

very specifically is that it is not the idea of the Government that films produced in certain countries should not be imported into this country, nor is it the idea of the Government to limit the import of films to certain other countries. I agree with him that preference should be given to such films which have an outstanding cultural merit and which are aesthetically good. With these words I commend the Bill.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN The question is

'That the Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952, be taken into consideration.'

The motion was adopted.

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN We shall now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill. There are no amendments.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA Sir, I move

That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

3 P M

MOTION RE DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra)
Mr Deputy Chairman Sir, I move

'That the statement on drought situation in the country, laid on the Table of the Rupa Sabha on November 14, 1972, be taken into consideration.'

Sir, the statement has highlighted the very grave situation in the country, the severity of the drought and the scarcity. The statement has explained the various measures

that the Government of India propose to take. Mostly, the statement confines itself to the short-term measures that the Government intend to take to meet the situation. I feel that the measures enunciated in the statement are short-term measures. But actually the whole position requires both types of measures and opportunity has to be taken to initiate greater, long term measures because it requires a long-range solution. States like Rajasthan, Saurashtra, Mysore and Maharashtra are affected very severely along with some parts of UP and Bihar, some parts of Haryana and mainly also of Rajasthan.

Sir, if you turn the newspapers, every day you will find news about drought. In Gulbarga there were riots about food, about the inadequacy of relief. We also read in the newspapers every day the severity of the drought in Maharashtra, about shortage of water, with people and cattle affected. It is highlighted in very grave terms. So is the case in Rajasthan and all other drought affected States. Roughly 20 crores of the population are affected, which is unprecedented in the history of this country. Such a large scale scarcity has taken place. This is a challenge thrown at us by such a severe drought and scarcity and the Government will have to take various measures which will mitigate the sufferings of the people.

For the benefit of the House, I would say about the condition in the State I come from, that is Maharashtra. Here is a newspaper cutting dated 22-11-72 which states that the lady workers who are working on scarcity relief, with babies in their hands, are running after trucks to get stones so that they can get stones to break, which can give them some more, extra, emoluments. Here is another report which says that in a part of Maharashtra a farmer has sold his cow for 12 plantains. He was very hungry and could not feed himself. He had a cow at his residence. He sold it to a man who purchased it by giving 12 plantains. Sir, shortage of water and fodder has gone to such an extent. Here is another picture from the Sholapur-Satara area showing how the cattle are left on the roads and on the outskirts of cities and villages and towns because there is nobody to own them and feed. So, they avoid to say that they belong to them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ANNASAHEB SHINDE) Ahmednagar

SHRI A G KULKARNI You know about Ahmednagar. This is another picture from Ahmednagar. Here is another picture which shows a thousand earthen pots kept in a queue for getting water. Here is another photograph showing a place in Marathwada—a man is sitting on the cycle with two earthen pots and is running for about 20 miles to get drinking water.

This is a heart-shattering account which shows the severity of drought in Maharashtra and in the various other parts of the country.

Then, Sir, here is a report saying out of the 40 lakh workers working on the scarcity works, 18 lakhs are working in Maharashtra alone. That shows to what extent the Maharashtra State is affected. Sir, the measures to be adopted either for Maharashtra or for Rajasthan and Mysore are the same. That is why I say the severity of the problem is enormous. The severity of the problem enjoins upon all the political parties to combine as it to come together for a war effort because no single party or a single Government can manage this problem of great enormity.

About cattle heads, Maharashtra is supposed to have 2 crores of cattle heads. Now because of drought many cattle are dying. Here the photo shows a dog eating a dead cattle which could not live because there was no fodder. There is another picture of a dog eating a cattle on the outskirts of a village. Apart from cattle deaths, human life is in serious threat of starvation deaths. Sir, though the Government have opened some cattle feed camps, I feel their number is not adequate and by next year when we may have good rains there might not be left enough cattle to use. Sir, I warn the Government that since our agriculture is not mechanised and we still depend on cattle for agriculture, we have to be very careful in preserving the cattle wealth.

Along with the cattle problem, there is the problem of malnutrition and under-nutrition in these drought affected areas.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I bring it to the notice of the House that the problem involved is very, very grave and very, very severe and it will not stop at the starvation border, it will lead further to revolt. Sir, I am sorry to say that though it is claimed that 9 K G of food is given in the villages, the actual ration given is 4 K G. Sir, some days back Mr. Krishan Kant pointed out that in some States, including mine, the distribution system is proper. But I may say that about Maharashtra his testimony is though correct, I may inform him that though food does reach the consumer the shortage may, perhaps, bring down the whole system.

Sir, I want to bring out only two or three points because the time at my disposal is 15-20 minutes and others want to speak on the problem. Before I take up the Maharashtra problem, I will take up the general problem which is applicable to the whole of the country.

Sir, in this statement the Government has said that they have increased the number of public distribution points from 125 to 151. Whatever you might say, I warn you that the distribution system is not functioning properly. That is our experience and you have to believe the Members of Parliament. Sir, just increasing the number will not help.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE Why do you presume that we don't believe you?

SHRI A G KULKARNI Because you will say again that it is working properly. What is the use of crying before you? It is like crying before a wall. In your own district it is not working properly. Unless you are careful, the starvation will be of a very enormous nature. In the matter of the public distribution system, if you see the reports, they are like this.

Disquiet on the Food Front—this is today's 'National Herald'. 'Wholesale rice trade takeover'—Mysore backs out, Gujarat gets back, Madhya Pradesh gets out, and so on. And you are giving us a sermon on the public distribution system, saying you have increased the number of shops, etc. What have you done to the resolution passed by the All India Congress Committee for take-over of wholesale trade? For another 25 years unless the wholesale trade

is in the hands of the State, whereby they can command the entire distribution system, you are not going to win the battle against poverty. I can understand that the Chief Ministers might be feeling a little bit shaky to take over such a task at such a short notice. But if you read between the lines about the action of the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh, you will find that ultimately it is the rice millers or the wholesale traders whom this delay is going to benefit. May be that is not their intention. I can understand that the Chief Ministers are trying faithfully to implement the policy of the ruling party, the Congress. But the point is one has to take up this challenge and take a little risk. That is why I say that in the matter of wholesale trade take over the FCI must not oblige the private traders, and the Chief Ministers must not oblige the private traders. I want an assurance here that procurement will not be made through the wholesale traders or rice millers. In Andhra, Madhya Pradesh and all these places when you want to make procurement you depend on the rice millers. Rice millers or wholesale traders are not going to help you. Then the attitude of the FCI also must be such as to encourage co-operatives or ultimately the farmer. They must not oblige the wholesale traders.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा (मध्य प्रदेश) मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री ने अभी कहा है कि वह ट्रेडिंग का एजेंट बनायेगे।

श्री कृष्ण कान्त (हरियाणा) लेकिन आप तो यह चाहते ही हैं।

श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी आप के राज में सखलेचा जी यही होता था।

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा २० के वजाय एक व्यापारी का मानापोली देने की बात है।

श्री कृष्ण कान्त मैं तो मध्य प्रदेश चीफ मिनिस्टर जनमघ को बात का मान रहा है। इस में आप का क्या एतराज है।

SHRI A G KULKARNI Then, Sir, another aspect of this problem is the long-term strategy for food management. Sir, there is a very illuminating article today in the Times of India by Dr Ashok Mehta. I was very much interested to read it. About the Green Revolution, there are many who make jokes about it. Sir, I firmly believe that the progressive farmer has achieved the technique. But the farming community as such will take some more time. It will take some more time before the farming community will take to these progressive measures. Having said this, I want to deprecate a tendency in the country, that is, whenever the question of more production comes, whether in industry or in the farm, these ultra radicals or radicals are putting spokes in the wheel.

Under one principle or other under one ideology or other they say that this is this, this is that, that the farmer must not be a very large farmer and under name of ideology they discourage production. You must in this country for another 25 years encourage production at all levels and I think whatever the green revolution it is only a sectoral green revolution in the case of wheat and to a little extent in rice. What is happening to our entire dry farming? What is the Research and Development undertaken?

SHRI SHANKARLAL TIWARI (Madhya Pradesh) This revolution is confined to some parts of the country, not the whole country.

SHRI A G KULKARNI So what I am pointing out is, as pointed out by my friend, it is only in certain areas that it is showing results. The whole strategy must be on dry farming and for that, Mr. Shinde, your Ministry must be responsible to evolve certain strategies and research and development which will ultimately bring about an institutional change not only in regard to farming or seeds, but in credit facilities in fertilizer etc. There must be a completely integrated approach towards dry farming because as you know, rains are playing truant. Many a time rains do not help. That is why you must always be ready to face the situation.

Having said that I come to seed programme. What about your seed programme?

[Shri A. G. Kulkarni]

Now reports have come. We have got the Seed Corporation, however there are reports from Punjab, from U.P. or even from my own State, that seed is not available. Then where has it gone?

Then what about the fertilizer? All your public sector plants are working to 50 to 60 per cent capacity and you are talking about nationalisation of industries. What about State fertilizer projects? What about the States which are starving for want of fertilizers? You cannot grow seeds when there is no fertilizer? There are widespread reports that there is no fertilizer. The fertilizer is sold in the black market. What is the Fertilizer Corporation of India doing? It is a Government of India undertaking and the entire fertilizer has to go through it to the market. Then I do not understand how it can be found in the market. I fully know it but I do not want such callous attitude to play with human lives. The seriousness of the problem, is too much the people are on the verge of death. They are selling their cows for twelve plantains. They are throwing their children in wells. This is the condition in your own district, Mr. Minister. What I say is to meet this challenge you must have a long term measure and a short term measure to mitigate suffering at once.

Then about famine code. What did the Maharashtra Government suggest to you? What did the Fifth Finance Commission recommend? They have recommended 50 per cent of loan, 25 per cent of grant and the balance of 25 per cent has to come from the State Government. Now the Maharashtra Government has said that for the last three years 22 districts out of 26 districts are affected by famine. They say we cannot meet this onslaught and the ceiling is Rs. 86 lakhs as per State Government. And whatever amount is required over and above Rs. 86 lakhs has to come from the Central Government—75 per cent must come as a grant and 25 per cent as a long term loan. The State Government has gone out of its limit to find out money for its projects. So these are the demands about Maharashtra Government. Then the last point is the Maharashtra Government has submitted various schemes. Mr. Shinde, you were also present in that meet-

ing of the MPs called by the Chief Minister. There are four or five problems, very important problems. You say you are going to have—what you call a very energetic rabi crash programme. Rabi crash programme only does not come out of a slogan or your wish or somebody else's wish. It comes out of hard work and a coordinated effort. Supply the farmer with all the inputs required.

Then what about steel? I am very happy yesterday only Mr. Kumaramangalam went out of his way and took a decision to supply steel on priority to the various State Governments which are preparing for a rabi crash programme.

Then what about rigs? Rigs are under your Ministry. You cannot find out. Where is Mr. Om Mehta?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I will tell him.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The Maharashtra Government has said that it has undertaken ambitious programmes. But there is no water available. The Finance Minister there made it very clear they are not able to supply the water, there is water shortage. People are suffering for want of water. And only thirteen rigs are there for the State whereas the demand is about 50 to 75 rigs immediately. So, if you cannot do it yourself indigenously then please do not stand on prestige and formality. You should immediately try to get them from the rupee area countries or even if foreign exchange is required you should import the rigs. But do not play with the lives of the people. I want you to supply the entire requirements of the States in rigs. For Maharashtra I am telling you the demand for rigs is so much. So if necessary rigs have to be imported. In the meeting between Mr. Om Mehta and the Minister of Irrigation of the Maharashtra State, Mr. Mehta sympathetically requests his counterpart in the Planning Ministry who also comes from Maharashtra, Mr. Mohan Dhar, to help in securing Road Rollers.

They say "We shall try and see." In Maharashtra State there are schemes undertaken for percolation tanks and minor irrigation. Government spokesman says that money is being spent on productive work.

You will be surprised to know that 80 ft road is being constructed in a village Have you ever heard of such a thing? There is no other work This shows the utter mismanagement in the Agricultural Ministry and the Planning Ministry I request Shri Shinde that as soon as this debate is over, he should call on the Industrial Development Ministers to find out their requirements of steel, jigs, road-rollers Otherwise all your money will not be spent upto March People will be looking at God and death will come to them as a final blow

My last point is about supply of protein food to people in the scarcity affected areas The people have got no energy to work They are just working with feable energy In Maharashtra State they have organised the supply of protein food through the Sarv Seva Sangh They have asked for Rs 9 crores I have pleaded with the Chief Minister and I have written to the Prime Minister also Sir, you also come from a very poor family You know the condition of poor students who are affected by the scarcity Their parents just breaking stones or working on roads Their children are in colleges Many of them will appear for their final examination in March I have pleaded with the Chief Minister with my knees on the floor 'For Heaven's sake, give them protein food Give them protein food and concession in paying fees or whatever is possible I want to request the Agriculture Minister to see that the people in the scarcity affected areas particularly students should be given some immediate relief About 50,000 students are going to appear in the SSC examination I have got this figure from papers They belong to scarcity affected areas I was told by the Chief Minister that this is not an accepted All India Scheme in Planning Commission's strategy What is the Planning Commission for? It is for the people and not to benefit the bureaucrats in the Planning Commission

In the end I would say that this is a human problem Shri Shinde knows it very well He knows it better because he is coming from the worst affected area of Ahmednagar Please do not depend on bureaucratic and administrative advice You know what to do in such a situation You

must take courage in your hands and act This is an opportunity for you to help people and you should do the job

SHRI N G GORAY (Maharashtra)
Sir, I move

"That at the end of the Motion, the following be added, namely —

'and having considered the same, this House is of the view that adequate steps have not been taken to meet the present situation and to prevent repetition of the same in future''

The questions were proposed

SHRI S G SARDESAI (Maharashtra)
I am more or less in the same mental condition in which my friend Shri A G Kulkarni was at the end of his speech, namely, that I have to say that it is extremely difficult to find words to describe the spirit and content of the statement that has been placed before us The Minister for Agriculture knows that it is not my habit to go into superlatives and to use extreme words But, Sir, I must say with all the restraint that I can have that considering the gravity of the situation as it has developed in our country since the middle of this year and for a year or so and looking into the reports about the famine situation which are pouring into the Press every day, during the last one month or so the least one has to say about the statement which is before us is that it is undoubtedly an exercise I would say in self-adulation and complacency

In fact Sir considering the situation, I want to go a step further and state clearly that if all that the Government proposed to do in the present situation and in the immediate future just before us is this only then Sir I have not the remotest doubt that by the time we reach the next summer the Government is going to impose a man made famine on top of the nature-made famine which we have had this year This is the grim situation which faces us today

Now Sir, this statement, probably meant to be very serious and matter of fact does say quite a few things, that is about the relief works which have been

[Shri S. G. Sardesai]
started, about the number of relief works begun, about the gratuitous relief given, about the number of people covered, about how many crores of rupees have been sanctioned, about the number of fair price shops that have been opened, etc., etc. I do not want to go into those things at all. But, this one sentence in the very last paragraph I would like to refer to and I would like the Minister for Agriculture to state bluntly whether even he can accept a statement like that. Sir, this statement says—in fact, it expects us and it expects the Members to appreciate that “adequate steps to deal with the situation have been taken and are being taken”.

Sir, does the Minister seriously want to argue that adequate steps have been taken? For once, I can understand the Government saying that they are doing all that they can possibly do. It is one thing to say that they are trying their best. It is one thing to say what they are trying to do about this. But, Sir, it is totally a different thing to say that adequate steps have been taken. After all, what is the proof of this adequacy? The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Day after day all kinds of reports we see in the papers. Is there any single day on which we do not get reports in the Press about starvation deaths? Today, it is in Bihar, tomorrow it is in West Bengal, the day after tomorrow it is in Rajasthan or Maharashtra and the day thereafter it is in Mysore and so on. Sir, my predecessor most specifically referred to Ahmadnagar district from which the Minister himself comes. What kind of reports did we get only a week ago from Ahmadnagar and from other places? It is shocking that even in the areas where relief works are there—leave aside those places where relief has not reached—even in the places where relief works are undertaken, the relief is so inadequate, the work is so terribly heavy. It is so fatiguing that some people have died due to excessive fatigue, some women, and some due to bad nutrition. These reports are true though you may say that some of them are exaggerated. But it is a fact that these are the kinds of reports that we get every day! And, Sir, then the Government comes forward and says, as was the old practice, that these deaths are not due to

hunger or famine or starvation. It is surely due to the failure of crops, due to hunger, due to malnutrition and there is no doubt about it. People get some disease because of malnutrition and they die. Is it what the Government can do, to deny that there are no starvation deaths in this country? In terms of that, nobody has ever died of starvation. Even those people who start some hunger-strike or something like that, they develop some disease in the end and they also die. Sir, therefore, these are the kinds of statements which are being made before us. They say, the deaths are due to some disease.

Sir, even in a city like Bombay—this is something which no one knows in the past—hordes of people have started coming into Bombay and big slums are coming up. People from Ahmadnagar, from Nasik, from Satara and other places have started coming into Bombay and many camps have been opened. In Bombay city, manual labour also plays a pretty important role. Even the railway coolies who used to get five or six rupees a day are now getting as wage for their manual labour far less than that. In Bombay city it has come down to Rs. 2! Just think of it in a city like Bombay! What are we going to do about it? What sort of protection are we giving to the people? Are we going to make Bombay a second Calcutta of 1943? What are we going to do about all these things? Firings are being started. There is the report about Islampur. All papers are saying that the procession was peaceful: there was no stone-throwing. Nothing of the kind. But firing took place. Four people were killed. The young son of a freedom fighter was also killed. All these things have started.

Then, the Finance Minister told the Lok Sabha the other day that Government are planning to issue an ordinance saying that water should only be used for drinking. I want to know whether, during the entire history of the country, any Government has issued an ordinance saying that water will be used only for drinking and not for any other purpose. Such is the prospect which Mr. Chavan himself pointed out. Now these are the kinds of things.

One more thing I definitely want to speak in this connection. The leaders of this Government, the Prime Minister, and the President of the Congress, have been recently referring again and again to the activities of the CIA and what the CIA proposes to do. Does this Government know that the CIA in India have circulated reports—I have myself seen some of them—that the food economy of this country is going to collapse by next summer? This is the reading of our enemies. The enemies know what is happening in the country and they are expecting all kinds of violence, anarchy, chaos and so on in this country, to be developed in this country by the time we reach the next summer or early monsoon. Why do we not see all these things?

In this context I want to ask a blunt question. Can you say that the steps taken are adequate? If the steps are adequate, then what are these reports about and what is this evidence about? For God's sake do not say that adequate steps have been taken. Say that certain other steps have to be taken. I would call it a masterpiece of complacency and self-adulation. For God's sake don't say all these kinds of things.

But there is one thing I would really want to say. I do not want to take much time of the House. But one thing I would certainly like to nail down, to which I would like the Minister's reply. I may be excused for saying that I would not get a satisfactory reply, going by past experience and past evidence.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE Why do you presume anything?

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI Still it is my duty to ask you and your duty is to reply because both of us owe a duty to the people. What is the purpose of the pricing policy and the procurement policy of this Government in relation to food? What is the pricing policy meant for? What is the procurement policy meant for? Anyone will say that it is a very simple question. The price and procurement policy is meant on the one hand to give a reasonable price to the agriculturist and on the other to supply the food at a fair price through shops to the people. This

is the purpose of the pricing and procurement policy. Is that the purpose? But you cannot say this is borne out by the practice. I am not referring to Government's intention. I don't worry about it. I am worried about the practice. The policy of this Government can only be characterized as one of wanting to secure the highest prices, monopoly prices, for big farmers, for big landlords, for big grain traders under any circumstances, no matter whether the crops are good, no matter whether the crops are bad. That is the position.

Two years ago the Agricultural Prices Commission and last year once again, in its report stated when our harvests were very good that the grain prices have been pitched too high. The Agricultural Prices Commission recommended a reduction in the prices of wheat. What does the government mean? At a time when the harvest is very good, when the prices are coming down, the Government comes out and says that procurement prices are the support prices. 'Support' for what? Support for big wheat traders to get high prices? The moment you realise that the production is good prices are finding their correct level that moment you come out for giving support prices and for accumulating stocks. Now when State after State ruled by this very Party, whether it is Maharashtra, Mysore, or Madhya Pradesh, are coming forward and saying that the prices

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI The prices of the agricultural products should have some relation to the inputs and the labour charges from the farmer. Then perhaps you are only talking for your urban consumer. You are not talking for farmer.

SHRI S. G. SARDESAI That is what I said. Please try to follow me. I did say that the peasant must have a proper price. I said it that he should have a reasonable price but in the name of peasant getting a reasonable price I also know how much blackmarketing is done by the big landlords, big capitalist peasants. Do not take cover behind that. I said that prices can be reduced and at the same time proper prices can be given.

[Shri S G Sardesai]

In the present situation, now during this year, in the earlier part of the year, in the beginning, Sir, the Government openly said that the drought is not serious. We have got 9½ million tonnes of grains. There is nothing to worry. After that we are given an alarming figure. There is shortage of 17 million tonnes, there is a shortage of 22 million tonnes and then suddenly we are told that foreign imports will take place. All these things are taking place. Then what is your grain procurement and price policy? Is it not the monopoly for food procurement? That is the test of the food policy of the Government. We are told here—I am using my own words—that you have requested the State Governments to tighten the machinery for procurement but your own State Governments are repudiating it. Your own States are saying that they are not doing it and yet you are coming forward and saying that procurement will be done. Am I not entitled to ask the question if in the coming months, the big landlords, the big capitalist-farmers would have made any amount of profit and the common man would not have got food?

In the end, I will precisely note down the minimum things which I think any government would like to do if it is serious to tackle this problem.

The first thing is why the Government is not re-introducing food zones. We all know, in the western UP and Haryana the kharif crop has been good this year. There is enough of wheat and rice for distribution. Why not reimpose food zones? My question is. Are you going to impose food zones?

Secondly, I would like to know. Why is there not a total ban on advancing loans to food traders? There should be a total ban. The third thing that I want to say is. Why is not mechanism of wholesale trade of grain being set up? What are we waiting for? Mr Kulkarni himself said about traders. Why does the Government not prepare such a machinery? So far as the big landlords and the big capitalist-farmers are concerned, I am clear. Then we must have a powerful anti-hoarding drive.

These are the four or five things I have precisely said. We are just not satisfied by your saying that this is the position. We want the action. We have to judge the situation in the coming few months. I have clearly stated these things and if this Government is prepared to implement them, then alone we will be able to say that we are going ahead to ease the situation. Otherwise, I do not know what would happen in the coming six months in our country. The reactionary people, the big landlords, the rich farmers will exploit the situation for their own purpose. I think the specific suggestions which I have made will be dealt with by the Minister when he gives a reply.

DR K NAGAPPA ALVA (Mysore)
Sir, because, of drought the situation in the country is grim. It is pathetic, it is even explosive in certain parts. The miseries of the people are increasing.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAI)
in the chair]

The statement of the Minister clearly shows in spite of the details given that there is complacency and there is self-satisfaction. I am sorry such an inference has been drawn by Mr Shinde, whom we all respect for his wide knowledge and plain speaking and also for his command over the subject. Sir the situation ought to have been faced on a war footing but we see nothing of the kind. While considering the situation I would appeal to you at the outset forget the political differences and other things. I know you will do it but it is for you to assess the situation. I want you to judge the situation. I want you to know the performance of the Mysore Ministry. I want you to ask them to behave better in this respect. I am going to give you certain examples as to how our Mysore Government have been functioning. During elections you were doing things on a war footing on the same analogy. I want this problem to be tackled on a war footing. So many things were done during the elections. Helicopters were used, can't those helicopters be used now to find out if the Prime Minister and other Ministers cannot find time? Unfortunately in this country we are giving too much importance to politics. We have politics

at every level. I would make an earnest appeal to this Government, Give greater importance to the socio-economic well being of the people of this country. It is a great opportunity now. Your Garibi Hatao programme and the cow and the calf symbol itself is in danger because from the statement it is quite clear that 14 States are involved in this more than 15 crores of people are involved. Likewise the cattle are also involved, the number of cattle affected is almost equal to the number of people affected, 15 crores. The farmer will not like to see his cattle die of starvation, rather than that he will die. That is the position in our country. The point is, what is being done now? In our State more than a lakh of people have left the State in search of jobs and thousands of cattle have died. For a long time the cattle is being sold and mostly to the butchers. People are selling their belongings. Now, the amount of money that you spend for the elections, wherefrom do you collect that amount? It is certainly from the blackmarketeers, smugglers, hoarders and profiteers. If you have that much amount and spend it on these people it would help the future of the country, it would help the people who are suffering. We are facing a serious calamity. Have we not faced the Bangla Desh refugee problem? Have we not appealed to the United Nations? Have we not appealed to the non-official and social organisations and other countries in the world and have we not solved that problem? Does the Government feel it beneath its dignity to ask for that kind of help from others? This is the time when we have to make every possible effort to solve this grave problem. I was really feeling that I will get some half an hour, this is such an important subject that you cannot be satisfied by making a short statement or hearing a few things. There are so many things and the future of the country itself is involved. I would be brief no doubt, but at the same time I must be allowed to say a few things. Here in Mysore out of 175 taluks—it is mentioned in the memorandum sent by the State to the Government—131 taluks are affected. About one crore people are affected. Out of the one crore, the sufferings of sixty lakhs of people cannot really be explained. We went the other day and we had a meeting at Gulbarga.

There was an unprecedented gathering. Such was the feeling. It is not for any other thing. We went there to find out things and I assure the Government of our fullest co-operation. We do not want to exploit the situation politically. It was a heart-rending scene, with their tales of woe and other things. The Mysore Government had asked for Rs 16 crores, but what is the amount that has been given? It is Rs 3.5 crores. They have asked for Rs 18½ crores. Immediately they want Rs 10 crores. Now, I tell you, do not look to the other parts or the States from an ivory tower. Give them what they want. Fix the responsibility on them and see whether they are doing their act and standing by the people properly. I may once again tell you that assessment of this kind, is a humiliating thing. This procedure for sanctioning some amount to the State, some officers go there and assess the situation. They say that so much money can be given. It is unfortunate. Your assessment is Rs 102 crores for the entire India. At least Rs 500 crores are needed. I want you to realise seriousness of the situation. (*Time Bell rings*) I have one or two points about our Mysore State, to what extent they are known for taking decisions. They want to show that they are ultra-radical, their ultra-socialistic tendencies. One decision they have taken. They are taking decisions which are impossible of implementation. They took a decision to take lakhs of cattle, cows, from Gulbarga, Bidar and Bijapur districts to the forest area in North Kanara district, 350 miles away, with a stop at every fifteen miles. It was so nice to see it in the papers, but after one month they realised that it was impossible. The decision was withdrawn. Then, as a matter of principle it seems no 'Congee' centres were started but what have they done for the supply of free food to the vulnerable sections of the people? Have they actually done that? No. (*Time Bell rings*) I beg of you and I beg of the Minister himself to allow me to say a few points here. I do not want to say anything about the other States because of your decision on relief works and other things. You said the other day that these are all exaggerated. We do not want to exaggerate it. The one word you used was painful to us. You should not have said that word. We are not here to exaggerate things. The Mysore Government have not cared to look after the children. What

[Dr K. Nagappa Alva]

will be the position of the children and pregnant mothers? What will be the future of this country? Starvation deaths and half-starvation all these things are having a bad effect not only on the physical health of the people but also on their mental health. Added to that, no attempt has at all been made to have the cooperation of the political parties and of the other organisations so that these difficulties may be overcome.

About starvation deaths I want to say that it has become a habit with the Government to deny that there are any starvation deaths. They are actually starvation deaths. If there is truth in anything, one must admit it, a large number of people are living on below subsistence level, so many are suffering already due to under-nutrition or malnutrition or anaemia. There are deaths due to starvation and besides there are suicides also. Instead of *garibi hatao*, '*sarve janahu sukhino bhavanthu*' should be the principle on which we should work to see that socialism is established and the progress and happiness of the people are taken forward.

I appeal to you once again with all respect. You have commanded respect throughout. I want to take this up with the Government about sending teams. Send teams to assess the work of the State Government. You have to trust your people there at the State level. Fix the responsibility. But please remember to send teams to the States. I say, send a team immediately to Mysore to see whether they are functioning all right, whether they are doing their duty by the people and by this country.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT Sir, the statement which we are discussing today is a very unrealistic appreciation of the drought condition in the country. Even if you see the picture of drought in Maharashtra presented in the statement of the Minister—he comes from Maharashtra—it is also unrealistic and shows the complacency with which the Government and the bureaucracy are looking at the whole problem. Before I go to the other points, I would like to say that in the list of States given here, suffering from drought Haryana has been excluded. Its name is not found here though many parts

of Haryana are suffering from drought. In Haryana, the cycle of rain works in such a way that in five year cycle we have good rain only in one year. I hope that the Minister will see that Haryana gets its due share in progress, in getting money, allotment of food, allotment of fodder and grains.

Coming to the statement, Sir, this is a very unrealistic estimate of the situation. A number of States have been tabulated but Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Mysore are some of the States where the situation is very difficult. In Gujarat and in parts of Maharashtra, cattle wealth is in danger. In Maharashtra, three districts of Marathwada and six districts of West Maharashtra are in distress. This is an unprecedented drought. Its Government machinery is considered to be one of the best machineries in India and they have got also the Zila Parishads and so on. But the food that is being given is inadequate. Sometimes they give four kilos or two kilos sometimes. The drought has been there for three years in succession and the people are losing faith in the Government. They are feeling that the Government is helpless and they have no hope of succour from anywhere. Is it not the duty of the Government at least to send a team of Members of Parliament to study the situation since the people are really very much concerned with what is happening there? This is very necessary. The point has been made by many friends here.

Sir in local papers news has appeared about deaths. I would like to quote about Orissa. The Finance Minister of Orissa, Shri Banka Behary Das, has himself said that deaths have taken place due to famine and drought. The contradiction that has appeared confirms that deaths have taken place. I do not know why the Government wants to hide the truth from the people. Does it lessen the gravity of the situation?

In the same way deaths have occurred in Maharashtra. Mr. Kulkarni showed some photographs of dead cattle being eaten up by dogs. Similar situation obtains elsewhere too. I was told by my friend from Gulbarga that beef is being sold in Gulbarga at 35 paise per kilo and

even at that price nobody is prepared to purchase. Nine cows were sold for Rs. 80.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI One cow was sold for 12 plantains.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT That you said about Maharashtra. So Sir, I do not know why this statement is so complacent. It does not give the real picture. I would have been satisfied if this statement were drafted by some bureaucrat sitting in office. But this statement comes from the hon'ble Minister who represents the people in his State. Why does this statement not represent the true state of affairs? Sir, the situation is getting very critical.

Sir, Mr. Kulkarni said that we have to look at this problem from long term and short term points of view. This statement takes a short term view. It shows complete lack of understanding and realisation of the problem. There is scarcity of gram. The production of pulses has been stagnant for 15 years and has gone down recently. The production of coarse grain has gone down. If we see the graph here, it shows that in 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972 the kharif crop came down progressively from 68 million tonnes to 58 million tonnes and 52 million tonnes respectively. Where is the green revolution? There is some green revolution if you like to call it that way, in wheat. But even in wheat it touches only 8 per cent of the land holdings. My complaint is that the Government is not looking at this situation with understanding as it is required. They have shown complete lack of understanding, lack of foresight. Last year many people warned that the coming year would be a difficult year but the idea was pooh poohed. The Agricultural Prices Commission warned us. Mr. D. D. Puri was telling the other day about the experts' assessment and hence the Government's inability to curb the rise in prices. But all the time we said that the green revolution had come. Experts said that green revolution had come and therefore we need not worry. But the Agricultural Prices Commission on the basis of the monsoon cycle warned us that we should not take the green revolution for granted. Did we prepare ourselves for that?

Sir, only recently the Secretary of Agriculture speaking at Jaipur on the 4th October said that there was comfortable position in food and therefore, there was no need for imports; the difficulty would be solved. Sir, my complaint is that the whole system in which we are working seems to be completely unco-ordinated. I am sorry to say that the bureaucrats have been feeding the Ministers with wrong statistics which they have been putting before Parliament and the people. Only in August this year when the question of rise in prices was raised in Parliament the Prime Minister said that she was told that the prices were falling. Again, on 8th August Mr. Chavan made a statement saying that the prices had started falling, and that within a short time, he felt, they would be able to control the situation. In this Session of Parliament, Sir, the statement made by the Finance Minister smacked of complacency. Later on the same Mr. Chavan painted a grim picture in the Lok Sabha the very next day. This shows how lightly the Government is taking the food problem in the country when people are dying of starvation. What does it show? Does it not show complacency and lack of foresight? Does it not show how decisions are taken? Does it not show complete failure of the Government on the food front? The other day while replying to the debate here Mr. Shinde said that we need not import at all. But the next day Mr. Chavan said in the Lok Sabha that we had to import. When I was speaking here the other day Mr. Ganesh interrupted me to say that I should not put emphasis on imports. He said, 'Don't waste your time on that; we are not very much concerned.' But Mr. Shinde the very day in the evening, said that we have to import 9 lakh tonnes of food-grains. Yesterday Mr. Shinde while talking on the radio said that we may have to import two million tonnes.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI While administering an injection it must be administered slowly.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT Slowly to whom? The traders are in league with the bureaucrats. They get all the information. You know what happened in America. The Assistant Secretary of State

[Shri Krishan Kant] resigned his job and joined the grain trade to make profits. So, the traders get all the information. The import figure may ultimately be not two million tonnes but three million tonnes or even four million tonnes. Sir, another thing is—I would like the Government to refute it. I know it is true—there is an exercise going on in the Government of India to revise downwards the figures of foodgrains production during the last two or three years. The country was not given the correct position. That is the position. Not only that, about the GNP for last year a quick estimate was made in February and it was said that there will be an increase of 4.5 per cent. Generally the GNP figures are available by August. But the figures for last year have not been given. 'Commerce' has estimated that there has been an increase of only 1.5 per cent. I am saying this because in the Gross National Product, agriculture plays an important part. Fifty per cent of the production consists of agriculture. This is how we have been fed on wrong figures, wrong statistics and wrong estimates and the country is being fooled. The Reserve Bank Annual Report came in July. It says that the GNP is likely to be something less than 4 per cent, but "something" has not been defined (*Time-bell*) Five minutes more, Sir.

I do not know how we are going to meet the increased demand of fertilisers. There is complete lack of co-ordination between the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Foreign Trade and the Department of Economic Affairs. Import agreements were recently arrived at by Mr. L. N. Mishra with some East European countries. Balance of trade was done but the attempt to get fertilisers was not there. We are advising Ceylon in building fertiliser plants, but we are not building fertiliser plants ourselves.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The East European countries have failed. They are not supplying fertilisers.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: That is right. Then how are they going to fight drought? Distribution was good in Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat. But in Bihar, it is not working properly and the poor people suffer. In the rural areas, the local politician, the bureaucrat

and the trader are completely in league. I have already said about sugar distribution in the rural areas in the North. The same is the case in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The basic problem is water. One-third of the country is drought-ridden always and only one-sixth of our water is being utilised. I do not want to deal with this now since you have rung the bell. I will take only two points, procurement and distribution. The hon. Minister has said in the statement about procurement:

"Determined efforts to achieve the target are being made and State Governments have been requested to streamline their procurement machineries and take all measures as may be necessary in this behalf".

The Mysore Chief Minister has dropped the idea of procurement of rice. Is it a "determined effort"? At Ahmedabad when I criticised some Chief Ministers they were angry. But I knew what was going to happen. The Mysore Chief Minister has gone back on the resolution of the Congress Party on procurement and distribution. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister is trying to follow what our Jan Sangh friends were advising here—levy for the foodgrain dealer. And they are putting the same foodgrain dealers who have been making money, who are minting money as agents. The same way the Gujarat Chief Minister is doing. The Gujarat Chief Minister has said a very interesting thing. He said the procurement job would not be a success in the face of the drought situation. While speaking of other Chief Ministers, he said that no State in the country was over-keen to implement the decision. Are you trying to befool the people of India? May I know from the honourable Minister about the correct position? He also belongs to the same party as I do. Does he know the seriousness of the situation? Can he say what the Chief Ministers are going to do? The whole policy adopted by the Congress with great fervour at Ahmedabad is going to be sabotaged by the Chief Ministers. What action are you going to take...

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Rajasthan) Remove them.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: In April-May the situation is going to be difficult. Even now the zonal system has not been properly implemented. There should be cordoning off all the zones where there is surplus production from scarce areas so that the prices in those areas do not rise. I will not like to refer to the various statements made by the various States. Who is going to cordon off them? There does not seem to be any policy. The present distribution system has failed. What quantity are you going to procure? Last year the target for procurement was 6.5 million tons of wheat but we procured only 5 million tons. We could not procure the full-targeted rice. How are you going to procure now? I say there seems to be a complete paralysis in the minds of the State Chief Ministers. How are you going to energize them? How are you going to see that they do not fail? The people of the States, the people of India, have been looking forward to you for relief. This is a big warning for next year. There is a big challenge to face next year on which depends the success or failure of the State Governments or our party.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, श्री कृष्ण कान्त, कुलकर्णी जी और उनके मित्र श्री सरदेसाई जी सबकी चतुराई की मैं दाद देना चाहता हूँ। श्रेय-श्रेय तो उनको और किसी बात में विफलता होती है तो उसका दोष जनसंघ को। मुझे आश्चर्य होता है, यही कृष्ण कान्त और कुलकर्णी जी हरी क्रान्ति के गीत गाते थे। फसल अच्छी हो गई तो सारा श्रेय इन्दिरा गांधी को, इन्दिरा गांधी के नेतृत्व के अन्दर हरी क्रान्ति कर दी और इस साल फसल खराब हो गई तो...

श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी: माथुर साहब सुनिए। हमारी दृष्टि मेलेक्टिव है, आपकी दृष्टि यलो है। हम अच्छी चीज को अच्छा बोलते हैं और आपको सब यलो यलो ही दिखाई देता है तो हम क्या करें।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: इस साल फसल खराब हो गई तो सारा का सारा दोष इन्द्र भगवान का बता रहे हैं। झगड़ा इन्दिरा गांधी और इन्द्र भगवान के बीच में है, किसका कसूर है हमें पता नहीं।

श्री सरदेसाई इससे भी आगे बढ़ गए। वे कहते हैं कि चीजों के दाम और अनाज के दाम जो बढ़े उसमें भी सी आई ए आ गई। श्री कृष्ण कान्त ने अहमदाबाद में एक प्रस्ताव पास कराया था किसी प्रकार और अब वह प्रस्ताव लागू नहीं हो रहा है—अनाज तो है नहीं—स्वयं मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि विभिन्न राज्यों के अन्दर जितना अकाल है उसको देखते हुए अनाज नहीं है। अनाज नहीं है, प्रोक्योरमेंट नहीं है, अनाज का सरकार व्यापार नहीं कर सकती, मुख्य मंत्री जानते हैं कि वे सफल नहीं हो सकते अनाज के व्यापार के अन्दर तो दोष दे रहे हैं ब्यूरोक्रैट्स को। मुझे कृष्ण कान्तजी की बात पर आश्चर्य हुआ, उन्होंने कहा कि मैसूर के मुख्य मंत्री और मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री जनसंघ से सलाह करके वहां पर अनाज का राष्ट्रीयकरण नहीं कर रहे, व्यापार नहीं कर रहे। इससे बड़ी हास्यास्पद बात क्या हो सकती है कांग्रेस के लिए। दुमही बातें करना, अपनी पराजय स्वीकार करना, पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं की विफलता का दोष दूसरों पर डालना, इससे ज्यादा हास्यास्पद बात दूसरी नहीं हो सकती। आज अकाल है और अकाल की विभीषिका, जितनी बताई गई है और जो माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने स्टेटमेंट दिया है, उससे कहीं ज्यादा है। महाराष्ट्र के सम्बन्ध में जो कुलकर्णी जी ने कहा वह सब मैं मानता हूँ, लेकिन इससे ज्यादा ठकौसला क्या हो सकता है—हमको

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

महाराष्ट्र के सम्बन्ध में रिपोर्ट मिली— कि महाराष्ट्र के मुख्य मंत्री ने आल पार्टी कमेटी बनाई अकाल के लिए, हमें बड़ी प्रसन्नता हुई, हमारे सदस्य भी उसके अन्दर गए, 5 करोड़ रुपए एकत्रित करने की बात की गई कि अकाल के लिए 5 करोड़ रुपए चाहिए। और उस के बाद जब राशि एकत्रित हुई तो वहां के मुख्य मंत्री ने कहा कि इस में से ढाई करोड़ रुपये नेहरू स्टेडी सिकल को दिये जायेंगे। यह बात कहां तक सही है।

श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी : यह गलत बात है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : यह बात सही है। अकाल के लिए आल पार्टी कमेटी बनी और इस के लिए उस को कान्फीडेंस में नहीं लिया गया और अकाल फंड के रुपये को अकाल के लिए खर्च न कर के कांग्रेस के लिए मुख्य मंत्री ने खर्च किया। अगर इस बात को आप गलत बताते हैं तो आप इस की जानकारी कराइयें।

श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी : आप पोलिटिकली मोटिवेटेड बात बोलते हैं। वह पैसा दो दो पैसा कर के अकाल के लिए ही जमा किया गया था और उसी में खर्च भी हुआ।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : उस जमा किये हुए पैसे को नेहरू स्टेडी सिकल के लिए दिया गया था नहीं मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ। वहां की कमेटी में इस बात के लिए एतराज भी उठाया गया था कि वह डम के बारे में जांच करें। मैं चाहता हूँ कि स्वयं माननीय मंत्री जी इस के बारे में जांच करें, मैं आप की जांच में संतुष्ट नहीं हूँ। और जहां तक आप

कहते हैं कि यह राजनीतिक सवाल है तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज के अकाल में राजनीति भी एक बहुत प्रमुख चीज है। शिन्दे साहब ने जो स्टेडी टीम भेजी है विभिन्न राज्यों में, वह विभिन्न राज्यों का दौरा कर रही है और उस की यह रिपोर्ट है कि अकाल राहत के लिए जितने काम खोले जाते हैं या खोले गये हैं उन में इस बात का ध्यान नहीं रखा गया कि अकाल का सदा के लिए निवारण हो, या स्थायी रूप से उस का कोई निदान निकाला जाये। अकाल के क्षेत्रों में पोलिटिकली मोटिवेटेड काम होते हैं। केवल जनसंघ वालों का ही दृष्टिकोण ऐसा नहीं है बल्कि शिन्दे साहब द्वारा बनाई गयी जो कमेटी है, ऐसा उस का कहना है कि प्रति वर्ष अकाल पड़ते हैं और उस का कारण यह है कि अकाल के निवारण के लिए, उस को रोकने के लिए जितना रुपया सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट प्रति वर्ष खर्च करती है उस का सदुपयोग नहीं होता है। शिन्दे साहब इस साल अकाल के लिए कितना रुपया देंगे इस को वह स्वयं बतलायेंगे, अभी पूरा पूरा असेसमेंट उस का उन के सामने नहीं है, किन्तु कल ही अखबारों में खबर आयी है कि सेटर की स्टेडी टीम घूम रही है और राजस्थान की सरकार ने ही 80 करोड़ रुपया मांगा है। उस को शायद आप उस से भी ज्यादा देंगे क्योंकि वहां अकाल की परिस्थिति है और यह मानवता का प्रश्न है और उस के लिए आप को रुपया देना ही पड़ेगा, लेकिन मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की कोई निश्चित योजना इस के लिए है या नहीं। यदि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की स्टेडी टीम कह दे कि अकाल राहत कार्यों में हम को संतोष नहीं है, जो रुपया खर्च हुआ है उस का सदुपयोग नहीं हुआ तो क्या अकाल का स्थायी

रूप से निदान हो इस के लिए कोई योजना नहीं बनायेगे? अपने देश में प्रति वर्ष अकाल पड़ता है और यह हमारे और आप के बस की बात नहीं है। यह न आप के बस की बात है और न हमारे बस की बात है। मानसून समय पर नहीं आता तो अकाल आयेगा ही और हमारे देश में यह खरीफ की फसल बिल्कुल मानसून पर ही निर्भर करती है। इसलिए अकाल तो आ ही सकता है, लेकिन क्या इस अकाल के स्थायी रूप से निवारण के लिए आज हमारे पास कोई योजना है? चाहे वह महाराष्ट्र में हो, चाहे वह गुजरात में हो, राजस्थान में हो या बिहार में हो, बाकी स्टेट्स में तो पोजिशन ईज डाउन हो रही है, लेकिन यह चार स्टेट्स जो कानिकनी एफेक्टेड एरियाज हैं, उन में आप इस साल दो सौ करोड़ रुपया खर्च करेंगे और अकेले राजस्थान में पौने दो अरब रुपया खर्च हो चुका है अकाल के नाम पर, रिलीफ वर्क्स पर, तो वहाँ एक मील की सड़क पर 13 लाख रुपया खर्च हो गया और आज भी वह सड़क मौजूद नहीं है। प्रति वर्ष वह सड़क वहाँ बनती है और अकाल में मजदूरों को काम दिया जाता है। सड़क की मिट्टी इधर से उधर डालने का काम ही अगर अकाल रिलीफ वर्क है तो आज यह सारे देश में हो रहा है। आज देश में जिम प्रकार की विभीषिका है अगर हम को उस का निवारण करना है तो मैं कहूँगा कि आप के पीछे जो कांग्रेस के सदस्य बैठे हैं आप उन की पालिटिक्स में मत जाइये। आज वास्तव में स्थिति यह है कि देश में अनाज नहीं है, वहाँ अनाज पैदा नहीं हुआ है और अगर यह स्थिति है तो फिर आप प्रोक्वोरमेंट कहा से करेंगे। इस के लिए केवल

व्यापारियों को और ब्यूरोक्रैट्स को दोष देने से ही काम नहीं चलेगा। आप वस्तुस्थिति पर जाइये और सोचिये कि अकाल का निदान कैसे हो सकता है। जो सेंटर की टीम है उस की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर आप पैसा देंगे, तो आप मेहरबानी कर के जो रुपया सेंक्शन करें वह उन कामों के लिए करें और वह रुपया उन कामों में खर्च हो कि जिन से अकाल का स्थायी रूप से निदान संभव हो सके। ट्यूब वेल्स के लिए पैसा दिया जाये, यह ठीक है। रिग्स भी खरीदे जाये तो ईमानदारी में खरीदे जायें। राजस्थान में पिछले अकाल में 4 रिग्स खरीदे गये, मंत्री जी को पता नहीं कि कैसे रिग्स खरीदे जाने चाहिए जब कि एक रिग की कीमत 5 लाख रुपया होती है। उसी हिसाब से उम का कमीशन भी होता है, लेकिन वह वहाँ खरीद लिये गये और आज भी वे वहाँ बेकार पड़े हैं।

श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी : यह तो ह्यूमन प्राबलम है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : यह ह्यूमन प्राबलम नहीं, कांग्रेस प्राबलम है। अकाल में जितना भ्रष्टाचार हुआ है उतना कभी नहीं हुआ।

श्री ए० जी० कुलकर्णी : यह ड्राउट सब कांग्रेस प्राबलम है।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : इट इज योर क्रियेशन।

मैं, सभापति महोदय, एक बात और कहना चाहूँगा कि आज माननीय मंत्री महोदय इकार करेंगे कि अकाल के कारण कहीं मृत्यु नहीं हुई। अभी मेरे पास राजस्थान में पोकरण से तार आया है, इसमें लिखा है कि पोकरण में अकाल से 60 व्यक्ति और हजारों पशु भूख से मरे। स्थिति सिकटपूर्ण है

(**श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर**)

और शीघ्र सहायता की आवश्यकता है। महाराष्ट्र की भी रिपोर्ट है कि वहां पर भी 5 व्यक्ति मरे हैं। बिहार में एक लड़का जो भूख से मरा उसको तिरंगे झंडे में समेट करके उसका जलूस निकाला गया। बस्ती में 12 आदमी मर गये। आंध्र प्रदेश में 80 व्यक्ति मर गये। किन्तु आज सरकार का कहना है कि अकाल से आदमी नहीं मरे। मैंने अपनी आंखों से अकाल से आदमी मरते देखा है। पिछले साल जो अकाल राजस्थान प्रदेश में पड़ा था, वहां 30 हजार आदमी अकाल से मरे, वहां पर कम से कम 10 लाख गायें मरी और स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री वहां दौरे पर पधारी और हमने मरने वालों की सूचियां उनको दीं। गवर्नमेंट ने स्टेटमेंट दिया है कि अकाल से एक भी नहीं मरा। अब एक बीमारी का नाम बता दिया कि गस्ट्रो इन्फेक्शन की बीमारी फैल गई। जैसा कि सर देसाई जी ने भी कहा कि जो भी मरता है उसको कोई न कोई बीमारी होती है, कोई न कोई कारण उसका होगा। लेकिन आज ईमानदारी की बात है कि हिन्दुस्तान के सारे प्रान्तों के अन्दर—महाराष्ट्र के अन्दर, बिहार के अन्दर, यू० पी० के अन्दर, राजस्थान के अन्दर, आंध्र प्रदेश के अन्दर—भूख से लोग मरने लग गये हैं। पहले भी मरे हैं और अब मरने प्रारम्भ हो गये हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने यहां पर स्टेटमेंट दे दिया कि अकाल से नहीं मरे। तो हम कहना चाहते हैं कि अकाल से 30 हजार लोग मरे, 10 लाख गायें मरी। केवल एक बीमारी का नाम देकर आप चलना चाहें कि अमुक बीमारी से लोग मर गये हैं तो इससे काम नहीं चलेगा। इसलिए आज सदन के भी सदस्यों का कर्तव्य है कि हम सरकार की ज्यादा

आलोचना में नहीं पड़ें, सरकार के जो प्रयत्न हो रहे हैं उनके अन्दर हम सहयोग दें। जितनी भी रिलीफ सोसाइटियां हैं उन सब का कर्तव्य होना चाहिए कि सब लोग सामूहिक रूप से काम करें। जिस प्रकार की अकाल की विभीषिका है उसमें हम राजनीतिक फायदा उठाने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। हम दूसरों की आलोचना में नहीं फंसें। हम आलोचना करके किसी के मत्थ पर दोष मढ़ दें कि मानसून नहीं आया। यह तो हर साल फेल होने वाला है। एक साल से, दो साल से, तीन साल से मानसून का यह क्रम है कि यह फेल होता है। इस नाते से इस खरीफ के मौसम के बाद भी हिन्दुस्तान में कुछ ऐसे इलाके हैं जहां अकाल पड़ते हैं। इस नाते से आप कम से कम इस प्रकार का डिजीजन लें कि जिस प्रकार के इलाकों में आप काम करने वाले हैं, उनमें स्थाई रिलीफ के काम भी हों और आगे आने वाले समय के अन्दर, इस खरीफ की फसल के बाद भी लोगों को सिंचाई के साधन उपलब्ध हो सकें और जो आपका रुपया लगने वाला है उसका सदुपयोग हो। जिस प्रकार से भूख से मरने के समाचार आ रहे हैं, यह ठीक है कि आपने फेयर प्राइस शाप्स बढा दी हैं, लेकिन फेयर प्राइस शाप्स के खुलने मात्र में भूख से मरना बन्द हो जाएगा, ऐसा नहीं लगता। लोग मर रहे हैं। आज तो जिस प्रकार की स्थिति है वह अधिक भयंकर स्थिति नहीं है, शिन्धे साहब जानते हैं कि आगामी आने वाले महीनों में स्थिति ज्यादा विकट होगी। आज भी महाराष्ट्र के अन्दर गायों को लोग निकाल रहे हैं, और निकाल कर छोड़ रहे हैं कि जिसको चाहे ले लो, लेकिन आने वाले तीन चार महीनों में जिस प्रकार की स्थिति होगी, हम तो अकाल के

इलाके से आते हैं, मेने देखा है कि फरवरी, मार्च अप्रैल के बाद मई, जून में जिस प्रकार की स्थिति पैदा होने वाली है वह और भी भयंकर होगी। आने वाले समय के लिए भी अभी कुछ दीर्घकालीन योजनाएँ बनाये जिससे पूरे वर्ष में हम अकाल से निबट सकें। इतना ही मेरा निवेदन है।

SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN (Mysore) Sir, I rise with a sad heart to speak on this motion. The sadness is on two counts. Firstly, it is because I am speaking on behalf of the suffering humanity in the northern parts of Mysore State. When I see their conditions, I really become very sad. Secondly, the sadness is there because there seems to be a lack of full realisation on the part of the Central Government to assess the sufferings of the affected people.

Sir, the statement which is before the House, on which we are speaking, is rather, if I may be pardoned by the hon. Minister, a bit cryptic. It does not give a full picture of the country and the States that it comprises.

What are the factors that have to be considered during famine conditions? First and foremost is the food situation. Secondly, the fodder situation. Thirdly, drinking water facility. Fourthly, the irrigation facilities, to what extent they can be provided. Fifthly, providing employment to the agricultural labour.

So far as the fodder situation in the country is concerned, the statement is silent on that. The Minister should have taken some pains to assess as to what the situation of fodder in the whole country is. Even the earlier statement that was made before this House about three months back was itself silent on this point.

Another thing that should have been mentioned in such a statement is what is the usual labour potential available in each district or in each State, how far it has been put out of job and to what extent we have been able to employ them. On this vital point also the statement is silent.

Sir, coming to the conditions in the northern part of the Mysore State, I would just like to make a request to the hon. Minister to consider one thing. He was kind enough to send a team to Gulbarga in the first week of September to make an assessment of the situation. The conditions then were different from the conditions now obtaining. We expected that in the last days of September or probably in the month of October, there would be widespread rains in the northern parts of Mysore State. But, to our misfortune, these parts have not witnessed any rains whatsoever. The conditions in the districts of Bidar, Gulbarga, Bijapur, Dharwar and Belgaum are appalling. Sir, I come from Bidar district, the northern most part of the Mysore State. Hundreds and hundreds of people have migrated from that place to other places. It has been mentioned by other hon. Members that the cost of bullocks, when they are taken to the bazar, is offered at Rs 8 or Rs 10 per cow or per bull. After an association with the animals for years together, after having nurtured them, after having nursed them, the farmers feel a sort of inseparable attachment towards them. In a number of cases it has happened that they do 'puja' of these animals, bow down before them or prostrate before them, and then weep and say, "We are unable to give you shelter. We are unable to give you fodder. If we take you to the bazar butchers will take you to the slaughter house. We are helpless." Then they would leave the animals in the open near some temple and go away. Such are the conditions. How are we going to meet this situation? On a number of occasions we addressed our problems to the Government of Mysore and to the Central Government also. Nothing has been done. That is why I say that if you do not speak of fodder situation in the country there must be something wrong behind it.

My friend, Dr. Nagappa Alva, who is sitting on the other side of the House, just now spoke on the motion. But with due respect to his personality, I think he, being a doctor by profession, it is his practice to magnify the effects of the disease when he comes across it. Having seen the disease of famine in the body of the nation, he has tried to magnify it. But I do not deny that the conditions are bad.

DR K NAGAPPA ALVA What is the point I have magnified? Please

SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN With due deference to the Hon'ble Member, the number of persons who have been shown to have migrated from the region is on the high side. I am sure it is very difficult to make a correct assessment.

DR K NAGAPPA ALVA I said over one lakh of people have left the State. I made an appeal to the Minister to send a team there to see whether these things are correct. I appealed to the Central Government to find out the truth of the situation.

SHRI MAQSOOD ALI KHAN Sir, I do not want to enter into any controversy about the correctness of the figures. But it is true that conditions are very appalling. I would rather make a request to the hon. Minister that it is high time a Central team is sent to those parts.

It is said in the statement that in the month of October rains were received all over Mysore State. But the Mysore State has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture on the 7th of this month in which the rainfall conditions have been described. I would request the hon. Minister to go through that letter. The letter is very conservative in its estimate. For instance, I will just refer to one paragraph in it. The hon. Minister has said that there is a scheme in operation under which 17 lakhs of persons who are infirm and aged are being fed out of gratuity in the whole of the country. But so far as Mysore State is concerned, not a single infirm or aged person is being fed. The assessment that they have made is that there are about 5 lakhs of persons who will come under this category. And even granting that five per cent of these persons will have to be fed, the expenditure will be round about Rs. 80 lakhs for five months. Mysore has taken 5 per cent of this number to begin with. You can imagine how conservative the State is in its assessment. This is true of every item of work that has to be taken up in famine conditions in the State. If the Hon'ble Minister goes through the letter of Mysore Government, he will be satisfied that Mysore has not

indulged in unnecessarily making high demands. The State has given a list of works that are to be taken up. In this connection it has been rightly pointed out by another hon. Member of this House that what they do in the name of relief work is to take earth from one place and put it at another place and get wages from the Government. It is all a wasteful expenditure. Why not take up minor irrigation works? Why not take up the digging of channels? The Mysore Government had made a request to the Centre that channel work on Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Upper Krishna and Karanja should be taken up. These works are of a permanent nature. If funds are given to the State, they will be able to build up these permanent assets. But I do not know what comes in the way of the Centre. Today an amount of Rs. 28 crores is needed to get Mysore out of its difficulties at least for another three or four months. The total claim that has been put forward by the State Government is of the order of about Rs. 28 crores.

I take this opportunity to request the hon. Minister that the request of the Mysore State to provide this amount immediately may be considered. On behalf of the suffering humanity I would make a further appeal to the hon. Minister that a Central team may be sent to the northern parts of Karnataka so as to assess the situation as it is obtaining at present. Both the monsoons—North-Western and North Eastern—have failed us and we are in a very bad condition. With these words, Sir, I take my seat.

SHRI N. G. GORAY Sir, had I known beforehand that my friends Shri Kulkarni, Shri Kripkan Kant and others from the Congress benches were going to speak the way they did I would not have moved my amendment at all. I would have straightway given notice of a Resolution to condemn the policy of the Government. The situation is really so grave that words fail to describe it adequately. There are not two opinions about it. The Finance Minister while speaking in the Lok Sabha had described it as very grave and he had also said that this gravity will not be confined only to the rising of prices but deeper calamity may overtake us. Sir, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra also has described

the situation in nearly 15 Districts of Maharashtra as very grave. My friends here who spoke before me have given instances of how grave the situation is and how acute is the suffering of the people. I would only like to add this that after all we have not as yet felt the full impact of the crisis. As the winter passes into summer the full impact will be felt and we shall have to deal with this situation not only till the advent of the next monsoon season but till we get the next *kharif* crop. So nearly eight to ten months ahead are hard days and it is from that point of view that I wanted to deal with this problem.

So far as the short term measures are concerned, the Minister in his statement before the House has given us a fairly comprehensive picture. Fair price shops will be there, foodgrains will be rushed to the localities where they are most needed, if necessary foodgrains will be imported. All these he has said. Now the inadequacies of these measures have been pointed out that the fair price shops may be there but they are not functioning properly, there may be relief works but they are not enough. These shortcomings can be rectified provided there is a constant drive, constant guidance, constant vigilance, constant survey on the part of the Centre and that is why last when I spoke on this subject I had suggested that the whole situation being so grave and as it covered more than one State and as it concerned more than one Ministry, there ought to be a Central authority to deal with this problem. I do not know whether that point has been taken. I hope that while replying to the debate the Minister concerned will tell us something about their thinking on this particular point.

But what I am concerned mostly is the long-term point of view. The single fact that with the failure of one year's monsoon our entire economy has been thrown out of gear shows that we were suffering from a terrible complacency. Sir, you have been sitting in this House along with us and you must have heard what sort of statements we were given by the Food Minister and other Ministers. I perfectly remember that when there was a good crop year before last we were told that we have passed the crisis, we have mastered this particular problem of food

production, there is no question of importing foodgrains and we were told, if you remember that possibly we may be in a position to export food. Right on the heels of their statement comes this

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE Goray Sahib, we did it

SHRI N. G. GORAY Then that was wrong. You shouted before you were out of the woods. Now today the position is, that is what the press says because we have not been informed by the Government, that some of our agents have already gone to Argentina and other places and they are trying to find out if food is there. Now the only country which is in a position to give us bulk supplies is America. Neither Russia nor China nor anybody else is in a position to give us enough food. You will be surprised that even after 50 years of Communist rule in Russia and 20 years of Communist rule in China, it is they who have to go to America and get food supplies from them. What does that mean? What is the moral of that? So far as agriculture is concerned, it is a very sensitive economic factor. Its production is sophisticated. It is not as if you can weigh your inputs and then expect that so much of output will be there. It is not possible because it involves the labour and skill of millions of farmers and, therefore, I am not blaming the Government. So many other Governments have tried and failed. But I would once again warn the Government that simply because they have succeeded on one front, i.e. the wheat front, they should not think that they have succeeded. Let them not be in a hurry and think that so far as the food production is concerned, we have passed the crisis. Nothing of the kind. There is an article appearing in today's Times of India which was referred to by my hon. friend, Mr. Kulkarni. There the writer has very pointedly tried to show that if you take the period of nearly ten years and calculate the average then you will find that the increase in food production works out to only 1.8 per cent and not more than that. Our population is increasing at the rate of 2.2 per cent. The outcome is that while we are thinking that the food production has grown phenomenally, it is nothing of

[Shri N G Goray]

the kind He has warned us that it is not enough to make progress on the wheat front, but also on all other fronts like rice, pulses, oilseeds, etc All these fronts will have to be watched carefully and progress will have to be registered

I come to my next point and I would like to point out to the Food Minister that it is not only his Ministry that can deal with this problem I find that every Ministry is trying to solve a problem on its own It is not possible The Irrigation Ministry comes in The Communications Ministry comes in The Transport Ministry comes in The Geological Survey *people come in Unless all these* people co-ordinate their activities and feel that this problem has to be dealt with on a war footing it will not be solved I do not look at this problem only from the point of view of relief, only from a short-term point of view I want to look at it from a long-term point of view Our object must be to eliminate the possibility of scarcity or famine in future Is the Government thinking in those terms? I am afraid not I have raised this point here many times I wrote to the Irrigation Minister also I have tried to point out in this House that if you take Maharashtra alone, the Maharashtra Government have informed us and they have stated it in public that in the Godavari basin and the Krishna basin there are nearly 65 irrigation schemes awaiting the sanction of the Central Government Only a few days back I wrote to the Irrigation Minister about one of the schemes that I had in mind, because it is connected with the fortunes of a particular Taluk, which is a chronically scarcity Taluk, viz Shirur What was the reply from Dr Rao? (*Time bell rings*) Sir, I have moved an amendment and I thought you would give me more time The reply was that unless the disputes *ie* the Godavari dispute and the Krishna dispute which had been handed over for arbitration, are solved no scheme can be sanctioned Maharashtra has under irrigation only ten per cent of the total cultivable land and even if all the irrigation facilities or potentials are exploited it will not go beyond 25 per cent If that is true, then how long are you going to wait for the decision of the arbitrator? Is there no other machinery by which you can hasten

this process knowing full well that famine is staring us in the face? Even now, if you stand on formalities and say that the Krishna waters dispute or the Godavari waters dispute has to be settled, it will take another four or five years' time Till that time what happens The same is the case with the Narmada river dispute This has been outstanding for 15 years And the Irrigation Minister himself has admitted that the potential of the Narmada is so tremendous that perhaps one single scheme alone may be able to wipe out our food deficit Now, why is it kept waiting? It is because the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh and the Gujarat must come to an understanding Are you going to leave it to the whims of the Chief Ministers of these States or is the Central Government going to intervene and say to them If there is no irrigation in Maharashtra or in Andhra Pradesh or in Mysore or in Madhya Pradesh or in Gujarat, we will have to go round the world with a begging bowl in hand But no, we are not going to do that And unless you solve these disputes within the next two or three months, the Government will give a decision and the works will be started?" Unless that particular attitude is taken it will not be possible to deal with the situation Three years of good monsoon and two years of bad monsoon and again we are in the same soup

Therefore, I would like to know from him whether, in view of this crisis which has shattered all our hopes, there is any plan with him After the Bangla incident we had built very great hopes we were thinking that the take off stage was there, the whole nation was marching forward with more confidence and we should be reaching our target But another blow came The monsoon failed Now we do not know whether there is anything of the Fourth Plan remaining We do not know whether it will be possible for us to undertake the Fifth Plan, or whether the resources are available

I am not saying that the whole responsibility should be thrown on the shoulders of Mr Shinde But Mr Shinde should convey to the Cabinet that this particular situation is fraught with such dangerous possibilities that not only the

people will die, the cattle will die, we shall beg for food from other countries, but also the entire Fifth Plan will be jeopardised. This is the grim prospect that faces us.

Therefore, I look at it from the point of view of long-term measures to be taken. Only today the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has said that so far as the smaller relief works are concerned, they have also finished them. And he is coming to Delhi to plead with the Government that more long-term works should be undertaken like the building of the Konkan Railway or other railways or the building of dams. What is going to be the response of the Central Government to these schemes? It is not only the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, but other Chief Ministers also may like to have such things. If you want to build a two-mile road, it is finished in 10 or 15 days, and what next? And this crisis is going to be with you for the next 10 or 12 months. If this is admitted then you will have to take long-term measures which will see the people through this crisis and also give them employment, some bread and water; at the same time it will build an infrastructure which will take you to a higher level in the next Five Year Plan. From that point of view, I wanted the Food Minister to look at this problem. I have made certain suggestions. He should reply to these various suggestions. And I would be very much obliged if he can give me some blue-print of the long-term plan which he has in mind which will deal not only with this drought problem or this particular situation but also eliminate drought altogether and assure the people that they need not be afraid of drought in future.

श्री पंडरीनाथ सीतारामजी पाटील (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, अगर कोई दूसरा विषय इस सभा के सामने होता तो शायद मैं न बोलता; क्योंकि मेरी तबीयत कुछ नासाद है, लेकिन आज देश के सामने लाखों लोगों के ऊपर और जानवरों के ऊपर सूखे का भारी प्राणान्तक संकट आ पड़ा है, ऐसे समय में अपना कर्तव्य समझ कर मैं कुछ थोड़ी परिस्थिति आपके सामने रखता हूँ।

नैसे तो हमारे देश में हर साल कहीं न कहीं सूखा पड़ा करता है। देश बहुत बड़ा है और सर्वत्र माकूल इरिगेशन की कोई व्यवस्था हमारे देश में नहीं है। सारे देश में 20 फीसदी इरिगेशन के द्वारा हमारे देश की खेती होती है और जिस प्रदेश में मैं रहता हूँ वहाँ महाराष्ट्र में 6 फीसदी, उसमें भी—मराठवाड़ा और विदर्भ—वहाँ तो दो ही फीसदी खेती पानी के द्वारा है। उसी इलाके में इस वर्ष भारी अवर्षण पड़ा है। वहाँ आदमियों और जानवरों की जो दशा है कि उसका वर्णन शब्दों से करना मुश्किल बात है। मैं तो यह कहूँगा कि जब कभी हमारे ऊपर सूखे का संकट आता है, सभा गृह में सदस्य और सरकार अपनी अपनी तरफ से कुछ न कुछ बोला करते हैं, लेकिन ऐसे हमारे भावों में इसका बन्दोबस्त होने वाला नहीं है। मैं तो बड़े आग्रह से सरकार से कहूँगा कि इमरजेंसी का सवाल समझ कर, जैसी परिस्थिति युद्धकाल में होती है, सारा देश और सरकार की शक्ति को एक करके हम लड़ते हैं, वैसे ही हमें दो साल, चार साल या पांच साल की सिंचाई योजनाएँ बनानी चाहिए, ताकि हमारे देश में नहर का पानी फिरे, जगह-जगह डैम हम बनायें और छोटे से छोटे और बड़े से बड़े गावों में पानी पहुंचा सकें, छोटे छोटे डैम बनायें तो भी सिंचाई का बड़ा भारी काम हो सकता है। कुछ इलाकों में बड़ी नदियाँ नहीं हैं, लेकिन छोटी छोटी नदियाँ हैं, उन पर थोड़े खर्चे से डैम बना सकते हैं, उनसे खेतों में पानी ले जा सकते हैं। ऐसी योजनाएँ हाथ में लेनी चाहिए, ऐसा मैं आग्रह के साथ कहूँगा और हमेशा के लिए जो सूखे का संकट है, वह हमेशा के लिए नष्ट हो सकता है।

[श्री पंडरीनाथ सीतारामजी पाटील]

मैं जिस इलाके से आता हूँ वहाँ का आखो-देखा हाल आज आपको बताना है। मैं विदर्भ में बुलढाना जिले में रहता हूँ। मेरे जिले की परिस्थिति उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ ठीक है। आधे जिले में तो सूखा पड़ा है और आधे जिले में सूखा तो नहीं है, लेकिन सुविधा भी नहीं है। कुछ फौडर तो हुआ है और कुछ ज्वार की फसल हुई है, भुट्टे में आधा बीज भर गया है और आधा खाली है। कुछ लोगों को खाना मिलेगा और जानवरों को फौडर जरूर मिलेगा। वहाँ के कुछ इलाकों में ऐसी अवस्था है कि बोने के बाद वहाँ बारिश नहीं हुई कुछ इलाकों में तो बोनी भी नहीं हुई है और खेत सब खाली पड़े हुए हैं, जैसे कि अहमदनगर, शोल्हापुर उसके बाद नान्देड बीड, उसमानाबाद, परभनी, औरंगाबाद, ऐसे जिले हैं और यहाँ परिस्थिति बुलढाना और अकोला जिले के इलाके मराठवाड़ा से लगे हुए हैं वहाँ भी अकाल पड़ा हुआ है। वहाँ मैंने पिछले हफ्ते अपने गाँव में देखा है कि वहाँ हमारे गाँव से एक हाईवे जो मध्य प्रदेश का जाता है, उस रोड से रोजाना जानवरों के जस्थ के जस्थ, किसान लोग वहाँ दक्षिण से आकर उत्तर की दिशा में ले जा रहे हैं। यानी मध्य प्रदेश की तरफ। अब यह बताइये कि वह किसके जानवर हैं। इतने जानवर एक किसान के ना होते नहीं हैं। दरअसल ऐसी बात है कि बहुत से किस्में ऐसे देखे कि कुछ जानवरों के मालिक यह कहते हैं कि हमारी यह गाय है, हम इसको दान में दे देते हैं, इसको दुनिया भर में कहीं भी ले जावो, कहीं खिलावो, यह तुम्हारी हो गई। सिर्फ यह गाय की ही बात नहीं है, भेड़ है, बकरी है, तरह तरह

के जानवर हैं। अभी एक सदस्य ने कहा है कि सात रुपये में या आठ रुपये में गाय बिकती है, मैं तो कहता हूँ कि हमारे यहाँ तो मुफ्त में मिल रही है, गाय ही नहीं, भैंस, बकरियाँ, सब वहाँ मुफ्त में मिल रही हैं क्योंकि लोग उसे देकर खुश हो जाते हैं कि चलो यह हमारे सामने तो नहीं मरेगी, फिर हमारी आखों के पीछे मरे या जिन्दा रहे, कुछ भी हो। यह परिस्थिति जानवरों की है। आदमियों का तो कुछ ठीक है। जैसा कि एक सम्माननीय सदस्य थे बताया कि किर्मी प्रदेश में 40 आदमी मरे या 80 आदमी मरे हैं, परन्तु आदमियों के मरने की बात मैंने अपने प्रदेश में तो नहीं सुनी, क्योंकि हमारी प्रादेशिक सरकार आदमियों के लिये जगह जगह पैसा खर्च कर रही है, किसानों और मजदूरों को काम दे रही है। लेकिन मेरा अंदाजा है कि आगे के आठ महीनों तक उन मजदूरों और किसानों को जो काम देना है उसके लिये इतना पैसा महाराष्ट्र सरकार नहीं खर्च कर पायेगी, इतना पैसा मजदूरों को और किसानों को महाराष्ट्र सरकार अब शायद नहीं दे पायेगी और मजदूरी में इतने लोगों को वह लगा रखेगी या न रख पायेगी, उसमें मुझे बड़ा शक है; क्योंकि पंद्रह दिन के पहले 16 लाख आदमी मूखे के काम पर जगह जगह जो कैम्प खुले हैं, उनमें भर्ती हो चुके थे और आज उनकी संख्या 25 लाख तक चली गयी होगी। सम्भव है कि इस साल के अन्त तक वह 50 लाख तक पहुँच जायेगी। कोई इसमें अतिशयोक्ति की बात नहीं है।

(Time bell rings)

अच्छा मैं एक मिनट में समाप्त कर देता हूँ। वैसे महाराष्ट्र की जो जनसंख्या है वह 4 करोड़ की है, लेकिन 50 लाख लोगों को कैम्प में मजदूरी करने के लिये

जाना पड़ेगा और इतना खर्च करना प्रादेशिक सरकार के लिये मुश्किल है। तो इस मवाल के ऊपर केन्द्रीय सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये और विशेष करके जानवरों के चारे की ओर ध्यान देना चाहिये। मेरा कहना है कि महाराष्ट्र के उत्तर में सतपुड़ा पर्वत पड़ा हुआ है, वह एक बहुत बड़ा पहाड़ है, वहाँ जगह जगह पानी का भंडार है पानी भरा हुआ है, वहाँ पर फौडर भी खूब है, तो वहाँ जानवरों के लिये कैम्प खोल दिये जायें और गांव गांव से ग्राम पंचायतों के द्वारा, पंचायत समितियों के द्वारा, सरकारी मशीनरी की मदद से, सब लोगों के जानवरों को वहाँ ले जाया जाये। इस प्रकार आज लोगों के जानवर जो मर रहे हैं, कट रहे हैं, वह नहीं मरेगे। अगर ये जानवर मर गये तो फिर किसान अगले साल खेती कैसे करेंगे, जुताई कैसे करेंगे, बुआई कैसे करेंगे। अगर जानवर किसान के पास न हों, तो वह खेती का कोई काम नहीं कर सकता है। तो यह सब ध्यान में रख करके सरकार को अविलम्ब सहायता कार्य का उपाय करना चाहिये। इतना कह कर धन्यवाद देते हुये मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री राम सहाय) श्री
अप्पन। केवल पांच मिनट ले ले। कृपा
करके जल्दी खत्म करें। Only five minutes

SHRI G A APPAN (Tamil Nadu). I will try to finish as soon as possible Mr Vice-Chairman, I should thank my revered good friends like Mr Krishan Kant Mr. Kulkarni and others for bringing an important issue like this before this House to draw the attention of the country, this being the mouthpiece of the whole country Mr Vice-Chairman, the main requirements for a human life are food, shelter and clothing For all these

things what we want is water first No doubt air also should be there So for all these things, water is the main ingredient Without water there can be no habitation, there can be no vegetation, there will be no life This being the case, we are now discussing the question of drought What is drought? Failure of monsoon, failure of rains And that means it will result in the scarcity of water Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink anywhere People say that this question of drought has been discussed on the floor of this House and the other House a number of times every year. But what lesson have the Ministry and the Cabinet taken from the various discussions that took place here? I have been telling this House ever since I came here some five years back that to solve the problem of drought and the after-effects of this drought, join the rivers of the North to the South and the rivers of the West to the East And there was a clamour about money Where is the money? It is a pity For good work you cannot have money For anything prestigious like spreading a favourite language like Hindi, for dumping it on others, you can spend any amount, crores and crores of rupees Is it the way to solve the problems? This Parliament and this Government are the custodians are the trustees of the whole country Instead of spending all your money on spreading Hindi, you had better spent it on water, drinking water You cannot have money for connecting the rivers! I have been telling this House one thing Of course, the Finance Minister was here, the Planning Minister was also here Dr Rao was here First get all the money give all the money that the Irrigation Minister and Agriculture Minister want to tide over drought and flood havoc Then there will be no difficulty in the country When water problem is solved we can get plenty of water, plenty of foodgrains, more foodgrains, more work for common man, more work means more money, more money means a very very happy life, not like a debtor country as we are today, but a prosperous country, as a country richer than countries like Kuwait, America and others Yesterday our honourable Minister, Mr Shinde, was speaking on the radio He is a master in his trade He has been in this field for a number of years and he is discharging his

[Shri G. A. Appan]

duties to our utter satisfaction and very ably. Yesterday when he was answering questions very ably and very scientifically, presenting facts, real facts, stark facts and full facts, there were some people trying to confuse him. Of course, he seems to be a very very big man. I have been telling this august House that we have got plenty of land in this country. I think at least three-fourths of the land that we have in this country is not cultivated. For cultivation we want water. And there is drought. What can we do? For this I have been telling you, connect all the rivers. Once there was so much of desert in Rajasthan. In U.P. it was all a jungle. I tell this House and the Government, why not we take a lesson from Israel, from Jordan? In Israel they have converted a grave, grave, desert into a blossoming green valley. The other day the Ambassador or the representative of Israel in Bombay came to me and we are not able to recognise that country so far. There is not even a single representative from that country here in Delhi.

5 P.M. Suppose we have people from Israel who know the art of reclaiming desert land and making it a fertile area. we could learn a lot from them.

In the current year, people have visited some of the States and the Government have provided Rs. 102 crores just for one year. What is the amount of money that this country has so far spent in connection with drought? So far, all these years, how much loss we have suffered as a result of rain-damage and flood-damage in crops? How much money we have spent so far on relief measures? In terms of lost cattle, how much have we lost? How much of human labour has been lost and how much of man-power has been wasted so far? Therefore, I would say that the Planning Commission and the country as a whole should not hesitate to spend any amount of money on irrigation and that alone can solve this problem of drought once and for all. Every day you are complaining about scarcity of electricity. But do you know in how many houses on the occasions of marriages, electricity is just wasted on decorations? In order to solve the drought situation, you have to

canalise all your capital resources. No doubt we will need thousands and thousands of crores of rupees. If necessary we should not hesitate to borrow money. But before that Government should take a policy decision not to waste money on Ministers' travels by planes etc. We have to curtail all expenditures and then we should invest everything on irrigation. It is a pity that for the last 25 years we could not solve this problem. The Minister was saying the other day that we should import foodgrains. A huge amount of money has already been spent on import of foodgrains and we have spent so much of foreign exchange on this account alone. All these could have been saved. Let the Parliament and particularly the Prime Minister in her birthday celebration this year take a vow to eradicate this drought situation once and for all.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am thankful to all the hon. Members including Shri Appan who have been good enough to participate in this debate. Some hon. Members have made some statements with which perhaps I cannot agree. But all the same, they have made some suggestions. They are very constructive suggestions and in a debate like this, naturally constructive suggestions are extremely helpful to Government of India to formulate their policies and approaches. Many times Members might get a feeling that in spite of their speeches here, Government does not take note of their suggestions. Sir, I may say that whatever suggestions have been made on the floor of this House in this debate, my Ministry will try to analyse them and see to what extent they can be helpful in formulating our policies.

Sir, about the drought situation, here some Members have made some statements that the Government is complacent and that the Government is no longer alive to the gravity of the situation. Now, Sir, as some honourable Members know—and Shri A. G. Kulkarni, when he initiated the debate, mentioned this fact—that I myself come from an area which is perhaps the worst affected area in the country now. I have been, Sir, active in social life for the last thirty years and I have never seen such a difficult time as I have

seen in my own constituency and my district and it is not as though I am myself not aware of the situation or my government is not aware of the difficult situation. The situation is very difficult. But, Sir, ultimately, we have to take a balanced view of the whole thing. For instance, if we look to the situation as it developed this year, that is, at the end of July, I must say and I must tell you frankly that my assessment was that the situation was almost getting desperate. That was the situation in the beginning of August, because rains were failing and in the beginning, monsoon was delayed by about three weeks and everywhere the sowing schedule was upset. Even before that, summer was completely dry and jute crop and other things were affected. Therefore, we thought that we were likely to have a very desperate situation in the future. That was the picture in the beginning. But, later on, as the honourable Members know, that situation changed in a number of States very favourably, for example, in West Bengal, in Orissa, in Bihar, in U.P., etc. There may be some small pockets here and there and they are bound to be there because ours is a vast country. But, in many of these States the situation has improved and improved so much as compared to that period when we thought that we were going to have a very desperate situation. There has been an all-round improvement in the situation. Even today, when we are having this debate, the weather God has been kind and since last night there have been widespread rains, very unusually, from Punjab to Patna and all the wheat-growing areas have received excellent rains and this is bound to have a very favourable impact on the food economy and the wheat economy.

But, Sir, knowledgeable Members know that in the case of agricultural economy nothing is final, nothing is safe, till rains are there and till the grain is there and it reaches the farmer's house. It is so very difficult to make any assessment at all because there are so many imponderables which are involved in agricultural production, as Mr. Goray pointed out. Even then, as the rains are marching ahead, from August to September, from September to October and from October to November, every month we find that the situation is improving. But what has

happened? While the situation is improving in very many parts of the country, there are certain pockets where the intensity is very much as far as the drought situation is concerned and when I compare the situation with that of 1966-67, I find that in 1966-67 the areas which were affected by drought were very large, that is, the whole of Bihar, the whole of Eastern U.P., large parts of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Maharashtra and so on. Very large parts were affected. But this year, the nature of the drought is, as it is today, that the intensity is very much more than what it was in 1966-67. It is confined to certain parts as compared to 1966-67. It is not that the areas are small, but the intensity is confined to relatively smaller areas as compared to 1966-67.

Then, Sir, some honourable Members have been a little unfair both to me and to my Ministry and also to my Government by saying that the Government is just complacent that they have made a wrong assessment of the situation, that they have made a wrong assessment of the food situation and so on. Now, may I appeal to the good sense of the honourable Members and submit a few facts? In 1966-67, when there was this drought how did we face it? We faced it by importing. That year we imported 8½ million tonnes of foodgrains and in 1967 we imported 10½ million tonnes. Now, Mr. Krishan Kant raised certain points. He said that perhaps the Government have been saying that they would import only a few lakhs of tonnes, but gradually they will make it three million tonnes or so.

Sir, I have been making statements honestly and sincerely that our imports are going to be only marginal. As compared to 1966-67, our agricultural and food economy is much better. I would not like to go into the details. You can yourself can draw your own inference. If we had to import 8 or 10 millions in 1966 and if we are in a position to manage the situation today as it is by importing, if this is necessary, 1 million or 1½ millions, do you think that there is no difference whatsoever in the situation of 1966 and 1972? I leave this to your judgment.

[Shri Anna Saheb Shinde]

Then, suggestions have also been made, and I also made a reference to the same in the last debate, that Government has not prepared itself for this drought. My submission, Sir, is that as far as this drought is concerned we did anticipate that. We did anticipate that after three or four years in this country drought is normal. And, therefore, we did prepare ourselves last year itself. As I mentioned earlier, even when the food situation was comfortable, we said that 5 million ton buffer stock is not adequate. Though it was mentioned in the Fourth Plan document we reopened the issue and we saw that it must be raised to 7 million tonnes. My personal view was that it should be more than that. But it was a Government decision. Now it can be 10 million tonnes or 12 million tonnes which, Sir, our food economy today is in a position to constitute. Our food economy is in a position to constitute a buffer stock of this magnitude with the trend of production that is emerging in our country. And we shall not be enlarging our buffer stock by imports. We shall be enlarging our buffer stock necessarily by our own production. That itself shows that our agricultural and food economy is much stronger today. I am not saying that there are no weaknesses in it. I must say that there are certain weaknesses. I am not unaware of them.

Some hon Member and I think Shri Krishan Kant—referred to pulses. I entirely agree that the pulses position is totally unsatisfactory. It has been so for the last 15 years or so. Last year there was a setback and this year we are anticipating a further setback because this rain will make some difference. But that is different. The point is that there has not been any planned research in the case of pulses as in the case of wheat and rice. Secondly, pulses are grown in rain-fed conditions in our country. Wherever minor irrigation is coming, tubewells are coming, lift irrigation is coming our farmers do not take to pulses they take to wheat or some other commercial crops. There is an encroachment on the normal pulses area. But recently fortunately there have been some positive advance because we have drawn the attention of our scientists to this problem and research is

being done. Our scientists have succeeded in evolving a new variety of *arhar*. This may most probably provide a solution to the problem of development of pulses and making pulses a protein food for the millions of our people. But it is at an experimental stage. But the point I was making is that hon Members should not try to draw a completely wrong picture as if everything is wrong. As I said, no such conclusion need be drawn. We are a big country. We should learn to face difficulties of this nature with a little of feeling of confidence.

I entirely agree with Dr Nagappa Alva when he said that politics should not be brought in such matters. I would appeal to him also that politics should not be brought here. This is a very good tradition. Particularly this House is trying to develop a tradition that where there are big national problems where national issues are involved like the food economy some sort of a consensus appears to be emerging. Though we are a democratic country we have different parties. Even in our own party we have Shri Kulkarni and Shri Krishan Kant who criticize the Government. They have the right to criticize the Government if the Government according to them is not conscious. So, if there is criticism I am not allergic to that but let us try to develop a sort of national spirit. These are national issues. Let us try to see that political differences are not allowed to come in the way. On the contrary, we should put all our heads and energies together to tackle these issues. Solutions can be found out to the problems.

Many hon Members referred to the short-term and long-term problems. Firstly, I will deal with the short-term problems and then I will go to the long-term problems. As far as short-term problems are concerned many hon Members have expressed some dissatisfaction over what I have stated in my statement. They said that the statement is very cryptic. Some hon Members said it is nothing but the complacency of the Government. I do not know that but I have mentioned facts. As I could understand one point has been made that nothing has been said about cattle. Dr Nagappa has said so, but if you closely examine this statement you will find there is a reference to it.

We have not explained it in details. As far as other aspects are concerned, when drought comes, we have to see to the immediate problems first. First of all, it is the question of providing food. There may be stray examples. I know, I got phones about food situation but will the hon. Members tell me a single instance in which complete dislocation has taken place in regard to food in any part of the country, even in the worst drought-affected areas?

The second immediate problem is the distribution system. Fortunately, this year, in most of these drought-affected areas, whether it is Gujarat, Mysore or some parts of Maharashtra, the distribution system happens to be better. I quite agree when the hon. Members said that the distribution system must be very effective, no middleman should be allowed to exploit the situation and whatever is given by Government that should reach the consumer. And the Government's attitude, Government's approach is that we must strengthen the distribution system. In fact, the hon. Members might like to look into the documents, the Government policy documents. During the last three months, never before, so much stress was laid on the distribution problem. We have been continuously engaged in this exercise. We have pressed the State Governments, we have been in constant touch with them and we find during the last four months, the distribution system has been expanding. For instance, there were 1,25,000 fair price shops and now the number has gone to 1,60,000.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: How many are active?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: They are active now.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: In Bihar?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Even in Bihar the position is better.

The point I was making is, look at the quantum. Last year, about this month, five or six lakh tonnes a month were going in the public distribution and in the month of October this

year, almost 11.8 lakh tonnes have gone through the public distribution. This is a huge quantity. It is not a small quantity. This has gone through the public distribution. Therefore, I have to make the contention that nowhere, except some difficulty here and there, no major dislocation has taken place. Even providing food is not enough because in drought what happens actually, the purchasing power of the people is seriously affected. The worst sufferers are the landless farmers. They live from hand to mouth and they have nothing. Whenever there is a drought, the worst sufferers are the landless peasants, having no resources, nothing else. Therefore, the first duty of the Government is to provide work to the people so that they are provided with the purchasing power and then also it has to be ensured that it reaches them. As far as providing work is concerned, the figures which the Government has, now, the intensity of drought is extreme in Maharashtra. It is seen from these figures, in the country today 39 lakh people are operating on relief work. I am not referring to the Plan works, Plan development activities, I am simply referring to the relief works. There are today in the country 78,000 relief works—never before in this country such a large number of relief works were there. Thirty-nine lakh people are working and this number is increasing and the Government of India is doing everything to help the State Government. Hon. Members will perhaps appreciate, up till now, this year, after first of April, the Central teams have recommended a ceiling to the tune of Rs. 113 crores as amounts to be given by way of assistance, by way of drought relief to the State Governments. In addition to that we have given Rs. 37 crores by way of *ad hoc* grants to the State Governments whose ways and means position was weak. So almost Rs. 150 crores have been given to the State Governments by way of drought relief but that is not the end. Again the Central teams are going. A Central team has left on 23rd November for Rajasthan and they would be reporting to us within the next three or four days. A Central team is to go to Maharashtra on the 6th December and for Gujarat the date is yet to be fixed. Again these teams would be making recommendations and naturally

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they are bound to make recommendations from all these angles as to how to provide employment, how to provide food

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Unless you change the Famine Code what is the use of finding out all this?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: With all your knowledge and intelligence, Aba Saheb, you should know that the Central teams do not follow the Famine Code.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who follows the Famine Code?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Nobody follows the Famine Code now.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Then what is the use of that Code?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: That has to be put on the shelf. That was drawn up half a century ago when conditions were quite different. Now we are having a much enlightened approach to the problems of employment, medical relief, supply of fodder and so on. It is a different matter to say that the Famine Code should be brought up to date. In that I entirely share the views of hon. Members, but the point is the limitations which are put in the Famine Code for giving relief are no longer observed by the Government.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: All right, leave aside the Famine Code. I can understand I may be wrong. But the State Governments have demanded that 50 per cent must be grants and 50 per cent must be loans; what have you done about that?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am sorry you do not seem to have read the Report of the Fifth Finance Commission. They have suggested that whenever drought relief is to be provided 25 per cent should come from the State resources and 75 per cent should be provided by the Central Government and out of this 75 per cent 50 per cent is to be outright grant and 25 per cent long-term loan. Even if some modification is to be made,

a new Finance Commission is now sitting under the Chairmanship of Shri Brahmananda Reddy and hon. Members can make their suggestions to them. But the point I am making here is that the limitations laid down in the old outmoded obsolete Famine Code are no longer the limitations as far as the plan of action for providing relief to the people is concerned. Therefore hon. Members should not have any doubt in regard to this point.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What reports have the Central teams given about deaths?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am not leaving any single point raised by you provided the Chair is a little indulgent to me. Though I also do not want to take too much time of the House I shall certainly refer to the points made by you. As far as short-term measures are concerned like providing food, providing employment, providing drinking water, providing fodder, some hon. Members said that there is no reference to fodder. In fact the Central teams recommended when the situation had not deteriorated to this extent that Rs. 75 lakhs should be provided for Gujarat for providing fodder to the cattle for a period of three months, another Rs. 75 lakhs for Maharashtra and Rs. 1 crore for Andhra for this purpose. The Central teams will again be going into this aspect now and if they find that much larger relief is needed they will make the necessary recommendation. As far as the immediate requirements are concerned they are being attended to.

Now hon. Members were very right in drawing Government's attention to the long-term aspects as far as drought is concerned. Because it is a recurring feature we must have a long-term approach to this problem. And I find there are many difficulties here. Many of the State Governments suggest programmes to the Government of India when they are actually faced with a drought situation. Now, in many of the States we find that people have no other work except breaking stones. In fact, there are so many productive works and they can be taken up, but surveys are not carried out and the surveys are not complete. Then, the

necessary staff is not there. As pointed out by Mr. Kulkarni, in some places rigs are not there, the rural works are not there. Taking all this experience into consideration my Ministry made a suggestion to the State Governments. We know from the history of the past century or so, of which record is available, that drought is a normal feature. So, all those States where droughts frequently come should prepare a master-plan and keep it ready. Whether it is a question of production scheme, irrigation scheme, minor irrigation scheme, major irrigation scheme, percolation tank, soil conservation or afforestation, a master-plan should be kept ready. The necessary equipment should also be kept ready. I would like to tell Mr. Kulkarni that the difficulty that has come up in regard to rigs specifically is because of this. Whenever some State Governments are faced with difficulties, all of a sudden they come forward with a demand for rigs. Now, in this country a few years earlier the capacity for manufacturing rigs was lying idle. The public sector plant at Ranchi was not getting adequate orders and we had to persuade the State Governments to place orders with them. In fact, it is a credit to us that in our country some of the industrial projects now have the ability to manufacture the most sophisticated types of rigs whenever orders are placed. Some of the States, faced with acute scarcity and drought conditions, all of a sudden, are putting forward their demands. Even then I am not prepared to take a negative attitude. Had they prepared themselves and had they placed orders before, had they maintained the flow of rigs, they would not have been face with this situation. Now, we are making a total assessment. What is the indigenous availability? If they want imports, we will support imports. We have no reservations on this, but he should know as a knowledgeable Member that the import of rigs is not so quick. Even if other countries manufacture under special orders, it takes them five or six months to deliver it and by that time the drought would be over. What is necessary is to have a blue-print or master-plan prepared of relief operations and keep it ready. Just as the army or the defence forces keep themselves in readiness and when the war comes they immediately go into action, a master-plan or a blue-print is absolutely necessary.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Does it not naturally follow from this that there should be a Central authority for this?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I do not know constitutionally.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Do not look at it constitutionally.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Nana-saheb, we are a constitutional Government we are a federal Government and drought relief is a State subject. Naturally we cannot assume powers encroaching upon the States' autonomy. If they consent, that is a different matter.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: You suggest certain works and you can also plan for them.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I would appeal to hon. Members, if they interrupt me too much, then I will not be able to reply. They can ask me some questions later on. Let me finish my argument. The point I was making was that we have suggested to the State Government that there should be a master-plan. It is very difficult to establish a Central authority for this, because, as I said, there are constitutional difficulties. With the States' concurrence, it may be possible, but how far it will help to solve the problem I do not know because ultimately the operations have to be carried out in the fields in the States and unless the local authorities are involved in this nothing can be done. For instance, why are in Maharashtra the drought relief operations more effective? It is because the Zila Parishads, the Panchayat Samitis which are elected on adult franchise, are involved in this. So, the more the involvement of the people's representatives in relief operations, the more effective is the relief. Centralisation to my mind, is no solution to this problem, but these are wider issues which we can discuss a little later on. The Government of India have given some thought to this problem and you know the scheme which has been mentioned a number of times on the floor of the House. A Rs. 100 crore plan has been formulated during the course of the Fourth Plan itself and 54 drought-affected areas, drought-prone districts in this country have been

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identified A sum of Rs 2 crores each has been sanctioned for providing employment and for building up permanent productive assets in these districts. There is a scheme in operation. This is a well-thought out scheme, a very sound project, but ultimately we will have to go much beyond that. That is really the experience that emerges today. Then, Sir, ultimately the long-term solution lies in this. Our agricultural economy must be insured against vicissitudes and violent fluctuations. Our food economy must be insured against these setbacks which come from time to time. How to do that? I have already made a reference to the food economy. To my mind there are favourable trends in the food economy. If we build up a larger buffer-stock in future I do not think this country would be in difficulties at all. Even these buffer stocks came in handy. We were in a position to face the most difficult period between July and October because we had stocks. And now the position is changing. As I said, even the crop prospects are increasing. Even because of yesterday's rains the rabi prospects are also improving. And moreover, what we have to appreciate is this. Shri Sardesai—he is not here—said—and he put it as somebody else saying—that the food economy of this country is about to collapse. Then Krishan Kantji in his statement called it

AN HON MEMBER: Damaging

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am not prepared to say that

SHRI A G KULKARNI: Whatever it is, ultimately it will mean damaging

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am not prepared to say that. But he made a statement as if everything—whether it is the stock position or statistics—is so misleading.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I am giving an example

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: An impression is being created as if what the Government is saying, nobody should trust. I would say, Krishan Kantji, you are a part of it, we appeal to you—sometimes it does happen in the case of statistics

when we get the figures of production from States. When some distress is there, the State Government thinks that if it shows the correct figures, perhaps to that extent, Central Assistance will not be available. It is a natural tendency to under-estimate sometimes. Therefore sometimes the assessment made by us and that made by them does marginally differ, but substantially they do not differ. Therefore I would say that wherever Government spokesmen have given figures either of stocks or of procurement or of other things they have been correct figures, marginally here and there some inaccuracies may be there. But there is no intention by the Government of India either to mislead anybody or to give wrong impression either to Parliament or to the country.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: The Agricultural Secretary on 4th October at Jaipur said "No trouble, no imports"

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The point is, Krishan Kantji, even countries with a much stronger economy today are importing.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Why does he say so?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: In fact we should be proud of this fact—suppose this country is in a position to manage with only marginal imports, only with the filling of the quantities which we gave to the Bangla Desh refugees, we should be proud of the fact that this country's economy is much stronger to face difficulties of this nature. The point I wish to make is that the statement that the food economy is collapsing is absolutely incorrect. For instance, take the case of this year. Shri Sardesai made the statement. All your pricing policies, procurement policies, where are they going? I do not know how he drew this conclusion. Today, for instance we are procuring rice. The farmers have a grievance the agriculturists have a grievance. The input price and other prices must have some relation. But that is a different matter and this point is to be examined by the experts. But the point is, rice prices, open market prices, are much higher while we are procuring it at a much lower price.

And despite it, or procurement this year for instance is going on. Many times between targets and achievements there is some difference. Targets should always be higher, and it is not that we always are reaching the targets. Krishan Kantji criticised that aspect too. Even this year, I feel confident that our rice procurement is likely to exceed 3 million tonnes despite it is a very difficult year and despite the fact that one of our very important States like the Andhra Pradesh which is considered to be a rice bowl is affected by drought. So the procurement is on. Even today, while I am speaking, almost we are reaching four lakhs of tonnes. And we may reach within this week-end almost half a million tonnes of procurement. Punjab and Haryana which were never rice-producing States are coming up. I must anticipate now that the procurement is going on according to the plan that about one million tonnes to the Centre would be coming from them. I have no doubt in my mind that in a number of other States the procurement operation would go on. There would be some difficulty, there will be some marginal shortfall in the target. We have a target of four million tonnes of rice which was approved by all the Chief Ministers and we have a target of five lakh tonnes of coarse grains; for kharif cereals, a total target of 4.5 million tonnes. I shall not be surprised if we reach the target of 3.5 million tonnes so far as procurement this year is concerned. Actually under the difficult conditions this year, I think, it is going to be quite a satisfactory procurement. I myself would like to reach the target and, as far as my Ministry is concerned, we would not like to relax on this point.

He questioned the pricing policy. We consulted the Agricultural Prices Commission. The report of the Agricultural Prices Commission was placed before the Chief Ministers because ultimately they have to carry their people with them. After consulting them the Government takes some decision.

Sir, criticism was levelled about the price of wheat. I am not going into the technicalities. During the last four years the input prices of wheat have increased by 47 per cent while the wheat prices are constant; we have not increased the wheat

prices. Not that we are indifferent to the problem. In fact in all countries, whether it is Japan, whether it is the U.S.A. or the U.K. it is very difficult to balance the interest of the consumers and the producers. But we are doing it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: How is it that after the Chief Ministers agreed that the prices of wheat will be fixed the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Mysore and West Bengal wanted a rise of Rs. 10? How do you justify the fresh demand after they accepted the recommendation jointly?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Are they not entitled to make suggestions jointly with which we may not agree? Later on the Mysore Chief Minister said that they will proceed with levy and procure $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakh or 2 lakh tonnes of rice. I think we should not draw hasty conclusions and unnecessarily criticise those Chief Ministers who are not here to defend themselves.

Sir, it was asked as to what is our basic approach to the take-over of wholesale trade. Mathurji, why blame the Chief Ministers? Some others said that the Chief Ministers are the real culprits. On both sides of the House the criticism is there. But may I tell you that our approach is very sound? If you look at the history of food economy of this country you will find that the take over of food trade is nothing new because friends like Mr. Mathur think that we give these slogans and we adopt this policy through political motivation. May I tell you, Mathurji, this is not at all a political approach?

SHRI J. P. MATHUR: Ask Mr. Krishan Kant.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I will just explain to you. This country has seen the Bengal famine of 1943. At that time a Commission was appointed by the then British Government which was not a socialist Government. The Commission was appointed to go into the question because at that time, as you know, very large starvation deaths took place in West Bengal. At that time they asked the Commission to go into the problems of food economy of the country. Even in that

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde]

(Commission, a very conservative Commission appointed by the British Government, they said they would not play with the lives of the people and, therefore, they could not allow elements of speculation and trade to harm the interest of the poorer sections of the society. They have used the phrase, "No laissez-faire trade should be allowed in case of foodgrains." A number of committees have gone into this question. For instance, we had the Asoke Mehta Committee report though there is some confused thinking in that committee. Even then they have insisted on the need for socialised foodgrains. Recently the Venkatappa Committee of which Dr Gadgil and a number of other economists were there went into this problem. They also suggested that in this country there should be no freedom to be allowed which will cause some harm to the interest of the masses and which will bring about instability in prices and which will, in difficult times, make food availability difficult. They have also indirectly suggested complete take over of foodgrains. Therefore, our party's assessment or the Government of India's assessment is based on very sound experience of over half a century. May I tell you that there is no ideology involved? Even in countries like Japan, for instance, they do not allow private trade in foodgrains. Therefore let us try to proceed in this direction. Therefore, I am saying wilful sense of conviction that there is no question of going back on take over.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What about Chief Ministers?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Chief Ministers will come down. I am not feeling so diffident. In fact even at that time some discretion was given. The only thing was whether to start this from the kharif season or the rabi season.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will you assure us that total take over will take place by 31-3-73?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Krishan Kantji, if ideas were horses, we would all ride. I would tell you—in fact it would be a repetition on my part and it would be unnecessary waste of valuable time of the House—that the policy document which

has been approved by the Government specifically referred to this point. Food is a very vital matter and no dislocation, in the process of taking over, should take place. Then it has been mentioned that it should be done in phases. Therefore, the necessary preparations should be made. Now suppose we take over and we have no foodgrains to distribute, it will be causing a lot of harm to the public interest. I am prepared to sit with you, Mr Krishan Kant, and go into the details, and as very responsible citizens let us try to understand all the implications of this problem. Then you yourself will be convinced that without the necessary preparations, it will be a hazardous step, an adventurous step to take, in this matter. But what I promise is this, that the Government of India is bent upon making all necessary preparations. There is no question of going back and we will see that this policy resolution is implemented in practice, in letter and spirit, and there is no question of compromising on this.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: By what time?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I think it is a question of details.

SHRI N G GORAY: These very people were in Ahmedabad. Let us know what was in their mind at that time. Why do you put the question to the Minister?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: The understanding was 31st March, 1973.

SHRI N G GORAY: Then let him say so.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As far as long-term aspects are concerned, Mr Goray made some very important observations. For instance he drew attention to the need for co-ordination in the Government. We have some co-ordination machinery. The Cabinet Secretary does co-ordinate. But I can see his point. For instance there are the production programmes. Suppose there is fertiliser shortage or there is power shortage, naturally there is interdependence of various Ministries and effective co-ordination is bound to be helpful. I am thankful for the suggestion he has made which is a very valuable one.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा : आप इतना बतलाने की कृपा करें कि जो होल सेल ट्रेड लेने का बात है उस के लिए सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की कल्पना क्या है? क्या आप व्यापारियों को माथ्यम बना कर यह ट्रेड लेंगे?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As far as my ideas are concerned, they are very clear. We would like to eliminate the traders and we would like to establish direct contact with the producers, because otherwise it would be strengthening the stranglehold of the traders on the food economy, and that would be against our policy approach. I wish you also persuade your party because I have been pleading, let this not be treated as a political issue: let there be a general consensus evolved in this matter.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा : आप के चीफ मिनिस्टर्स ही ऐसे स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं उस की ओर मैं आप का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। वह चीफ मिनिस्टर साहब कहते हैं कि हम एक व्यापारी को चीफ एजेंट बनायेगे और उस के जरिये खरीदेंगे।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, I think I have practically come to the end of my speech. The only point I was going to make was, as far as the agricultural economy is concerned, an element of instability in the food economy is there because we continue to depend too much on the kharif production; and kharif production naturally, because of the weather conditions and erratic behaviour of the monsoon, is subject to violent fluctuations. A very sound strategy has been evolved and our effort is to see that the ratio of rabi production is increased during the next three or four or five years during the Fifth Plan, so that 45 to 50 per cent of the production comes from the rabi crop. If this is achieved, our country will be in a position to overcome such difficulties in times to come.

Lastly, with a full sense of responsibility, I would like to submit that we should not try to create a scare. I

know some hon Members with the best of intentions have tried to draw the attention of the Government to the grave situation, to the difficult situation. But difficult situations cannot be faced by creating a scare. We are a great nation; we are a great country. Our economy, whatever may be the temporary setback, is relatively strong. With a feeling of confidence and a little sense of unity and patriotism, I am sure even the worst calamity in certain pockets of our country can be met and overcome. Therefore, let us not try to create a scare. Let us try to develop a feeling of confidence. This feeling of confidence is absolutely necessary as in times of war. We are a great nation. We have a great history. We should face with confidence such situations which come because of factors over which we have no control.

With these words, Sir, I conclude and thank you for the opportunity given to me.

DR K. NAGAPPA ALVA: Sir, one important aspect has not been touched. The question of the vulnerable section, particularly children, nursing mothers, pregnant women and disabled people, has not been tackled at all. From what I know there the magnitude of the problem is very much and in fact certain State Governments are unequal to the task. So this particular question of providing nutritious and protective food may be taken up by the Central Government by appointing a sub-committee and pooling up all resources and supplying this thing to them and seeing that that reaches those vulnerable sections fully. Then one more point. That is about the long-term measures. It is well known and you yourself said that some of the States are opening their eyes only when a grave situation arises. So I would request that the Central Government must take the initiative in taking this measure.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Thank you

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I thank all the Members for taking part in this discussion. Mr. Shinde made a very strong case giving out various facts and also elaborating the policies, long-term as well

[Shri A G Kulkarni]
as short-term I thank him. But in the discussion Mr Mathur made an allegation about Rs 5 crores being collected by the Maharashtra Government Chief Minister and his giving some Rs 2½ crores to the Nehru Study Forum or whatever it is in Bombay. Luckily the Chief Minister is here today and I just enquired from him. I want to say with authority that nothing as such has happened.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR
Then what happened?

SHRI A G KULKARNI The Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee has decided to collect some money to have a forum in memory of Nehru and drought has nothing to do with that money or that forum with drought.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR
That committee formed part of drought-relief and you collected Rs 5 crores.

SHRI A G KULKARNI That committee has nothing to do with this money. If you have any proof like that, you can bring it before the House and we will also bring our counter proof. Anyway, Sir, leaving aside that I want to bring only two points before you. Mr Shinde made a very convincing statement, as I said already. There is a certain feeling and I fully appreciate that Mr Shinde wants to see that all the political parties and responsible persons should always try to create a sense of confidence in the panic-stricken people. That I quite appreciate.

And you are also thinking of long-term and short-term measures. I do not dispute that also. Having said that, there are certain facts of life which you have to take into consideration. There are certain short-term measures. (Interup-
tion) Mr Om Mehta says he is always sympathetic and he will look into it. But, as Mr Goray also suggested, there must be some type of a Central coordinating authority. Now you say the Famine Code is dead. We also rejoice at the death of the Famine Code. But even in the new Central policy these aspects should be taken care of and with the goodwill of all of us we wish you good luck that you will tide over this difficulty.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM SAHAI) Mr Goray what about your amendment? Do you want to press for it or would you like to withdraw it?

SHRI N G GORAY I do not press for it.

The amendment was by leave, withdrawn

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow the 28th November 1972.

The House then adjourned forty-nine minutes past five of clock till eleven of the clock Tuesday the 28th November 1972.

