

भी उत्तर प्रदेश का औसत अगर देखा जाय तो हजार पीछे एक ग्रैज्युएट पड़ता है। आज उत्तर प्रदेश में देहात की आमदनी 182 रु० सालाना की आदमी है जब कि दूसरे राज्यों की आमदनी ज्यादा है। फिर उत्तर प्रदेश के बजट में जो आंकड़े दिये गये हैं उनको देखने से ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि शिक्षा के लिये जो रकम रखी गई है उसमें अध्यापकों की डिस्पेंडिटी दूर नहीं होगी, राज्य कर्मचारियों की मांग पूरी नहीं होगी, विद्यार्थियों की फीस माफ नहीं होगी, किसानों का लगान माफ नहीं होगा, मजदूरों की छंटनी नहीं रहेगी, राज्य कर्मचारियों की छंटनी नहीं रहेगी।

इन तमाम बातों को कहते हुये चूंकि यहाँ समय है नहीं, मैं अंत में यही निवेदन करूंगा कि सरकारी पक्ष से लेकर तमाम विरोधी पक्ष ने जो वायदा किया था, उन्होंने अपने वचन को भंग किया। मैं यह चेतावनी देना चाहता हूँ कि सात घंटे लगातार बैठने के बाद वचन भंगना ऐसी चलेगी तो भविष्य में इसका निर्वाह कैसे होगा, यह आप लोग खुद समझें। नमस्कार।

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION ON POINTS ARISING OUT OF ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS NOS. 728 AND 729 GIVEN IN THE RAJYA SABHA ON 21ST MARCH, 1968 RE REORGANISATION OF THE NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : Mr. Gupta. You can take about 12 minutes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : Fifteen minutes. Rule is rule. Then the question will be put.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : 6.18 sharp.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : 6.20 sharp.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal) : He will leave nothing for us.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You have a right to ask questions. Why do you say that? I am surprised sometimes our friends on this side make observations which I always avoid making. Nearly 1,100 employees of the National Sample Survey Department of the I.S.I. are facing the dual threat of retrenchment for about 700 of their colleagues and the transfer of the remaining staff to 25 regional centres spread all over India. I want that the scheme which spells this out should be abandoned. It involves not only upsetting of the Institute, it involves human problem in the sense that so many will be retrenched and so many will be thrown out to the different parts of the country and you know how difficult it is to settle there in conditions not very congenial and anyhow extremely difficult in the present situation.

In February, 1966 the Government of India appointed a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of a certain Professor whose name I do not like to speak but he may mention the name as Humayun Kabir, because I never utter that name to review the work done in the different sections of the I.S.I.

SHRI D.L. SEN GUPTA (West Bengal) : Once he was his great friend.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : He has never been my friend and never will be my friend. Mr. Sen Gupta came here some time back and he saw when he was Minister how I treated him. The Committee was appointed to review the work done by the Institute and the progress made by it, to inspect its buildings equipment and other assets and to evaluate the work done by the Institute. The Committee made its

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta] recommendations, submitted its report in December, 1966. Later on a Committee headed by Mr. Pendharkar, known as the Pendharkar Committee, was appointed to go into the question and suggest how best the recommendation of the Review Committee could be implemented. That was the term of reference, but the Pendharkar Committee went out of its term of reference and made a whole number of recommendations which the Committee was not called upon to make. One of the recommendations or set of recommendations relate to the reorganisation of the National Sample Survey attached to the I.S.I. Calcutta. The Technical Wing is to be transferred, according to the Pendharkar Committee recommendation, which he had no authority to make, to Delhi whereas the other survey is to be decentralised and these workers are to be sent to 25 centres in the whole country. The whole scheme again is based on computerisation at Delhi. This is all wrong. First of all, the National Sample Survey need not be computerised at this stage. It is quite possible and easy to do the National Sample Survey work without computerisation by using the existing machinery and methods of tabulation and so on. Therefore, computerisation, I strongly oppose. It leads to retrenchment and retrenchment nobody can avoid because the idea of computerisation is to employ less people and hence it spells nothing but retrenchment. And at the same time the N.S.S. workers have pointed out that it is possible that the work can be carried out by an alternative arrangement for speeding up the N.S.S. tabulation without recourse to this kind of computerisation. It is common knowledge that the work can be expedited if the conventional tabulating equipment and other ancillary sources are suitably augmented. Therefore we oppose the

scheme of computerisation here, and the Government should make a firm declaration that they are not going to go ahead with it, nor bring in the Technical Wing to Delhi; it should remain in Calcutta.

Then another question arises that they want the field service to be more connected. Well, that again is wrong. The N.S.S. has been doing excellent work from where it is situated and where it has grown. There is no need to disperse it in this manner, which would create complication apart from causing hardship. This is another point I wish to make.

Now even the Pendharkar Committee has this to say, that this will involve large-scale retrenchment, that it is unavoidable. Now the Minister said that nobody will be retrenched. It is entirely wrong, this kind of suggestion on the part of the Minister. There is no basis for it.

The fact is that over all these years the N.S.S. had developed closer contacts with the State Departments participating in the N.S.S. programme more than those with Ministries and Departments of the Union Government. This contact is established mainly in periodical meetings when the annual programme is discussed and settled. So there is no need whatsoever to bring the Technical Wing of the N.S.S. Department to Delhi in order to have better co-ordination with the work of the other States or with the work of the Centre; it is absolutely unnecessary.

Another point I should like to point out in this connection, Mr. Vice-Chairman. The Pendharkar Committee makes a recommendation to limit the subject coverage of the N.S.S. by discontinuing the crop estimation surveys and the collection of prices through the N.S.S. Now the authorities here

in Delhi do not like that the N.S.S. should undertake crop survey because the States are opposed to it. Every State is interested in showing deficit through its own method of survey in order that it can get a large quota of food allocation from the Centre. I may tell you that Mr. Jagjivan Ram is encouraging that kind of trend. Mr. Jagjivan Ram is opposed to the National Sample Survey being given the task of food crop survey. I do not see as to why the food crop survey also should not belong to the N.S.S. Now this is another aspect of the problem.

Now here I should like to point out one thing. The Review Committee did not make any of these recommendations; the Review Committee, whose recommendation is supposed to be implemented, did not make a recommendation of the kind which the Pendharkar Committee has made. The Pendharkar Committee takes upon itself the task of reviewing the whole thing and making the recommendation on its own, outside the scope of its terms of reference, and then suggesting its implementation. It is entirely unjust and wrong. The Pendharkar Committee had no business to do such things. In fact the Review Committee categorically stated that "it will be for the new organisation taking over the National Sample Survey work to decide at what place or places its work will be located, and that no employee of the Institute should be thrown out of employment as a result of the proposed organisation. As such, the question of deciding on the location of the head-quarter of N.S.S. in future was left to the proposed autonomous body." I must make it clear that the Review Committee, which was originally appointed, made a recommendation that the N.S.S work should be taken up by an autonomous corporation which is to be created. No such autonomous

body has been created. Forestalling that, the Pendharkar Committee wants now things to be reorganised on the basis of computerisation and along the lines I have referred to already. This is entirely wrong. Now it is really revising the Review Committee's recommendation; it is really writing something into the Review Committee into which the Committee did not go; this matter was left open for the autonomous body, for the corporation to be created to decide. I do not know why they are taking such a decision. It is an irony of fate for the employees of the NSS Department of the ISI that this report makes a short shrift of the most important operative safeguards for the ISI employees given in the Review Committee's recommendation, or that of the ISI Act, 1959, sponsored by Mr. Nehru himself, declaring the Indian Statistical Institute as an "Institution of National Importance." This is very very important. They are governed by a certain Act and this Act was passed in 1959. Now this Act is sought to be circumvented by Government or certainly by the Pendharkar Committee. Mr. Vice-Chairman, the problem is very simple therefore. Government should not tamper with this thing at the moment, and let the autonomous corporation be formed and the matter taken up in due course. I understand the representatives of NSS workers met the Prime Minister and submitted to her a memorandum, I do not know what reply they have received, but they were told, it seems, that the whole matter would be reconsidered. I would urge upon the Government not to proceed along the lines of recommendations or suggestions made by the Pendharkar Committee.

In the first place it will damage the Institute. The Institute has been associated with the NSS work ever

[Shri Blmpesh Gupta]

since its inception, and it has done a good job of it. It was in 1950 that the Government of India entrusted the ISI with the entire responsibility of the technical work including report-writing. Now about eighteen years have passed since then. Now this is not the way you should treat an institute which has done work for eighteen solid years, treat in this manner. Why this is being handled in this manner, I do not know. The primary part of the work, namely, the collection, is done by the staff of the NSS Directorate of the Government of India, and the NSS field work, that can remain there. Therefore, I think it will damage the Indian Statistical Institute if you suddenly reorganise on the basis of computerisation, breaking it up, sending the Technical Wing to Delhi, dispersing the NSS workers, so many to other places, and retrenching a whole number of them—the number means that their families also will suffer. I protest against this thing, the behaviour of the Government in this matter. They are flouting their own past commitments. They are showing disrespect to a scientific institution in our country; or it is because some people do not like that this should continue in Calcutta? Mr. Vice-Chairman, we do not claim anything special for Calcutta, but well in national interests, if the Calcutta Institute has done good work, if the workers there have done good work, certainly the reward meted out to them should not be one of retrenchment, one of unemployment or one of throwing them to the wolves in various States, where they will not know where to live and how to live, one of breaking up their families and making it impossible for them to ensure education for their children. And what is more, why this computerisation should be

undertaken here at all when the workers have shown that they have done this work for eighteen years without computerisation?

Mr. Vice-Chairman, we are facing middle class unemployment very much in West Bengal, and in other parts of the country; as will be seen from the reports of the Government itself, it has become a phenomenon. And today the scientific workers, who have grown over the years and done useful work, should not be treated in this manner and thrown as unemployed into the streets. Well, this is absolutely unjustified, inhuman and unfair.

Therefore, before I close I see a little more time is left, one or two minutes more left—I would like to appeal to the Government; I am surprised the Prime Minister is not here, her Deputy Minister is here. But she will make a speech, I know, along the lines suggested by the officials. But I tell you; do you want a situation to be created even in scientific institutions? Do you think the NSS workers are going to take it lying down? Do you wish to play havoc with their future. No, they are not going to take it lying. Why then create this crisis at this moment? Is there any such hurry for it? Not at all; there is no hurry whatsoever. Work is going on; let it go on smoothly, and abandon the scheme in the Pendharkar Committee's report; Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am told some officials in Delhi are very keen to implement an illegal recommendation, a recommendation beyond the scope of, shall we say, of its terms of reference this recommendation of the Pendharkar Committee. It is entirely wrong; it is vindictive; it is malicious; it is inhuman; it is unjust; it is showing disrespect to our scientific institution, and, therefore, I would urge upon the Prime Minister of the country, since she

happens to be in-charge of this particular Department, not to listen to the evil counsel of some people in Delhi in order to disorganise the whole thing.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, again, before I sit down leaving it to my friend, Mr. Chitta Basu to say as much as he likes—and I hope you will give him ample time to put his question; I cannot help the rule, but let him do full justice to this matter—I once again appeal in the name of more than a thousand NSS employees not to proceed with the plan, not to disturb the present arrangement, not to go in for dispersal of the NSS Organisation and not to transfer the Technical Wing to Delhi. Matters should remain where they are till a corporation is formed. Till the Corporation is formed according to the recommendation of the Review Committee nothing should be done. A decision should be taken by the Corporation itself and there should be a public commitment to that effect by the Prime Minister. I hope it will be made and I expect such a public statement from the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha or somewhere else. A public statement should be made.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER (DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI): I am extremely sorry that the hon. Member has started with a number of presumptions which are not correct. Last time while replying to this question I said that these things are under the consideration of Government. Many of the things that he stated today are based on certain wrong presumptions. No doubt the Review Committee appointed in February, 1966 under Prof. Humayun Kabir said certain things regarding the Indian Statistical Institute and regarding the building and the National Sample Survey work and regarding the administrative control, financial implications

and such other things. After that Committee submitted its report another body working group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Pendharkar. That committee was mainly a committee of experts—any other committee would have been a substitute—in order to know how far the recommendations of the Review Committee can be implemented successfully. This Working Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Pendharkar, Economic Adviser to the Reserve Bank, Bombay. This Committee submitted its report and I may inform Mr. Gupta that this Committee in no way had gone beyond the terms of reference. That is one thing that I should make clear. That is because that Committee was mainly for the purpose of finding out the practical implications, difficulties etc. that may come in the way of the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Committee. So the terms of reference of the Review Committee naturally came within the purview of the Working Group also, and they had to say certain things wherever they thought that the Review Committee's recommendations could not be implemented in a successful way, and they have made certain recommendations. It is not always necessary to say that these recommendations are the final decisions in this matter. This I made clear last time also. Another committee met under the Chairmanship of Dr. D. R. Gadgil, Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission on 1-3-68 and it again considered the practical difficulties in the way of the implementation of the recommendations. The concerned Secretaries of the concerned Departments were also present in that meeting. I may say that a number of times the workers and representatives of the Indian Statistical Institute and Members of Parliament along with them, met the Prime Minister in July 1961,

[Dr. (Shr'mati) Sarojini Mahishi]

They have met the Prime Minister many times and they have got an assurance that no hardship or inconvenience would be caused to them. The hon. Member said that more than a thousand people would be retrenched, that they would be sent out of service. This is a wrong thing. Efforts are being made to see that no such thing happens. I do not think the hon. Member should have any such fear because the Review Committee went into the question of the administrative control and financial implications with a view to improving the efficiency standard and also to avoid delay in the working. The National Sample Survey section is there in Calcutta and delay is being caused on account of that factor. In order to avoid this delay and for bringing more efficiency in the work of the National Sample Survey work certain recommendations were made by the Review Committee. Therefore, it is for the improvement of the work and for better service to the country and it does not mean that this is for causing certain hardships to certain people working there. The hon. Member said that more than a thousand workers are to be retrenched. That is not correct. I would like to state for the information of the hon. Member that this computerisation section was started in the year 1950 and some 40 per cent of the work in this Institute consisted of work from the public sector and sometimes from the private sector also. It was catering to the needs of that area. From 1950 onwards I may say they had developed a research section and also a laboratory for improving the work of the electronic computers. Even earlier than that a small workshop was started for repairing these electronic computers.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The whole thing is wrong.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : A small nucleus of a research section grew up in the laboratory. I hope the hon. Member will not say that all these things are not correct. This particular section for electronic service and . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I do not wish to disturb the hon. Deputy Minister, but if I bring statement signed by the workers there to show that the position is different from what she is saying, will you allow me to bring in a motion of breach of privilege against the Deputy Minister for misleading the House? I can bring a signed statement from the workers and then I should be allowed to raise a breach of privilege motion against the Deputy Minister.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : If only the hon. Member has some patience to listen to what I am saying, he will understand the position. These measures for developing the computerisation are for bringing about more efficiency and also to see that the work goes on without any delay. This work has been going on in the international field. It is not as if we have introduced this computerisation as something new now. This was already there and I should also say that the work in the National Sample Survey section has been increasing and now it is being done on a large scale. The work includes a number of surveys, as for instance the food crop pattern which has been referred to. There are also some long-term projects and so on. Therefore, naturally the work has to be done in an efficient manner and the work has also to be expedited. Computers are not going to replace human service now. The presumption or information that the hon. Member has

got is not correct. It is not as if the Pendharkar Committee has gone beyond its terms of reference because it was appointed, as I said, in order to go into the working of the organisation and into the practical implementation of the Review Committee's recommendations. Therefore whatever the Review Committee covered, those very things are being covered by the working Group. This Working Group placed their recommendations before the Government and it is for the Government to think over them, to consider and reconsider them and if the hon. Member gives any suggestions, those suggestions also will be taken into consideration.

Then the hon. Member mentioned coordination between the Centre and the State. This is also there for improving the efficiency and to expedite the work and to improve the statistical work concerned, namely, designs, data collection, processing, interpretations and so on. The main object is to improve upon the efficiency standard and also to expedite the work.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : On a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : What is your point of order ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : In the beginning the hon. Deputy Minister said that the matter is under consideration. Therefore according to her the Government has not made up its mind. But in the course of her speech she is giving arguments justifying the recommendations of the Pendharkar Committee's recommendations. This is very wrong. The Government must make up its mind and if they have decided to implement those recommendations let them have the courage to

come out and say so. Let her not say that it is under consideration and then produce arguments in favour of the absurd recommendations of the Pendharkar Committee. I should like to know what is the position of the Government. She is speaking here on behalf of the Government. If the matter is still under consideration then she need not speak at all. Let her hear what Shri Chitta Basu and Shri Sen Gupta have to say on this subject. But here she is utilising this occasion for canvassing for the Pendharkar Committee's recommendations. It does not show that the Government is speaking in good faith. They are speaking in bad faith.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Now the Deputy Minister will continue.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : What is your ruling on my point of order, Sir?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : There is no point of order. You continue.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : It is a point of order. You cannot say one thing first and then contradict it by saying another thing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : The Government's decision will be announced in due course.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You consider this. Here the Lady Member is speaking for the Government; she is not speaking as a private Member. She began her speech by saying that the matter is under consideration, that all the problems we have raised are under consideration. But her speech—I have got here the Pendharkar Committee Report—is a rehash of the Pendharkar Committee Report to which we

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta]

are objecting. Now I should like to know which part of her speech is true. If the truth is that it is under consideration then why does she become an advocate of the Pendharkar Committee?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : You have to draw your own inference.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Surely, this is not the way to treat the scientists.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : I am an advocate, Mr. Gupta, but not for the Pendharkar Committee, as you suppose. I am only placing the facts for consideration by and persusal of this House. I do not think there is any inconsistency. I was just giving the facts that have been placed by the Pendharkar Committee. Any other experts committee would have also pointed out the difficulties in the way of practical implementation of the Review Committee's recommendations. There are a few points of difference between the review Committee's recommendations and the recommendations made by the Working Group headed by Mr. Pendharkar. They are minor difference and they are being looked into by the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : The Pendharkar Committee was an informal Committee.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : The Pendharkar Committee recommended that this may be divided into five zones and 25 regional centres for expediting the work and improving the standards. If any particular section of the staff has to be transferred efforts will be made to see that no hardship or inconvenience is caused to the workers not of the higher grade but the lower grade workers. As far as higher grade workers are concerned

they are very few in number and of course this point has also been considered at that meeting held on 1-3-1968. Many things were considered at that time. But nothing has been implemented and if the hon. Member has any suggestions they will be looked into. The main objective with which the Review Committee was appointed has been kept in mind by the Pendharkar Committee which was only a working group to find out the difficulties in the way of implementing the Review committee's recommendations. Therefore the two are not inconsistent.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam, did not the Review Committee say that this matter will be decided only when a Corporation is formed and when the Corporation takes over the NSS? Why are you forestalling that step ?

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : For the information of the hon. Member I would like to say that in the Review Committee's Report it has been mentioned that it is better that the whole thing is brought under the administrative control of a unified organisation and the Pendharkar Committee also says the same thing that it should come under a unified organisation. They have mentioned the location and other things also. As hon. Members know, the ISI was started in Calcutta. During war time it had to be shifted to a place nearby and part of the work was shifted to Giridih in Bihar. In order to have proper liaison and proper co-ordination between the different units working in different parts of the country it is quite essential that some of these things have to be implemented according to the recommendations. This was what was felt and the meeting was held under the chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Gadgil. There is not just one section; there are many sections and their

counterparts are working in the States also. If this particular unified organisation is located at a central place it will be near the user institutions, that is, the other institutions which are making use of it, Government Departments, etc. That is one thing and the second point is that there will be proper liaison among the different units that are working in the country. Keeping in view all these things these recommendations were made and the representation from the ISI workers . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Yes, what have they said ?

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: They have said that transfers and other things should not be made as it will cause hardship and inconvenience to the staff and their apprehension—I remember I answered this question last time also—is mainly that when computers are used the services will be cut down and they will be retrenched and they will be thrown in some far-off places.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN (Andhra Pradesh): That is not their contention.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You are misleading. I do not want to trouble you, Madam. I have got with me copy of the letter they have written to the Prime Minister. They say that this plan should be dropped altogether. Their contention is not that there should be no hardship, inconvenience or other things or they should be looked after well. No; their main demand is that this plan of the Pendharkar Committee should be scrapped. There should not be any transfer of the technical wing nor should it be dispersed into 25 different centres. The *status quo* should be maintained till the Corporation comes into existence when the matter can be discussed *de novo*.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: Of course there is not much

difference between what he says and what I have said. They have said that transfers and other things should not be made and the use of computers would cut down the services. This is the apprehension they have mentioned in that memorandum. I do not understand in what way my saying is quite different from what he says.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : You have not understood it.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : I have understood it all right; there is no sense, there is no meaning in that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam, do you realise that what you have said implies their acceptance of the plan subject to certain, well, safeguards but then there is a difference between safeguards and the other thing.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: I did not frame my sentence in the way in which he framed his sentence that the whole thing should be scrapped. I said that their contention was that the transfer and other things should not be made and inconvenience and hardship should not be caused to them; the computers are going to cut down their services and, therefore, they should not be used. If he had listened to this carefully he will see that the total meaning comes to what he says probably in a more graceful way. It was with a view to have a proper liaison between the Central and the State organisations this recommendation was made. I think many Members of Parliament also saw the Prime Minister along with the workers of that institution and they were given the assurance that no hardship or inconvenience will be caused to them and that all these shall be borne in mind. Therefore, I do not think that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta need have any such fear in his mind.

Thank you

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): Mr. Chitta Basu, your clarification now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I want to know something in a categorical form. My question is this. Having regard to the fact that the Pendharkar Committee Report is primarily based on computerisation which will lead not only to retrenchment but also reduce the employment potential in the country, and also having regard to the fact that this Committee did not also consult expert opinion, particularly the Fishers Report and the Finays Report on the ISI, will the Government decide—or has it decided—to finally scrap the Per dharkar Committee's recommendation as a whole? I do not want any kind of explanation that there will be no hardship or inconvenience and all that. Having regard to all the things I have stated, would the Government scrap the Pendharkar Committee's Report as a whole? That is No. 1.

My second question is this. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I think you know some time ago ten Honeywell computers were imported into India in pursuance of a contract entered into by Shri B. K. Nehru with a U.S. firm while he was Ambassador in the USA and out of these ten computers which were imported seven have been dispatched to different centres. After strenuous efforts by the working team for the disposal of these computers three are still remaining with the Delhi Centre. Mr. V.R. Rao who is the Director of the Delhi Centre also happens to be Member-Secretary of the Pendharkar Committee. For each computer our country had to spend Rs. 20 lakhs in foreign exchange and for the installation and maintenance of one computer machine in India about Rs. 27,000 are spent for an American expert. Now, I want to come to my question.

May I know whether it is a fact that this Mr. V.R. Rao, who happens to be the Member-Secretary of the Pendharkar Committee, wanted to computerise the NSS only to feed three giant computer machines imported from America? If so, I think this will emphasise or highlight the importance of the point to immediately scrap the Pendharkar Committee's Report. I want to know the answer to these two questions from the hon. Minister.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: I think in my answer to this question I have replied. The first one is, the Committee's recommendations are under consideration and a number of meetings are being held also. Secondly he mentioned, Mr. V.R. Rao, who was the Member-Secretary of the Pendharkar Committee. For this information I may say these are the experts who are working in the different statistical organisations.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: So what?

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: I am coming to that. They are:—

1. Mr. Pendharkar,
2. Mr. Harbans Lal, Member-Secretary, Research Programme Committee of the Planning Commission,
3. Mr. V.V. Divatia, Director, Bureau of Economics and Statistics, Gujarat,
4. Mr. M. R. Shroff, Director,
5. Mr. V.R. Rao, Director, Computer Centre, Department of Statistics.

Then, the information that he gave that Mr. V.R. Rao, was a Member-Secretary, is correct.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Thank God, you did not appoint a computer to settle this issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): Please let her reply.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : If I admit my use of that, the questions also would have been asked by the same computer. As he said, these Honeywell computers were imported and some of them are in use also, but the cost and other things do not come to that much. The main thing is, of course, not to retrench their services, but to bring in efficiency by the use of computers, because the workload has increased.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Who are you to say that ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Please, let her proceed.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : The Committee says that the conventional machinery will not be thrown off. In addition to that, this is going to be used without causing any retrenchment or hardship to the personal service of the staff there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Mr. Sen Gupta.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I want to ask . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : Please, now Mr. Sen Gupta.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : You are very unkind.

SHRI D.L. SEN GUPTA : This evening, the hon. Deputy Minister, in the course of her statement, said that in the interests of efficiency and because of the increase in the volume of the NSS, such changes have become imperative, though the Committee's Report has not yet been considered. She has emphasised it in the name of efficiency and increased volume of work. May I know from her whether there is anything in the Report of the Pendharakar Committee about the total volume of work and that computers should be wholly engaged to handle that volume

of work ? My information is that these aspects have not been considered and the computer will remain idle. And for that our national exchequer will be drained. I want a specific answer to this Parliamentary question, whether there was any consideration of this aspect. Secondly, she said efficiency. Regarding the Ministers' efficiency, nobody will ask for computerising the Ministers' jobs. Will the Minister answer this ? If there is a conflict between 'efficiency' and computerisation, for the time being, in view of the National crisis and many other problems will the question of 'efficiency' be considered secondary in importance ?

(Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Order, order, please.

SHRI D.L. SEN GUPTA : The question of efficiency is of secondary importance in the interests of keeping these men unstarved and fully employed.

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI : Have I not answered this question ? There is no choice between the computer and the personal services. Computers will be utilised if the decision is taken to improve the efficiency and also to avoid delays. In no circumstances will retrenchment take place. Those people who do not want to work in this system, of course, may go out. Those who are willing to work certainly will be absorbed, if not in this particular section, in another section.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M.P. BHARGAVA) : Now, the discussion is over. The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at forty-six minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 27th March, 1968.