignment had come only 12 hours back. So, would you amend the foodgrains control order, so that anybody who gets a consignment from outside, viz., from Haryana, U.P., Punjab or anywhere else, has to take a licence? He should say that this much stock he is

going to have which he is free to move to his house or to his private godown. A change in the order is very essential. Otherwise, I am afraid you will not be able to catch anybody. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the necessary changes in the Essential Commodities Act and in the foodgrains licensing order will be made and, if so, by what time they will be made? He must explain the bad deeds of the Civil Supplies Department and not hush up the matter or only say that he would advise the State Government or advise the Home Ministry because the Delhi Administration comes under them. Mr Bahl must go from the Civil Supplies Department. No enquiry, nothing can be done unless that is done.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Both my Ministry and the Home Ministry and the hon. Home Minister personally have written to the State Governments that all powers under the Essential Commodities Act MISA, Defence of India Rules should be used by the State Governments and State Administrators against anti-social elements who are indulging in black-marketing, hoarding, etc. So, the Delhi Administration also falls in the same category and naturally they have all the law. The hon. Member raised the basic issue whether there is need to amend the Essential Commodities Act. The Essential Commodities Act is so wide by itself that there are ample powers available. This hon. House itself has enacted the law. And there are ample powers available; necessary orders are available. The orders can be issued by the Delhi Administration and we can give concurrence if they want to make the orders more strict or rigid. A number of State Governments have been approaching us, and we have been giving them the necessary authority to act under the Essential Commodities Act, the DIR and the MISA.

About limiting of keeping stocks is concerned—particularly, he mentioned the pulses and the oilseeds—both pulses and oilseeds are very important commodities and I will take up with the Delhi Administration the problem of fixing of limits. And this can be done very quickly. The

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Delhi Administration should have done it earlier. But even then, I will take it up with them right now. About the fixation of prices, already some prices of certain commodities have been fixed and a public notification has been issued which has been published; in the Delhi Gazette Extraordinary also it has been published. I need not go into the details of fixation of prices. But whatever prices have been fixed, they have taken into consideration while fixing the prices, the margin of profit within a reasonable limit. With regard to fixation of prices of other commodities like pulses and others, I think what needs to be done is, nobody should be allowed to take undue advantage of that; the profit margin should be within limits in the prevailing circumstances when the consumers are having so much of hardship because of very high level of prices.

There are certain other political issues which the hon. Member. . .

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Not political issues. I wanted to know whether such an order was issued about the fixation of prices.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I have said about the order, about the pulses. I have already explained earlier.

I wish to refer to the political issues raised by him while putting some questions, about the removal of somebody and all that, I am sorry, I am not in a position to say anything.

SHRI B. T. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Wagons coming are not cleared within 24 hours

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: We will look into it. Under the Essential Commodities Act, the Administration has full powers. They can ask the dealer to report immediately within a stipulated period. But we will examine all this.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I wanted two things, firstly, whether the modification required would be done or not and, secondly, whether it is a fact or not that the prices were fixed. You cannot remove

Mr. Behl. How can you advise the Ministry? You cannot. Have you come to know about it?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Officially we have not got any document about it. I read in the papers that such prices were fixed where they were higher than the market prices. Since he has raised the matter, we will discuss and for fixing them under the DIR they have to approach us. They have not approached us formally as I said while replying to the hon. Shri Bhupesh Gupta.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): Is it not a fact that whatever the Ministers have so far replied to the queries of the few Members that it is simply whitewashing the entire affair? I want to say: Because of your policy, the Congress Government's policy, you are encouraging this price rise, hoarding, cornering and everything. And now you say that under the Essential Commodities Act, the State Governments have been advised to take action. May I also know further whether these black-marketeers, speculators and these big wholesalers and traders had not financed your party so that you are completely in their grip? Is it not a fact that 90,000 quintals were unearthed in the chamber or godown of Mr. Modi in Delhi itself? And was he not let off because he is supposed to have donated twenty lakhs and somebody very high in the Cabinet is supposed to have taken it? Here are the figures. It is astounding.

Dal arhar, wholesale rate of pulses in Delhi per kilogram—August 18—Rs. 1.45, August 21—Rs. 1.40, August 23—Rs. 1.40 August 24—Rs. 1.40.

But the retail price fixed by Mr. O. P. Behl, the Executive Councillor, in consultation with the wholesaler, is Rs. 2.10.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Niren Ghose, you cannot be reading all the prices.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I am not reading everything. Dal Moong retail price is Rs. 2.05 and price fixed by Mr. O. P. Behl is Rs. 2.20. Dal Masoor Rs. 1.75 and price fixed is Rs. 1.95. Kabuli Chana Rs. 1.80 fixed at Rs. 2.40. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH. . . and so on. So the All India grain merchants and the Delhi Administration have entered into this unholy alliance. Is not the Delhi Administration under the direct control and suzerainty of the Central Government? Has it not appeared today in the press that the Home Minister, Mr. Dikshit, is supposed to have held some high level consultations? We do not know what has transpired. Will you tell us whether you will put all these wholesale traders who are supposed to have cheated in this way behind the bar and if you yourself cannot, then give an assurance on the floor of the House that you have advised the Home Ministry to do so and then let us know whether they have accepted your advice or not.

Sir, the D.I.R. and the M.I.S.A. are used to suppress political opponents and not the hoarders and blackmarketeers etc. If you have used it against the blackmarketeer anywhere, please do tell us a single name where a top blackmarketeer has been arrested under the D.I.R. or the M.I.S.A. You catch only small fries dealing in thousands of rupees but you do not touch those who are making crores and cores of rupees out of these 90,000 quintals. It is your Government who is responsible for this. You have let them off. Now let us know here and now whether you will seize the stocks at least of the wholesalers of Delhi which is the subject matter of the notice. If you cannot do that, are you prepared to seize the hoarded stocks of essential commodities and pulses wherever possible? Let them unearth the stocks. They know where the stocks are. You have to enlist just the public co-operation and they will help you. I am sorry if the public helps you your police adopts repressive measures against them. In this way by your white-washing talks you are simply encouraging hoarding-dehoarding unholy alliance. You are responsible for all this (*Time Bell rings.*) You have to clarify your position before the House.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I am sorry the hon'ble friend sees politics in everything. Whatever may be the good

points or the failures of the Delhi Administration, what has happened recently is generally known. You know what are the contributory factors which have led to price rise. The hon'ble Member feels that it is my party's responsibility. I have explained on a number of occasions the setback in the economy, the deficit financing which has been resorted to

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार):

ग़ासन में तो आप की पार्टी है, तो फिर कौन पार्टी जिम्मेवार होगी?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: the drought conditions and particularly the setback in agricultural production. These are some of the factors which led to the setback in our economy. Fortunately, Sir, now the crop prospects are brightening because of good monsoon.

The hon'ble Member has raised the issue of fixation of prices, the point which was raised by hon'ble Shri Bhupesh Gupta and Shri Krishan Kant. About the fixation of price of pulses, as I said earlier, we will go into this. We find that some formal and informal fixation was done. We will find out what was the truth. But my latest information is that in the Delhi market also, as a result of a good monsoon and favourable crop conditions, the prices of foodgrains have generally shown an easy trend in the last one month. Fall in prices per quintal has been noticeable in the case of moong, Rs. 30; barley, Rs. 28; bajra, Rs. 18; urad, Rs. 17. A fall of Rs. 15 per quintal was noticed in rice, moong, urad and arhar. So, there is a downward trend. The Delhi Administration must be very careful in fixing the prices. We should not give any undue advantage to anybody. Regarding the specific point, as I said earlier, we will get in touch with the Delhi Administration.

The hon. Member made an observation that we are not using MISA and DIR against the hoarders and anti-social elements. As far as DIR is concerned, the Government of India addressed recently, only three weeks back, a communication to all the State Governments. I have a long list of States. Even before that, the MISA has been used against the anti-social elements.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH I want a simple answer. Can he point out a single top speculator who has been detained under the MISA? We demand scrapping of the MISA. We demand withdrawal of DIR. Ordinary laws can take care of these things. But since you say you are using the MISA and DIR, can you point one single top man who has been held, who deals in crores?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE I do not know what he means by "top", but I can only say that in a number of States, MISA and DIR are being used against these elements.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH Only against the small fry

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE We would like the State Governments to use very effective weapons against the economic offenders. (Interruption) I am sorry because the hon. Member has prejudice, and he looks at all issues through particular spectacles. It is very difficult to satisfy him. But as far as Government's policy is concerned, we will take very strong action against these economic offenders under the DIR and the MISA.

श्री नवल किशोर (उत्तर प्रदेश)

श्रीमान्, जो जवाब हमारे शिन्डे साहब ने दिया उससे मुझे बड़ी मायूसी हुई। असली बात यह है कि शिन्डे साहब के काबू के बाहर देश की हालत चली गई है। खाद्यान्न की स्थिति आपके काव के बाहर हो चुकी है। आपने बंधाई दी भ्रष्ट गृह मंत्री को, दीजिए मुझे कोई शिकायत नहीं है कि आप जितनी भी बंधाई दे क्योंकि आपकी माठगाठ है। मैं तो केवल यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें ज्यादा शर्म की बात क्या हो सकती है आपकी गवर्नमेंट के लिए कि इतनी बड़ी मशीनरी और तमाम पुलिस होने पर भी आप कुछ नहीं कर पाए और सी० पी० आइ० और कांग्रेस का जलम जिसका भी एक प्रकार से सी०

पी० आइ० ही समझ लीजिए—सब कुछ कर रहा है। क्या आप यह मोच रहे हैं कि आप अपनी पुलिस को विदड़ करके सी० पी० आइ० को दे दें?

आप यह जो ड्रामा कर रहे हैं कनाडवेस के साथ इसमें कोई फायदा होने वाला नहीं है। आपने कहा कि विद इन दि फ्रेमवर्क आफ दि ला हाना चाहिए। आपको पता है कि दम्बरू ने शिवमना ने किया और जब भोपाल में हुआ, बाजार में लोग घुस गये तो उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे आदमी उसमें नहीं हैं। जब इस तरह की चीजें होंगी तो विद इन दि फ्रेमवर्क आफ ला नहीं हो सकती।

आपने कहा कि दो तीन हफ्ते हुए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को आर्डर दिए गये हैं कि डी० आइ० आर० और 'पीमा' का इस्तेमाल हो। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि दिल्ली में या किसी भी स्टेट में या यूनियन टैरिटरी में कितने लोगों को इसके अन्तर्गत गिरफ्तार किया गया। जहाँ तक मुझे मालूम है दिल्ली में केवल एक केस हुआ डी० आइ० आर० के अन्दर। असली चीज यह है कि आपकी प्रोक्लामेट प्राइम इतनी कम थी कि जिसके कारण 25 परसेंट ही एक्जोरसेट हो पाया है। इतना आप इफोट कर रहे हैं और वह भी बहुत बात में। आज मुगलनी और मोयावीन के दाम बढ़न जा रहे हैं, आप कुछ कंट्रोल नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि डी० आइ० आर० का इस्तेमाल जो आपके करण्ट ग्राफिजियलस है, जितनी कनाडवेस में ये वेदुदगी होती है, जो भ्रष्ट है, उनके खिलाफ भी करेंगे? आज फाइनेंस की इतनी रमी है और दस हजार टन गन्नाज

केवल आपके मुरादाबाद में पानी में भीगकर सड़ गया। मैं नहीं जानता कि जो आप अनाज देने हैं राशन शासन के नाम से, वह 90 परसेंट अच्छा होता है या 10 परसेंट उसमें अडल्टरेशन होता है।

अभी अखबार में आया था—जैसा आपके कपूर माहव ने कहा—पन्ना में 75 परसेंट एडल्टरेशन है। उड़ीसा में 45 परसेंट एडल्टरेशन है। दूसरी स्टेट्स का आकड़े नहीं दिए गए थे। जब आपने कंट्रोल कर दिया था कि सिवाय गवर्नमेंट के कोई खरीद नहीं सकेगा तो ये स्टॉक कहा में आए? इसके माने यह है कि आपका सुपरवाइजन और कंट्रोल निरुपमा था।

आपने दाल की बात कही। चने पर कंट्रोल नहीं, उड़द पर कंट्रोल नहीं, फिर आप दालों की कीमतों पर कैसे कंट्रोल करेंगे, यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आई।

एक बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितना स्टॉक आपने मीज किया, कितना भूषण गुप्त की पार्टी ने मीज किया, कितना यूथ कांग्रेस ने मीज किया और मित्रिय सप्लाइज डिपार्टमेंट ने कितना मीज किया है? इसी प्रकार में जो एडल्टरेशन करने है, जो स्पॉक करने है उनमें से कितनों को आपने मीसा के अन्दर पकड़ कर भेजा है?

श्रीमन्, मेरी यह आदत नहीं है कि मैं चीप बाते किया करूँ। राज एन्टी एडल्टरेशन कमेटी में, जिसके नन्दा जी चेयरमैन हैं, आपकी कांग्रेस के यू पी के एम पी ने यह चार्ज लगाया कि सिर्फ एक एडल्टरेटर ने दीक्षित जी को डेढ़ करोड़ रुपया कांग्रेस के चुनाव फंड के लिए दिया और उन्होंने

नन्दा जी ने कहा कि अगर आपके अन्दर इन्क्वायरी कराने की हिम्मत हो तो मैं आपको सबन दूंगा। यह मैंने नहीं कहा, आपकी पार्टी के एक आदमी ने कहा।

श्री सीताराम केसरी (बिहार):
किमने कहा।

श्री नवल किशोर: मिस्टर एम एन मिश्र आफ उवर प्रदेश।

श्री सीताराम केसरी: क्या कहा?

श्री नवल किशोर जो मैं कह रहा हूँ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE I can only say that the hon Member should not make any statement unless he has got his own evidence to prove it. He is a very senior Member. I do not think he should make any baseless statement unless he has evidence.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE Excuse me for one thing. You are a Minister. I take myself as much responsible as you are or anybody else in the House. आप बड़ी बड़ी बातें करने हैं लेकिन आप सिर्फ छोटे छोटे आदमियों को पकड़ पाते हैं, मगर जो मेनूफैक्चरर्स हैं जो बड़े बड़े कुलकर्म हैं, जो बड़े बड़े स्टोकिस्ट्स हैं उनमें से किसी को पकड़ नहीं पाते हैं। अभी मिस्टर घोष ने मोदी के भेस के बारे में कहा, जिसमें आप जिन्दा मक्खी को निगल गए। आप इस सब की जड़ में जाइए, वैसे कुछ होगा नहीं।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE Sir, the hon Member is a very senior Member. I really do not know why he was unhappy because Shri Bhupesh Gupta raised some issue of public importance. And I am sorry to say that with such a public career, the hon Member is not in a position to appreciate any measure of social reform or giving protection to the consumer. Price

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde]

resistance movement can never be successful without the cooperation of non-officials who are genuinely interested in it. Therefore I do not understand why the hon. Member should be so prejudiced because of non-official cooperation to such a campaign. In fact, I would appeal to the good sense of the hon. Member that his Party should also cooperate with us in such a campaign and we will compliment if his Party does the same.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE We can give constructive cooperation but not this rowdy way of cooperation.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE In this House we have political differences. We have people with different shades of opinion. If somebody raises an issue of public importance, why should the hon. Member be unhappy about it. I do not understand this attitude.

Sir, the hon. Members have raised many issues—adulteration, import, procurement and so on. I do not think this can really come up here. As far as this Calling Attention Notice is concerned, I can only say that the Government of India has discussed with the State Governments, and the Government of India and the Home Minister personally have written to the State Governments that...

SHRI NIREN GHOSH What is the use of writing when your Governments are all in collusion with hoarders and blackmarketeers?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: we want effective use of the MISA and the DIR against economic offenders and with due notice it should be possible, though in Delhi it is true that action is taken against one person (*Interruption*) but in the States, a very large number of persons have been hauled up and a number of actions have taken place. One may differ perhaps he was a small person or a big person. But for the first time a very large number of actions are being taken against economic offenders under the DIR and the MISA.

Public Importance

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) :

आपन बताया कि लगभग सौ गोडाउन्स पर छापे मारे हैं। श्री भारद्वाज जो सिविल सप्लाय कमिश्नर हैं उन्होंने 92 बताया और उनका कहना है कि 79 ही हमने स्टॉक वेरिफिकेशन कर लिया है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जिन का स्टॉक वेरिफिकेशन उन्होंने कर लिया है उनमें कितने ऐसे केमेज हैं जिन के सम्बन्ध में चालान किये जा सकते हैं। इसके बारे में अगर आप मारे सदन को सूचना दे तो ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा। मुख्य मुद्दा के बारे में आप बिल्कुल होम मिनिस्ट्री पर डाल कर चलना चाहते हैं। जहां तक दालों की कीमतों का सवाल है यह बात बिल्कुल सही है कि अच्छी वर्षा होने के कारण चीजों के दाम मारे देश में गिरने प्रारम्भ हुये हैं और ऐसे समय में अगर मि० बहल चीजों के दाम ऊंचे बाधते हैं और दिल्ली में जो मेट्रोपोलिटन कौंसिल का मैक्रोटेरिट्ररी है उसके अन्दर अगर पत्रकारों को व्यापारियों और दिल्ली ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की ओर से लिस्ट प्रकाशित की जाती है और वह बाटी जाती है और चूँकि यह मामला अखबारों में आ गया और इसके कारण अगर मि० बहल इन्कार करते हैं तो इस मामले को केवल आप अपनी पार्टी का मामला बना कर के न दवा दें। मैं इसकी पोलिटिकल इश्यू के ताने में नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं इसलिए इसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर दिल्ली के अन्दर सब से पहले मि० के खिलाफ डी० आई० प्रार० अप्लाई करना चाहिए आज के दिन तो मि० बहल के खिलाफ अप्लाई करना चाहिये जिन्होंने राशन के मामले में वगलिंग की है। अब मैं मि० बहल यहाँ के सिविल सप्लाय के कमिस्तर

बने ह तब से आप देखिये कि राशन कार्ड्स के मामले में क्या हुआ है। अगस्त 1972 में दिल्ली में राशन कार्ड्स के माफ़े 45 लाख युनिट्स थे। लेकिन छे महीने के अन्दर फरवरी, 1973 में 54 लाख युनिट्स हो गये। छे महीने के अन्दर क्या दिल्ली की पापुलेशन इतनी बढ़ गई। इतनी पापुलेशन नहीं बढ़ी, लेकिन मि० बहल ने जानबझ कर इस प्रकार की योजना बनाई कि इसी काल में उन्होंने दिल्ली के अन्दर ढाई सौ दूकाने कांग्रेस के कार्यकर्ताओं को अलॉट की। जब इसकी शिकायत जनवरी के महीने में हमने ले० गवर्नर से की तो ले० गवर्नर ने दिल्ली के डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट को इस बात की जांच करने के लिए नियुक्त किया कि दिल्ली में जो 15 जोन्स हैं उनमें कितने बोगस कार्ड्स हैं। डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट ने नौ जोन्स की जांच की और नौ जोन्स की जांच करने में उनको छे लाख बोगस राशन कार्ड्स मिले। ढाई सौ दूकाने जो दिल्ली के अन्दर कांग्रेस कार्यकर्ताओं को मि० बहल ने अलॉट की उनपर ये राशन कार्ड्स रजिस्टर्ड थे। (*Interruptions*).

आप जरा शान रहिये। आप मेरी बात सुन लीजिये। मंत्री महोदय मेरी बात का जवाब दे देगे। आप को राशन की दूकान नहीं मिली, इसकी मुझे जानकारी है। लेकिन आप को सुपर बाजार मिला हुआ है। वहां पर भी बड़ा घोटाला हो रहा है। (*Interruptions*).

इस सम्बन्ध में मेरी यह जानकारी है कि बाकी जो छे जोन्स हैं उनके अन्दर चेकिंग करने की दृष्टी में श्रीमान अपने जो होम मिनिस्टर हैं उनके पास ऐप्रोच किया गया और बाकी छे

जोन्स में जांच करना बन्द करवा दिया गया। जब नौ जोन्स में जांच की गई तो बाकी छे जोन्स में क्यों नहीं जांच की गई। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि डी० एम० ने जो रिपोर्ट दी है वह होम मिनिस्ट्री के पास है या आप के पास है। यह सिविल सप्लाय के मामले की रिपोर्ट है, इस लिए इसे आप के पास आना चाहिए था। डी० एम० की रिपोर्ट आप प्रकाशित क्यों नहीं करते हैं ताकि सारी बातें सामने आ जाय। आज नौ हजार क्विंटल चीनी और 60 हजार क्विंटल गेहू जो बोगस वार्डिंग पर दिया जाता है, वह इन ढाई सौ दूकानदारों द्वारा ब्लैक किया जाता है। उसका सारा प्रॉफिट बहल साहब के पास जाता है जिन्होंने ढाई सौ दूकाने अलॉट की हैं या कहा जाता है, यह मैं नहीं कह सकता, लेकिन इतना बिल्कुल मिलियर कट केस है कि नौ हजार क्विंटल चीनी और 60 हजार क्विंटल गेहू बोगस राशन कार्ड्स पर दिया जाता है। आप कहते हैं कि यह पोलिटिकल इश्यू नहीं है। आपने कहा कि जो लोग होर्डिंग करते हैं, ब्लैक-मार्केटिंग करते हैं उनके विरुद्ध डी० आई० आर० का उपयोग होना चाहिये, लेकिन क्या दिल्ली के डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट की रिपोर्ट मित्र नहीं करती कि दिल्ली के अन्दर जो घोटाला किया है वह मि० बहल ने किया है। शिन्दे साहब, अगर आप ईमानदार हैं और दावा करते हैं कि जिन्होंने ऐसा किया है वे डी० आई० आर० में पकड़े जायेंगे। तो आप रेकमेड कीजिए कि दिल्ली के अन्दर पहला डी० आई० आर० का केस मिस्टर बहल के खिलाफ रजिस्टर किया जाय।

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are repeating

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I do not think that while looking into the problems of anti-hoarding or dehoarding measures we should concentrate on individuals. On merit one can be right or wrong and on that basis one can take a view. For instance, the hon Member has made a statement that some profit is going to a particular person. I do not think we should make such charges. As far as ration cards are concerned, he has made a statement and it is well known that the problem of bogus cards is very serious. In fact, there are many temptations under the present situation. . .

श्री बनारसी दास : आप के डिपार्ट-
मेंट और इस्पेक्टरों के सहयोग के बिना
बोगस राशन कार्ड्स कैसे बन सकते
हैं ? अगर फूड इस्पेक्टर वेरीफाई न करे तो
राशन कार्ड कैसे बनेगा ? इस लिए जो
आप के सिविल सप्लाय के लोग हैं
उन के खिलाफ आप इस डी० आर्डी०
आर० का इस्तेमाल करे तभी काम
चलेगा यह तो बाढ़ खा रही है खेत
को। वही हिसाब हो रहा है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I can only say that as far as we are concerned, we have requested all the State Governments to eliminate these bogus cards.

श्री बनारसी दास : कहीं ऐक्ट
ऐक्शन लिया है आप ने ? बोगस कार्ड
बनाने वालों के खिलाफ आप न कहीं
ऐक्शन लिया है ? किसी स्टेट में आप
ने ऐक्शन लिया है। दिल्ली में अगर आप
सिविल सप्लाय डिपार्टमेंट के स्टाफ के खिलाफ
जांच कराये तो आप को पता चलेगा।
आप ने उन को ताकत दे कर लूटने
का मौका दिया है। आज दिल्ली में 6
लाख बोगस राशन कार्ड्स हैं। तो मैं
आप से एश्योरेस चाहता हूँ कि आप
ऐसे लोगों को बंद करे कि जिन्होंने आज
बोगस राशन कार्ड्स बनवा रखे हैं।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE. In a number of States, bogus cards have identified. In Delhi also

श्री बनारसी दास : दिल्ली में क्या
आप यह ऐक्शन लेने जा रहे हैं। क्या
आप एस लागो को बंद करेंगे।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE. I have not yielded. I was replying to the hon. Member. As far as the elimination of bogus cards is concerned, Delhi Administration is continuing the campaign and nowhere the campaign has been stopped. We will ask them to vigorously continue this because it creates distortion in the distribution machinery and lot of valuable food-grains which should go to the needy people are going to undesirable channels. As far as this aspect is concerned, I am one with the hon Member. Bogus cards have got to be eliminated and the process of elimination has to be continued all along consistently. Again the hon Member has brought in politics and said that some shops have been given to Congress workers. One can say that when Jan Sangh was in power, they were giving shops to Jan Sangh workers. As far as my view is concerned and as far as my Ministry is concerned, fair price shops should not be given to private individuals. They should be given to co-operatives and if they are not there, they should be given on merit and no favouritism should be shown. That is my advice to Delhi Administration. We should not make allegations without any evidence or any basis for making such allegations.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश)
यह आप कह सकते हो तो कहिये न।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE. These matters do not come to us. Regarding price of pulses, I have already replied. But if Delhi Administration approach us in fixing prices, we will authorise them and give necessary powers.

श्री रणबीर सिंह (हरियाणा)
यह काम वर्मा जी को दे दीजिए।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : जांच
के बारे में आप क्या कह रहे हैं जो
कि रोक दी गयी है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE. I have made the statement that it will be continued

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Kerala) Delhi for once represents the rest of the country and reflects what is happening in the country and what is not being done by the Government of the country

Sir, the question is to an extent misleading and the answer that has been provided by the hon. Minister is also to that extent misleading because the basic factor as to how there is scarcity and how this sort of irregularities are being resorted to by unsocial elements is completely missed in the question and is completely therefore missed in the answer provided by the hon. Minister. Sir, the answer given by the honourable Minister to the question that was posed is rather apologetic in that he admits the failures of the Government and it was rather astounding to hear that encouragement may be given to the political parties and other persons in the country to take over to the extent, as the honourable Minister put it, it is not outside the law, the functions of the Government and the functions of the administrator. Sir, the Government is trying to find scapegoats for its failures and is trying to provide alibis and we find, Sir, that a situation is being created in the country and in Delhi in particular as if the Government are not at fault and only the anti-social elements are taking the law into their hands. Sir, the basic question that the Government would have to answer is how there is scarcity in foodgrains, in cement, vegetable oil, etc. It may be said, Sir, that cement is by and large in the private sector and the distribution of cement is in the private sector. Fertilizers are by and large in the public sector, but the distribution of fertilizers is by and large in the private sector. Take, for example, steel. Steel is produced in the public sector and that public sector is also distributing steel.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. You confine yourself to the foodgrains only.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN. But in steel also there is scarcity. I would therefore suggest to the honourable Mi-

nister to go into the basic factors in regard to the Government policy which is wrong. The prices of foodstuffs which the Government can control and should control are not being controlled at all. The price of petrol, the price of diesel, transport charges and what not are being increased and if this sort of increase goes on, certainly there will be an increase in the price of the essential commodities and whenever there is an increase in the price of essential commodities, this sort of practice by the anti-social elements in the country is bound to take place. I would, therefore, suggest a basic approach to the entire problem.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE. I can only say, when the honourable Member is referring to the basic approach, that he is right. I cannot agree with him when he says that the Government is trying to find scapegoats and I am not in a position really to understand him. For the present economic ills the reasons are very well known. As I mentioned earlier, there are some economic factors and there has been some setbacks in agricultural production and all that. But, Sir, basically I agree with the sentiments of the honourable Member that distribution is a very important function, distribution of the essential commodities to the community. But ultimately it depends upon production and having proper machinery and public co-operation, etc. Now, Sir, the Government is not trying to find scapegoats. Because some anti-social elements are taking advantage of the present difficult situation and the Government has to take some action against such anti-social elements under the laws which are at the disposal of the Government of India and the Government of India's approach would be with the co-operation of the people and the honourable Members and the various political parties. Let us first try to tide over the current economic situation and I have full confidence that the present set backs in the economy and in the agricultural sector in particular would go away because we have a good monsoon and many of these difficulties are likely to be over within the next one or two months.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI (Maharashtra) Sir, most of the honourable Members who

[Shri S. S. Sardesai]

have raised this question before me have emphasised the question of implementation about which I do not want to speak because the honourable Minister himself has agreed that all sorts of abuses exist in the actual implementation of the various rules and regulations, orders, etc., passed by them and so on and so forth. But, Sir, I would very strongly urge upon the Minister to understand and to realise the extremely self-contradictory and inconsistent positions which he himself has taken. For instance, in his very first reply he has said that he congratulated the Youth Congress volunteers and the members of the Communist party for the recent work which they have done and, at the same time, he said that he would not like them to take the law into their own hands. Does he know what they actually did? I want to be very frank about it. You have to know about it. They have taken the law into their hands. You cannot go on congratulating them.

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA They have played havoc.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI For a long time they went on informing the Civil Supplies Department the Police and every administrative officer that godowns are here, stocks are here, please go and take possession. For weeks and weeks and weeks the Administration did nothing. Then they said publicly, 'We will take out a demonstration, a procession we will go there in a disciplined fashion, in a peaceful fashion in a non-violent fashion, the godowns are here, the locks are here, we will go there and open the locks and we will hand over the stocks to the Government to sell them at controlled prices.' This also they said publicly and this is precisely what they did in the end. The police went with them. Now what else could they have done? I am sorry I can't understand. They informed the Administration in advance, they said that they won't commit violence, they won't loot. They stuck to their words. They opened the locks and handed over the stocks. Technically they committed a breach of the law. And we are proud that they committed a breach of law. What I want to point out is that you can't eat the cake and have it at the same time. You cannot go on congratulating them for this

and also denounce the breach of law. So you should understand this. But in the given situation, without a technical breach of law the problem could not have been solved. The Administration knew this. You don't take possession of the stocks. You don't sell them at controlled price. You say that you do not know whether stocks are there. Unless the lock is broken open, how do you prove that stocks are there? So to prove that stocks are there, the lock has to be broken open. So I would like to tell the Minister that for goodness sake if you mean it say it, if you don't mean it, don't say it.

I go a step further. That is with regard to the rules and regulations about the fixation of prices. What has happened in Delhi? What has happened in Bombay? During the last three months prices have been constantly rising. The profiteers, the hoarders and all such people have been raising prices. A certain gentleman A sells edible oil at, let us say, Rs. 5 a kilo to B. B sells it to C at Rs. 6. C sells it to D at Rs. 7. D sells it to E at Rs. 8 or Rs. 9 or Rs. 10. The final retailer in Delhi or Bombay says that he purchased it from the preceding seller at Rs. 10 a kilo. So, with 10% profit he has to sell it at Rs. 11 a kilo. Now if this is going to be permitted then you have to admit that Rs. 10 a kilo is the proper price. The last man who sells it at Rs. 10 a kilo has himself purchased at Rs. 9.00 a kilo. Are you going to permit it? This is what happened in Bombay. This is what is being done in Delhi. Unless you come forward and say that even though they may incur losses this stock must sell at Rs. 6 a kilo, you cannot solve the problem otherwise the last man has truly got a defence saying that from the preceding person he purchased at Rs. 9 a kilo and that is why he has to sell it at Rs. 10 a kilo. This is what happened in Delhi. This is the latest explanation of prices.

Now the last point. That is with regard to stocks. What is the formal position? Whatever the Government does in accordance with the existing rules you cannot prosecute them. I am pointing out this thing. From the purely legalistic point of view what is the position of wholesalers? Their position is that the Government says

that if their stocks are above a certain quantity they have to inform the Government within 48 hours. All right. They inform them or subsequently they make new kinds of statements that they were informed. So far as pulses and some of these commodities are concerned, today it is not illegal in Delhi even if you keep 100,000 quintals of dals. The only thing is that you have to inform the Government. It is very funny. If you inform the Government, then there is no rule as to whom you are going to sell it and at what price you are going to sell it. This is your order as it stands on paper. This is your implementation today. It is shocking. I am going into the formal position as it stands on paper. You may say, 'Oh! we have asked the officers to be strict. But if one is to function within the framework of your orders, then nothing can be done. If prices are to be fixed, they have to be fixed at the prices which were prevailing six months earlier. If hoarded stocks are there, they have to be taken over. (Time bell rings) Please do not go on repeating that we want to be strict. I hope I have made myself clear.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am sorry I am not in a position to agree with the hon. Member when he said that I have taken contradictory positions. I have congratulated the workers for taking initiative within the framework of law. I cannot concede this point to the hon. Member. He cannot charge that it is contradictory. It is my firm conviction that in a situation like ours, if a particular framework of law is not observed, then nothing can be done.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI: Here it was a case essentially of law enforcement.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am not passing judgment as far as Delhi is concerned. Mr. Sardesai took a general position. What I may say is that in the present set of circumstances taking law into the hands would only add to the hardships of the common people. It will not help them in any way.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI: What did you congratulate them for?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Then, Sir, in the present set of circumstances, we stand for the fixation of prices. We have delegated powers under the DIR. I can concede the point that no profiteering should be allowed while fixing the prices. But it is not easy. The hon. Member made a statement that prices of edible oils should be fixed at Rs. 6. But there has been a shortfall in the production of groundnut. Edible oils are not available. There is a wide gap between the demand and supply. The Government has no stock of its own. Therefore, we have to fix the prices at a realistic level. Of course, we cannot allow the parties to have undue profiteering. But in a free market economy this factor becomes very complicated.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI: I gave the instance of A selling to B and B selling to C and finally it sells at Rs. 11. Where would you stop this chain?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The supplies to the community should not be affected and the commodities should be easily available. Our intention is to fix the prices at a level at which the anti-social elements are not allowed to have undue advantage of the difficulties of the people.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI: You are evading the question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: But the main thing is the groundnut. The hon. Member said that the price of edible oils should be fixed at Rs. 6. But the prices are expected to go even below Rs. 6 after a few months because the production of groundnut is likely to be very good. I share the sentiments that implementation is important. But at the same time we have to protect the interests of the consumers.

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही (उत्तर प्रदेश) श्रीमत्, होर्डम के सम्बन्ध में, जमाखोरों के सम्बन्ध में प्रधान मंत्री ने कई बार कहा है कि ये जमाखोर सरकार की नीतियों को असफल बनाने में जागरूक है और असफल बनाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। कांग्रेस दल के

[श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही]

नेताओं ने भी बहुत बार कहा है कि ये जमाखोर सरकार की ख़ास नीति को, समाजवादी नीति को और गल्ले के व्यापार के राष्ट्रीयकरण की नीति को असफल बनाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। इन सारी बातों के कहने के बावजूद और उनको कंट्रोल करने के लिए डी आर्डर लागू करने के बावजूद मंत्री जी की नाक के नीचे दिल्ली ग़हर में ये होर्डर्म कई लाख रुपय का गल्ला, खाने का तेल, सीमेंट अपने गोदामों में छिपा कर रखे हुए हैं। सरकारी मशीनरी कोई कार्यवाही नहीं कर रही है और इस बात का इन्तज़ार किया गया कि कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के लोग जाकर उन गोदामों को घेरे, तूफान करे, मंत्री जी के शब्दों में ला एंड आर्डर को अपने हाथ में ले। क्या यह इस बात का सबूत नहीं है कि

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा मशीनरी बकार है।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही दिल्ली प्रशासन सरकार की नीतियों को असफल करने में जमाखोरों का साथ दे रहा है? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि प्रधान मंत्री जी के एलान के बावजूद, सरकार के नेताओं के एलान के बावजूद आपकी नाक के नीचे यह मोका दिया गया कि कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के लोग अपना प्रदर्शन करे और यह दिखाए कि हम ही जनता की सेवा कर रहे हैं तो क्या यह साजिश नहीं है आपकी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के लोगों के साथ और आपके प्रशासन की जमाखोरों के साथ?

श्री श्रीनिवास गणेश सरदेसाई और जगह फायरिंग हुई है, लोग मारे गए हैं।

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA My friend, you apply to the Congress

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA Have you permitted them to take the law into their own hands?

(Interruptions)

श्री भूपेश गुप्त आज गोखले मार्केट भी गए हैं जहाँ ट्रकों के टायर हॉर्ड किए गए हैं।

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही क्या यह सारी घटना इस बात का सबूत नहीं है कि आपकी कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के लोगों के साथ कोई साजिश है और आप उनको इस तरह का प्रदर्शन करने का मौका दे रहे हैं और दिल्ली एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की जमाखोरों के साथ साजिश है कि वे यहाँ पर लाखों टन गल्ला सीमेंट, एडीविल आयाल छिपा कर रखे हुए हैं?

दूसरा प्रश्न छोटा सा है। आपने कह दिया कि मुझे मालूम नहीं कि बहल साहब ने जो कीमते मुकर्रर की थी

श्री महावीर त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश) साजिश सी पी० आई० के साथ है या सी० पी० एम० के साथ है?

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही सी० पी० आई० के साथ, जो सामने है वही, त्यागी जी। आपने कहा कि मुझे मालूम नहीं कि जो कीमते बहल साहब ने मुकर्रर की थी वे बाज़ार दर से कम थी या ज्यादा थी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपको नहीं मालूम है तो किसको मालूम होगा, मुझे मालूम होगा, इनको मालूम होगा, किसको मालूम होगा? आप दिल्ली में बैठे हुए हैं, फूड मिनिस्टर है, आपको नहीं मालूम है तो किसको मालूम होगा?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: About fixation of pulses prices I have already replied earlier. As for the general observations made by the hon. Member what can I say when he says that everybody else is not sincere except himself?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You find out what has happened today. You find out whether any truck tyres have been unearthed from the Gokhale Market by the volunteers of our party and if so how are you going to distribute them?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, I have already replied to some of the points raised by the hon. Member.

REFERENCE TO ALLEGED USE OF CONGRESS MP'S RESIDENCE BY A BOGUS ORGANISATION

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I seek clarification from the Government with regard to a sensational news published in the papers today. This news does not only cast aspersion on some big dignitaries but also injures the prestige and dignity of this House too to some extent. The news is as follows:

"The police has smashed a bogus organisation which has been collecting funds in the name of Balkanji Bari and allegedly forged the signature of Mrs. Sheila Dikshit, daughter-in-law of the Union Home Minister, for this purpose.

Seven persons have been arrested. Among them was one Prof. Dubey. . . Police sources indicated that the organisation was operating from the New Delhi residence of a Congress Member of the Rajya Sabha . . . The police raided the flat of the Member of Parliament and arrested seven employees of the bogus organisation."

Sir, seven persons have been arrested and among them was Prof. Dubey. Sir, this is the news item and I do not want to say anything on it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have brought it to the notice of the Government.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Sir, you kindly ask Mr. Om Mehta or somebody else to give a clarification as to who this MP is in whose residence these people have been arrested. Was he also actively participating in it? That must be known; otherwise all MPs are involved so long as the name is not out.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following letter dated the 18th August, 1973 has been received from Shri N. K. Shejwalkar:—

"I propose to visit Far East countries, and am leaving this morning. The tour may be of three weeks' duration. I pray leave from the House for the remaining period of this Session and beg to condone absence."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri N. K. Shejwalkar for remaining absent from the meetings of the House during the remainder of the Session?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted. The House stands adjourned till 2.15 P.M.

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

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

THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 3 BILL, 1973

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the