

(c) how many persons have been arrested and proceeded against with organising such boycotts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes
Sir.

(b) The State Governments take necessary action, according to the law, in specific cases. It has been the policy of the Central Government that the Administration should be solicitous of the welfare of the weaker sections of the Society, particularly whenever any unfortunate incident takes place in which members of such weaker sections are the victims. All authorities concerned have been directed to ensure prompt and effective investigation of offences committed against Harijans and it had been clarified that any failure to do so would amount to a great dereliction of duty on the part of the officers concerned. A Bill to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 with a view to enhancing the scope and stringency of its provisions, has been introduced. It has been referred to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament.

(c) Information for the period from 1.1.1971 to 30.6.1972 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

12 NOON-

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

ANNUAL REPORT (1970-71) ON THE WORKING OF THE INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION NEW DELHI

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Twenty-fourth Annual Report on the working of the Indian Standards Institution, New Delhi, for the year 1970-71. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3365/72]

ANNUAL REPORT OF REGISTRAR OF NEWSPAPERS FOR INDIA—"PRESS IN INDIA 1970" AND RELATED PAPERS

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR

SINHA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers :

- (i) Fourteenth Annual Report of the Registrar of Newspapers for India, Part II, entitled "Press in India 1970."
- (ii) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the above report.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-3373/72 for (i) and (ii).]

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

RELAY FAST BY THE EMPLOYEES OF THE FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA OUTSIDE THE PRIME MINISTER'S HOUSE

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, with your permission, I draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the relay fast by the employees of the food Corporation of India outside the Prime Minister's House from the 1st August, 1972, in support of their demands for a thorough probe into the working of the Corporation and the charges of corruption and maladministration against some of the senior officers of the Corporation.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, a group of employees, belonging to the Food Corporation of India, have been on a relay fast outside the residence of the Prime Minister since the 1st August, 1972. This relay fast is claimed to be in protest against the various actions alleged to have been taken by the Chairman of the Food Corporation of India to suppress the trade union movement in the Corporation, and also to urge the competent authority to remove him from the Corporation without further delay, and thereafter order an enquiry into the alleged malpractices indulged in by him.

The Chairman of the Corporation was asked to report to Government relating to these allegations. His report has been received only recently and is being examined by Government. A number of the allegations made by this section of the employees are already

under investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Government have already stated on the floor of the Lok Sabha that if enquiries reveal any malpractices, appropriate action would be taken against whosoever is found responsible. Since these allegations are under investigation at present, it would not be in the public interest to discuss the details at this stage on the floor of the House.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Sir, it is very evident that the Chairman of the Food Corporation has misused his powers to gather large sums of money for himself and his friends. His exploits will put the exploits of Dhavam Teja to shame, and yet we are told that he is under investigation. How long does the investigation take on a simple matter like this? Why is there was no shortage of mustard oil, mustard oil was purchased. When there was no shortage of railway wagons, motor trucks were hired to take stocks from here to Calcutta. At what price? When the market price was Rs. 40, they were paid Rs. 200. Any number of such allegations have been made which could be verified very easily, and these employees of the Food Corporation are willing to submit the proof. I do not understand why Government is taking so long, perhaps there are some godfathers of the Chairman in the Ministry who are trying to stall the matter and to delay the matter. I would urge the Government to immediately take action in this matter. What is the position of the Chairman? Is he still there or is he under suspension? He should be arrested; when such serious allegations have been made, when there is a *prima facie* case made out, at least he should be removed from office because he has already started victimising certain employees. This victimisation must stop. Otherwise Government will never get a clear picture of the situation. For this purpose it is necessary that the Chairman must be deprived of his powers and another Chairman, if necessary, should be appointed, and an impartial enquiry should be ordered into this. If the CBI has been looking into this, when is its report

likely to be available and when will this House be given a copy of the report? I should like to know that.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The hon. Member has complained of the delay in making enquiry into these allegations. May I point out to him that these allegations were received only on the 16th or 17th June, 1972, and

another allegation was received some time in July 1972, and these were forwarded for report to the Chairman and after his report has been made available to us, it is under examination. It contains about 200 or 250 pages! So, the matter is being examined and some of the matters which are alleged in the petition are already under investigation by the CBI, and as soon as the report of the CBI is available to us, we will take necessary action.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: When a *prima facie* case is clear, why is the Chairman allowed to continue—so that he victimises the people who have given evidence? The Chairman should not continue there.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: No action can be taken without giving an opportunity to the person against whom allegations are made. An opportunity has been given to him and his report has been submitted and that is under examination.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Delhi) : I would like to know what are the complaints into which the CBI is making enquiries at present. Do the complaints include the cases which my hon. friend Mr. Dahyabhai Patel has just now referred to, wherein 70,000 tonnes of mustard oil were purchased for Bangla Desh requirements and Rs. 10 per tin was paid above the market price which almost did not exist—one firm exists and two firms seem to be totally fictitious? And these orders were placed without making any enquiry in the market . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : No tenders.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : . . . without contacting the oil mills at . . . supplying these to these contractors and without even looking to the prices published in the new paper reports daily, the commercial intelligence which appears in the newspapers. Without even caring for that, excess amount was paid for these. And when after that the parties were unable to supply the materials which they had offered in time, they asked for extension and there was an enquiry by the Vigilance Officer of the Corporation. The Vigilance Officer of the Corporation stated that there has been no truth in the allegation of those parties that they had been harassed and therefore here

[Dr. Bhai Mahavir] was no ground for giving extension of time. The Chief Commercial Manager wrote to this effect, the Financial Adviser of the FCI agreed with him, the Managing Director also agreed. But overruling all these senior officials, the Chairman decided to give time to those parties to supply the mustard oil to the FCI. I would like to know if these facts are there before the Government or not, whether the CBI is looking into this or not

Then what I would like to know is whether, according to the Food Corporation of India Act it is not a fact that the Chairman has only to preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors and he is not supposed to take executive decisions. If (his is a fact according to law, is it also not a fact that most of the authority regarding purchases, regarding opening tenders, regarding even transfers and postings and recruitment, all this power, has been concentrated by the Chairman in his own hands, which is a violation of the letter and spirit of the Act under the Food Corporation of India was set up and under which it is supposed to govern the working of the Corporation ?

Similarly, is there a complaint before the hon. Minister or before the Government that the purchase of sugar was also made in a similar irregular manner without contacting the mills which are producing sugar, that some private party was given the contract and that private party decided to give tenders which were much above the market rates ? They have brought such complaints but I am not going into all these details. I only want to know from the hon. Minister about the specific complaint into which the CBI is looking.

Lastly, I wish to know if it has come to Government's notice that the association which has put forward this case—which represented to the Prime Minister and which sought the Prime Minister's intervention in this matter— whether the Chairman has derecognised that association without following the procedure laid down for that and whether there are also allegations of the files being tampered with to destroy whatever evidence there exists in them of irregularities and of *mala fide* deals. The association which made the allegation that this is being tampered with has been de-recognised. Perhaps two associations have been derecognised. There are also allegations

that victimisation is being resorted to. Sir, I wish to know if the Government have these things in view and whether there are lots of other complaints also. For example, one referred to the transport of foodgrains to Assam. The Assam Zonal Manager did not want new consignments but new consignments were dumped on him and those consignments were later on sold to the Calcutta mills simply because there were no storage arrangements in Assam. This is a fantastic cock and bull story which a person cannot believe. What I want specifically to know from the hon'ble Minister is what particular complaints are being looked into, and if there are any complaints against the Chairman as such. Is it not part of the normal policy that a person against whom the C. B. I. is holding enquiry should not remain in a position where he can influence that enquiry or where he can cause any harassment or damage to the progress of that enquiry or people who made the complaint ? If that policy is there why no action is being taken for the time being to transfer the Chairman if no other action is considered proper ? At least why that is not being done ?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Because he has two godfathers in the Ministry.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The only point on which the hon'ble Member wants information is : What are the cases into which the C. B. I. is making enquiry in this matter ? I may inform him that there are three matters pending with the C. B. I. for the purpose of enquiry. One of them deals with the question of purchase of mustard oil at exorbitant rates and also the time extended for the purchase of mustard oil. The second case is one of purchase of wooden crates at exorbitant rates. The third is the question of the purchase of pulses at exorbitant rates. These are the three matters which are being enquired into.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI (Uttar Pradesh) : An honest man like you cannot thrive for long.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : These are the matters which are being enquired into. As soon as the report of the C. B. I. is available whatever action is called for will be taken.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, two of my specific questions have not been touched. I asked what is the legal position. Is it a fact

that the Food Corporation of India and its Chairman have limited authority whereas the present Chairman has transgressed those limits and has concentrated all executive power in his hands ? Then I asked whether the association has been derecognised in violation of the laid down procedures and whether files have been tampered with, and if they are, what action is being taken by the Government to prevent this ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I have already replied to this question that there are a large number of allegations including the ones mentioned by the hon'ble friend. I have called for the report from the Chairman. His report has been received and is being examined by us.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Legal position regarding derecognition. Six', how do you permit the Ministers to simply sidetrack or evade the question ? It is a specific question, namely, whether the association has been derecognised. Now, it has nothing to do with corruption charges or the C. B. I. The C. B. I. will not go into this.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : That is the allegation made by the Association.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, the Minister is as ignorant as we are.

SHRI T. N. SINGH (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, the Minister is required to answer a specific question. It is a question of fact and not a question of surmise, whether the Union has been derecognised or not. It is not a question of allegation. It is a question of fact whether the trade unions have been derecognised or not.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : That is the allegation. I have not yet got papers. Therefore, I cannot say whether it is derecognised or not.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Either the Minister does not have the guts to give a correct answer or he is not quite prepared with the subject.

श्री नवल किशोर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : श्रीमन्, मैने हिस्ट्री में कभी पढ़ा था कि हिन्दुस्तान के एक बादशाह मुहम्मद तुगलक साहब हुये थे। अब

उसके बाद मालूम पड़ता है कि एफ० सी० आई० में कोई दूसरे मुहम्मद तुगलक पैदा हो गये हैं। अगर कोई भी सेल्फ रेस्पेक्टिंग आदमी होते तो रिप्रेजेंटेशंस के बाद और आज जब 16 दिन से प्राइम मिनिस्टर के मकान के सामने भूख हड़ताल चल रही है तो वह स्वयं इस्तीफा दे दिये होते। वे कहते कि मैं अपने पद की इज्जत बचाने के लिए इस्तीफा देता हूँ, आप इसकी जांच कीजिये और अगर जांच मुझे मुक्ति दे दें, कोई अपराध साबित न हो, तो मैं फिर वापस चला आऊंगा। श्रीमन्, आप देखिये कि मन्त्री महोदय ने हर सवाल के बारे में कितनी इन्नोसेंटली कह दिया है। इनके पास दो रिप्रेजेंटेशंस आये हैं। एक आया है 27 जून को और एक आया है 21 जून को। आपने सिर्फ तीन शिकायतें सी० बी० आई० को जांच के लिए दी हैं। श्रीमन्, एक तो बड़ा सवाल यह है कि कानपुर से गेहूँ गौहाटी भेजा गया। एक एक बोरे पर जिस की कीमत 76 रु० थी 43 रु० सिर्फ उसका काटेंज आया है। किसी ट्रक वाले का टेंडर नहीं लिया आपने। एक पार्टी को चुपचाप आपने टेंडर दे दिया। उनको जो एफ० सी० आई० ने चेक इश्यू किये हैं वे वेयरर चेक इश्यू किये हैं।

श्री डाह्याभाई व० पटेल : इकबाल सिंह के नाम के।

श्री नवल किशोर : श्रीमन्, जो पेयी अकाउन्ट्स चेक आम तौर से इश्यू होते हैं वे इश्यू नहीं हुये। जब वहाँ का मनेजर कहता है कि गौहाटी में हमको गेहूँ की आवश्यकता नहीं है तो आपके तुगलक साहब कहते हैं कि जो स्टॉक आपके पास है उसको आप कलकत्ता भेज दीजिए और जो स्टॉक हम भेजते हैं नया उसको अपने यहाँ आप भरिये। इसकी आपने जांच क्यों नहीं कराई ?

श्रीमन्, यही नहीं, चने की बात में बताऊँ आपको जो उससे भी ज्यादा संगीन है। 27 जून को जो मन्त्री जी के पास रिप्रेजेंटेशन आया उसमें लिखा हुआ है कि एफ० सी० आई० ने पंजाब में चना खरीदा 92 और 97 रु० के भाव पर।

[श्री नवल किशोर]

जब 15, 20 दिन तक ये परचेजेज हो गई तो उन्होंने कहा कि इसको बन्द कर दीजिये। फिर वे परचेजेज बन्द हो गई। बाद में प्राइवेट पार्टीज ने फायदा उठा कर के सस्ते दामों पर वहां चना खरीदा। उसके बाद आदेश दिया गया कि जो फर्स्ट टू लाट्स हैं उनको एफ० सी० आई० न खरीदे और थर्ड लाट को खरीदे। उसके बाद जब उस पर आवेकर्सस हुये तब यह बन्द हुआ। श्रीमन्, चने का भाव बाद में 113 से 117 रु० हो गया। ये चीजें ऐसी हैं जिन में कोई बड़ी भारी लम्बी जांच कराने की आप को जरूरत नहीं थी।

श्रीमन्, एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं। जिन साहब को यह तेल का कंट्रिबट दिया गया उनका कोई वास्ता तेल के व्यापार से नहीं था। मेरे खयाल से उनसे कोई टेंडर आपने नहीं मांगा। श्रीमन्, मैंने एक सवाल पूछा था कि क्या ये जो तीन पार्टीज हैं—तीन नहीं एक ही पार्टी है और उसके ही तीन नाम हैं—सेल्स टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट के साथ इनका रजिस्ट्रेशन हुआ है। आपने मुझको जवाब दिया कि हम को नहीं मालूम है। दो महीने तक यह ऐग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री मालूम नहीं कर पाई कि क्या ये फर्म सेल्स टैक्स डिपार्टमेंट के साथ रजिस्टर्ड थीं या नहीं। बजह इसकी यह है कि जो रजिस्टर्ड फर्म होती हैं उनपर एक परसेंट सेल्स टैक्स लगता है और जो नहीं होती हैं उनपर 3 परसेंट सेल्स टैक्स लगता है। तो श्रीमन्, इसमें एक बात नहीं है, इसमें तीन से कहीं ज्यादा बातें हैं। आपने यह ठीक ही कहा कि जिसके खिलाफ चार्ज न हों उसको हम सस्पेन्ड कैसे करें, मगर आपने क्या इसीलिए उनको यहां बैठा रखा है ताकि फाइल्स की टेम्पेरिंग हो जाय और जितने एम्पलाइज उसके अगेस्ट हैं उन सब का ट्रांसफर हो जाय, सब का सस्पेंशन हो जाय। इसके साथ साथ यूनियन को डिस्कग्नाइज कर दिया गया। यह फैक्ट है मगर दो महीने के बाद आज माननीय मन्त्री जी कहते हैं कि मुझको इसका पता ही नहीं है। अगर इतने इन्वोस्टली आप बैठे हैं ऐग्रीकल्चर

मिनिस्ट्री में तो सिवाय चीपट होने के और कोई चीज उसमें होने वाली नहीं है। इसलिए हमारी मांग है कि अगर चेयरमैन साहब में खुददारी नहीं है और अगर वे इस्तीफा नहीं देते हैं तो सरकार में, कृषि मन्त्री में, इस बात की हिम्मत होनी चाहिए कि वे उनका पहले इस्तीफा लें और उनको वहां से हटायें। उनके वहां से बिना हटे हुये इनकवायरी कराना सिर्फ ह्वाइट वाश ही होगा।

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, as I have already said, all these allegations which have been made are subject to enquiry and at present I cannot say anything about them.

SHRI NAVVAL KISHORE : Why only three cases ? 3% ^K ^ %7 %3T], Z\WJti =TT %?r f I Why not give all the cases for enquiry ?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, . . .

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : On a point of order. . .

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Sir, I shall like to raise a point of procedure. Time and again Members from the other side are making allegations against the Chairman. [do not know about the allegations, whether they are true or not. The Minister is neither denying them nor is he saying that as investigations are being made against him also . . . [Interruptions] If the OBI inquiry is against the Chairman also, I do not know how the Chairman can continue in his position . . .

DR. BHAI MAHAVTR : At least there is one responsible Member on that side.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : If the Minister's contention is that the inquiry is of a general nature and the Chairman is personally not involved in it, in all fairness to the Chairman he should say that there is nothing personal against the Chairman and the inquiry is of a general nature. I do not know what the position is. My only concern is this : what image of the public undertakings and of this Parliament, of this House, do we want to project outside ? That is my immediate concern.

SHRI I AKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As I have said the CBI inquiry is con-

(xi, nil, it is an inquiry against officers of the Food Corporation of India, and unless and unless . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) :
No, Sir. On a point of order . . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra) : Is this against the Chairman or the officers ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him first complete (he answer).

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : It is a deliberate attempt to conceal the issue.

•SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, Mr. Chandra Shekhar has raised a very important point. The Minister is now saying that it is an inquiry against officers. It is something like saying an inquiry against officer* of the Prime Minister's Secretariat in connection with the work of the Prime Minister. This is absurd. The memorandum was directed against the chairman and officers, making the chairman the villain of the piece. Whether the allegation is right or wrong, I am not going into it. The inquiry is based on that memorandum. The focus on the charge is on the chairman. Naturally you cannot separate the chairman. The chairman only comes in. Mr. Chandra Shekhar has said, if that is so, you had satisfied that *prima facie* an investigation is called for into the charges mentioned in the memorandum against some of the officers and others connected with the chairman as part and parcel of the establishment under him. Then, how is it that these officers and the chairman remain in their positions ? Are they not going in that case to frustrate the inquiry, withhold documents and manipulate the papers and other things ?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : And tamper with them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is a strange thing. Kindly tell Mr. Fakhruddin AH Ahmed that he can give any answer he likes, but we should not be treated as if we are in the primary school. We have passed that of education.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As I have already pointed out, so far as the inquiry is concerned, the CBI is making the inquiry

against the officers and chairman and unless and until we get the report from the CBI, we cannot say who is the guilty person.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : That is not right. You cannot have double standards. When there was an allegation made against Mr. K. D. Malviya, even before the investigation

was ordered and the matter was referred to somebody to look into it, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had asked Mr. Malviya to resign. Do I understand that our Food Corporation is a temple of gods and goddesses that whoever is here is so pure, that their moral purity can not be questioned at all till the CBI has hauled them up before the bar of the whole world there is a *prima facie* case. It is a matter of public standard. I am not saying whether Mr. Iqbal Singh is guilty or not guilty at this stage. There should be some public standard, for example, if there had been such investigation against me by the Government which, after my defeat in the election, had appointed me as the chairman of the Food Corporation of India, I would have myself stepped down from that post. He has a family to look after. Why should he hang on to that position ? I cannot understand it. Mr. Fakhruddin AH Ahmed can tell him.

What is the harm ? Somehow or other, Mr. Fakhruddin AH Ahmed, some of your friends cannot just live without an office sticking behind their back all the time. Why should they persist in so ? For goodness's sake, ask them to live without office for six months and that will be a salvation of their souls at least, if nothing else.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Have they a soul ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : That is a suggestion given by the hon. Member.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : I wanted to raise a point . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order. I have gone through the memorandum, and to get a copy just now. I have got other materials and I have also published part of the thing. The allegations are extremely serious. They relate to favouritism, they relate to corruption and making money; they relate to abuse of office ; they relate to favouring certain contractors and favouring certain transport

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta] companies. I cannot imagine how a public Corporation which is supposed to solve the food problem of the country should be engaged in such things and should be open to such charges made by their own employees, not by others. Government was *prima facie* satisfied and ordered some kind of CBI inquiry or investigation. As far as target is concerned, target has not been fulfilled. That bluff is going on. I found out from the employees themselves. You say here—buffer stock! buffer stock!! It is a COLDS-salbluff on the country. It is not buffer stock. It is the current stock. Their target was that they should buy over 10 millions of foodgrains every year and the buffer stock should have been 3 years' consumption. Whatever they have got in the current stock—probably 9.5 million tonnes of foodgrains—they call it buffer stock. . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : It is buffer stock !

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I can use-such phrases also. This is a bluff. Targets have not been fulfilled. In U.P. procurement had failed. In fact they were under obligation to build up stock equal to 3 years' procurement. The targets should have been much higher this time. Now, therefore, it is all bluff. We are being fed with false promises.

Secondly, what about the Department ? Four Chairmen and three Managing Directors came and there are lots of officers. What are they doing ? In the course of their work conflicts with the States develop. Patronage is there. These should be gone into. This is a very serious matter. Shri Iqbal Singh has been a politician. I should like to ask Government in this connection. . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: He has got all the files in his house.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He would not keep his files in your house or mine. He will have files in his house. But what the files contain, I do not know. It is well worth knowing. One question of principle arises again and again in our mind. Why must you always appoint defeated party men to such posts ? If Shri Chandra Sekhar gets defeated in the election, let him be appointed. I have no objection. Why do you appoint nitwits ? There are some people to whom God has not given

that much grey matter or stamina or honesty I do not say that Shri Iqbal Singh belongs to that category. But why should it be like that ? Why should Government provide for every congress M.P. or for every Minister a post always? Once a M.P. or a Minister then always Governor or Ambassador or Chairman of Food Corporation or BIG or Jute Commission or some such thing. Why should it be like that ? Can't they retire as private citizens or as Congress Secretaries or Congress workers or Congress Treasurers, if the treasury is safe in their hands ?

AN HON. MEMBER : It is a matter of grave doubt.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Therefore Sir, the Congress Party should know that a man of integrity, capability, etc. should be appointed irrespective of his party affiliations and so on. Somehow or other, provision should be made for this. But, it is going too far now. Shrimati Indira Gandhi is now at the height of her popularity and under the spreading protective wings of Shrimati Indira Gandhi everything should not be protected.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Probably she is not aware of it.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI : Sir, this is also another point for inquiry as to whether the funds collected by Shri Iqbal Singh have been used by the Congress Party or not.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is for you to do that. I do not think that the Congress Party has to do it. Mr. Tyagi has been long enough in the Congress Party and he knows the secrets of the party more than anybody else. Mr. Tyagi, you know very well that they do not require a Food Corporation to run the party. Mr. Tyagi, you know it very well.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Mr. Tyagi, you have run it. You are not having a vintage car and don't run a vintage party any more.

Therefore, Sir, I say that the matter should be seriously investigated and, pending the investigation, he should quit the post. This

gentleman, Shri Iqbal Singh, had been a Member of that House and hence a former colleague. May I, as a good friend, may not be a forgotten friend, but as a good friend, appeal to him that it would be useful for him if he himself said that in view of what has been said against such an honourable man, he would not like to stick to that position which, after all, is very small for retired Members of Parliament. He has a future to conquer and a huge past behind him ? Why should he stick to such a position ?

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ (Him-achal Pradesh) : Sir, I cannot understand what is going on here. What's going on here ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Therefore, Sir, he should quit his post immediately. There are other officers against whom serious allegations are there and they should be removed from the Food Corporation and Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed should take charge of it in the sense that the investigation should be properly carried out and we should be informed of the investigation. The co-operation of the workers should be got. Something more should be done about the targets. All the officers on deputation should be treated as transferees. Those who are from the States are being treated always as officers on deputation and they are not given the same amenities as the transferees from the other departments and Ministries are getting. Many of them are from West Bengal and other States. I would appeal to the Government to treat all of them as transferees. These are all important matters and the whole thing needs a very thorough examination.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, my friend has issued an appeal to Sardar Iqbal Singh and I think it is for him to consider the appeal issued by him.

AN HON. MEMBER : Why don't you issue an appeal ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : So far as the investigation and examination of the allegations made against him and the other officers are concerned, I can only assure you that will be looked into properly and whatever action is called for will be taken.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Yes, Mr. Bhardwaj.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ : Sir, may I know whether the Association that is staging a 'drama' in front of the house of the honourable Prime Minister has officers also as members? I want to know whether there are officers along with the workers in the group that is staging a 'drama'.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : What is this 'drama', Sir ?

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ : Yes, Sir, it is not a 'dharna' but it is a drama. It is not the workers' story alone. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please let him complete it.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ : Sir, my second question is this : I want to know whether these people are not drawn from one particular class, that is, those who are on deputation from the other Departments and Ministries. The truth is that they want to just have a stronghold in the Corporation to retain their position.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : So far as the persons. . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Who is this actor of the Congress Party ? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You are also an actor.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : So far as these people who are participating in the fast are concerned, I do not know who are the persons who are actually taking part in this last. But I can tell the hon. Members that some of the persons who met me with the allegations were some of the officers of the Food Corporation.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : Sir, a very important point has been raised by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta that the balance in the stock is not what really it is. It is a matter of national importance. He has made that specific point. . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARANI : Not that.

SHRI T. N. SINGH : He has made the point that the stock shown in the balance is not correct. We are entitled to know the Minister's answer to that.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALT AHMED : I am very sorry that some irrelevant questions have been brought in. I may point out that so far as the figures given by us are concerned, they are absolutely correct. Towards the end of June, 72 we had a stock of 9.5 million tonnes and since then we have exhausted some of the stock. I do not know the latest figure. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Sir, on a point of order. Let him not mislead the House. This is what is stated in the employees' memorandum :

"Even before the FCI came to replace the Central Food Department's works, the target fixed by the Central Food Department for buffer stocks in the country was for 3 years' consumption. The FIC stuck to this target of building up buffer to ensure continuous flow of food to the people and to control the irresponsible trends of the markets. Strangely enough, neither the Central Food Department nor the FCI balanced their targets with achievements. There has been a callous neglect in reaching the targets. Rather not a fringe of the requirements has been touched and building up of buffer stocks has turned into a slogan in the FCI. In actual practice, only the current stock is paraded as a buffer stock and people's minds are fed on illusions. Moreover, the imbalance in the zonal allocation of the 'available surplus' (which is actually the current availability) has upst the national equilibrium. The FCI's m in concerns, apart from its immediate assignments. . ."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You need not read it out.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : This is stated by the employees themselves.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, whatever the figure of buffer stock we have given is correct. May I inform the lion. Member that so far as the target was concerned, it was only. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : That we know.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Man-

श्री भूपेन्द्र नारायण मंडल (बिहार) : जहाँ तक हमको मालूम है सी० बी० आई० उसी केस की इन्वॉयरी करता है जिसमें उसको इस बारे में पूरा सैटिसफैक्शन हो जाता है कि यह प्राइमाफेसी केस है। अगर इस तरह का कोई केस होता है तो फिर वह इन्वॉयरी अपने हाथ में लेता है। तो उसी तरह का केस सी० बी० आई० ने अपने हाथ में लिया है और इसका मतलब यह हुआ कि यह एक प्राइमाफेसी केस है। जब यह एक प्राइमाफेसी केस है तो उस हालत में क्यों नहीं उनको मुअत्तल किया जा रहा है और मुअत्तल न करने के नतीजे दो हो रहे हैं। जहाँ तक एविडियेन्स का सवाल है और जितने कागजपत्र सेन्टर में हैं, वे सब मंगाये जा रहे हैं। जो लोग इस केस में इन्टरेस्टेड हैं, ऐसे जो आफिसर हैं, उनको बिकिटमाइज किया जा रहा है। तो मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि वे इस ओर ध्यान क्यों नहीं देते हैं।

अभी हाल ही में श्री भूपेण गुप्त ने इसी तरह के एक केस के बारे में जिक्र किया था कि जवाहर लाल नेहरू के जमाने में जब एक पार्लियामेन्ट के मेम्बर श्री केशव देव मालवीय के खिलाफ आरोप लगाये गये थे तो उनसे कहा गया था कि आप रिजाइन करें। क्यों नहीं उनको कहते हैं रिजाइन करने के लिए? मुझे आश्चर्य होता है जब प्रधान मन्त्री, जो उसी जवाहरलाल नेहरू की बेटी हैं उनको नहीं कहती हैं। इससे हमको एक डर यह भी मालूम पड़ता है कि जो चुनाव में बहुत वेशी खर्चा हुआ है क्या उस खर्च को लाने में उसका भी तो हाथ नहीं था? क्या यह कारण तो नहीं है कि उस तरह की बात वे नहीं कह रही हैं जिस बात को उनके फादर ने किसी दूसरे एम० पी० को पहले कहा था?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : As I have already said, the allegations made against him were brought to his notice and his report has just been received. We are looking into the matter and it will not be proper to take action against any person without giving him an opportunity. After I have examined the report submitted by him whatever action is called for will be taken.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Nobody is asking you to take disciplinary action straightway but rules of propriety should be followed. That is all what we are asking. All that we want is that the rules of decorum should be followed. You can persuade him that in view of all this he should himself stand down. This is all that I am asking. I do not know whether the allegation is true or false.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Because he is not suspended—and there are many allegations against him.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will give you a chance.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Because the Minister is so miserly in his reply I refuse to ask any question. But I want to make one point clear. There is an allegation that a son-in-law of one of the Ministers has been promoted by Mr. Iqbal Singh yesterday ; only in order to get the protection from the Central Government he has promoted the Minister's son-in-law. That is the allegation that has come in the papers.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have no son-in-law.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : A Central Cabinet Minister's son-in-law.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह (पंजाब) : मिस्टर डिप्युटी चेयरमैन, मैं आपके जरिए मन्त्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह दुरुस्त है कि एफ० सी० आई० के चेयरमैन सरदार इकबाल सिंह ने जो पक्का आढ़ती अनाज की खरीद में था उसको हटा दिया, किसानों के हक में आवाज बुलन्द की और क्वालिटी इंस्पेक्टर जिसको आप्शन था कि 72 से 76 रुपए तक रेट मुकर्रर करे उसका यह आप्शन खत्म कर दिया ? इसके साथ ही क्या यह दुरुस्त है कि अक्टूबर 71 में आसाम और त्रिपुरा में एफ० सी० आई० का फूड स्टाक केवल 4 और 2 दिन के लिए बाकी रह गया था और इसी कोताही की वजह से एफ० सी० आई० के मैनेजिंग डाइरेक्टर श्री देव को जबरी छुट्टी भेजा गया था ? क्या यह भी दुरुस्त है कि एफ० सी० आई० के चेयरमैन को गवर्नमेंट ने

हिदायत दी थी कि 45 दिनों के अन्दर-अन्दर वहाँ पर तीन महीने का स्टाक जमा किया जाय ? क्या यह भी दुरुस्त है कि दिल्ली से कुछ ऐसे अफसर तब्दील किए गये जो 57 से लगातार यहाँ पर फूड कारपोरेशन में कब्जा जमाए बैठे थे ? क्या यह भी दुरुस्त है कि एजीटेशन करने वाली यूनियन के प्रेसिडेंट पर दफा 324 के तहत किसी अदालत में केस चल रहे हैं और उन पर चार्ज-शीट भी लग चुकी है ? आखिर में मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो सवाल मैंने दरियाफ्त किए हैं क्या दरहकीकत इस सभी मुद्धार की वजूहात ही इस चल रहे एजीटेशन की बैक-ग्राउन्ड तो नहीं है ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The only thing I would like to point out is that some statement has been made that Shri Dave had gone on leave because there was some allegation against him. I deny that there was any allegation pending against him on account of which he has taken leave. So far as the other facts are concerned they are in the report and we are examining that.

SHRI JOACHIM ALVA (Nominated) : Sir, the Lady Member here wants to have her say. She should be given the chance.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I know. You are a senior Member, Mr. Alva. You know there is a certain procedure which we follow in this House. Some of the new Members may not know the procedure but you should know.

SHRI RANBIR SINGH (Haryana) : What procedure is there ? Shri Lokanath Misra can get up any time and speaks anything.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The way you get up is also not in accordance with procedure.

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Tamil Nadu) : Many of our colleagues have raised a number of serious charges against the Chairman of the Food Corporation of India. The hon. Minister's reply is very uniform that he is not able to take any action against the Chairman. It means that aggrieved people should have gone on fast before the Chairman's house or before the

[Shri G. A. Appan] house of the hon. Minister in charge. I do not know why they should go on a fast before our hon. Prime Minister's house, not that I have any grouse against them. I am just telling what anybody in his normal capacity should do. The question is, even in case of small officers, when serious charges, not allegations, are levelled against them, and here, especially in the case of such a big officer as the Chairman when serious charges are levelled like this, no untrue allegations could have been put forward in black and white. People can speak but not put things in black and white. On account of that, the Chairman, —it is also an allegation—has withdrawn recognition from these two Associations, and has resorted to victimisation against the officers, and other things. Propriety demands that he has no honest place, honourable place, as Chairman any further. And if he does not have the decency to resign the job immediately on account of the bad name that he is inflicting upon the Government, not only upon the hon. Minister here, but upon the Government of India also, and is also tarnishing the image of our Prime Minister, at least I appeal to him on the floor of the House to tender his resignation before the House adjourns. First the hon. Minister should have the courage to request him to vacate the post. If he is not complying with this request, then he should direct him to do so. And if he is still adamant, he should send word to his people not to allow him there. There ends the matter.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : There is nothing to add to what I have already said. This is an appeal by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI (Gujarat) : Sir, so far the debate has been centering on the personnel of the Food Corporation of India. But what is worrying me and causing me tremendous concern is the way this Food Corporation has been functioning. This Food Corporation has to find food for 600 million people and it has to provide it at a reasonable price. But I have a great apprehension that this responsibility they may not be able to fulfil because of the way they have been functioning and the way they are reacting to the present crisis that we are experiencing in this country. And this is the first crisis since 1955 when this Corporation came into existence. I want to make it clear that I am not at all opposed to State trading. In fact, I have no faith in private traders. We have been at the

mercy of these foodgrain merchants and they have made beggars out of us. Also I do not think that we can ever hope to effect any improvement in their trade practices. Otherwise we would not have this parallel economy of blackmarketing. Therefore, I would like to call upon our Minister to take a very good look at this organisation and its management, as to how it has been functioning and by whom it is being managed. Otherwise, we are exposing ourselves to the serious criticism of the people who are opposed to State trading.

Now the Food Corporation came into existence as an integral part of the multi-pronged food policy which aimed at bringing about the green revolution and also self-reliance in food. The Food Corporation was supposed to deal with distribution, hold buffer stocks and control the prices. If my information is correct—if it is wrong I am liable to correct myself—nearly Rs. 2,000 crores are invested in our food stocks, and nearly Rs. 1,000 crores are invested in the provision of physical facilities, in silos and storage godowns and other such things. Now this Corporation with an investment of nearly Rs. 3,500 crores is more than Hindustan Steel. It is a very vital organisation, and the people there should have guidelines from Government and they should have ability to use this investment and resources in a real crisis. I am afraid they are not able to meet the present crisis, nor are they having the ability to meet it. I will elaborate my point. This sort of Corporation has to function as the watchdog ...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Is it a general discussion ?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You took at least more time.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : I do not object. I am only saying there are many things regarding the overall working of the Food Corporation. If you are allowing it, we would also like to have some part in it.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : I have nothing against what you have to say about the personnel ...

(Interruptions)

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : The question is we are in the midst of a Calling Attention Notice. We are not in the midst of a discussion.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : The question I want to ask is this. My question is, -who are the watchdogs of the market ? The Collector or the Food Secretary of any State cannot give information about what is the condition of any given market. Take for example, the Hapur market. Only the Food Corporation official will know how it is working. If they are working as the watchdogs of the Government, they must keep a watch on how the prices are increasing. If there is a marginal variation, i.e., if it is Rs. 100 a quintal and the average price is Rs. 102 per quintal, that does not really matter, but the moment it becomes Rs. 104, we should feel restless. They must pinpoint the causes and they must at once report to the Government that such and such prices are going up. You should know that. Are they carrying out this responsibility ? I am afraid they are not even aware of this aspect of their responsibilities, nor has the Government examined it. It is the right of the Government to know the causes. This is one thing. Another thing is about the guideline. I do not know whether they have any guidelines. They should know when to step into the market, as a corrective measure. Has the Government given them any instructions ? Now, when the prices have gone up, they should automatically move into the market. This sort of mischief is created in the market by some hoarders. Who are these hoarders ? You should know them, because the entire financing is done by the nationalised banks.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Kindly conclude.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI : I want these two things, their policy of control and guidelines as to when and how to step into the market. Has the Government given thought to these points ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I may only point out that there should be no apprehension that the Food Corporation is not working satisfactorily. What we have been doing is to procure foodgrains in sufficient quantities in order to tide over the difficult period, when we are faced with such difficulties. During the past few months we have been facing this difficulty and I may point out that during this period a large number of fair price shops have been opened. Through these fair price shops not only food is distributed, but also the price is attempted to be controlled.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Gian Jeet Singh, President and Shri N. N. Sharma, General Secretary of the Delhi Schools Library Association, Delhi, regarding removal of disparity in pay scales between the librarians of the Government Schools and the librarians of the Government-aided Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi.

ARREST OF SHRI PREM MANOHAR, M. P.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the following telegram dated the 16th August, 1972, has been received from the District Magistrate, Kanpur :—

"Shri Prem Manohar Member of Rajya Sabha arrested today at 12 Noon u/s 188 IPC for defying prohibitory orders u/s 144 Cr PC by holding demonstration at Collectorate (.) Arrest made by Narendra Pal Singh Inspector Kotwali (.) He was sent to jail as the refused release on bail (.)"

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

THE DISTURBED AREAS (SPECIAL COURTS) BILL, 1972

SECRETARY : Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha :—

"I am directed to inform Rajya Sabha that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Wednesday, the 16th August, 1972, adopted the annexed motion in regard to the Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Bill, 1972.

I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the Members of Rajya Sabha appointed to the Joint Committee, may be communicated to this House."

MOTION

"That the Bill to provide for the speedy trial of certain offences in certain areas and for matters connected therewith, be referred