

tion has been miserable. It is a Corporation belonging to the public sector and Orissa Government. Its performance is so miserable that there has been a loss of nearly Rs 20 lakhs on account of shortage of timbers in two divisions. Who was responsible for that? This is published in the Samaj, an independent and most reliable daily. Here is a photostat copy of the orders, the orders by which there has been a pilferage of timbers to the tune of Rs 20 lakhs under the regime of Mr Jatti who was the Deputy Chief Minister of Mysore which post he left to become a Governor. There has been a pilferage of Rs 20 lakhs. Who is responsible for this? Has anybody been booked for this? If Shri Jatti cannot book anybody, then he must be held responsible for this. And what has he done? The corrupt officers have been promoted. It is all written here. The Inquiry Committee has given the report that the corrupt officers, instead of being punished have been promoted. I think Shri Jatti had a direct hand in this. I would like an inquiry to be held against him for promoting these people and to find out whether he has any direct hand in this.

SHRI AWADESHWAR PRASAD SINHA (Bihar) Sir, Shri Mishra is a friend of mine and I am sure he will always listen to me. I feel his fabric of democracy would collapse if we did not maintain certain minimum norms. As an elder, I would beg of my friend not to name the Governor. Instead of that he can say 'the tallest in the land' or so. That will be more graceful and dignified.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Governor is not tallest in the land, he is the shortest in the land.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA Finally before I conclude I would again plead with the Deputy Minister of Finance to be kind enough to Orissa and not to allow in us the feeling of stepmotherly treatment to grow. Let not the people of Orissa have that feeling. I hope the Deputy Minister will be gracious enough to send as much assistance as possible to Orissa to implement any number of projects that would go to help the people who have been affected by drought, floods or cyclones. I also hope that she would have the deve-

lopment and progress of Orissa nearest to her heart.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at 2.40 of the clock. **MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN** in the Chair.

THE ORISSA APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 1973—Contd

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) उपसभापति महोदय, उड़ीसा में जिस प्रकार की स्थिति है, मार्च के महीने में वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू हुआ था और तब से जिस प्रकार की स्थिति में उड़ीसा है उससे लगता नहीं कि 6 महीने के अन्दर, 6 महीने की अवधि समाप्त होन के पश्चात् वहाँ राष्ट्रपति शासन समाप्त होकर नये चुनाव करवाये जायेंगे, क्योंकि सम्भवतः माननीय मंत्री महोदय वझे कि इस समय डिलिमिटेशन ग्राफ कस्टीडियन्सीज का कार्य चालू है और जब तक वह पूरा नहीं होता तब तक वहाँ चुनाव कराना सम्भव नहीं है।

जहाँ तब वजट ना मवाल है एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल का मवाल है मुझ तो इसमें केवल एक बात विशेष रूप से इस नाते से देखनी थी और वह यह कि उड़ीसा जो, हिन्दुस्तान का एक पिछड़ा हुआ प्रान्त है, उसके साथ ही वहाँ पर आवासियों की संख्या सबसे ज्यादा है और इस नाते में केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास जब इस दृष्टि में खर्च करने के लिए कुछ राशि का प्रावधान करने का अधिकार था वह नहीं किया गया है। अब तक वहाँ पर अधिकांश साल जब कि स्वतंत्र दल की सरकार रही या मिली जुली सरकार

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

रही तो सत्ता पक्ष की ओर से इस बात के आरोप लगाये गये थे कि उन्होंने इस क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए कुछ काम नहीं किया था। अब जब कि केन्द्रीय सरकार के पास इस बात की जिम्मेदारी आई है तो इस प्रकार के आदिवासी क्षेत्रों के विकास की दृष्टि से क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने विशेष प्रयास किये हैं। मैं खाम तौर से समाज कल्याण विभाग का भी ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा, क्योंकि पिछले दिनों देश में इस प्रकार की चर्चाएं आई थी कि उड़ीसा की आदिवासी लड़कियों को उड़ाया जाता था और देश के दूसरे भागों में बेचा जाता था और वह इसलिए कि वहां पर गरीबी है और उनकी गरीबी के कारण इस प्रकार उनकी लड़कियों को भगाये जाने की घटनायें हुईं और आज भी हो रही हैं। इसलिए समाज में उनके पिछड़ेपन की दृष्टि से, उनके सुधार की दृष्टि में अगर सरकार कुछ व्यवस्था करती, कुछ अधिक राशि का प्रावधान करती, नये उद्योग धंधे उस क्षेत्र में खोलने की दृष्टि से सरकार कुछ नई योजनायें लेकर आती तो मैं समझता कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस समस्या को अपने सामने रखा है और इसको हल करने का प्रयास किया है। खाम करके ट्राइबल और रूरल वेलफेयर के लिए वोट न० 21 में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने जो प्रावधान किया है, मैं चाहूंगा कि वह बहुत कम है। जिस प्रकार की स्थिति उड़ीसा में है, उस स्थिति से अगर आप निपटना चाहते हैं तो यह राशि कम है। इस राशि के आधार पर वहां का विकास नहीं हो सकता। पिछले वर्षों में उड़ीसा में अकाल रहा। उड़ीसा को अकालग्रस्त इलाका घोषित किया जाए ऐसी उन्होंने मांग की। इस वर्ष भी उड़ीसा में स्थिति प्रच्छी नहीं है। बाढ़ से भी वहां का इलाका प्रभावित

है, लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पहली बार वहां की सत्ता अपने हाथ में लेने के बाद कहा कि उड़ीसा एक सर्प्लस स्टेट है। जब तक चुनी हुई सरकार थी वह हमेशा अन्न की मांग करती रहती थी, लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार ने वहां से 25 हजार टन चावल निर्यात करने का निर्णय किया है। वह बाढ़ से प्रभावित इलाके में यह निर्णय किस प्रकार में लिया गया है? वहां पर भुखमरी के समाचार आ रहे हैं, पूरा इलाका या तो सूख में पीड़ित है या बाढ़ से प्रभावित है, ऐसी स्थिति में भी आप वहां से चावल बाहर भेजने जा रहे हैं तो इसका अर्थ यह है कि वहां पर जान बूझ कर लोगों में आप पैनिश फैलाना चाहते हैं ताकि लोग डरे और सोचे कि कांग्रेस सरकार ही हमको कुछ दे सकती है। जब से वहां पर केन्द्रीय सत्ता आई, जहां से वहां पर कांग्रेस की नेता, हमारे सदन की भूतपूर्व सदस्या श्रीमती नदिनी सत्पथी बनी तब से ऊपर से नीचे तक प्रशासन में उनका हस्तक्षेप जिस प्रकार चल रहा है, आज वहां पर कोई जट्टी साहब सरकार के ऊपर बैठे हैं, लेकिन स्वयं नदिनी सत्पथी सरकार चला रही हैं। मैं उदाहरण देना चाहना हू कि किस हद तक जाकर प्रशासन के कामों में हस्तक्षेप कांग्रेस दल की अध्यक्षता की ओर से हो रहा है जो इस बात का प्रमाण है कि चाहे गवर्नर के रूप में जट्टी साहब बैठे होंगे, लेकिन वह काम नहीं कर रहे।

ग्युनिसिपैलिटी के चुनाव हुए थे और बहुत बड़ा दावा किया गया था कि कांग्रेस की ओर हवा का रुख बदल गया है और कांग्रेस की ओर से कहा गया था कि हमसे बहुत बड़ी जीत होगी। लेकिन कटक के चुनाव में जहां से स्वयं उन्होंने चुनाव जीता था और चुनाव के समय इस प्रकार के आरोप लगाये गये थे कि सत्ता का दुरुपयोग किया गया था उसका

प्रमाण भी मिल गया कि म्युनिसिपैलिटी के प्रमुख स्थान में भी कांग्रेस हारी।

वहाँ पर जो छोटे-छोटे स्थानों पर चुनाव हुये, वहाँ पर बोलगीर के अन्दर जो चुनाव हुये उसमें कांग्रेस पिट गई। इसलिए कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष वहाँ के गवर्नर को पत्र लिखती है। उस पत्र की मैं केवल तीन लाइनें कोट करता हूँ।

"In the circumstances, it may be considered whether an enquiry should be ordered in the affairs and official publication of result of Ward No 9 in the Orissa Gazette stayed"

चुनाव हो गया। चुनाव अधिकारी ने चुनाव का परिणाम घोषित कर दिया और घोषित करने के बाद कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष गवर्नर को कहती है कि गजट नोटिफिकेशन रोक दिया जाय। जब चुनाव की घोषणा हो गई तब गजट का नोटिफिकेशन नहीं रोक जा सकता। नोटिफिकेशन होने के बाद किसी को इलेक्शन पेटिशन करना हो तो वह कर सकता है। उसमें कोई शक की बात नहीं है। लेकिन गवर्नर का हस्तक्षेप करवा कर डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट को लिखवाना और डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट के माध्यम से रिटर्निंग आफिसर को लिखवाना और इस बात का प्रयत्न करना कि इलेक्शन का डिक्लेरेशन न हो, यह आप सोचिये कि कहा तक उचित है। यह इसलिए किया गया कि उनका उम्मीदवार जो एक मत से हार गया था, उस वार्ड का चुनाव यदि रोक दिया जाय तो वहाँ की म्युनिसिपैलिटी पर उनका अधिकार हो जाय। इस प्रकार वहाँ के प्रशासन में हस्तक्षेप करने का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है।

(Interruption)

श्री महावीर त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश)
रिटर्निंग आफिसर ने क्या किया?

9-2 RSS/ND/73

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर रिटर्निंग आफिसर ने कहा कि हमने निष्पक्ष ढंग से चुनाव लड़ाया है और मैं अपनी बात पर स्टिक करता हूँ। दीक्षित जी को श्री आर० एन० मिह देव ने पत्र लिख कर कहा है कि इस प्रकार का हस्तक्षेप नहीं होना चाहिए। क्या करेंगे होम मिनिस्टर साहब। अगर इस हद तक प्रशासन तंत्र पर कब्जा करने का प्रयास किया गया तो फिर यह नहीं कहा जा सकता कि केन्द्रीय सरकार वहाँ निष्पक्ष रूप से शासन चला रही है।

उपमहापति महोदय, उड़ीसा के विकास का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, मारा देश यह जानता है कि उड़ीसा एक पिछड़ा हुआ प्रदेश है। खास तौर पर उड़ीसा के जो पश्चिमी जिले हैं, उनके विकास की दृष्टि से एक युनिवर्सिटी की व्यवस्था करना आवश्यक है। मबलपुर में युनिवर्सिटी आरम्भ करने के प्रयत्न किये जा रहे हैं, लेकिन उसके लिए जो जमीन निश्चित की जा रही है, उसकी कीमत जिस ढंग में सरकार मांग रही है, उससे ऐसा लगता है कि उस युनिवर्सिटी का विकास सरकार नहीं चाहती है। वैसे वह युनिवर्सिटी सरकार की होगी, उसमें पैसा सरकार का लगेगा, लेकिन फिर भी वह युनिवर्सिटी विकसित नहीं हो रही है। वह इलाका ऐसा है, जिस इलाके के अन्दर विरोधी दलों का प्रभाव है। इस कारण से भी वहाँ युनिवर्सिटी का विकास नहीं हो पा रहा है और उसमें अड़गे लगाये जा रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहूँगा कि वे इस युनिवर्सिटी के विकास के लिए वहाँ की सरकार से कहें।

वहाँ का जो सबसे बड़ा ज्वलत प्रश्न है वह हमारे स्टील प्लांट का है। इस सदन में भी इस मामले पर चर्चा

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

हुई है। उड़ीसा के विकास की दृष्टि से यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है कि वहां पर दूसरे स्टील प्लाट का प्रबंध किया जाय। इस सदन के अन्दर श्री बी० प्रार० भगत ने आश्वामन दिया था कि चौथे प्लान के दौरान दूसरे स्टील प्लाट का वहां सर्वे हो जायगा। चौथे प्लान के अन्दर इस प्लान के सर्वे का काम हुआ या नहीं हुआ, यह मंत्री महोदया सदन को बताये ताकि हम को जानकारी प्राप्त हो सके। लेकिन जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है वहां अभी सर्वे का काम प्रारम्भ नहीं हुआ है। दस्तूर कम्पनी ने यह कहा है कि उड़ीसा में अगर स्टील प्लाट लगाया गया तो उसकी लागत कास्ट 45 पर सेंट काम आयेगी और हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर सबसे वाय-बिल प्लाट होगा। दस्तूर कम्पनी हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर सबसे अच्छी कम्पनी है और ख्याति प्राप्त कम्पनी है। उस के प्रति पक्षपात का आरोप नहीं लगाया जा सकता; क्योंकि सरकार की ओर से कम्पनी मान्य है और सरकार की ओर से उस को काम सौंपा गया है। जिस इलाके में स्टील प्लाट लगना है, वहां कच्चा माल मिलता है और उस सारे इलाके के विकास की दृष्टि से केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पिछली बार सेलम में स्टील प्लांट लगाये जाने की घोषणा की थी और उसके बाद अपेक्षा थी कि उड़ीसा के बारे में भी जल्दी ही घोषणा की जायगी, लेकिन वह नहीं की जा रही है और मुझे लगता है कि सरकार उसकी घोषणा तो अवश्य करेगी, लेकिन करेगी कब, जब जनवरी का महीना आयेगा और जब सरकार सोचेगी कि अब वहां चुनाव करवाने है और फरवरी में उत्तर प्रदेश और उड़ीसा में चुनाव होने वाले है, तो उस समय सरकार कहेगी कि हम यह तोहफा आप लोगों के लिए

लेकर आये है। मुझे इसमें भी आप-त्ति नहीं कि आप जनवरी में ही इसकी घोषणा करें, लेकिन अगर उड़ीसा के लोगों की बहबूदी के लिए वह जरूरी है तो वह आपको करना चाहिए। उस से आपको कितने वोट मिलेंगे और कितने नहीं मिलेंगे, यह मैं नहीं कह सकता। वोट मिलने की जब आपको संभावना दिखायी देगी तभी आप वहां चुनाव करायेगे, लेकिन उड़ीसा में आप की योजनाओं की विफलता के कारण और इस बढ़ती हुई महगायी के कारण जिस प्रकार चीजों के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं और जिस प्रकार गरीबी बढ़ रही है उसमें हालात आपके पक्ष में नहीं हैं और इस लिए फरवरी में भी आप चुनाव करायेगे या नहीं यह मैं नहीं कह सकता, लेकिन मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप फरवरी में चुनाव कराये। लेकिन उड़ीसा के विकास के लिए वहां स्टील प्लाट की स्थापना होना बहुत आवश्यक है और उसका महत्व वहां के लिए बहुत ज्यादा है और उसकी तरफ मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकषित करना चाहूंगा। वह इस संबंध में जल्दी ही घोषणा करें। और प्रशामनिक हस्तक्षेप जो वहां हो रहा है और आदि-वासियों की दृष्टि में जो काम नहीं हो रहा है, उसका ध्यान करें और वहां आकालग्रस्त इलाका है, कई जगह बाढ़ आ गयी है और इस अवस्था में खाद्यान्न की सप्लाई भी वहां ठीक से नहीं हो पा रही है। सरकार आज चावल का व्यापार भी अपने हाथ में लेने जा रही है और उड़ीसा में चावल ज्यादा पैदा होता है और इसलिए आप यह प्रयोग उड़ीसा पर करना चाहते हैं। आपकी गवर्नमेंट ट्रेडिंग स्कीम की जो योजना है वह शायद वही स्कीम है जिसमें इतनी बड़ी धनराशि आप व्यय करना चाहते हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस बारे में आप पुनर्विचार करें। जिस प्रकार गेहूँ के

मामले में आप विफल रहे हैं और सारे देश में आप ने उस के दो भाव कर रखे हैं ब्लैक का और व्हाइट का, उसी प्रकार की अवस्था आप चावल के बारे में भी उत्पन्न करना चाहते हैं। उड़ीसा चावल उपजाने वाला प्रान्त है। मैं चाहूंगा कि वह जिस हालत में है आप उसको रहने दें और उस गवर्नमेन्ट ट्रेडिंग की राशि को आप वहां के आदिवासियों की भलाई के लिए व्यय करें, उनके विकास के लिए व्यय करें तो उन का अधिक लाभ होगा। इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि जिस प्रकार का आपने एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल पेश किया है, उसमें शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के विकास की दृष्टि से और चावल के व्यापार में जो रुपया फसाने की बात कही गयी है, उस पर आप पुनर्विचार करें और यूनिवर्सिटी के मामले पर भी आप पुनर्विचार करें और सदन को ठीक प्रकार से आश्वासन दें, ऐसी मेरी प्रार्थना है।

SHRI C P MAJHI (Orissa) Deputy Chairman, Sir, while I rise to support the Appropriation Bill for Orissa, I want to make some observations regarding the economic situation prevailing in the State of Orissa. The hon. Member of the Opposition and the hon. Member from the Treasury Benches have unanimously said that Orissa is a backward State. Probably it is one of the most backward States of all the backward States in the country. Actually 70 per cent of the population of Orissa is living below the poverty line and 90 per cent of the people in the tribal area live like beasts of burden and lead a life of sorrow and misery. The reason for this poverty is not very far to seek. As a matter of fact the State has been, for the last so many years, overtaken by natural calamities like floods, cyclone, drought and also political instability created by a handful of politicians. We all know that the State has enough mineral wealth, forest wealth and natural resources and if all these natural resources are harnessed properly it would change the face of the State within a short time. Hon. Members of the opposition have all made a

trade against the erstwhile Congress Ministry in the State that this poverty is on account of the inefficiency of the Congress Ministry but I do not think that this condition was generated within the course of eight months during which the Congress Ministry was in power in Orissa. This situation has developed in the last so many years and because of the neglect which was meted out to the people of Orissa during the time of the past Ministries the condition of the people has deteriorated very much. Unfortunately, political instability like natural calamities is also afflicting the State of Orissa very frequently and on account of this political instability the Government machinery has become corrupt and many top-ranking Government officials have been indulging in political activities also. In the process the entire Government machinery has become politicised and honesty and integrity have vanished in the administration. So this corrupt machinery is not able to deliver the goods to the community. Sir, the development of the State so far has been only one-sided. There are few districts which are very much developed while more than 50 per cent of the State, nearly seven districts are extremely backward. In a recent survey by the Directorate of Evaluation it has come out that the Cuttack District is very much developed and it can stand favourably in comparison to any developed area in the country as a whole but in the same Report it has been revealed that the District of Mayurbhanj is extremely backward that it is one of the most backward districts of the country. Sir, before independence this was a most flourishing feudal State. It had ceramic industries, mining industry employing about 40,000 people. A vanadium factory was also about to be started but during the last 26 years of our independence these industries were closed down one after another throwing more than 30,000 people out of employment. This condition actually has aggravated so much now that during the last session of Parliament in the other House there was a discussion regarding trading in Adivasi girls in that district. In that district now the situation has aggravated so much that there is shortage of food everywhere. There are people who are not able to get employment and whatever quantity of rice and other foodgrain is sent to that area

[Shri C P Majhi]

is hardly enough to sustain the people for two or three days. These Adivasis who were actually depending upon forest produce are now rendered completely destitute. Sir, the economy of the district is completely shattered. The district is, so to say, completely bled white. Similar is the condition in the other tribal areas of the State. There were reports of starvation deaths from Keonjhar, Koraput and some parts of Mayurbhanj district. Whether those deaths were due to starvation or malnutrition or not, actually there were deaths and the deaths were due to the fact that the people could not help themselves. They died under helpless conditions. A very serious situation is obtaining in the area and unless some steps are taken to arrest it, the situation will go out of hand. The Adivasis and the weaker sections of the society who constitute the major section of the population of the State, have waited for a long time. They are losing patience. If something is not done for them, they cannot wait for a long time. The situation will develop to such an extent that they may be compelled to take the law into their hands.

Regarding the Appropriation Bill I want to make certain observations. From the items of expenditure provided for different departments I find that a sum of Rs 12.76 crores has been set apart under the revenue department. Land revenue was abolished during the Swatantra-Ganatantra Parishad Ministry in the State. For maintaining the staff which were meant for the collection of land revenue, the Government is still spending crores of rupees which is completely unproductive. Considering it the other departments which actually do the development work have not been provided with enough funds e.g. the industries department. It has got only Rs 3.62 crores. Sir, Orissa is considered as an industrially backward State. Unless we gear up the process of industrialisation we cannot help the starving people there. We need labour-intensive industries; we should not consider sophisticated industries which will provide employment only to the highly technically-qualified personnel.

Sir, the Tribal and Rural Welfare Department has got only Rs 5.75 crores which is very much inadequate. It should

have been given proper attention. The Adivasis are, as a matter of fact, extremely backward, and if we want to improve those people, we will have to be a little generous and spend some more amount. I have seen, in some ashram schools and higher ashram schools, the Adivasi students who read there as residential students, they lead their lives like prisoners. They are given Rs 30 or Rs 40 as stipend per month which is completely inadequate. The amount should be increased so that they could read properly and could equip themselves properly.

Sir, lift irrigation is also provided with a very small amount Rs 1.08 crores. As a matter of fact, in the tribal areas, in the hilly tracts, lift irrigation is the only possibility which can improve the agriculture of the area. Electricity schemes also are not provided with enough funds. It is only Rs 2.04 crores. This amount should have been more. Rural electrification and lift irrigation are actually the agencies through which the tribal areas and the hilly tracts can be improved. Particularly irrigation in the tribal areas has been very much neglected on account of the fact that irrigation is a costly affair in those areas. Unless agricultural production is increased, the condition of the State cannot be improved.

Similarly, the Rural Development Department is provided with only Rs 6.5 crores which is also very small. In the tribal areas, drinking water facility is very much inadequate. There are villages where you will find tins of country liquor but you will not find a glass of drinking water. My Friend, Mr. Misra, made a remark that this liquor is being sold during the present President's Rule. But the liquor sale was actually introduced during the Swatantra-Jana Congress Ministry. As a matter of fact, previously the practice was that liquor was sold through government agencies. Liquor was sold through government distilleries. But during the Swatantra-Jana Congress Ministry private vendors were entrusted with the sale of liquor. In the tribal area actually whatever benefit the poor people are being given that is being collected back through these private vendors. In Orissa about Rs 4 crores is being collected through the Excise Department. But the vendors

probably collect Rs 16 crores or more from these poor people who are working as labourers. It is not the enlightened people who are drinking but it is the poor illiterate labourers who are being exploited through these vendors. I do not agree with Mr Misra that the sale of liquor was introduced during the present President's Rule. By abolishing land revenue they have benefitted the landlords who have large quantities of land. Poor people have not benefitted because they were paying about 5-6 rupees towards land revenue whereas other big zamindars and landlords were paying bigger amounts. So only these big landlords have benefitted from the abolition of land revenue and by introducing this liquor sale the poor people have been led to white. I request the Minister to improve the condition of the adivasis who are actually becoming poorer day by day.

DR Z. A. AHMAD (Uttar Pradesh)

Sir, I take this opportunity to make certain observations about the situation in Orissa. I have no hesitation in saying straightway that the President's Rule or the Governor's Rule in Orissa has failed. It was an extraordinary situation in which this Governor's Rule was introduced. There was a popularly elected Government which was doing good work which had brought some good laws on the Statute Book and which wanted to introduce and implement land reforms legislation. But, naturally, within the ruling party there were some vested interests in the ruling party, particularly landed interest who revolted against the Satpathy Government. They walked out of the party and joined the other party. They defected from their own party and brought about a fall of the Ministry. That was unfortunate. In this situation the President's Rule was introduced in Orissa.

Sir, it was expected that after the introduction of the President's Rule the Centre would take more interest in the affairs of the State. It is one of the most poverty-stricken States of India. It is a huge country confronted with huge social and economic problems which need to be tackled. Well, it is a so-called surplus State. But there is no surplus in the pockets of the vast majority of the people that is to say, the actual cultivators of the soil. There is no surplus in their pockets. They are among the poorest workers of land in this country. Industrialisation is not going apace

Whatever small scale industries existed earlier have been ruined. Big irrigation projects are not coming up. Small irrigation projects are not being taken up. So, as a result, economically Orissa remains one of the most backward States where the population is afflicted by fathomless poverty poorer than parts of Eastern UP and Bihar. Nearly 40 per cent of the peasants own less than half an acre of land. With the type of cultivation that we have, the most primitive type of cultivation, you can imagine what will the peasant be producing with less than half an acre of land. Unemployment is almost a universal phenomenon in all parts of Orissa. In this situation it was expected that the Centre would intervene, would spend more money, would give some relief to the suffering people of Orissa. Unfortunately, the Centre has not done so. The Jatti Government has been one of the worst Governments because there is no popular pressure. The Assembly is not there, there is no forum from where the people's representatives can raise their voice. The bureaucracy of Orissa is trained by the hardened rightist elements as represented by Dr Mahatab and other people who are now poised for capturing Orissa. So the bureaucracy is reactionary. The bureaucracy has no radical traditions; it has not been trained to think radically, to think in terms of the people. Therefore with that bureaucracy, with a Governor like Mr Jatti sitting at the top having no imagination—I say definitely that he has neither imagination nor feeling for the people—we can well imagine what will be the state of affairs in Orissa. So that is what has happened. In this period, no legislative enactments have been undertaken. Land reforms have been shelved. The question of prices, scarcity and all that is as it is all over the country perhaps it is more acute in Orissa than in other parts of the country.

Then there is the question of procurement. Now it is very interesting to note that the Orissa Government the Governor's Government has decided not to procure anything directly on its own but to leave the whole thing to the Food Corporation of India. I think in a State which is periodically afflicted by drought or floods or natural calamities, it is necessary that a big network of fair-price shops should be set up in order to give relief to the peo-

[Dr. Z. A. Ahmad] ple, and to that end, the Government should have at its disposal enough stocks of rice to run those fair-price shops. Unfortunately, the Orissa Government under Mr. Jatti, does not consider it necessary to go into the market as a buyer to buy surplus foodgrains—it is a surplus State and you can buy as much as you want—but has decided to leave the whole thing to the sweet will of the Food Corporation of India. How efficient that Food Corporation of India is, I do not know. There is a question mark on the face of the hon. Minister. Well, this is my information. I am open to correction. I was told that they have decided not to buy stocks on their own but to leave it to the Food Corporation of India. If what I say is not right, I would like to be corrected. Now, take the case of land reforms. The problem of land reforms is the most vital problem. Orissa is a State ruled by feudal elements, it is a State dominated by big landlordism. Feudal landlordism still exists in its original form in Orissa. In many States land ordism has undergone a change. At least, its exterior has changed, its form of exploitation has changed. But in Orissa, it exists in its pristine form. The most crude form of feudal exploitation is being carried on there. It is there that a very radical land reform enactment is needed.

Mrs. Nandini Satpathy and her Cabinet had formulated a Bill, which, I think, under the circumstances which existed in our country and under the limitations imposed by the Centre on the State Governments, was a fairly good land reforms Bill. Now, during the President's rule, under the Jetti Government, that land reforms measure has been amended to a considerable extent in a reactionary direction. The land ceiling limits in certain categories have been raised. If I remember aright, in the original Bill, it went up to 45 acres. Now, in the last category of land, it goes up to 81 acres—a substantial change. There are four categories of land. In the last category, the quantum of land allowed has been increased.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: It is unirrigated land.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD: It has increased considerably. Then, the compensation to be paid for acquisition of land, etc., to

the landlords has been increased from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. The rate of compensation for certain items has been increased from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. And similarly certain other amendments have been introduced in the contemplated land legislation under the President's rule. Here I would like to state that it is good that the definition of family has been maintained as it was in the original Bill. That is to say, the "family" includes not only the minor children but also the major children. In that respect, it is a departure to some extent from the guidelines given by the Centre, which say that the family should include only the minor children and that the major children should be excluded. That is to say, the major boys will get their own land equal to a ceiling. In this respect, the Orissa Bill was a step in the forward direction. In the last Consultative Committee, I was astonished to hear from some Members belonging to the Scheduled Tribes demanding that the definition of "family" should be changed or reversed and that only the minor children should be included in the definition of a "family". They said that joint family still existed in Orissa among the Scheduled Tribes people, and the Scheduled Tribes people will suffer if the majors are also included in the definition of a 'family'. I was surprised to hear this from the mouths of tribal people. The tribal people are the landless people. And 99.9 per cent of the tribal people will not come under the provisions of this ceiling. The people who were hardly 9 per cent or even less than that, landlords, tribal landlords, who were the Naibs, who were sort of headmen, who grabbed land from others and became leaders, they became the landlords there. And it is in the name of the tribal people that they are demanding exemption from this. They want that their property should be secure. I was surprised when in the Consultative Committee some people started discussing this, whether the definition of 'family' as it has been given in the Bill should be changed in order to suit the convenience or serve the interests of the tribal people. In the name of the tribal people the exploiters among the tribals want concessions for themselves. I stood up and said that those who were demanding this were tribal landlords; a category has emerged there of people with 200 acres, 250 acres, who, in the name of the

tribal people, want to get the advantage for themselves in this respect I would oppose it and I think every sensible person, every honest well-wisher of the tribal people and of the peasantry in Orissa, will oppose any move in this direction from whichever quarter it comes

Now, the economic situation is bad and discontent is growing political discontent is growing, everyday I want our Congress friends to realise this What has happened in Cuttack can be repeated elsewhere also Cuttack was the place from where Mrs Nandini Satpathy won with a thumping majority, and it is here that the Congress lost heavily very heavily, almost eliminated from the municipality Therefore, a writing on the wall which has to be seen and the significance of which has to be understood by the Congress is that unless radical policies are implemented, unless radical land reform measures are implemented, unless feudal exploiters are isolated from the mass of the common people who suffer under them through radical enactments regarding land, unless land is distributed in a big way, unless provision is made for cheap foodgrain shops for relieving the distress of the common people unless prices are brought down, unless industrial development takes place in Orissa to give more employment to the unemployed people, unless all this is done in some measure or the other, the discontent of the people will grow and the reactionary elements the real exploiters of the people under whatever garb they come, whether they come under the garb of Orissa Congress or the Swatantra Party or any other party, they will take advantage of the situation and they will run away with it Now this was the opportunity, the Central Government having taken over Orissa to set an example to other States and show that they could intervene, that they could ameliorate the condition of the people, that they could give relief to the people that they could do something to give more employment, that they could implement a good land legislation and distribute land to the people Not an acre of land, not even one-tenth of an acre of land has been distributed among the people during this period Why? My friends from Orissa will bear me out there are large areas of land which can be distributed large areas of the so-called forest land

where there is no forest, which can be taken over and distributed among the people to give them at least some feeling that they could get a handful of rice

SHRI K C PANDA (Orissa) Out of 8 lakhs, 6 lakhs are still there

DR Z A AHMAD Yes, 6 lakhs are still to be distributed there And so many months of President's rule have gone by and not an inch of land has been distributed among the people What confidence will the common people have in you? On what basis will they give votes to the Congress Party in the coming election? This was a golden opportunity You had the entire machinery at your disposal You had no opposition to face You had the Governor sitting there You just had to move the officials into action If you had done it and distributed land to the peasants, these reactionaries who are parading as saviours would have been isolated and in the coming election you will get a thumping majority But you have lost that opportunity You have always lost the opportunities You will continue to miss the bus because you have no ideology, no outlook, no destination and no principle You have only lust for power and desire to stick to power That has been dominating you throughout I am sorry to say so In Orissa, if you go those who will come after you will be much worse That is why I do not want them to come to power In the coming months at least, please do something at least I would urge upon you to do something Enact a good piece of land legislation on the basis of which you can get some land from big landlords Then distribute that land As my friend says there are lakhs of acres Why not take it up as a campaign Demarcate these lands and distribute them to those who have no land Then I will say that the Central Government has done something Otherwise, you will have to face the electorate with nothing in hand Horse trading and political manoeuvring will not change the situation in Orissa In Orissa, more than anything else what is needed is implementation of correct radical policies in the interests of the common people, particularly, the peasantry If you do not do that God save you What can I say? I have nothing more to add The hon Minister will get this money to spend or mis-spend as she likes during

[Dr. Z. A. Ahmad]

the President's rule I feel strongly about Orissa I have had political contacts with the people there for years. For this reason I thought it my duty to talk friendly to you about the situation there.

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL (West Bengal) Mr. Deputy Chairman, drought, flood and cyclone have launched a combined onslaught on the people of Orissa. I hope our Ministers do not interpret it as a combination of right reaction and left adventurism. It is an irony of nature, irony of fate, and irony of politics that Orissa, which is full of natural resources and full of substantial man-power is still the most emaciated State, inhabited by the poorer sections of the people. After all it is part of India. How is it that in Haryana or Punjab in the North, you do not know anything about starvation in the dictionary. But in Orissa you do not know anything other than starvation in the dictionary.

Sir, I have some contacts with Orissa and its people It pains me to say that by and large during the last one year at least the poor labourers—mostly ill-clad—have been suffering a lot. Due to calcium deficiencies, protein deficiencies and all sorts of starch deficiencies, you could see their skeletons and bones through the thin cloth they wear. So, when you see a State full of natural resources, but full of starving people, you are reminded of the line in the "Ancient Mariner"—"Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink".

Sir, I have heard here many illuminating speeches, particularly from Shri Majhi, who feels the same way because of his experience Well, has there been a census of starving people? In the British days, the famine areas were never declared as such, but deaths were reported to be due to disease and malnutrition. Well, you analyse it and find it out logically. Malnutrition is the effect of starving and death is the effect of malnutrition Therefore, is not death the result of starvation? So, why does not the Government of India have the courage, when the President's rule is there, to set up a machinery for finding out actually as to how many people are at the starvation level? "Be-

low the poverty line" has become a catch word How many people, which section of the people, what proportion, are on the starvation line, what proportion is on the half-starvation line and what proportion is there on the three quarter starvation line? This must be found out, because "subsistence level" is something foreign to Orissa, because the word "subsistence" applies to the States in which there is something for the people to fall back on. But here there is nothing to fall back on. Therefore, you have to find out what proportion of the people is at the starvation level, half starvation level and three-quarter starvation level. We want to have such a census. The Advisory Body is there and some of the Members here are also Members of the Advisory Body and I would ask them to set up a supervisory team and have a machinery for collecting the census. After all, you must find out what is what and then find out the remedy. Some adverbs here, some adjectives there and some ebullient nouns these break no bones

Then, Sir, my friend, Shri Ahmed, was referring to the question of ration shops. But he did not complete his sentence by asking what would be distributed to the ration shops first? I want to tell you here and now, Sir, that immediately on a war-footing, if necessary through military agencies, food packages, consisting of calcium and protein, should be distributed free. What is the use of the fair price shops, controlled shops and all these things? They have some meaning only when they have something to distribute. But, on my own personal knowledge, I can say that in Orissa the people really feed upon leaves, grass roots and then they die. So, they should be supplied with free packages Well, when there was the Bangla Desh crisis, when there were floods, did we start fair price shops? Did we not set up camps through which we distributed all sorts of food and clothes free? So, Sir, Orissa should be treated as a national camp where the people are waiting for sheer breath and survival. Therefore, Sir, I demand that these packets of protein and calcium and all these things should be immediately supplied to the people of Orissa Let them try, let them try to do this and we shall then discuss the political and economic situation.

Sir, our Government has intellect, has got power, has got vanity and has also some prestige. But our Government is completely bankrupt in imagination. There is so much of water there in that State, but the State is dry. Why not they have the benefit of advice from my friends here? Small and medium irrigation projects should be started. There is plenty of water below the surface level in Orissa and it is a place where forest is in abundance, where iron ore is in abundance, where minerals are abundant. You have only to scratch the surface of the earth and get food or the equivalent of food in terms of minerals. I do not know when and how their imagination will work under the President's rule.

Then, Sir, electricity. Electricity is both a desideratum and a horror. Unless you introduce electricity on a large scale in Orissa, well, you cannot improve the situation. You see, the cattle are the poorest in Orissa, short-sized cattle in the whole of India, which cannot pull a plough. Electricity is a must. Water resources are there from where hydro electricity can be generated. Why has it not been done? And electricity must be self-contained. You must be sure of electricity and sure of no load shedding.

Then you find that some local people are employed in some big factories started by the Birlas and others. But the educated young men and women cannot get the benefit, because offices are elsewhere—some are in Calcutta, some in other places. While I come from West Bengal, but I do not hesitate to say that the offices which are in Calcutta ought to have been somewhere in Orissa, because I consider that Orissa and Bengal are inseparable. There must be even distribution of advantages. But when the question of subvention comes, Orissa is deprived. Isn't it so?

Then, we see that people are bypassed. I understand today there are 200 vacancies of doctors. Eight hundred doctors are unemployed in Orissa. Out of them, there is Jetty, jetty without a boat, jetty where no ships stand. He is employed there on probation basis. At the time of appointment he is given political lectures inocu-

lating a particular political persuasion so that it might at least pretend to be very good and loyal to the people of the ruling party. Even pretention is enough.

Sir, I have got some constructive suggestions to make. The fish industry is neglected there. Eighty per cent of the people there have no wherewithal to purchase fish. Give them a free year. Let them catch the fish. When the whole comes to the shore, take the subsidy for the year. Then have a store there and from that store you export fish not only to other parts of India but outside India also. The Kerala people are doing this. Why can't it be done in Orissa?

Then there should be passenger navigation in the Bay of Bengal, from Calcutta to Madras and further down via Puri side. In other places, people have conquered Nature. But there are turbulent waves in Puri side, therefore, no passenger steamers go there. This is nonsense. Are we in the Middle Ages, or are we in the year 1973?

Then, Sir, you will find that coconut has become a source of black marketing. Poor people who have got little orchards are forced to make a distress sale to *banias*. Why don't you have a co-operative sector for purchasing coconuts at some reasonable price, have them stored and then sold outside? These are the things which only a little imagination can do. In spite of that, what is being done? Dr Z. A. Ahmad is very correct in saying that distress is mounting in volcanic dimensions and in order to meet this distress you have not gone to the root of the problem. I am sorry I have to mention that during Shrimati Nandini Satpathy's Government, regional clashes were engineered and manipulated between Oriyas and non-Oriyas when the Government was tottering and was on its last legs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): They were engineered by the CPM.

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: CPM is a quite a handy word in the dictionary.

SHRI OM MEHTA: Wherever there is trouble, there is Sanyal.

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: After all, Orissa earns revenue from the rest of India by attracting tourists. As a result of this clash and conflict, even tourist traffic is dry today. Not only are people from other States afraid of going there, even foreigners are shy. You go to Howrah Station. You will find Puri Express going with vacant berths. The rehabilitation of confidence is a concern which the President's rule ought to take up at once.

There is another matter. Between Konark and Puri, there was a talk of trunk road i.e., marine drive. This is just the time when this road should be taken up.

Corruption has been talked about. I would like to stop this talk of corruption because corruption itself has been corrupted not only by the Administrative Officers, but by the ruling party people in Orissa. Corruption, thy name is Orissa Administration. Thus far and no farther.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, once again, it is my privilege to thank the hon. Members of this House. At the very outset, I would like to say that I was rather surprised with the imagination—I won't dare say running riot—being exercised to the maximum limit by some hon. Members. The last speaker who has just finished is a very senior Member. He went to the extent of comparing the acute shortage of food rations in Orissa with the conditions prevailing at the time when the refugees came from Bangladesh. He is a senior Member. I would only request him to think of the reactions and repercussions that these things will have on the State and on the country as a whole. I would request him to give me just five or ten minutes. I wish ideologically Mr. Sanyal would realise the justice partly of his coming near to the other political parties also.

SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL: May I interrupt for half a minute? You are now in the backwater of the Congress. I am not in that backwater.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Any day, the option is there to be in the backwaters of the Congress. Coming to the C.P.I., who can compete with the eloquence and the rhetoric of Dr. Z. A. Ahmad? I am having the highest respect for him, having the pleasure of knowing him very well and admiring him in many ways. I just do not understand why today he was carried away to the extent of saying that this is a party which has no imagination, no vision and no depth of view. It is a party which has failed to capture the opportunity which was given to it. It has no courage, no determination and not even the urge to do anything good to the country. I think he really did not mean it. He is a sincere person. I would only appeal to his conscience. I do not think he really meant what he said. I would only remind him on this occasion that much before anything was uttered by any other party in the country, it was the Father of the Nation, the biggest radical reformist, revolutionary of the country, of the world at one time, who came out with these radical reforms and I would only inform him that the Congress Party and its leadership is trying to carry out the reforms which very much include the land reforms to which he has referred in great length.

Regarding Mr. Lokanath Misra, Sir, of course, he is a very good writer and dramatist—I mean it in a good sense—but typical to the Swatantra ideology, he could even go the extent, he could even be carried away to the extent of saying: What difference would it make if a chaprasi becomes a Governor? That shows the radical difference between the ideologies of the two. We have the strength of the Constitution and in our Constitution, the ideology that we believe is that any citizen, irrespective of his status and rank whether he is a chaprasi or a Governor, is as much a citizen as any other person provided he has the necessary qualifications, merit etc.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: That is exactly what I have said. You are taking my idea only.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I thought it was the other way round. I am glad I have misinterpreted your idea. I

thought it was the other way round. I do not know if you have changed now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, on a point of order. A comparison has been made between a chaprasi and a Governor. I think some chaprasis are very useful socially and no derogatory remarks should be made against a chaprasi, not at all.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was made by Mr. Lokanath Misra.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I entirely agree with you.

Now, Sir, coming to the other point, it is absolutely an irony of fate that a State which is so rich in other ways, which has a background, which has natural resources which has probably the highest Central investment and has definitely the highest per capita Central investment in the country, today, it is still so poor, it has so many turmoils and tribulations and the people are suffering so much. Our hearts also go out in anguish to the people. It is not only the monopoly of any particular person or two in a party on that particular issue. The entire House is united that the poverty-stricken people of Orissa must be given the maximum help like the poverty-stricken people in any part of the country, wherever they are. But the fact remains, Sir, that this is precisely motivated by the intentions, not only long-worded intentions or meaningful intentions but intentions which have been carried out with greater determination that succour is brought to those who are suffering and the people, especially the weaker sections of the society, are given as much relief as possible. Dr. Z. A. Ahmad made a point which has agitated me very much which would have agitated him or any other person, that was about the fact for which he was prepared to be corrected, that there is not a single inch of land probably which has been distributed since the time of the President's takeover. I am glad to correct him. In that particular respect I have the figures with me. A lot of land has been distributed though much more could have been done, we do accept it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: How much has been distributed?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: It will take about a minute to take out that particular figure from these papers. I do have it on record that so much of land has been distributed, especially during April and May this year. In 1972, 1.03 lakh acres of agricultural land were distributed to 62,610 landless persons of whom 21,749 were tribals and 12,402 were Harijans. Besides, 1008 acres of homestead land were also distributed in April and May, 1973—and I think this was what Dr. Z. A. Ahmad wanted—12,818 landless persons including 6720 tribals and 2776 Harijans were given land amounting approximately to 0.17 lakh acres of agricultural land and 260 acres of homestead land. This is only in the course of two months, in April and May. This is development shown in April and May.

As far as food procurement is concerned food procurement in Orissa is the responsibility of

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Since she has given the figure, these 17,000 acres of land which have been distributed and which she has been good enough to read out, will she kindly tell us the source of this land? These have not been obviously distributed under the implementation of the new law because the new law is not yet in force; this must have come from some old backlog. That is what I would like to know.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD: And it is only just 17,000 acres.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: And I would like to have another clarification from the hon. Minister. In referring to this figure the Minister said that it is 0.17 lakh acres. Is lakh the primary unit in arithmetic? Why did she want to say it like that? Was it in order to sound huge that she said like that?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I just said 0.17; how to interpret it is a matter of personal choice. 0.17 is clear enough.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You kindly tell us in a more commonsense term, how many acres?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI. It must be clear what 0.17 is. I am not in a position to . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA. We are not good in arithmetic, kindly tell us how many acres it comes to.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI. Mr Deputy Chairman, I think these three intellectual stalwarts need no sermonising from me. What I have said is clear enough.

Apart from that, about the point that Mr Bhupesh Gupta raised, I shall certainly enquire and let him know. I shall find out the details.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA. The hon Minister will kindly listen to us. Forget the decimal part of it now. There was a law which was to have been passed when the Assembly was dissolved. Then this law came in a revised and reactionary form before the Consultative Committee and nothing has been finalised yet. Obviously no land could conceivably have been distributed as a result of the enforcement of this law.

SHRI N. R. CHOUDHURY (Assam). Dr Ahmad said that not an inch of land was distributed and to that point the hon Minister has replied.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA. What is the use of saying like that? The idea was that

DR Z. A. AHMAD. My hyperbolic expression may be wrong but the fact is that there is so much of land available in Orissa and there was good opportunity for you to distribute that land but it is all lying waste. 17,000 acres do not mean much. And in fact, it is not new land that you have given, it is only the result of some process initiated earlier having materialised now. I am sorry for my hyperbolic expression but the fact is virtually very little has been given as compared to what could have been given in the conditions existing in Orissa.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA. The hon Minister could have calculated in terms of inches and could have said so many inches of land have been distributed. There is something in literature, what Dr Ahmad said was not to be taken literally.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI. I have never been a professor.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA. You have got a computer at your disposal. Kindly tell us how many inches of land have been distributed. In the course of his speech Dr Ahmad said that not an inch of land has been distributed. After that we are told that 17,000 acres of land have been distributed in a State where so many people are without land. So, I think, you better say it in inches. We shall pass on to the arithmetic of inches, land distribution by inches.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI. I agree that much scope is there. I agree that something more could have been done. That point stands. It should be done and it would be done.

The point about food procurement has been raised. I would like to say at the very beginning about the news that has been filtering to us through hon Members just now of starvation. To our knowledge there is no such thing as starvation, but the fact remains that the people are poor and they are facing difficulties. Succour should be rushed to them at the earliest moment possible. About the food distribution system I would like to say that food procurement in Orissa is the responsibility of the Food Corporation and the State Apex Marketing Co-operative Society. The State Government have already issued orders for the acquisition of stocks in excess of 75 quintals from cultivators. Food distribution is organised through 7591 fair price shops of which 2241 are in tribal areas. It meets all their requirements and that shows that the machinery has been geared to meet the basic needs of the people and see that as many people as possible are able to get things and no starvation occurs.

Now, Sir, I think our friend, Shri Lokanath Misra, raised the point about joint sector projects. I would like to tell him that letters of intent and licences have been issued to the Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa, i.e., a public sector undertaking, for several industries. The Corporation will explore possibilities of joint sector participation in order to implement the proposals. That

is the position as things stand now. He wanted clarification about the railway line. Naturally it is a very important matter. The Paradip-Cuttack railway line has been completed and ore has been moved over the line on a trial basis. In the meantime the Government of Orissa has urged upon the Centre to take up the Banspani-Jakhpura railway line to open up the vast minerals that are present there. About the ferro-vanadium project, it is not a fact that this project has been dropped. An hon. Member said that it has been dropped. It has not been given up. The project is under the active consideration of both the Government of India and the State Government. The ore reserves of Mayurbhanj district are being proved and the grade of the ore is being determined to establish beyond doubt the feasibility of commercial exploitation of the ore. Now, I think these were some of the projects that were specifically mentioned by some Members.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA Has any thing been done regarding the Banspani-Jakhpura railway line? I said that test relief work should be undertaken so that lakhs of Adivasis who are near starvation, on the verge of starvation could be employed. If you just take up the new railway line, the earth-work between Banspani and Jakhpura, it would help. Has anything been done about that? What is the amount of assistance asked for by the Governor and what has been sanctioned by the Centre? These are specific questions.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI The question has been raised by some hon. Members about payment by the Sambalpur University to the Government of Orissa for the land given to the University. It is under the favourable consideration of the State Government. Also, about the municipal election, an hon. Member had raised that point. I think it has been answered. I would only like to convey that Shrimati Satpathy who is at present the President of the Congress there, has brought to the notice of the Governor the instances of alleged malpractices in the conduct of elections. Any citizen has similar rights. The Governor has ordered an inquiry into it under the provisions of law and there is nothing irregular about that.

About food, I can tell him the amount which is distributed, but I do not think it is really wanted. The Government is alive to the situation.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA We wanted to know specifically how much was asked for, the total amount of assistance given by the Government in the shape of cash and in kind and how much has been sent to Orissa, whether it is in foodgrains or in cash.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI I shall see if I have that, otherwise, I will provide it later.

The State Government has adopted several price stabilisation measures which are absolutely necessary in the larger interests of law and order, justice and social equality, and the Members would be happy to know that in order to prevent all the malpractices and to punish those who really deserve it, a citizens' committee has been formed, fair price shops have been opened. And it is also seen that the prices of certain commodities are controlled, like tyres and tubes and other commodities for the public there. These are some of the measures that have been taken. Some mention has been made about the closure of the Tata Mines.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA Sir, no trace seems to have been found of the foundation-stone. It is the gentleman who laid the foundation-stone of the Saraguhalli project. Let him explain what has happened to that foundation-stone. In your absence I said whether the foundation stone is as untraceable as you were in the House.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI Now Sir, about this Tata Mine, it is said that it was found to be uneconomical and so it was closed down and the workers were paid compensation as necessary under the law.

I am surprised, Sir, that no one asked about the Rengali Project which is one of the important projects. It is a multi-purpose project there. Probably, Members were carried away by other things and they did not mention this.

[Srimathi Sushila Rohatgi]

Sir, I would like to mention about the continuing schemes of special employment Rs 106 crores have been set apart, for this and for the new schemes under the Half a Million Job Programme, Rs 280 crores were provided and the new scheme during 1973-74 would provide employment to 16,491 persons

About the scheme of rural electrification for three thousand villages per year, that is, of course, going to continue

Someone mentioned about the second steel plant. About it, the Governor of Orissa had also written to the Union Minister of Steel in March, 1973 and a reply has been sent by the Union Minister of Steel stating that due consideration will be given to the proposal while formulating the programme for the long-term development of the steel industries. So, that is the position as it stands now.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA Mr Bhagat had given an assurance in this House that the second steel plant would be included in the Fourth Five Year Plan. What has happened to that assurance? I think, with Mr Bhagat going out of the Government probably the assurance has not gone along with him.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI I will check up whether there was an earlier assurance by him. I am speaking of the assurance of March, 1973. I will check up about that assurance and the reply on the basis of which it was made.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI Reassurance?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI Reassurance can only come when there is already an assurance. I think that was all that was raised by hon Members, and I would like to say

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA About the Orissa Forest Corporation, she was not taking up that point. I showed her a facsimile of a report published in the Samaj saying that there has been misappropriation to the extent of Rs 20 lakhs and that the officials have been promoted. What are your reports about it? You have officials from Orissa. You can immediately check up and give the reply.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI A special officer has been appointed to investigate into the reasons of shortages and loss of timber and loss of sales. That is the position. I do not know about the promotion part of it. But we are interested in analysing the whole thing, we will enquire into the whole thing. One important point that I would like to give to the hon'ble Members is that the Plan, as it stands this year, is a Plan for a higher amount, that is Rs 5241 crores as against Rs 4745 crores of last year. The break-up will only prove that it is the aim of the President's Rule there to encourage it and to enlarge in the spheres mentioned in it, namely sectors where it is going to help the weaker sections of the community. Increased allocations have been made in all sectors, whether they be in agriculture, co-operation, community development, irrigation and power, industry, mining and transport including social services as one of the Members had mentioned. Therefore, all this will go in the long run in improving the economy especially of the backward areas, of the backward sections.

About relief measures, Sir, I would like to say a few words. Due to the paucity of rainfall in some parts of the State and the after-effects of other natural calamities for the last two years, which have led to lot of distress conditions, in 947 gram panchayat areas of the State out of about 3,400 gram panchayat areas to mitigate these hardships, test relief and other labour intensive projects were taken up and an expenditure amounting to about Rs 82 lakhs approximately has been authorised for Famine Relief. Voluntary agencies like the Catholic Relief Society, the CARE and the programmes of the UNICEF have been implemented to give succour in this area.

Here I may tell hon'ble Mr Sanyal who spoke last about the need of providing vitamin tablets and other things. Of course, what he said is correct. But I hope he does not mean that these are going to supplement the food which is being distributed through the fair price shops. This could have been done along with the food which is to be distributed to the people on a priority basis.

SHRI K C PANDA May I know whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister

ter has been good enough to sanction Rs one lakh from her relief fund and whether the same amount, instead of being sent to the Governor, has been sent to the President of the Congress Committee, Mrs Nandini Satpathy?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI At the moment I have no information. But if the hon'ble Member is interested I can find out and inform him. Presently I have no information.

It is true that the land reforms that were really initiated in Orissa were among the most progressive and this was largely due to the team of the people who were at the helm of affairs under the leadership, dynamic and able leadership of one of the youngest Chief Ministers of our time. But it is unfortunate that it could not be completed. But that is a matter which will definitely have to receive full attention at the proper time.

Special employment programmes have been initiated this year in 1973-74 which is a very vital factor which I would like to bring forward before the notice of the Members here involving about Rs 250 crores. Some of the employment schemes include financial assistance for self-employment, provision of employment for unemployed, medical graduates for establishment of co-operative dispensaries, for which the amount is Rs 40 lakhs, training programmes for primary school teachers to emphasise the training of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The amount on this head is Rs 67 lakhs. Rs 11 lakhs has been earmarked for survey and investigation of protected water supply. Some hon'ble Member mentioned that it is easier to get liquor rather than water. I can understand the anguish with which he must have spoken. Probably this will go a long way in that direction. Then Rs 19 lakhs has been earmarked for training in self-employment. For unemployed entrepreneurs a sum of Rs 10 lakhs has been earmarked. For other employment schemes Rs 103 crores is earmarked.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: My point was what is the assistance asked for by the Government of Orissa from the Central grants.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Obviously I do not have the figure at the moment.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: But what is the amount sanctioned?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Except for the last point which has been stressed by the hon'ble Member which I will supply him later on.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: If I am not entitled to get this reply what else are we discussing?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: We have discussed everything.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: On a point of order, Sir, I would like to get a ruling from you. When a particular subject is being debated, any specific issue raised in that connection should be properly replied to by the Minister. If that is not done, I should get protection from the Chair.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She does not have the information at present.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I specifically sought this clarification from the hon Minister—what is the amount asked for by the Government of Orissa for purposes of relief measures, whether for drought or for floods and what is the amount sanctioned? This messing up of everything, this long period of 10 or 20 years under a dynamic leadership and all that, how does it help Orissa? (*Interruptions*) People have lost confidence in these Ministers. Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan played a hoax with the people of Orissa. He cheated the people of Orissa. And the people of Orissa call him a cheat because he went to Sargupalli and Sukhinda on the eve of the Cuttack by-election and laid the foundation-stones. Now the Sargupalli nickel project is being shifted elsewhere. Do you have a face to show here, Mr. Shah Nawaz Khan?

THE MINISTER OF SUPPLY (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): Sir, the Sargupalli project is for lead and Sukhinda is for nickel. I am amazed that the hon Member is not aware of this. Both these projects are doing well and progress has been made.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Have you started them?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: You laid the foundation-stone. What is the progress? Please give us a statement about the progress that you have made.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: I will have to check up with the concerned Ministry.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I think I have covered all the points. I commend the Bill to the House.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Sir, will you pass over the subject? I raised a point of order and wanted a decision from you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She has not got the information at present.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: When shall we get a reply and from where?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May be in course of time.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Sir, you know, normally I am such a sober Member in this House. I do not want to create difficulties.

SHRI RANBIR SINGH (Haryana): You are a sober Member!

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Normally I do not want to create difficulties. Therefore, in the most democratic fashion I wanted the Minister to make a statement on this. If the Minister feels that she can by-pass the House, I will not allow it. I tell you, I have been repeating this question again and again.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She does not have the information at the moment. She would collect it and pass it on to you.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: She can collect it immediately. Before the third reading, she can get it from the officials in the Official Gallery.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She will try.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Let her get it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is—

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

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill be returned.”

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta. Please be very brief.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, first of all, the hon. Minister made a very interesting reply to the points that were made by Dr. Ahmad in the course of his speech. I need not go into it because, after all, she has to say something on the basis of the material supplied to her and she did the job, if I may say so, loyally and also, if I may add, beautifully.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: She is actually functioning as the safety valve between the Opposition and the treasury benches.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I do not know what kind of valve function she has. That is a matter of opinion, and that ground I shall not explore. She is functioning here as a member of the Govern-

ment and trying to put the Government's case as best as she can. And she tried to make best out of a bad bargain by going into all these figures. She does not know actually when the land was bought, how it was found, where it was distributed and in what manner. She knows nothing. After all, a slip cannot tell much at the nick of the hour. So, it is all right.

Now, about Orissa's problems, I have got up to offer a very strong criticism of the Central Government—she should not take it personally because she is not involved in that personally—the Home Ministry, in particular. When that Bill came in a revised form, as that Bill could not be passed as a result of defections and fall of the Ministry, it came mutilated and revised in the interest of the landlord class, to be considered as a Presidential Act. As Dr Ahmad has pointed out, how had it been amended? Well it had been amended in a reactionary direction, for one thing, by raising the ceiling of the fourth category of land to 81 acres, by giving more exemptions and leaving the trust lands under religious endowments absolutely free. There are 14,000 trustees under the religious endowments in Orissa. And they have tenants under them, many of whom hold 100 acres, 200 acres and more. Now, this system has been left out in the name of privileged class. And the Central Government has done it on the advice of the bureaucrats there, who are in league with the landed interests.

Then, Sir, the compensation rate has also been raised. I need not go into these things. First of all, I demand that these religious endowments should be abolished. And this should not be left untouched to provide a cover for exemption from ceiling laws. You know very well that there are Mahants; they hold huge lands. And they let out lands to various people. They are big landlords with 200 and 300 acres. Few people in the country have such big lands. And they are not God-fearing people at all. Some people commit more of sins than any other thing. Their position should be done away with. And I do not see the reason why the Central Government has accented the suggestion of the bureaucracy of Orissa Government. And the Revenue Ministers of the past Orissa Government had been responsible for

tampering with the land laws with a view to protecting the interests of landlord class. Now that the matter has come to the Centre, the Central Government should improve it. Indeed, Sir, we did it when the West Bengal legislation of similar type came to the Centre when it was under the President's Rule. The Prime Minister, who was in charge of the Home Ministry at that time, presided over that meeting, and we amended the law. And we changed it in a better direction. And the West Bengal bureaucracy could not have its way. And, in fact, I know that an amended law has to be circulated overnight. That kind of being was done. But here I find Mr K C Pant trying to cook up arguments in favour of the landlords and in favour of the tribal landlords. The landlords, just as the monopolists who tried to protect their interests by shedding their tears for the ordinary shareholders, are trying to shed tears for the tribals and others in order to retain their grip on land. Why should this be done? Why did not the Central Government put it down? And the corrupt bureaucracy came in here. The Bill itself was amended in a reactionary direction because of the pressure of the landlords. The landlords were not happy. They pulled down the Government. The same bureaucracy could not do anything when Mrs Nandini Saipani was in charge of the Government. They thought here was an opportunity to amend the law in such a direction as would help the landlord. This is what they did. This is treachery, downright treachery, on the part of the bureaucracy. This is how your bureaucracy is functioning. I think this should be gone into. Honourable Members should know these things. I am only giving them the facts. The household in Orissa having less than half an acre constitute 37.58 per cent of the total household in the State. The landless section together hold 70 per cent of the total land. Thirteen thousand household own 80 lakh acres whereas 14.26 lakh household own only 80,000 acres of land. There are, above all, 5 lakh agricultural labourers who are landless in the State. Such is the situation. Who was responsible for this situation? The Central Government was responsible for this sabotage. The Central Government wanted Biju Patnaik to be brought into the Congress Party and they wanted to make him the Chief Minister.

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

They did not succeed. They got defectors from the Swatantra Party and other parties in order to run the Government. They did not last because the defectors re-defected and went back to the other parties and most of them were landlords. They placated all the time from the Centre and also at the State level, the landlord element to keep the Ministry going on. They could not succeed. The Ministry was struck down. This was not the only thing. In the last Ministry many people supported the measure and it more or less conformed to the policy enunciated by the Central Government which was on the whole a good law. But the law could not be passed because of the defections and the fall of the Government. Was it not the duty of the Central Government to ensure that this law was passed in its original form even without an amendment which, under pressure, Mrs Nandini Satpathy had to accept when the Bill came up for discussion in the House? Well, it was not done. This, I say, is most objectionable. I think the matter should be gone into, and Mr. Om Mehta should bring it to the notice of the Prime Minister. I should like to know from the Prime Minister why she allowed double standards, why in the case of Orissa the law is being revised in a reactionary direction. To placate Mrs Mahatab, Biju Patnaik, Maharaja of Bolangir, Raja Pratap Singh Deo? Why is it being done so? Why? In the case of West Bengal—quite rightly she did—the law was changed in order to protect the peasants although it is not being implemented now. This should be explained. One thing I should like to say now. With this Government there is complacency all over. You go about in Delhi. You feel an air of anguish plus complacency. Anguish because the economic situation is bad. Complacency because we shall carry on, nothing can happen that way. As far as Orissa is concerned—I was there only yesterday—there first of all the Chief Secretary, Mr. Ramakrishna Iyer, is the villain of the piece. Who does not know it? You ask anybody in Orissa who does not belong to a certain political persuasion does not belong to the Mahatab lobby and he will immediately tell you that he is a Mahatab man. Just as people will tell you that our friend, Sushilani comes from Malaviva family,

similarly, it is said that Mr. Ramakrishna Iyer is a Mahatab man. He is a down-right agent of Mahatab, sabotaging everything, carrying on a campaign not only against the communists—communists are not coming into power in Orissa.

It is even against the Congress Party and against individual Congress leaders.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Do you know that Shri Ramakrishna Iyer was taken in as the Chief Secretary by Shrimati Nandini Satpathy, the progressive leader. She considered that Shri Juneja, the outgoing Chief Secretary, was not an instrument through whom progressive action could be taken.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am not bothered about personalities.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: You said that he is a Mahatab man. He is one of your men.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I have verified it and checked up the facts. I came to the firm conclusion that he should not be in that position. He should be removed. There is also the Supply Department full of corrupt people. It should be reorganised. The Chief Secretary, under the Governor's rule, is the key and crucial figure. Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi has put many wrong people in many high places including the Cabinet. Did I not come out against some Cabinet Ministers here irrespective of the fact that Shrimati Indira Gandhi had put them there?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: They were not fellow travellers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You cannot blow hot and cold. The question is that Orissa administration has got to be reorganised.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I agree. Shri B. D. Jatti should go first.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The effect of long years of Swatantra rule and Mahatab rule should be removed. Officials at the top are corrupted politically. They have been won over and they are unfit for carrying out anything that is good. Surely

they cannot be relied upon for implementing any progressive measures. This Home Ministry does not do anything. What is it doing? It has got UP, Andhra, Manipur and Orissa in its charge. Do you see anything good being done in UP? Is anything being done in Orissa? I enquired from people. Home Ministry has completely failed and there is utter callousness and it is deliberate. There is liaison between officials at the top in Orissa and the right-wing politicians there. It is a very active connection. People know it. They occasionally meet and confer because failure of the Congress would result in their return to power. The Swatantra Party with the support of Biju Patraik wants to come back again. There is a combination of Biju Patnaik, Raja of Bolangir, Rajendra Pratap Narayan Singh Deo and Hare Krishna Mahatab. It is a formidable combination. Do not underestimate it.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA So far as Orissa is concerned there are writings on the wall.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA Why writings? There is the blooming moon in the horizon. You see now the formidable combination. They have got the money, they have got the landed interests, they have got the bureaucracy in their hands and they have got the centres of corruption under their control and they know how to utilise the prejudices of the backward people in the areas of the hill region which had been under the feudal rule in the olden days. Everything on their side. Therefore I tell you that something must be done.

Sir, once again I demand the removal of the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh.

SOME HON MEMBERS It is Orissa not Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA There also the position is as bad. Therefore Sir I demand the removal of the Chief Secretary of Orissa, Shri Ramakrishna Iyer, from his present position. I think you find him some other job and there are so many other places where you can put him. The Centre should go into the question of Orissa's bureaucracy especially the top

echelons, and there should be a proper reorganisation of the whole structure. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA Sir, I want to make a point.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN You have already spoken. Why again?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA I am sorry, Sir, that I have felt compelled to stand again even though I had no intention of speaking again. I sought for your kind protection, but I did not get it. I do not know how in a democratic set-up in a representative House like this we can expect to get something which we demand from a Government which is legitimate. I wanted to have some information and I wanted to know how much has been asked for by the Government of Orissa in the shape of assistance for drought relief, for flood relief, etc.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN You have asked the same question again.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA No, Sir. I have one or two other points. I am emphasising the point that I sought protection and I did not get it. It would be a very bad precedent if Ministers go scot-free.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI When you say 'Orissa Government' you mean the Governor or the previous Government?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA Government is a continuing thing.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI When you ask how much was demanded by the Government, you mean the Governor or the previous Government?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA It is the same thing. Now Sir we have floods and, therefore the Governor must have written to the Government of India.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN She does not have the information at the moment and I told you also.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (*Interruptions*) What I intended was to know whether Orissa has been well looked after,

[SHRI LOKANATH MISRA]

When Maharashtra had a drought, which was probably as much as in Orissa, Maharashtra got a sanction of Rs 38 crores for railway projects. Orissa did not have any. Therefore, I emphasize the fact of step motherly treatment to Orissa. Even now the Minister may not have the figures for Orissa about what has been asked for. That only goes to show that Orissa has been neglected and is being neglected. Whatever she might say eulogizing the leadership of the young Chief Minister that was sent to Orissa, she could not rule Orissa for 5 months, with all the money at her beck and call, both from outside and inside India she could not do it. Therefore what I again want to emphasise is that the Minister should categorically say how much has been asked for and how much she is going to give. This is very important for Orissa. It is a life and death question.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN How much has been asked, for what purpose?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA By the Governor for drought. I have repeatedly asked that—for natural calamities during this year through drought and through floods.

The only other point that I would like to mention is that the MMTC is not getting wagons. It is, of course, a national issue. But so far as the mines in Orissa are concerned—because mines are the only employing agencies, so far as Orissa is concerned—wagons are not available. Minerals are not being sent. The Central Government is thereby doing two things. One is impoverishing the Paradeep port, because if wagons are not provided then minerals will not reach Paradeep and therefore, Paradeep would not flourish and thereby Haldia would flourish. There has been enough of injustice done to Paradeep. Haldia was given priority because of the influence of Mr Siddharatha Shankar Ray. There is no Central leader from Orissa in the Congress Party who can influence the Central leadership as much as Mr Siddharatha Shankar Ray can. Therefore even though Paradeep is the deepest seaport, even though Paradeep has all the advantages as compared to Haldia. Haldia got the priority. Haldia was declared before even the railway line was connected,

because the distance is much longer than the distance between Cuttack and Paradeep.

(Interruption) Both can go together. But only when they show some kind of prejudice against Paradeep, we have to mention. I wish all well to Haldia also. I have nothing against the development of Haldia. But at the same time, it should not be done at the sacrifice of Paradeep. Paradeep should also simultaneously be looked after.

Sir, the MMTC is now not getting wagons. I would urge that all attempts should be made to give a higher priority to the MMTC so that at least mines in Orissa do not close down. If mines in Orissa close down, there would be greater difficulty and there would be greater unemployment. Mines are located in Adivasi areas in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes areas and other backward areas. If these people do not get anything, there would be no law and order in Orissa, there would be no peace in Orissa. I warn you that if you do any kind of injustice to Adivasis, Harijans and other backward tribes who constitute 40 per cent of the people there—it would be impossible for you and for your Mr Jetti, to rule. Mr Jetti would be nowhere, I tell you. Therefore, take this warning. And I again plead with the hon. Deputy Minister kindly to shed a partisan attitude and have motherly feelings towards Orissa. Let her not be a party. Deputy Minister. You kindly look towards Orissa with some affection with some attachment and with some love.

Thank you.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI I am extremely grateful to Mr Misra for reminding me of my duties as a mother. I shall really remember it.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA I suggested to him to use 'Sister's love' not mother's.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI But I am proud to be a mother. I am glad. There is no intention whatsoever of any step motherly treatment to Orissa or to any State. I will only like to tell him about one thing about the mother and her children. The child who is in greater trouble has greater care from the mother.

It is not our intention in any way whatsoever to deprive the people who are suffering in the States, of the relief they deserve

It was never my intention not to give any information. As a matter of fact, I reminded the hon. Member himself that probably he had forgotten to ask about this particular thing. I have tried to reply all the questions that have been raised about this particular thing. I have been trying to collect the information since the time you asked about this, and I think I have some information here. The State body has a provision of Rs. 125 crores for meeting the emergency expenditure on relief. About the expenditure in excess of this provision, after a detailed assessment of the damages has been done (*Interruption*) I think it is not known whether the Governor has moved the Government of India yet about it. But the assessment of the floods and other situation will have to be taken into account. Though it is not possible at this moment to give exactly the information that he really wants, yet I would be very happy to pass on to the hon. Member whatever information I have.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA What about my point?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI Your point is a very relevant and a very correct point, Sir. It will be communicated to the Home Ministry.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN The question is

"That the Bill be returned."

The motion was adopted

THE STATE BANK LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1973

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

That the Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955 and the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill seeks to amend certain provisions relating to the two Statutes governing the State Bank of India and its Subsidiaries and I am taking the opportunity of mentioning the relatively more important amendments.

As the House is aware, we have appointed two representatives of employees, one from the workmen and another from the officers, on the board of directors of each of the 14 nationalised banks. We propose to provide for similar representation in the Central Board of the State Bank of India and the Board of each of its seven Subsidiaries by having two additional directors on each Board, one to represent its workmen and the other its officers. The representatives of employee directors are proposed to be appointed by following the same procedure as was done in the case of the nationalised banks. The procedure for appointment of employee directors in the case of the nationalised banks is laid down in the Scheme framed under the Nationalisation Act. In the case of State Bank of India and its Subsidiaries we propose to lay down similar procedure in the rules and, accordingly, we propose to amend the Act to take powers to frame rules for this purpose. The terms and conditions of office of the employee director will be on the same lines as in the case of the employee director of the nationalised banks and appropriate amendments have been proposed to the relevant section.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU) IN THE CHAIR]

Another important amendment relates to the removal of certain statutory restrictions on the business of operation of the State Bank of India. The State Bank, at present, is prohibited under the Statute from transacting certain kinds of business which the other banks in the country can transact. For instance, there are restrictions on giving advances except against certain securities approved by the Statute, the time limit up to which advances may be made or bills can be discounted or purchased etc. The State Bank of India, being a successor to the Imperial Bank, was subjected to these restrictions which earlier governed the transaction of business of the Imperial Bank when it was perform-