

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Or even Himachal Pradesh.

Shri K. C. PANT : Or even Himachal Pradesh. But Himachal Pradesh is now a fact of history; it is a State. Do I take it that he wants us to re-examine the question of Manipur or Tripura in the context of economic viability?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I do not want.

SHRI K. C. PANT : But then where is the economic viability argument?

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : So many times arguments have been given. I am trying to meet those arguments.

SHRI K. C. PANT : So far as Goa is concerned, in 1966 an Opinion Poll was held and the people of Goa decided that it would continue to remain as the Union territory. And that is where the matter stands.

Sir, my hon. friend, Shrimati Vashoda Reddy, spoke in terms of a new Commission which would finally decide all these matters after taking everything into account. She remembers very well that the States Reorganisation Commission, which was constituted in 1955 did go into all the matters and redid the map of the country. Yet there was no finality about it because new problems kept cropping up. I do not think we can abscond with the possibility of such problems cropping up from time to time. In a country like ours the setting up of a new Commission might well create many problems that are known today just as this Bill gave Members an opportunity to raise many issues which were not relevant to the Bill before us.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Delhi): Is this the argument for denying an opportunity to the House to debate important things?

SHRI K. C. PANT : If a new S.R.C. is set up, that process might well follow. So, Sir, we have to tackle these problems as they arise, with understanding, with sympathy, keeping the interest of the country always in mind and trying to balance the need for unity, integrity and economic development of the country as a whole with the aspirations of the people in every part of the country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The question is:—

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

4.47 P.M.

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE SERVICES IN THE FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA TO BE ESSENTIAL SERVICE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : Sir, I beg to move that:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 2 of the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1968 (No. 59 of 1968), this House approves or the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Food G.S.R. No. 152, published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated the 29th January, 1971 and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1971, declaring the service in the Food Corporation of India to be an essential service for the purposes of the said Act."

Sir, it is well known to this hon'ble House and to the hon. Members that the Food Corporation of India, a public sector undertaking, has come to assume a very important role in the life of the country. At the moment the Food Corporation of India, which was established in 1964, is playing a big role in the import procurement, storage and distribution of food. And food, I think, like water and electricity, or even more important than that, is so essential to the life of the community. Therefore, it is very desirable that its supply is maintained with regularity and no section of the community in our country is allowed to be affected as a result of disruption of food supply. The Food Corporation of India, being a public sector undertaking, it is not the intention of the Government whatsoever to exploit any section of its employees. On the contrary, the Food Corporation is very sympathetic to the genuine grievances of its employees. And, therefore, this measure is not meant in any way to harm the interest of the workers as such. The very purpose of bringing this Resolution before the House is stated in section 2(2) of the Essential Services (Maintenance) Act, 1968 which inter alia provides:

"that the Notification after it is laid before the Houses of Parliament shall cease to operate at the expiration of 40 days from the date of its being so laid, unless a Resolution approving the issue of the Notification is passed by both the Houses of Parliament before the period of 40 days expires."

I have already laid this notification before the House when the Session commenced, and now we have to pass this Resolution before 40 days expire, otherwise it will become invalid. I have, therefore, come with the request to this House that the House will be generous enough to support this Resolution and pass it unanimously. It is merely a

technicality and I hope the hon'ble Members will understand and appreciate the need and necessity of having this Resolution passed by the House.

The question was proposed.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) : उप-सभापति महोदय फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन की कर्मचारियों के संबंध में एक प्रस्ताव माननीय मंत्री महोदय लेकर आये हैं लेकिन जहाँ तक इस मदन के अन्दर फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन के संबंध में चर्चा हुई है विभिन्न प्रश्नों के द्वारा और माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने इन संबंधों में जो जानकारी दी है उससे लगता है कि किसानों का जो सबसे बड़ा दुश्मन है गांवों और शहरों में वह फूड प्रोसेसिंग के कर्मचारी है। मंत्री महोदय ने बार-बार मदन में इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि हमने अपने कर्मचारियों के द्वारा जहाँ-जहाँ खरीद फरोक्त की वहाँ गड़-बड़ हुई है जहाँ पर कर्मचारियों के माध्यम से खरीद की गई वहाँ पर किसानों को जितना उचित दाम मिलना चाहिए था वह उचित दाम किसानों को नहीं मिला इसके अन्दर जो बड़ा कारण बना है वह फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन ही बना है।

मेरे सामने कुछ उदाहरण इस प्रकार के हैं और जिन उदाहरणों के द्वारा मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को बताना चाहता हूँ कि किस प्रकार से फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन के अन्दर इंडिया के कर्मचारी किसानों का शोषण करते हैं। अभी पिछले ही दिनों जब श्री कुतकर्णी जी ने एक सवाल रखा कि फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन को कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटियों के माध्यम से खरीद फरोक्त क्यों नहीं करता है इस संबंध में मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दिया कि कुछ राज्यों में फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन ने व्यापारियों को छूट दे रखी है और व्यापारियों के माध्यम से अनाज खरीदा जाता है। अभी पिछले दिनों ही राजस्थान का उदाहरण सामने आया। राजस्थान में बाजरे की फसल बहुत होती है। कुछ जिले इस प्रकार के जहाँ पर बाजरा बहुत अच्छा पैदा होता है। जैसे जैसलमेर और नाहमेर में बरसात अच्छी

होती है और सबसे अच्छे किस्म का बाजरा वहाँ पर पैदा होता है और जो हमारे इलाके है वे रेतीले इलाके नहीं है जयपुर, अलवर और भरतपुर वहाँ पर भी बाजरा पैदा होता है लेकिन इसकी क्वालिटी अच्छी नहीं होती है। लेकिन पिछले दिनों फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन ने अपने कर्मचारियों के माध्यम से वहाँ पर बाजरे की खरीद फरोक्त की जो अच्छे किस्म का बाजरा था उसको यह कह कर नहीं खरीदा गया कि यह रूटी किस्म का बाजरा है और इस तरह से उसको रिजेक्ट कर दिया गया। उन कर्मचारियों के अगर कोई दूसरा अधिकारी नहीं है और न ही कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था ही है जो यह कह सके कि यह तो अच्छा बाजरा है और इसको खरीदा क्यों नहीं जा रहा है। केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारों ने आनकों के जो न्यूनतम भाव बांध दिये हैं वे केवल इसलिए बांध दिये ताकि किसानों को नुकसान न हो और अगर बाजरा में भाव कम हो, तो फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन उनका अनाज खरीद ले।

आपने कहा है कि फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन का काम प्रोक्योरमेंट भी करना है और प्रोक्योरमेंट के अन्दर जो न्यूनतम भाव आपने तय किये हैं उस न्यूनतम भाव के अन्दर जो अच्छे किस्म का बाजरा था उसको कर्मचारियों से रिजेक्ट कर दिया।

इसी तरह से अलवर और भरतपुर का जो इलाका है जहाँ का बाजरा अच्छा नहीं होता है वहाँ पर उनका बाजरा ठीक भाव पर नहीं खरीदा गया और इस तरह से किसानों को चार पांच रुपया तक नीचे भाव पर बेचना पड़ा। आपने जो फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन बनाया है उसका काम केवल प्रोक्योरमेंट करना है लेकिन वह अपना काम अच्छी तरह से नहीं निभा रहा है। इसलिए मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आपने जो यह माध्यम बनाया है, जो तरीका बनाया है वह ठीक नहीं है। मैं इसे फूड प्रोसेसिंग कारपोरेशन नहीं कहूँगा बल्कि इसे फूड कारपोरेशन डिपार्टमेंट कहूँगा जहाँ पर कारपोरेशन इतना व्यापक है

[श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर]

जितना कहीं भी नहीं है। किसानों का जितना शोषण फूडकॉर्पोरेशन करता है, उतना कोई भी विभाग नहीं करता है।

कोटा के अन्दर आप देखिये जो चना फूडकॉर्पोरेशन ने खरीदा था उस गारे चने में कीड़ा लशा हुआ था और इन तरह खड़ी किसम का चना खरीदा गया अच्छे किसम का चना नहीं खरीदा गया व्यापारियों ने भी दास ठीक नहीं लगाये और इस तरह से गवर्नमेंट को नुकसान पहुंचा। आखिर जिन कर्मचारियों के लिए आप यह बिल लाए हैं ताकि उनकी भुविधा बढ़े, उनको जो वेतन मिलना है वह ठीक ढंग से मिले इन चीजों के हम विरुद्ध नहीं हैं। जिस संस्था की बकालत मंत्री महोदय कर रहे हैं, जिनकी तारीफ वे कर रहे हैं, जिनके मारफत से वे काम कराना चाहते हैं अगर उनके काम की प्रेर ध्यान नहीं दिया जायेगा, तो अगले किसानों को और जनता को कोई फायदा पहुंचने वाला नहीं है। आज सरकार को यह बान मालूम होनी चाहिए कि फूडकॉर्पोरेशन वाले किसानों का कितना भयंकर नुकसान करते हैं। गवर्नमेंट ने बारबार सदन में कहा है कि राज्यों में व्यापारियों को एजेन्ट बनाकर किसानों का शोषण का तरीका निकाला गया है इस लिए मैं यह कह कर निवेदन करता हूँ कि जैसा अभी हाल में माननीय सदस्य श्री कुलकर्णी जी ने यह सुझाव दिया था कि फूडकॉर्पोरेशन जो कुछ भी खरीद फरोख्त करना है वह उसको कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटियों के माध्यम से करना चाहिये। सरकार को इस बात की कोशिश करनी चाहिये कि जहाँ पर अच्छे किसम का अनाज होता है वहाँ पर न्यूनतम भाव से नीचे उसको खरीददारी न की जा सके। कर्मचारी मनमाने ढंग से जिस अनाज को रिजेक्ट कर देते वह खत्म होना चाहिए ताकि किसानों को किसी तरह का नुकसान न पहुंचे जिस के बारे में आपके पास बारबार शिकायतें आती रहती है मैं। समझता हूँ कि आप इस संबंध में कोई तरीका निकालें जिससे वास्तविक रूप से किसानों की भलाई हो सके। केवल कर्मचारियों की सर्विस एसेनसियल सर्विस करने

से लाभ होने वाला नहीं है। वास्तव में कारपोरेशन जिनके लिए बनाया गया है उनको भी इसमें लाभ हों, इस दृष्टि से माननीय मंत्री महोदय विचार करें।

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala): Sir, the discussion here regarding the Food Corporation and the declaration of the Food Corporation as an essential service cannot be conducted without reference to any arrangement being considered by the Government on the machinery of industrial relations within the Food Corporation. What is the guarantee that the management of the Food Corporation will continue to treat its employees in the way any good management ought to? Once the Food Corporation is declared as an essential service, it seems to me, there will be an attempt to bamboozle the employees and in the name of essential service, scuttle any attempt by the employees to get their genuine grievances redressed. What is the mechanism which the Minister proposes for ensuring that the industrial relations within the Food Corporation will be maintained on correct lines? Secondly, I would like to know from the honourable Minister whether, judging from the past record of the Food Corporation and its bad industrial relations he would look into this question and make arrangements by which the past mistakes will not be repeated. During the period when Mr. K. T. Chandy was the chairman, there was an attempt to rationalise various departments. But the history shows that all his attempts not only failed, but he became a victim of the whole system. The whole system is corrupt and the Food Corporation has overgrown its size, and today the whole apparatus cannot be managed, integrated, in a meaningful manner. Even the most efficient experts on management science will fail to understand the manner in which this whole octopus has grown. There is no rationalisation of management procedures, in that context will the Minister ensure that adequate, proper, industrial relations will be maintained in this organisation? It is easy to declare a public sector undertaking essential. As a matter of fact, every public sector undertaking in this country is essential. Which product is not essential for the people? Across the board there is shortage of every important product. It is easy for the Government to come forward with an Ordinance or a Bill to declare a particular public sector industry as an essential service. But does the Government of India consider it their responsibility to ensure that proper labour relations will be maintained within the organisation? And now Mr. Chandy, who failed in the Food Corporation, is continuing his exercises in the steel industry. And I think there also the same tragedy is being repeated. I would request the honourable Minister to tell this

House about the steps he has taken to ensure that proper labour relations are maintained within the Food Corporation.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): I have got only one or two points to make out. I do not deny the fact that the Food Corporation of India has got a very important role to play in the present attempt of the Government to provide food for the people of our country. As a matter of fact, I would be happy to see that the scope of the activity of the Food Corporation of India is further merged. There is no point in opposing that approach of the Government. But when the Government have been pleased to declare the service as essential, naturally, as persons who are connected with the trade union movement, very much apprehend the labour policy with regard to the labour relations in the Food Corporation itself. Some time ago, I think you will remember there was serious discontent among a section of the employees of the Food Corporation of India, particularly those who were earlier serving under the Food Department of the Government of India and were required to serve under the Food Corporation of India when it was first instituted. There is a long-drawn agitation by the employees of the Food Corporation of India in the matter of continuity of service and other benefits which a Central Government employee is entitled to. And I think there will be many more instances of this kind coming in the days to come with regard to the genuine grievances of the employees not working under the Food Corporation of India. Particularly, refer to a large number of workers who are still treated as temporary workers or temporary hands. Naturally, that will become one of the important sources of conflict between the management and the workers in the Food Corporation. I think, as you know, the question of bonus is one of the burning issues connected with the trade union movement. As a matter of fact, under the present Payment of Bonus Act public sector undertakings are not required to pay bonus. But

[THE VIKJE-CHAIHMM (SHRI AKBAR ALI KUAN) in the Chair]

the agitation in the case of the Food Corporation in West Bengal is only for that. Therefore, either on the issue of making them permanent, or on the issue of enhancement of their salary or on the issue of payment of bonus, many agitations are likely to be conducted by the employees of the Food Corporation of India. Naturally, we want to be assured by the Minister that the government would not take undue advantage of declaring the Food Corporation of India as essential service in order to thwart, subvert, annihilate or decimate the workers'

service as essential service

movement in that particular public sector undertaking. May I have an assurance from the hon. Minister that efforts would be made to redress the genuine grievances of the workers on any of the above issues and the management of the Corporation would sympathetically treat the workers and try to come to an amicable settlement with the workers and harmonise the relations between the management and the employees. Unless that assurance is given to the House, I think the government would take advantage of declaring it as essential service and try to destroy the movement of the workers. Therefore, I want a very specific and definite assurance from the Minister that the government would not take undue advantage of this, but on the other hand would try to solve the genuine and legitimate grievances of the workers. I hope the Minister will do it or advise the management to immediately settle the outstanding grievances of the employees of the Food Corporation of India so that the relations between the employees and management would be improved and harmonised because that will be the best way of serving the community.

SHRI ISH LACHANI (Kerala): I do not know why there is so much need now to declare this industry as an essential service, I am against the government coming forward every day to declare this industry or that industry as essential service under the Essential Services Maintenance Act. This is not absolutely necessary. This Corporation is the Cinderella of the Government. Nobody is interested in it. No State Government is interested in co-operating with the Food Corporation of India. It is somehow tarrying on its trade. Nothing will happen if you do not bring it under the Essential Services Maintenance Act. I know that there are some States which refuse to allow even the purchase of foodgrains by the Food Corporation. There are big and very important States which produce so much of food-grains, but they do not want to have anything with the Food Corporation. We know which are those States. I want to know whether the Andhra Pradesh Government is prepared to allow the functioning of the Food Corporation in their areas. You are not allowing it. When that is so, when your own governments do not want it functioning in the way you want it, why do you want to bring it as an essential service now? Let us see that it comes up. Till then do not bring it, because I have my own doubts and I think that this thing is going to be very dangerous for the employees. The most sweated conditions are there for these employees under the Food Corporation: long hours of work, very low wage, no security of service. When that is so, I would say, you better allow the employees to have a fight with you. It is

[Shri Balachandra Menon]

necessary so that they will be in a position to negotiate. It is not there and these little bosses of yours down below will create maximum trouble for the employees. Therefore, I would say again that the time is not ripe. There is no need for it. First, you allow it to work as it is. Let the State Governments understand its importance; let the country understand its importance. At such it has not been done. It is only just trading. In some places it goes and helps the farmer to get proper remuneration. It is quite good. I am not one with my friend here who thinks that the Food Corporation is stealing away all those things. He is speaking for the trader and I know he is the most dangerous man in this country. It is the trader and also the rich peasant who have upset the entire economy of the rural areas.

SHRI IAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:
These Corporations are run by the government...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: I am

coming to it. It is absolutely necessary that the trade should be with the Food Corporation. But they are not allowed to enter. Excepting the retail dealer, no wholesale dealer should be there in the trade of food stuffs. I am for that. But first persuade your State Governments to accept that. They have not done that. Secondly, these fellows have upset the entire economy of our rural areas and also are in league with the ruling parties and I know what have they are doing.

I am glad an attempt is made now. But I am not sure whether you are serious. If you are serious, this Food Corporation could have been more successful. It is not so. Therefore, before it becomes a very important factor in procuring food stuffs, there is no necessity for fettering the hands of any of the people who are today working in it. Today, what they require is that they must get their demands; today what they require is that they must be treated as other employees; today what the country requires it to see that the Food Corporation becomes the most important organisation to collect the food surpluses from the various areas. That has to be done. Until that is done, I do not want to allow the Government to have any hand in denying the right of any of the employees which I will not allow, because I feel that they have not been fair to the Food Corporation and I will not allow it to be unfair to the workers. That is all what I say.

SHRIMATI PURABT MUKHOPADH-
VAY (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman,
Sir, I support the measure, the Resolution, (

service as essential service

that the Minister has introduced in this House. Sir, there are about 45,000 employees working under the Food Corporation, there must be some service conditions governing both the employers and also the employees in the service. I entirely agree with the Members of the Opposition who supported some sort of redress measures, to redress the grievances of the employees. I feel it does not mean that it will not declare the service as an essential service when it deals with food stuffs, food stuff being the essential part of our living.

Sir, there are unions and unscrupulous leaders leading those unions who even deal very badly with their own employees. I do not blame always the employees only, but the trade union leaders also sometimes and they must not take advantage of the right to strike against the government as far as our supply position of food stuff is concerned and I entirely agree with the Minister to declare this service as an essential service.

Sir, as far as the functioning of this Department is concerned, I have one or two suggestions to make to the Minister.

Sir, about the procurement of foodstuff under the Food Corporation of India, they have to take the help of the State Governments. The State Government issues the procurement notices. They only collect it. As far as the collection of food is concerned, in the State of West Bengal I have personally seen, they are taking the help of the co-operatives. They are also taking the help of small traders. They are even taking the help of big traders for procuring foodstuff. In the Food Corporation of India did not eliminate the middleman getting profit out of the service of the poor peasantry.

So I will urge upon the Minister to see that local cooperatives are utilized for procurement of food in the name of the Food Corporation of India, instead of utilizing big merchants, and instead of utilizing even small traders. They suck the blood of the poor people, poor peasantry, and they are taking profit out of it, and the procurement price that is fixed by the Government is not always paid to the tillers of the soil.

So, while I agree with the Minister to declare this service as an Essential Service, I would only urge upon him to see that even the Food Corporation of India does not encourage middleman's profit in the market.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): The Minister.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for participating in the discussion on this Resolution.

Before I go ul > some of the points raised by the h in. Members, I would like to make li oad proposition.

Sir, whether he time has not come in this country—to take a little different attitude toward public sector undertakings? I think, in this country all of us nave sympathies for the cause of the workers, for the gi IU ne grievances of the workers. . . .

SHRJ CHIT1 \ BASU : Not of the workers.

SHRJ ANNA A fEB SHINDE : lam speaking on bel ill of the Government!

The hon. M< niher, Shri Chitta Basil, was good enough to ask from me whether it would not be the effort of the Government of India i tdvise the Food Corporation of Ind i that some suitable machinery for edressing the legitimate grievances of vn kers, may be evolved. May I submit, -ir, that it would be the endeavour of tin Government of India to advise the Food Corporation of India that some such suitab i lachinerv should be organised? We s all be consulting the labour Ministry lso so that a machinery is there if there re anv grievances in anv sector in any pa t ~>f the country, so far as the Food Coi oi ttion of India is concerned. That sort of machinery would be looking into, and taking care of, the problems of the work rs ..

DR. K. MATHEVV KURIAN : But why was not that don before?...

(In n uptions)

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: If anybody justified the disruption of supply of foodgrains to the ommunity as a whole—whatever may be ie justification. . .

(hu rr iptions)

THE VJCE-CFU RfAN (SHRI AKBAR All KHAN) : On r. order, please.

SHRI ANNAS. HKB SHINDE : The Kerala members re most vociferous in this debate and they are complaining against the role of the Food Corporation. The hon. Member who has just made his speech, unfortunati v, is not here. . . .

(Intt n ptioni)

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : I never objected to Kerala. I was saving that there are otl (r States. The entire procurement is ma le bv them. We have accepted it. ...

SKRI ANNASA IEB SHINDE : Even there I think he is very unfair to the AndJ.ra Pradesh Government. There are some difficulties in) treat in the situation. But the Andhra G ivcrnment is co-operat-

service as essential service

ing with us so well. This year, for instance, the procurement in Andhra is so substantial. And I myself am going this wick to Hyderabad again lo look into the problems of procurement. On the bulk of supplies which Kerala is getting from Andhra, but for the co-operation of the Andhra Government it would not have been possible for us to come to this position.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : My objection was only this : I was not saving that there was no need for it. I was saving that the Slate Government has not handed over the purchase right to the Food Corporation. That should be done. I went this to become powerful.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I would like to appeal to the good sense of the hon. Member that ii is a good thing for this country that a public sector undertaking like the Food Corporation of India has come lo occupy a \cn important place in die life of tins country. It was established only a few years ago; ii was established in the year 1964. In the first year it had a turnover of only a few crores. Bui now. this vein the turnover of the Food Corporation of India is 1,500 crores. Sir, today despite inflationary pressures on our economy, you \ourseir are aware of the fact that food prices are tending to come down. In fact, the index of food prices this year is six pei cent less as compared to last year. This is because the Food Corporation of India has played a ven important role. The stock position is so happy. For instance, the Government's slock position is almost 5.5 million tonnes and all this is because the Government of India. . . .

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Thanks to good weather.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : It is not good weather alone. I wish hon. Members would look at the problem not from the point of view of narrow political angle but take a comprehensive view of the whole situation.

Sir, I was making a submission that because of the Food Corporation all producers' interests are being looked after. For instance, Punjab—the way the production there is coming up and the way the procurement operations are carried on. In the absence of the Food Corporation the producers would have suffered and also, had there not been the Food Corporation I think even the consumers in cities like Calcutta, Madras and Bombay would have also suffered. Let us appreciate the role being played by the Food Corporation of India. It does not, however, mean that there is no human failure here and there. I admit—after all, the Food Corporation is a very big organization. For instance, there was a very valuable criticism by the hon.

[Shri Annasaheb Shiude]

lady Member who has just suggested that the Food Corporation's endeavour should be not to employ big traders or agents but to see that co-operatives are used as agencies [01 procurement. I entirely share her view.

SHRI CI 111 I A BASU: And where co-operatives are not there, you should have your own machinery.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : In fact, a few months back I myself had convened a meeting of all concerned and I had instructed the food Corporation that the big traders have to be eliminated because ultimately the procurement price which we to the farmers does not reach them is taken away by the middlemen. So, the very purpose of the Food Corporation is to protect the interests of the farmers and the consumers and, therefore, I want that this House creates an atmosphere—by this debate, by the expression of views - that in every sense the Food Corporation gets strengthened and it is necessary that such an atmosphere is created in the country that the Food Corporation really becomes a very effective instrument of Government's public policy.

Sir, I need not go into the various details but I would assure the hon. Members that it will be the endeavour of the Gov-

Service as essential service

ernment of India to be very sympathetic to the cause of the workers and if any hon. Member has any particular suggestion in regard to this we welcome it and a fair impartial machinery can be evolved. With these observations I would seek the unanimous approval of this House for this Resolution.

III VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR KUAN) : The question is—

"That in pursuance of subsection (2) of section 2 of the Essential Service Maintenance Act, 1968 (No. 5) of 1968, the House approves of the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of food G.S.R. No. 152 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated the 89th January, 1971 and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd March, 1971, declaring the service in the Food Corporation of India to be an essential service for the purpose of the said Act." The motion was adopted.

IIIF. VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR All KHAN): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at twenty minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 7th April, 1971.