

[Shri Triloki Singh]  
of the House is of the Government, and not of the Speaker. Therefore, once the House had been properly convened, it was not open to the Speaker to adjourn it *sine die* unless it was impossible for him to carry on the proceedings. I do not know what happened. But the time of the House is the time of the Government except on non-official days allotted for non official business, and the Question Hour, which is the time of all the Members put together.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Under what provision of the Constitution has the Speaker to specify the reason for adjourning the House? It is entirely in his discretion and he can adjourn the House at any time.

SHRI TRILOKI SINGH : I am prepared to join issue on this point not only with Mr. Bhupesh Gupta but with any other professor of political science, or any other person who knows the A, B, C of constitutional law, and I would say it again that the time of the House is the time of the Government.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Where is it said?

SHRI TRILOKI SINGH : It occurs in a hundred places in May's Parliamentary Practice and in other books.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Why don't you listen to him, Mr. Gupta?

SHRI TRILOKI SINGH : I am sorry that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta felt annoyed over the submissions that I made. I might be wrong. I had been wrong before and I may be wrong again. I do not claim infallibility, particularly in questions of law, Madam, but this is the opinion that I hold and I am fortified in the opinion I hold by so many authorities on constitutional law. Therefore I again, Madam, would request the Leader of the House to let this House have full facts sometime tomorrow so that the agitation in the minds of hon. Members of this House may be set at rest and we may know how things stand there.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let us come to the Motion on the food situation now.

## MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : I move :

"That the food situation in the country be taken into consideration."

At this stage I do not propose to make any speech. A Review of the Food Situation, giving all facts has been circulated among Members, and therefore at this stage I do not want to take the time of the House. I leave it more for the Members. At the end of the debate I will say in the light of what the Members say.

*The question was proposed*

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa) : I move—

1. "That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely :—

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the following steps should be taken to solve the vexed food problem of the country and urges upon the Government of India and the Planning Commission to reorient its agricultural strategy for the Fourth Five-Year Plan accordingly :

- (i) concentration on medium, minor and lift irrigation schemes with a view to bringing at least fifty per cent. of land under water in a phased manner within the coming ten years;
- (ii) complete nationalisation of foodgrains trade to mop up the surplus with the richer section of the agriculturists on the basis of a fair remunerative price to meet the demands of the deficit areas;
- (iii) emphasis on land reform measures to give right of proprietorship to the actual tiller and to enforce a ceiling on land holding at 15 acres irrigated land per family;
- (iv) preference to fertiliser factories based on indigenous raw material and indigenous know-how, for meeting the needs of agriculture;

- (v) propagation of high-yielding varieties of paddy, wheat and maize, etc.;
- (vi) enforcement of regulatory measures on procurement and distribution as long as the country is not self-sufficient;
- (vii) arrangement of cheaper credit to the agriculturists through banks and co-operatives;
- (viii) gradual reduction of food imports with a view to achieving complete elimination of foreign dependence by 1970, and the creation of a buffer stock to meet emergent situations;
- (ix) restraint on unnecessary expansion of government departments under the cover of grow-more-food campaigns;
- (x) distribution of fallow and waste lands to the poorer agriculturists, preference being given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes peasants, and
- (xi) introduction of graduated agricultural income-tax in place of present land revenue system on land."

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): I move :

2. "That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:—

'and having considered the same, this House recommends to the Government to reorient its food policy on the basis of :—

- (i) introduction of State-trading on all-India basis in the wholesale trade of foodgrains;
- (ii) energetic steps being taken by the State Governments for monopoly purchase of the marketable surpluses through the agencies of the State Governments;
- (iii) expansion of public distribution system;
- (iv) stricter controls on the rice mills;

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- (v) statutory fixation of the procurement prices as well as consumers' prices in the open market;
- (vi) continuance of the subsidisation of the imported food-grains;
- (vii) reduction of food imports to the minimum; and
- (viii) effective steps for the stepping up of food production.'"

श्री सुन्दरसिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान) :  
मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि :

"प्रस्ताव के अन्त में निम्नलिखित जोड़ा जाये, अर्थात् :-

और उस पर विचार करने के बाद इस सभा की यह सम्मति है कि--

- (1) कुएँ और नहरों बनवाने के लिये नकदी में सहायता दिये जाने के स्थान पर इन्हें बनवा कर दिया जाय ;
- (2) किसानों की आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने के हेतु उत्पादन लागत तथा अत्यावश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों को ध्यान में रख कर सरकार को प्रत्येक फसल के बोने के समय भाव घोषित करने चाहिये तथा उन्हीं, दरो पर कितना भी अनाज खरीदने के लिये तैयार रहना चाहिये ;
- (3) खाद्यान्न क्षेत्रों को अविलम्ब समाप्त कर दिया जाना चाहिये ; और
- (4) किसानों की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिये ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्टेट बैंक स्थापित किये जाने चाहियें ।

(श्री सुन्दरसिंह भंडारी)

†[3. "That at the end of the Motion the following be added, namely :—

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that—

- (i) wells and canals should be got constructed instead of giving assistance in cash for constructing them;
- (ii) in order to improve the economic condition of the farmers, Government should, keeping in view the cost of production and the prices of essential commodities, announce the prices at the time of sowing each crop and should be prepared to purchase any quantity of foodgrains at those rates;
- (iii) the food zones should be abolished immediately; and
- (iv) State Banks should be established in rural areas to meet the needs of the farmers."]

*The questions were proposed*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I may at the outset inform the Members that every Member will get just fifteen minutes to speak on this as there are a number of names here. Dr. Antani.

DR. B. N. ANTANI (Gujarat): Madam Deputy Chairman, the hon. Food Minister has asked us to be satisfied with what has been circulated, and I assure the House that I have very carefully read the literature placed before us and I have come to the conclusion that the Government of India has failed in evolving a national food policy. I am pained, Madam, to observe that after independence up to today the country has had no definite national food policy. On the 29th of January, 1948, the day prior to the assassination of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi declared in the midst of the food difficulties in Madras—Shri Jairamdas Daulatram was the then Food Minister—that the country was one country and one zone, that there could be no two zones in the country where food was concerned.

He also said that the test of a good government was whether food was being provided to the nation without any

†[ ] English translation.

difficulty and at reasonable price. Today, Madam, what do we see? After 1948 up to the end of the year 1967, we see

the same thing 'वही रफतार बढ़गी, जो पहले था सो अब भी है' the same old

pattern of things that was before is allowed to be continued. After the recent Chief Ministers' conference, even the hon. Finance Minister had expected that with the maximisation of procurement there would be an improvement and a gradual relaxation of the restrictions would be considered. But when will there be a total removal of these restrictions? That is the parenthesis. I have no doubt, Madam Deputy Chairman, that the Government of India does not know its own mind and it allows the country to go in the same old manner so far as food is concerned. I am pained to see this. Madam, Deputy Chairman, I am again pained to see that from day to day, from year to year, so far as food is concerned, we have to go with a begging bowl to other countries to help us. It was again the Father of the Nation on that very evening who said that as long as we were beggars for food we were not independent at all. Today, from this literature that has been placed in our hands I find that the Food Minister will say that even private foreign agencies come to him to give milk powder for our babes, for giving them a drop of milk. Is this the sum total of the administration in an independent country, in the Sovereign Republic of India? After twenty years of administration we have to be in this plight so far as giving a morsel of food for our poor people is concerned. We are told there were famines, that there was a drought. But were there no famines before 1948? Were there no droughts before 1948? Why could the country not have enough food at least to lead a hand to mouth life to keep the people alive? I submit, Madam Deputy Chairman, that this Government has failed. When I read this literature and when I see the rigmarole that is there from time to time so far as food is concerned, I feel that this Government is made up of many pandits. The Food Minister is a scholar a great pandit. I know him. But then I remember an episode in Banaras where a pandit, a scholar, went to buy some ghee from the bazar. He bought the ghee and put it in a brass pot and then his scholastic mind began to work and he asked himself "Is this ghee supporting the brass pot or the brass pot is supporting the ghee?" Is

P.L. 480 supporting us or something else? And the result was that the pandit lost the ghee and the pot. He lost both. This is the plight to which we have come.

In this literature that has been placed in our hands we see estimates of production and so on, and it says there is necessity for so much of foodgrain imports. But I question this necessity for such imports of foodgrains. I have always been consistently of the opinion that in this country, even with the so-called explosion of population—I have eight grandsons and more and more are coming, family planning notwithstanding—even with the present rate of increase in families, India can have and should have no food deficit, if only we had an efficient administration in this country. The late lamented Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru expected the country to be self-sufficient in food years ago. Why was the emphasis in our planning shifted from food to heavy industries? Was it because of the pressure of the leftists on the Government? If only that emphasis had remained on food, the country would have become self-sufficient in food long ago. Why has food production not progressed? Why has it not increased so far in spite of your having so many fertilizer units and the State Trading Corporation and the Food Corporation and the Seed Corporation and what not? In other words, it seems that corruption is paramount everywhere. About the Food Corporation I know personally because I have had some experience of it. It is a corrupt institution. About the Seed Corporation also I have had experience in my own place and I know that instead of providing good seeds, seeds at reasonable prices, they are looters and grafters and nothing else. I say this, Madam, with a full sense of responsibility and I can prove every word that I say on the floor of the House. Therefore, I submit this. Let the Food Minister be a rational man like me and let him know the market and let him forget his scholastic visions. Let him be reasonable and let him remove all these food zones. Let him devise a policy which will provide the essential things like lift irrigation, minor irrigation properly and in time to the farmers, provide seeds, give them fertilizers and so on. That is what is needed. May be we are dubbed by modernists as people who are backward, people who believe in a cowdung policy. But we on this side of the House don't mind

being called backward. Nevertheless we will never starve and we shall never allow the country to starve if we are put into power tomorrow. This woeful condition of the country, Madam, should be stopped, and that too without any delay. If the emphasis is put on production and if all these necessary things are given, then we will have a more rational, a more national and more vital food policy and it is for want of such a policy the country is suffering today. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to consider these points. Let them provide irrigation, fertilizers, credit and so on. At the end of it all, I say, let them abolish the zones system. This zone system is at the bottom of all this corruption and this should be abolished now without a moment's delay. Thank you.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Mysore)**: Madam Deputy Chairman, the speaker who preceded me has spoken about the need to provide seeds, fertilizers, irrigation etc. etc. and in these matter I agree with what he said. But when he said that this Government has failed to supply the food required by the people, I do not agree with him because primarily the producer is not the Government but it is the country. It is the country or the farmers of the country who produce food from the land.

**SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa)**: But the Government impedes production through its policies.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY**: I submit to the speaker who preceded me that he need not have been so very vehement about the failure of the Government. The failure, if any, was due to unforeseen circumstances. As we all know there was a very bad monsoon, in fact there were two bad monsoons consecutively, one after the other. He must be knowing that it was on account of these extraordinary circumstances, that had not been seen for a century almost, that we had to face this very bad situation in the country.

Fortunately for us, Madam, it seems that a good harvest is near and this is a morale booster for us in an otherwise serious economic situation that the country is facing today. Fortunately for us we seem to be having a very good harvest and therefore, we are likely to get over the crisis. Therefore we need not get unnecessarily agitated now over the situation. The common belief among

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the knowledgeable circles is that we are likely to achieve a break-through what with these hybrid seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides, irrigation, package programmes and so on and so forth. These are the ingredients indicated for bringing about a revolution in agriculture and the year 1967-68 probably will be a water-shed in the agricultural production of the country, provided we keep up and maintain the factors that influence agricultural production.

Madam Deputy Chairman, I would now like to draw the attention of the House to the food requirement of the country. I place it at 16 ounces per head per day and on this basis we require some 90 million tonnes of food. Of course, provision has got to be made for seeds and other things also and it is commonly put at 12½ per cent. That comes to about 10 million tonnes. Therefore the total requirement of food for the whole country this year will be about 100 million tonnes. But the food availability, according to the latest estimates for 1967-68 including the kharif, seems to be 95 million tonnes. This is expected to be the production, according to the Review placed in our hands. Also according to this Review there is a possibility of an import of 7.5 million tonnes. Therefore, we shall be having a net availability of something like 102.5 million tonnes. Even if 100 million tonnes are consumed this year there will still be something like 2.5 million tonnes as buffer stock. This is the situation as I can understand it from the Review that has been placed in our hands.

But the question of questions is whether the estimated figures with regard to production and procurement will come true. According to my assessment, Madam, the production might not reach the figure of 95 million tonnes. I base my assessment mainly on the situation that has come about in the latter part of October and also in the month of November. Rains have failed almost all over the country in the second part of October with the result that the kharif crop has suffered. Speaking about Mysore nearly in eight or nine districts the crops have failed. In Tumkur, Bangalore, Hassan, Mysore, Chittaldurg, in eight or nine districts—of course not the irrigated crops so much—the dry crops have failed. Therefore the prospect of harvesting a good crop is very

remote. I imagine that the same should be the case with regard to other States also because October rains have failed everywhere. And even according to the Review the November rains have failed and therefore the sowing of the rabi crops will be affected very badly with the result that the chance of producing 95 million tonnes is very much reduced.

Coming to the question of imports, the world situation seems to be very bad. Will the Food Ministry be able to procure from external sources 7.5 million tonnes of foodgrains? It is a big question with the situation being very bad throughout the world. In Australia they say there has been widespread drought and that their production is likely to fall. The American situation is none too better and the situation in Canada is also not so good. Therefore the important grain-producing countries are facing a difficult situation and even according to the Review the world stocks are dwindling. Therefore there may not be the possibility of our being able to procure 7.5 million tonnes. What has been our experience in the last three years? Madam, in 1965 we imported 7.5 million tonnes and we produced 89 million tonnes. The total availability of foodgrains was 96.5 million tonnes and it worked out to 151 Kgs. per capita. In 1966 10.4 million tonnes were imported and 72 million tonnes were produced. The total availability was 82.4 million tonnes but the per capita availability fell down to 130 Kgs. In 1967 we imported 9.4 million tonnes and produced 76 million tonnes. The total availability was 85.4 million tonnes and the per capita availability was 132, still much less than what it was in 1965. Thus we see that year after year our per capita availability has been going down and what should have been its consequence in the country? Madam, the Food Minister says in this Review that in spite of the prophets of doom the country has been able to get over the food deficiency during 1966-67. But let us not hide the fact that we have been able to get over the food crisis mainly on account of the fact that a lot of human suffering has been brought about through hunger. I would only put it this way. The total requirement of the country even on the basis of our consumption in 1965 was 95 million tonnes but we have managed with 85 million tonnes; that means to say the country must have gone through the agony of hunger to the extent of ten

million tonnes; as I would like to say, a ten million tonne hunger had been the agony the country had to pass through. We have been able to get over the crisis only on account of this great suffering the country has undergone and all the credit has got to be given to the people to the poorer sections of the people who suffered this hunger patiently, knowing as they did that the situation was an extraordinary one which nobody on earth could have helped. Of course the Government has done a gigantic task because even with two consecutive years of failure there has not been a single starvation death. Whether well fed or ill fed, the people have been able to survive and it goes to the credit of both the people as well as the Government.

Now this year is said to be a year in which there need be no anxiety with regard to food and this assessment of the Food Ministry is based on the fact that the market arrivals have been better. According to the analysis which I have made of the market arrivals, rice arrivals have increased in the three months from July to October by 54 per cent. These are the figures given in the Review. Jowar has increased only by 12 per cent; maize has increased by 54 per cent and wheat by 16 per cent. While I admit that this is a tendency which is very good, which is very encouraging, all the same we should not be complacent because of these market arrivals because 12 to 16 per cent improvement is not very much. The market arrivals by itself is not an indication that we are going to tide over our difficulties. Probably when the harvest is completed something better might come up. Let us hope that something better will come up.

With regard to prices also, rice is said to have fallen by 6 per cent, jowar by 3 per cent, while wheat on the other hand has gone up by 5 per cent. Therefore even on the score of prices there is nothing much to say in favour of the food situation in the country because there is only a marginal fall if at all and even that is offset by the rise in wheat price. And the conclusion given in the Review is :

“Considering the disasters that accompanied famines in the pre-Independence era in India, the country can take justifiable pride in its performance in tackling the problems

created by drought and scarcity in 1966 and 1967.”

Here I would like to point out, as I did earlier also, that the Government can really be proud of the fact that it has been able to go through the crisis successfully and the great humanity has been saved from what otherwise would have been a great disaster. It is true but let us also remember that the task was gigantic and that the Central and State Governments have done really commendable work in organising relief works and distribution of foodgrains. All this was possible because of the great suffering the dumb humanity has been put to. Especially, Madam, when I went to Bihar in a Delegation I found the Adivasis and other weaker sections of the society were surviving on tree leaves and the CARE milk powder that was given to them for a number of days.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your time is over.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : While I gratefully acknowledge in this House the generosity of the various countries like Australia, Canada, France, Japan, Norway, Sweden, Thailand, U.S.S.R., U.S.A., Yugoslavia etc. and international organisations like the World Food Programme, UNICEF etc. which have come to our aid in our hour of distress, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister a few complaints that I received.

Last month we were in Australia in a parliamentary delegation. In Melbourne the friends of India collected huge quantities of milk powder to be sent to the hungry people of this country. It seems it was sent, but it was not cleared from the ship. I am not quite sure, but a complaint was made like this that a huge quantity of milk powder was allowed to go waste. Again in Mildura in Australia, the grape growers association of Australia offered one hundred tonnes of grapes to feed the hungry people of this country. They regretted that the offer was rejected by this Government. I could not understand why such a generous offer was refused.

Madam, one word about production. The crux of the problem is production. The production problems have not been tackled as well as they should have been. Of course, we have been spending

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money. Productivity has not increased. The area under cultivation has increased in the last twelve or thirteen years by 21.5 per cent, whereas the food production has increased by only 45 per cent. It means that productivity has been stationary. This is the crux of the problem. We have increased the irrigation potential from 50 million acres to 80 million acres, i.e., by 30 million acres. Still the productivity has not increased. We have spent on irrigation Rs. 1252 crores and still results are not forthcoming. Our agriculture administration, I guess, has spent a thousand crores on agricultural research, etc. Still results have not come by way of increased production.

In conclusion, I would like to refer to water, which is the most important thing. Our Food Minister must be knowing it more than anybody else. I have suggested previously that the development of underground water resources is the surest insurance against the failure of the monsoon and it has got to be done on a large scale. I have suggested it before that a corporation with a capital of Rs. 1000 crores to dig at least one million wells in this country is an absolute necessity because we have not tapped it. It is said and of course you must be knowing it also that the Indo-Gangetic plains has the biggest underground lake to be found anywhere. Why not tap it? Efforts have not been made. Hereafter at least you should make this effort to bring out water from the "Pathala Loka", if necessary, and see that this country is not subjected to frequent failures, as it has been the case before. This is the surest way for us to sufficient in food. Thank you.

**SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :** Madam Deputy Chairman, the very report that has been circulated to us about the food situation in the country clearly shows that the Government is still suffering from a sense of complacency. There is no doubt that this year because of the climate we are going to have a good crop, barring a few regions, in this country and one of these regions is Orissa. Because of drought conditions, according to the official estimates, about 25 per cent of the crop in this region is going to suffer. Just three or four months back we anticipated that we will also have a bumper crop, but the situation has changed and I do not know whether we might not have again

to come to the Government of India asking for some assistance. When I said that they suffer from a sense of complacency, I had only one thing in mind. Even after twenty years of independence and three Plans we have not been able to free the agricultural economy from the vagaries of the monsoon. If you go through the official estimates also you will find that before independence about 15 per cent of cultivable land of this country was under irrigation. Within these twenty years and in spite of spending a huge amount of money on agriculture, the percentage has gone up maximum only to 25 per cent. It means in spite of our efforts during these twenty years hardly ten per cent of the land has been brought under irrigation, either flow or gravitation.

**SHRI S. SRI RAMA REDDY :** Is is 60 per cent.

**SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :** It is undeniable. It is only 25 per cent. It is absolutely wrong if it is 60 per cent. It was 15 per cent before independence and it is 25 per cent now. It means ten per cent more of land has been brought under irrigation. It is the total and his is the official figure.

Madam, this clearly shows that when we have a better climate and better monsoon we are in a better situation. And if you go through the history of planning also, you will find that during the first Five Year Plan you gave the utmost importance to irrigation and agriculture. In the Second and Third Five Year Plans you gave much more importance to industry and you absolutely neglected the agricultural sector. As a result every year our Ministers have to go to America, Canada and other countries with begging bowls and to import foodgrains. What is the amount that we are spending. Even if it is PL 480, I have the figures, but I have no time to quote them. Since independence the average import of foodgrains has been worth about Rs. 300 crores annually. Though in the earlier days it was Rs. 250 crores, it has now gone up to Rs. 300 crores. This year because of the good climate we may have to import less. Even then it is seven million tonnes that the Government envisages to import, not only to meet the internal demand, but also to create a buffer stock. The actual situation in the country is this. If next year the monsoon fails, again we will have to go to different

countries with a begging bowl. You know that just two months back when the Aid India Consortium met in Europe, the representatives of the Agriculture Ministry had to go there to explain to them not only about how much aid we want. They went to explain to them that we are doing our best in regard to agriculture. So, this is the situation that even our officers and Ministers have to go and satisfy all other countries that we are very serious about agriculture. Here I want to warn the Government that as long as our agriculture is going to depend on rains and the monsoon, the vagaries of the monsoon will create conditions in this country by which we will have to go to America and other countries with a begging bowl. What has been the net result? Every time we go to America with a begging bowl, they have their own strings also. You know that a few days back there was a lot of discussion in America in order to force us to abolish these food zones. Whether the food zones should be retained or should be abolished is our internal affair. We have to discuss here and settle matters whether the food zone is good or bad. But the moment we go with a begging bowl, they have always a feeling growing in their mind that they have to impose their ideas, their political ideas and theories on us, by telling us and advising us that we should abolish these food zones.

Here in regard to the food situation we have to discuss two aspects of the matter. One is production and the other is distribution. In regard to production I would say that the utmost emphasis should be laid on irrigation, whether small or medium, so that within ten years—we can have a phased programme—at least fifty per cent of the land in this country can be brought under irrigation. As long as we are not able to do this, we will be suffering and if this Government suffer from a sense of complacency one year, when the food crop is good, they will have to tell us the next year that we have a famine and everybody should tighten his belt.

Madam Deputy Chairman, here also I want to warn the Government that all those schemes that the Government is preparing in Krishi Bhavan have no relevance to the actual realities of the situation in the country. I would say that the utmost priority should be given to three aspects of agriculture as far as production is concerned. One is

irrigation, and the Planning Commission should come out with a scheme so that at least 50 per cent of the land of this country can be brought under irrigation either through wells or lift irrigation or canals under a phased programme.

The second aspect is fertilizer. I know that in this country we have enough of technical know-how and our Fertiliser Corporation has developed that I am also requesting the Government of India to see that the utmost exploitation is made of the indigenous technical know-how regarding fertiliser and also indigenous raw materials. The Government should not go to other countries to have projects based on raw materials which are not easily available to us, which will again put us into difficulty, so that after some years we will have to come and say that because the raw materials for the fertiliser factories cannot be imported their installed capacity is not being utilised.

The third important aspect is about high-yielding varieties of seeds.

If these three things are done and a phased programme is made, for two Five Year Plans, I am sure we can free this country and the agricultural economy from the vagaries of the monsoon.

Madam, I may remind you here also that more than 50 per cent of the national income is derived from the agriculture sector. But if you go into the question of commodity production, then 75 per cent of commodity production of this country comes from the agriculture sector, which also to a great extent helps the industrial growth of the country.

The fourth aspect I want to highlight is about land reforms. I know that within the first two Plans whatever emphasis was being laid on land reforms to give proprietary right to the actual tiller of the soil we have forgotten within these five or six years because of the pressure of the rich peasants, landlords and ex-rulers of this country. Madam, here also I want to tell the Minister that though it is a subject which to a great extent relates to the States, the utmost emphasis should be given to land reforms so that a ceiling at least is clamped in every State and implemented and the actual tiller is given the proprietary right. (Interruption). There might be two attitudes about this. One can say that the

[Shri Banka Behary Das]

production in this country will go up with big holdings, the production will go up if you have capitalist farming in this country. I agree to a certain extent that production may go up, but we should not forget that we are to provide the minimum standard of living to the people of this country, and the growth of the population in this country is annually more than 2 per cent, and within these 15 years of planning the growth of the agricultural sector is about 2 per cent. When we invest some expenditure in different sectors and create a demand for foodgrains in the society, here we are confronted with a situation which shows that there is a growth of population of more than 2 per cent, and the growth of agriculture is only 2 per cent; then naturally scarcity condition also develops. That is why it is also highly important to consider how to produce more. We can have automation in this country, but why are we fighting automation? I do not want that automation should be introduced here and now only because we want to see that whatever national income we generate is also to a certain extent distributed evenly. That is why the question of land reforms is very important.

Then about prices, you know that just two months back when Prof. Gadgil took charge of the Planning Commission, he cautioned this country that at least the remunerative price should be fixed in such a way that it should not go beyond last year's price, and moreover just because we are in a better situation this year, that should be utilised, just to have a stabilising effect on the economy. But what has been the net result? Not only there is a great disparity between the procurement prices of the different States beginning from something like Rs. 46 to Rs. 58 for paddy per quintal; but in some States it has been allowed to be raised. As a result there is a disparity of Rs. 12 to Rs. 13 as far as the price of paddy is concerned when we take into account the different States, and I say this will also create a difficult situation. You cannot have such a difference in prices between two neighbouring States.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) in the Chair]

I know the price in Orissa was only fixed at Rs. 45 to Rs. 46. The Government is insisting on raising it to at least Rs. 48. I know that in other States it

has gone up to the extent of Rs. 58. Though I advocate that there should be a remunerative price in the interests of production, I detest this very idea that the disparity in the procurement prices should be so great in our country.

Then I come to the aspect of distribution. It has been said that the food zones should be abolished. Normally I am not in favour of restriction on food movement, but as long as we have conditions in this country where you apprehend scarcity and you are going to other countries to import, you will have to consider seriously a certain amount of regulation, a certain amount of restriction on movement. So long as this country is not self-sufficient as regards food production, we will have to tolerate to a certain extent restriction on movement and also tolerate to a certain extent rationing in this country. Here is the report of the Famine Enquiry Commission in Bengal. Only I want to refer when in 1942 this restriction was removed, what happened? This report had to say that Bengal famine came not because there was lack of production in the country but because of this removal of restriction. They warned us that conditions of famine would prevail in this country as long as conditions of self-sufficiency had not been developed in the agricultural economy. I am also happy to note that the Chief Minister of my State belongs to the Swatantra Party. Normally, they do not believe in this restriction, but in the Food Ministers' Conference, I know it very well, there was a consensus and he had to agree that the food zones should be retained and to a certain extent restrictions should continue. That is why I am saying that though pressure is being built up from various political quarters and particularly from the business sections of this country to remove the food zones, I will humbly tell the Minister and warn him that as long as conditions of self-sufficiency have not been developed in the economy—and it is not a question of one year or two years—there will be pressure and the deficit States will want free movement and the surplus States will want cordon to a certain extent. Here a balance is to be struck. We will have to see that the surplus in a surplus State is mopped up so that the deficit States can be fed. Here the question of nationalisation comes. As long as this restriction continues and you allow the free trade people to exploit the situation, the worst condition in the Indian economy is going to happen and there

will be scarcity and famine conditions. (*Interruption*). Whenever there is a surplus condition and you remove the food zone, you will see that the surplus will not be mopped up. We want to say that the Food Corporation should work and we want to say that whatever surplus a State has should be mopped up through the nationalised institutions so that they can be sent only to the deficit States. Otherwise you cannot create a reserve. How can you create a reserve if you do not have this cordon? India is a huge country. Unless we have zones, as long as conditions of self-sufficiency have not been developed, the price level will go up and the ultimate result will be some of the bloodsuckers in the business community will hold the entire country to ransom. Thank you.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN (Maharashtra) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, we must congratulate the hon. Food Minister for moving a motion in every session on the food situation. The debate gives the Members an opportunity to express their views on an issue of national importance, the food situation. These debates will prove useful provided a reassessment and a revaluation of the policies is made in the light of the views expressed in this House. I do not know how far such a reassessment is made and whether it is very satisfactory. Except for certain variations in quotas and allocations to this or that State, nothing substantial is done to meet the basic suggestions made in the House. The debates therefore may prove a routine affair. I will substantiate this by saying that an integrated national policy has still to be evolved and a national food budget formulated. I hope things will change now.

According to the Review of Food Situation in the country presented by the Government, the situation is hopeful. Nature is kind and a kharif crop of 90 million tonnes is expected. There is thus a substantial increase of 15 million tonnes over the last year and the year before last. This is certainly a favourable factor. But there are other factors which, though not adverse, deserve to be taken note of in planning on a long-term basis for freedom from imports and for going towards food self-sufficiency.

May I point out that the availability of foodgrains in the world is on the decline? America on whom we are largely dependent is not so willing to send sup-

plies. Further in a large number of States there are multi-party Governments with their own pulls and stresses and strains. So a determined and firm approach on a national level on basic issues is the need of the hour. In the last Chief Ministers' Conference the hon. Food Minister has tried to persuade the heads of the States towards such a goal. Though not satisfactory, certain steps in this direction have been taken. All the States have agreed to procure eight million tonnes of foodgrains by doubling their targets for the last year and a buffer stock of 12 million tonnes has been planned. The next step should be the formulation of a national food budget.

Now, I would not like to go into all those factors which have brought about this crisis. I will only pinpoint some basic issues. The food problem is a problem of production and also of making food available through policies of procurement and distribution. Some of these policies are basic in nature and some administrative in character. There has been sometimes a failure in approaches, sometimes in formulating certain basic policies, mostly faltering in implementing even the right kind of approaches and policies. And as stated earlier, there is no firm national food policy as yet.

I am not one of those who believe that we have done nothing or neglected agriculture. Large investments have been made. An all-round help in the form of credits, irrigation, fertilisers, etc. has been given to improve agriculture and increase agricultural production. Many incentives have been given to the agriculturists. As a result, we find the agricultural production rising, particularly the food production rising from 50 million tonnes to 90 million tonnes.

I agree that much more should be done, particularly in the sphere of irrigation and rural electrification. More of investments must be made in this sector keeping in view the crisis that is before us.

But, Sir, my difficulty is that we have failed in respect of a few vital things. We talk of incentives. I have no grudge about the incentives that are being given now. But the most vital incentive to the large class of the peasantry, viz., realisation of the objectives of security of tenancy and land to the tiller, is not there. We have framed certain laws with regard to tenancy and land reforms. But

[Shri S. K. Vaishampayan]

Unfortunately the implementation is not only slow but half-hearted and lukewarm. Mr. Ladjenky, an expert on land relations who visited India and who carried out surveys, is very critical about our policies. He is of the view that 70 per cent of land is still in the hands of 5 per cent of the landlords. There may be certain exceptions of areas and States but by and large, the criticism to a great extent is correct. Let us see what we can do in this sphere so that this incentive, very basic in nature, is given to the large number of small peasants in our country.

It is very true that large credits and inputs have gone into rural areas but I feel that this assistance has reached only a section of the agriculturists. The small landlords who really should have been the recipients of this huge help have benefited a little. It is those small peasants. It is these small peasants who are and will be the backbone of our agricultural production for self-sufficiency and therefore care must be taken to see that credit and inputs reach this section of our society.

Now, I will refer to another aspect of food production. There is a doubt that the area under cultivation has increased, the irrigation facilities have increased. We are trying to improve upon these through minor, medium and major projects as well as by taking power into the fields. This will certainly add and help our efforts. But unfortunately, we have not paid sufficient attention to the question of increasing the yield per acre. The yield per acre in India is the lowest even though in as many adverse circumstances, other countries have a much higher yield. In Japan, for instance, the yield per acre for rice is 4,500 pounds whereas in India we have only 1,342 pounds per acre. The same may be said about wheat also. So, in our efforts we should encourage the yield per acre through prizes, subsidies and even concessions in land revenue.

Having dealt with these important aspects of food production, I will now turn to the other aspects of a firm national food policy. Mention must be made about the preservation of foodgrains at various levels and storage. Though the Food Ministry does not

accept a high percentage of wastage at the field, harvesting and storage levels, the opinion of experts, foreign as well as Indian, goes to show that this wastage is high. Even according to rough estimates and figures available, the total wastage due to pests, insects and rodents, defective storage arrangements, etc. cannot be less than 20 per cent. The percentage is serious and so, if we can save half of this wastage, there will be great relief and our goal of self-sufficiency will be reached earlier than expected. There is a habit in the administration to contradict and deny facts. I request the Government that even if the percentages are not as high, still it should take all the measures necessary to prevent this wastage.

I will now touch briefly on one more issue which will affect production and procurement both. The issue is of giving reasonable prices for foodgrains to the peasants. The peasant has to rely on the vagaries of market fluctuation for a return of his efforts in producing foodgrains. He does not feel secure nor considers it an incentive to produce more. Further, he sees that he can get good returns from cash crops. He gives his attention to them instead of investing his efforts on producing more of foodgrains. And if out of all avocations any avocation today is insecure inasmuch as the prices are concerned, it is agriculture. So, it has become incumbent upon us to see that the agriculturists are assured of reasonable prices for their produce. They will then produce and also part with their surpluses.

Having said so much about production and incentives to production, I may say a few words about procurement and then distribution.

There should be a uniform policy of procurement. A feeling of equal sharing and suffering must grow in all the States whosoever may be in power. It is, therefore, necessary that States must undertake procurement in the interests of the people of the deficit areas or drought-affected areas. A monopoly-cum-graded levy system would be the best method of procurement.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA (Andhra Pradesh): No river disputes must be there.

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: That dispute is not coming in the way of increasing the irrigation facilities throughout the country.

But in enforcing this, difficulties may arise and obstacles may be created. Trading in foodgrains is becoming an alluring proposition not only to the profiteering and hoarding class of our community but the big or rich peasant in the rural areas is also playing his part. So, enforcement of procurement must not only be stricter but it must not be traditional.

The rise of a new class who has grown conscious of the benefits of trading must be taken note of. Profiteer and hoarders must be dealt with severely.

4 P.M.

Besides these new trends, policies of procurement and distribution will suffer if timely measures are not taken against the increasing menace of smuggling. There is smuggling not only from one State to another, but even outside. It is stated that profits range from 500 to 700 per cent within a week, something which is unimaginable. Stricter checks and severe punishments are the needs of the hour.

Then let us apply to one other fact of the food problem. Through our persistent efforts and proper policies we may make food available, but at what price to a consumer with an ordinary income? The interest of the consumer and his capacity to pay must now engage the attention of policy-makers. And in case certain readjustments are required let us make them. After all, this important limb of our community must not be allowed to groan under the weight of ever-rising prices.

I would like to conclude by submitting that the Government should finalise consideration of the recommendations made by the Foodgrains Policy Committee, implement them and lead the country to self-sufficiency through a national Food policy and a Food Budget. Thank you.

SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM (Madras): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to share my views on the food situation with my colleagues in

this august Assembly. It is really gratifying to note that after many years the Food Minister has come out with a statement which gives a hope to the reader. We have been given in the past few years statements containing grim pictures of starvation deaths, droughts, floods, etc. But only this time the Food Minister has come out with a statement giving a picture that we are out of the woods and can hope for better days ahead. Although the present Food Minister deserves my congratulations for his performance during the short span of office as Food Minister particularly at a juncture where many Food Ministers failed, the people of many States deserve more congratulations because they voted the Congress out of power. Only this, to my mind, is the cause for a record level of production during the current year. The non-Congress Governments, unlike their predecessors, devoted much attention to agriculture which has resulted in increased production. It is in this context that I request, in all humility, the Central Government to assist the State Governments whether they are ruled by the Congress or by party to their liking or not.

Like security from external aggression, the food situation also is a national problem and politics should not enter into this. Please permit me to point out certain specific problems relating to my State, namely, Tamilnad. As you are aware, the Government of Tamilnad is ruled by the D.M.K. Party in which I am privileged to be a Member. From the day of its taking over of the Government it left no stone unturned to increase agricultural production. The administration of agriculture has been toned up and an awareness among the agriculturists in the State has been created by my leader and the Chief Minister.

Sir, a number of schemes have been evolved to increase food production in the State. In order to implement those projects, finance is the foremost need and I hope the Central Government which controls the nation's economy and resources will be liberal in providing assistance. With very great difficulty my Party's Government at Madras is providing rice at the rate of one Rupee per Madras measure in Madras and Coimbatore. It has planned to cover the entire State gradually. This is a laudable project which will go a long

[Shri G. P. Somasundaram]

way in the amelioration of the difficulties of the poor and the downtrodden and also bring down the price rise because the price of rice is the sole determining factor for the price of all commodities.

The subsidy sought by the Government of Madras should be favourably considered. The Government of Madras, I am told, has sought assistance for various minor irrigation projects in the State. I request that the assistance may be provided without any delay.

Since the Government of Madras has launched an almost unprecedented agricultural revolution in the State, huge quantities of fertilisers are required on an urgent basis. Therefore, I request through you, Sir, the hon. Food Minister to allot the required amount of fertilisers and insecticides to the State of Madras. Due to the package programme and the steps taken by my Party's Government in Madras, Tanjore District which is called the granary of Tamilnad has yielded a large quantity of rice. I read in the papers a few days back that a disease called "Blight" has set in an epidemic form in the district. This, I am told, has happened for the first time in the district. Although the Madras Government will take such steps as may be necessary to remedy the situation, I request the hon. Food Minister to get into touch with the Madras Government immediately and, if necessary, send a team of experts so that the disease can be eliminated at an early date.

Sir, at the request of the Central Government and particularly of the Food Minister, the Government of Madras has agreed to provide rice to Kerala. The Government of Madras has requested the Central Government to provide pulses, particularly *tor-dal* immediately. It is not too much to expect from the Central Government that they would provide this.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, all of us know अन्ना भवन्ति भूतानि and therefore, the food problem is the most important problem. Unfortunately we have to face it as the population is going on increasing, and though we are successfully increasing the food production, it is yet not as sufficient as it should be.

Sir, this problem should be discussed and looked at from different aspects, viz. production, procurement, stocking, distribution. But the most important point is that prices should be within the reach of the common man. But today unfortunately the prices of all these essential commodities are going up higher and higher. For a little while they decrease to again take a very big leap. If they come down this year, the next year they go up very high again.

As far as production is concerned, there are many factors to be considered, viz. irrigation, manure, hybrid varieties and other things. Sir, I am proud about my State. Our Chief Minister of Maharashtra had said that within a few years' time Maharashtra would be self-sufficient as far as the food situation is concerned.

And accordingly, the Maharashtra Government has taken very active steps in this regard. Some years back there was famine, as all of us know, in Maharashtra. At that time, water was made available to all free of charge. wherever even a drop of water was available, the farmers were allowed to make use of it and there was no charge. Irrigation in Maharashtra is only six per cent and the Maharashtra Government is trying its best to increase production. This year, I think, 24 lakh acres of land will be under the hybrid variety and the target is 50 lakhs of acres. The Chief Minister and the Minister for Agriculture take a personal interest in the matter and all kinds of facilities are given to the farmers. I feel that every State should take such interest. I will come to those points as to how the farmer should be helped.

As far as procurement is concerned, the Maharashtra Government is much more successful in this than other States. I would suggest that there should be a uniform policy all over the country in regard to procurement which should be followed by all the State Governments; they may be of any party, because this is in the interest of the country as well as of the State. Then coming to this pamphlet, on page 3, in item No. (iv), they have said "The procurement prices offered to the producers should take into account the higher cost of production and the element of price incentive necessary for inducing more production". I feel that instead of giving more prices, the State

Government should help the farmers in kind. I will explain what I mean. I have already said that the Maharashtra Government is giving water free of charge to the cultivators. Similarly, all the State Governments can give the cultivators water free of charge, free manures and free seeds wherever it is possible, because if we give more prices for greater production, this vicious circle will go on increasing; when a higher price is given for the produce, more D.A. is claimed and the prices of other commodities go up, the prices of manufactured goods go up and we will never get out of this vicious circle. So we should start from the very basis and so instead of giving them higher prices, these incentives in kind should be given. Again on page 4, it is said "... restraining the inflationary pressure currently prevailing..." So this inflationary pressure also will not increase if we help the farmers in kind.

Now wherever wells are required, the Government gives some loan or taccavi. I feel that instead of that, the Department should go there and they should dig the well. The Government should bear all the expenses. Otherwise what happens is that sometimes the farmers dig the wells but they do not get any water. I know of some instances in other States also that after the farmers had dug the well, unfortunately they did not get any water; and so money is wasted. Of course, if the Government digs, even then that labour will be wasted, but the farmer will not have to lose anything and if the Government does not find any water there, they will go and dig another well elsewhere. Otherwise it would be impossible for the farmer to repay the loan.

I want to suggest another thing also. In many States, the land under irrigation is increasing. That is a good sign, of course. But the irrigation water should be given free or the rates should be decreased. At the same time, there should be some obligation on the farmer, it should be compulsory on the part of the farmer to pay the Government in kind *i.e.*, the farmer should give a definite proportion of the foodgrains or cash crops that he grows to the Government as a levy if the land is irrigated through Government help. This will also help to reduce the prices and help us in the long run.

There is another suggestion that I would like to make. Now there is no

tax levied on the agricultural products and there is no tax on commercial crop also, *e.g.*, cotton, sugarcane etc. But, on the other hand, if a person gets Rs. 300 per month as salary, he is taxed. That means that if one gets Rs. 3,600 per annum as salary, he is taxed. But if he grows commercial crops and gets Rs. 36,000 per annum he is not taxed. This is really a great disparity. So the commercial crops also must be taxed. Otherwise, the farmers will feel that they should go in for commercial crops instead of foodgrains.

Coming to rationing, there is statutory rationing and some people say that just as the Government long ago abolished statutory rationing, they should do so now. I do not agree with them. Not only that, I feel that statutory rationing should remain and as far as possible, it should be increased. Otherwise, I am afraid there will be chaos. We know that when the British regime was there, lakhs and lakhs of people died in Bengal. At that time there was food. Perhaps we will have food now also, but the prices have gone up so high that an ordinary man cannot afford to buy his food in the market. So in order to enable him to get foodgrains at a controlled rate, statutory rationing must be continued.

Then, one of the hon. Members said that the food zones should be abolished. I do not agree with him. I feel that the zones must be maintained. If the zones are abolished, it would only help the traders. The traders are not there to give something in charity. They will not sell anything at a cheaper rate. There are no zones for the Government. The Government procures foodgrains from one State and if there is any necessity in another State, it can send it there. So food zones are meant for the traders. So we should not allow the traders to get any undue advantage. The traders and hoarders feel that these zones should be abolished. But I do not feel that these should be abolished. I feel that they should be maintained and that statutory rationing should be maintained. The Government should also see that the prices do not increase.

Then there is a lot of adulteration found in the rationed articles. For example, there are sand-stones in rice and wheat. Everybody knows it. So apart from seeing that people get foodgrains, it should also be seen that people get the best quality. We do not mind about

[Shrimati Tara Ramchandra Sathe]

the quality, but at least it should not be adulterated. Whatever we get should be good stuff.

Lastly, I feel that it is not enough if we discuss only the food problem because the population problem is also there. However much the Food Ministry may increase the production, it will be exhausted by the millions of extra mouths that we have to feed every year. So we have to take into consideration this aspect also, because as Malthus said long-ago, while food production increases in arithmetical proportion, population increases in geometrical proportion. We know that. Hence this is a two-sided problem and these two go hand, in hand, *i.e.*, family planning and increased food production. Thank you.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON (Kerala): Sir, we had good rains but I am afraid the result has been rather a threat to the various non-Congress Governments of our country. Till then, when there was famine, when there were famine conditions, when you were afraid of facing the people, you wanted these non-Congress Governments to face the people. When you find that things are improving, you just change sides and you have seen to it that these Ministries are dissolved. I am wondering whether it is not the clamour for land reforms, whether it is not the demand of the peasant in the Naxalbari area which has frightened you. It is a pity that after 20 years of our freedom we have not been able to bring forward proper land reforms and you got frightened. The previous Communist Ministry in Kerala got upset because it tried to bring forward land reforms, because it wanted to have a rational policy with regard to education. We faced two difficulties and the result was that we went out. In Bengal they were trying to solve the land problem in the Naxalbari area and they went out. But let me tell you that you had the Karachi Resolution and you have been promising the people so many things but doing nothing. But if they do anything, you will topple those Ministries. I do not want to go into the political aspect of all these things. But it is a fact that politics and food go together. It has been so. America does it. We have seen that. The Ministry here supports the landlords and the rich peasants. That is my definite charge against the Government. I come from Kerala. Ours is a deficit state. I belong

to a State which has got 50 per cent. deficit. I can tell you the difficulties that we are in, and all because of your policies. Sir, it is not because Kerala does not produce sufficient agricultural or commercial crops. We earn perhaps more than one-sixth of your foreign exchange. Every bit of land there is cultivated. The peasant in Kerala works so hard. He gives you cardamom, coffee, tea, lemon-grass, etc. He gives you everything that is possible. But what is the result? He must starve so that India flourishes. I must starve, my children must starve so that you can flourish. Is that the way to treat us? We have only 1.2 per cent. of the land in India and our population is 4 per cent. of India's population. Just think of the problem. If you had appreciated our real difficulties, you would never have adopted the policy which you are adopting today. It was only two days back that our Food Minister had to come here and cringe before you and say "Please send us some rice." You say that you have got a good harvest and you have been able to produce about 95 million tons of foodgrains. America which is four times the size of India produces only double and the Soviet Union produces only one and a half times. In spite of the fact that our peasant uses primitive methods and he is poor, he has done justice to the country but you have failed the people, you have failed the peasant.

Now, Sir, let us see what actually has taken place. The State of Kerala has a population of about 3.85 per cent. of India's population. For giving 12 ounces we require about 20 lakh tons. We produce less than 10 lakh tons; we require 10 lakh tons. Last year the deficit was about 4 lakh odd tons. This year you are not giving us even what you have been giving us previously. You promised 75 thousand tons every month. Actually we got about 15 to 20 or 25 thousand tons. At no time have you kept your promise. The result was that we could not even give 3 ounces of ration. Perhaps that is politics. I can understand it. If we do not give proper ration to which we are pledged, the result is that there is discontent among the people. Of course you do not have sufficient Congressmen to upset our Ministry. There is perfect unity among the ruling parties. Therefore you cannot upset it. The only thing you can do is to create unrest among the people and tell them "This non-Congress Ministry,

this United Front Ministry is not in a position to feed you. Therefore you rise up against it." This is what your men are doing in Kerala. You are cutting your nose to spite us. In Kerala we are able to earn so much for you and I can tell you that we are going to earn even more. We are even bringing the back water areas under cultivation. We are filling up those areas. You can just imagine it. The deep backwater lakes are being filled up. In other states thousands and thousands of acres are lying idle. Here even the water-lodged lakes we are filling up. This is what we are doing. Actually in another five years we hope to have 21 lakh tonnes of production. We have increased our production. We have tried our best but even then we will not be in a position to feed our people immediately.

I have some concrete suggestions to make and I want to know whether the Government is prepared to accept them. I am not going to fight any theoretical battle whether there should be 10 zones, 12 zones or 14 zones. We have tried all that. It is not the defect of the zones; it is the defect of your policy, that has caused the crisis. You can have an all-India zone or any number of zones but have some effective procurement everywhere. It should not be free market because that will upset everybody and bring chaos to the country and starve our people who cannot afford to pay the higher price. The ordinary people will be completely wiped out if free market is permitted. Have any zone or no zone or any number of zones. The question is: Will you have a national food policy and a rational policy on procurement? If you cannot have it, then at least I must suggest a small thing. We produce commercial crops in sufficient quantities. We can pay for our rice. Of course Madras wants one measure of rice for one rupee. Please do it. We have no objection. If Madras cannot get money from the Centre for its subsidised food, let the Centre at least allow us to buy from Madras. We can afford to pay a little more money. We do not want the black market of Rs. 3 per kilo to flourish in our State. We can very well give one rupee per kilo. Now it is 80 paise or 76 paise. Even if we pay at one rupee, it means Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 more per tonne. If Andhra can give us what we require, our problem is solved. Why do you want the black market to flourish? I cannot understand

it. You are helping the rich peasant and the merchant by forcing up the price of rice to Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 in the black market. You do not want one kilo of rice to be sold at one rupee. The main rice-producing areas of Andhra and Tamilnad which are surplus can benefit by the cash earnings we have. There can be that co-ordination between the southern States. The final construction of the Nagarjunasagar Dam you cannot have because of your financial difficulties. The Kerala peasant will be able to help you there. About Rs. 40 crores can be given to you in the course of four or five years. Therefore let it be sold to us so that that three rupees can be cut down to one rupee.

It is only in that light, not that I want to upset the economy of Andhra or of any place or that I want to say that the people there, the ordinary man there should pay a higher price for his paddy or for his rice. All I am saying is that economic co-operation by States can very well be attempted by us now, and the southern States will have to do it, because Andhra's rice is needed for Madras and Madras's production is needed for us. This is how it had been working and we did not disrupt that economic co-operation; we did not disturb that one zone of southern States. Now you have each State a zone. Whether it is one zone or four zones, allow us to purchase, not of course at exorbitant rates but at reasonable rates. This is all what we say. This is one thing.

The second thing I request is this. If you are not going to allow us to directly purchase from our neighbouring States, you purchase it and give it to us; we have no quarrel. We are even prepared to pay a slightly higher price. The Central Government need not bear the cost of feeding the mouths of Kerala. We are earning and we can feed them. Why don't you do that? Even if that is not found possible allow us to make use of the foreign exchange we earn for the country to buy our food requirements from outside. But don't starve us by saying that this is impossible, because food is an acute problem of Kerala and it has to be met. In this connection I am reminded of Mahatma Gandhi's famous speech where he said, "God dare not appear before mankind except in the shape of bread." When millions cry aloud for food have at least this kindness. I do not ask you to get it from America for us

[Shri Balachandra Menon]

but I ask you to allow us to purchase it from our neighbours, or you purchase it for us. We don't want any favour to be shown. We want to be treated as equals. We want to be given food because we help you in your economy.

Sir, I would have spoken about certain general things but I have no time. I want only to say one thing. Apart from foodgrains for want of which we suffer, there is another food and it is in the sea, in the sea of Kerala. Round about we have got beautiful fish. We have already secured Rs. 17 crores in foreign exchange by exporting that fish, and we expect it to go up to Rs. 20 crores and Rs. 22 crores. If you can invest about Rs. 100 crores in a Central project for the purpose—I do not want it to be given to the Government of the State—just as you have made investments in the Bhilai steel plant and in so many other things, if for Kerala you can have at least one big programme for fish, we can take the fish to the entire village areas. We can feed also, to a certain extent, West Bengal. We can send it to other places and foreign exchange can be earned. Have a generous policy on this and help us. Sir, this is what is required. If not, it will only mean—not that I like to say that—that you treat us as second grade citizens in India, which we do not like to be. The danger posed by linguistic division of the country and the treatment that you have meted out to the Nagas and others, well, they have caused sufficient head-ache for you. We who have participated in the freedom movement from 1930 onwards, we would be the last to think about disruption of our country. But we alone may not be able to help it because there may come a time when, because of your ill-treatment, because of the ways you adopt, because of the double standards you have and because of the way you are treating us, treating us as second grade citizens of India, even if we want the unity of the country, even if we die for preservation of our unity, the people may not be kept together, because nothing is more required than food. When a mother sees her child starving and dying, when a father sees that he cannot give even food to his child, he will adopt any means to be able to do it. He will go to defy any law and anybody, and it will be to our misfortune and the misfortune of the entire country if despera-

tion drives us to a situation which will disrupt the unity of our country. But I do not want it, I still again request you to understand the seriousness of Kerala. Our Food Minister or Chief Minister or their representative has to come here every other day and beg for food and it is such a humiliating thing for them to come and stand before you and say, "Food for Kerala is not yet coming." If the food is not forthcoming, naturally, hartals or *bandhs* take place expressing the agitation of the people for food. What is it we have to do then? We do not want to do it but we are forced to do it. Unfortunately, the other day I had to go and sit before the Prime Minister's house. I would have been the last person to do it. More especially out of my regard for the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru I would have been the last person to do it. All the same I had to do that *dharna* under compelling circumstances in the company of others. Out of sheer self-protection we have to do it.

Therefore I request you again and again like this. (1) At least promise now what you are giving us every month. (2) If you cannot do it, then allow us to trade with our neighbouring States (3) If even that cannot be done, allow us to trade with outside countries. Any of these three things you will have to do. Otherwise, Kerala will remain a problem for you for ever, and every time I will have to come and speak like this, which I do not want to do if it can be helped.

Thank you.

श्री राम सहाय (मध्य प्रदेश) :

उपनभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा यह अर्ज करना है कि यह जो जोनल सिस्टम है मेरी राय में वह मुनासिब नहीं है। इसके बारे में किसी भी दृष्टि से आप विचार करें, हमारे देश की दृष्टि से देखें, लोगों को सहूलियत पहुंचाने की दृष्टि से देखें, यह जोनल सिस्टम मुनासिब नहीं है। आज ही नहीं जब कभी मुझे मौका मिला है तब तब मैंने इसके बारे में निवेदन किया है कि जोनल सिस्टम हमारे यहाँ खत्म होना चाहिये। उसका कारण यह है कि हमारे देश की पैदावार एक जगह से दूसरी जगह जा सके और उसका फायदा दूसरी जगह के लोग

उठा सके यह बहुत ही आवश्यक है। इसके बारे में मुख्य मंत्रियों का सहारा लिया जाता है। मैंने पहले भी यह बात कही थी कि जब हमारे मध्य प्रदेश में कांग्रेस की गवर्न-मेंट थी तब भी मैंने यही अर्ज किया था कि मुख्य मंत्रियों के सहारे से अंगर हमारे केन्द्र की सरकार चलेगी तो वह कभी भी खाद्यान्न के मामले में जैसी सहूलियत लोगों को पहुंचानी चाहिये वह नहीं पहुंचेगी। कारण उसका यह है कि सारी जिम्मेदारी तो केन्द्र की रहती है कि वह सबको गल्ला पहुंचाये, सबको खाने के लिये अनाज पहुंचाये। लेकिन वह अपनी जिम्मेदारी पूरी नहीं कर पाते हैं मुख्य मंत्रियों के कारण से। . . .

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** जोन तोड़ दिया जायगा तो क्या हमारी जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी ?

**श्री राम सहाय :** अगर फिर जोन तोड़ दिया जायगा तो जिम्मेदारी आपकी ही रहेगी। मेरा यही कहना है कि जब जिम्मेदारी आपकी रहती ही है उस जिम्मेदारी को आप पूरी नहीं कर पाते। जोनल सिस्टम के बारे में मेरा खयाल है। . . .

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** ठंडा और गरम एक साथ नहीं रह सकता है। एक बात मानिये।

**श्री राम सहाय :** मैं अर्ज करूंगा कि ए० आई० सी० सी० के सेशन में भी इस बारे में सवाल उठा था और सबने तय किया था कि जोनल सिस्टम समाप्त होना चाहिये और उस वक्त यह बात कही गई थी कि हम इस पर विचार करेंगे लेकिन फिर भी जहां तक मुझे मालूम हुआ, वहां मुख्य मंत्रियों के कारण से ही इसके बारे में एक मत नहीं हो सका और केन्द्र हैल्पलेस रहता है।

**उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अकबर अली खान) :** इसमें तो मुश्किलत है, राम सहाय जी।

**श्री राम सहाय :** हां, है जरूर लेकिन उन मुश्किलत में गुजरने से ही काम चलेगा।

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** उसी से गुजरेगा।

**श्री राम सहाय :** आज भी आप देख रहे हैं जोन रहते हुए भी क्या हालत हो रही है। नतीजा क्या निकलता है उसकी मैं एक मिसाल बताता हूँ। सन् 1950 की बात है जब श्री जयरामदास दौलतराम फूड मिनिस्टर थे, हमारे यहां से गुलाबी चने को, हमारे निवेदन पर खाद्यान्न से अलग करके, उसकी निकामी उन्होंने फ्री कर दी, यानी सब जगह वह आ और जा सकता था अब हमारे यहां मध्य प्रदेश में क्या हुआ कि बिना किसी कायदे कानून के 30 रु० बोरी गुलाबी चने की फीस ली गई, यह बिलकुल ओपन सीक्रेट है, जो कुछ भी आप कहिये, कि वह 30 रु० बोरी हर एक व्यक्ति से चार्ज किया गया चाहे वह किसान हो, चाहे वह शहर का साहूकार हो। तो लगभग 1 करोड़ रूपया एकत्रित किया गया और उसका क्या हुआ, किस तरह से खर्च हुआ, क्या उसको इकट्ठा करने का वैधानिक तरीका था, यह सब कुछ मालूम नहीं। इस तरह की कार्यवाहियां जो चलती हैं वह तो कम से कम केंद्र को देखनी ही पड़ेंगी कि जब केन्द्र की जिम्मेदारी है, वह समझती है और उसको वह पूरा करती है तो वह सबके लिये अनाज पहुंचाए तो इसमें आपको इस बात के लिये काफी गौर करना पड़गा कि इस प्रकार की बातें नहीं होने दीजिये। जहां तक मुझे मालूम हुआ, पहले उन्होंने किसी प्रकार का टेक्स लगाने की इजाजत केन्द्र से चाही थी तो वहां के फूड मिनिस्टर का स्टेटमेंट था समाचार पत्र में कि इसकी मंजूरी यहां से नहीं मिल सकी, जब वह मंजूर नहीं हो सका तो यह रास्ता अख्तियार लिया गया कि 30 रु० बोरी ले लिया।

[श्री राम सहाय]

अभी मैंने कल अखबार में पढ़ा था कि वहाँ मिनिस्टर ने कहा कि हमने तो वह खुशी से लिया है लेकिन मैं अर्ज करता हूँ, मैं किसान हूँ, मैंने स्वयं एक पत्र उनके अधिकारियों को भेजा है कि आप बताइये कि दरअसल आपने यह जो 30 रु० बोरी ले लिया है वह सबके लिये अनिवार्य है देना, और अगर नहीं है तो हमारे पास कुछ गुलाबी चना है, आप कृपा करके उसके लिये परमिट देने की कृपा करें।

आज तक मुझे उसका जबाब नहीं मिला और इसको धरीब तीन महीने हो गये हैं। तो मेरा अर्ज करना यह है कि इस प्रकार की जो कार्यवाही चलती है, उस पर केन्द्रीय सरकार को कुछ नियंत्रण रखना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात जो मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि हम किसानों को पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए हर प्रकार की सहायता देना चाहते हैं लेकिन हम उनके लिए पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं करते हैं अगर हम उनके लिए खाद की व्यवस्था न भी करें तो कोई हर्ज नहीं है लेकिन पानी की व्यवस्था करना बहुत ही आवश्यक है और उसके साथ ही साथ बिजली की भी व्यवस्था करना आवश्यक है। अगर इन दोनों चीजों की व्यवस्था हम किसानों के लिए कर देते हैं, थोड़ी और उनको सहूलियत दे देते हैं, तो हमारी पैदावार बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ सकती है। मैं अपने जिले की मिसाल देना चाहता हूँ जो एक छोटा जिला होते हुए भी सालाना कई लाख बोरी अनाज का पैदा करता है। अगर हम वहाँ पर पानी और बिजली की व्यवस्था कर देंगे तो दुगुनी और तिगुनी पैदावार वहाँ के किसान करने लगेंगे तो मैं सरकार से यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस बात की ओर अवश्य ध्यान देगी और बिजली तथा पानी की व्यवस्था किसानों के लिए अवश्य करेगी।

इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश में पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए बड़ी बड़ी मशीनरी बाहर से मंगाई जा रही है जो कि बहुत कीमती होती है। इस तरह की मशीनरी हर किसान को उपलब्ध नहीं हो सकती है। तो मेरा अर्ज करने का मतलब यह है कि हमारी सरकार को अपने ही देश में इस तरह की देशी मशीनरी बनानी चाहिये और इस बात का भी खयाल करना चाहिये कि वह मशीनरी हमारी सायल के लिए ठीक होती है या नहीं। अभी हमारे यहाँ कुछ लोकल कारीगरों ने बीज बचाने के लिए एक मशीनरी निकाली है। वह चलती तो है मगर जिस तरह से बीज डालना चाहे वैसे नहीं पड़ता है। तो मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर हमारे देश के अच्छे अच्छे इंजीनियर इस काम को अपने हाथ में ले लें तो वे बहुत अच्छी मशीनरी बना सकते हैं जिससे हमारी बीज की बहुत बचत हो सकती है। अगर हम बीज की बचत करते हैं तो इससे हमें बहुत लाभ हो सकता है।

तीसरी बात जो मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि हमारी फसल को जो नुकसान होता है वह तो या पाले से होता है या फिर बे-मौसम की वर्षा के कारण होता है जिसकी वजह से फसल को ज्यादा नुकसान हो जाता है। जब पाला पड़ता तो वह एक दैवी विपत्ति ही है और उसका कोई इलाज नहीं है। लेकिन मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि किसानों को यह बात बतलाई जानी चाहिये कि तुषार से किस तरह से फसल बचाई जा सकती है या फिर किस प्रकार से फसल बो सकते हैं जिससे उससे बचा जा सके। जिन जगहों पर तुषार नहीं गिरती है वहाँ पर इस तरह फसल को नुकसान नहीं पहुँचता है। लेकिन इस तरह के कई अनाज हो सकते हैं, कौश क्राप के तरीके पर, जहाँ पर तुषार का असर हो सकता है और उनको उससे बचाया जा सकता है। तो मुझे इस बारे में

यह अर्ज करना है कि हमारे देश में जो साइन्टिफिक लोग हैं उन्हें इस बारे में अन्वेषण करना चाहिये और अगर वे इस तरह की कोशिश करेंगे, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि वे अवश्य कुछ अच्छे नतीजे निकाल सकेंगे जिससे कि हम तुषार से फसल को बचा सकें।

इसके बाद जो बात मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ वह यह है कि सबसे बड़ी खराबी जो मैंने देखा, वह यह है कि जब हमारी फसल काटी जाती है तो कम से कम 1/20 हिस्सा फसल का नष्ट हो जाता है। इसका कारण यह है कि जो हमारे काटने का तरीका है, जिस तरह से किसान लोग फसल को काटते कटाते हैं वह ऐसा है जिस बहुत नुकसान हो जाता है। तो मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि इसके बारे में भी कोई न कोई व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिये। इसके साथ ही साथ चूहों से जो नुकसान होता है, उसके बारे में भी हमको विचार करना आवश्यक है, कहना काफी है।

चूँकि आपने घंटी बजा दी है, इसलिए मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करता हूँ।

**श्री बी० एन० मंडल (बिहार) :** उप-पभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी जो विषय हम लोगों के सामने है, जो रिपोर्ट हम लोगों को दी गई है उसमें यह आशा प्रगट की गई है कि इस दफा फसल बहुत अच्छी होगी और शायद 95 मिलियन टन की पैदावार देश में इस साल होगी। यह देश के लिए बहुत अच्छी बात है कि इतना उत्पादन होगा। लेकिन ऐसा न हो कि इतना उत्पादन करने के बाद हमारी सरकार निश्चित हो जाय और भविष्य में कोई उपाय न करे जिससे कि अन्न के उत्पादन में रुकावट आ जाय। यह मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ क्योंकि मेरा अनुभव है कि द्वितीय महायुद्ध के बाद इस देश में अन्न की कमी होने लगी है और अकाल भी पड़ा। बार-बार देश की जनता को सरकार की ओर से आश्वासन दिया गया है कि देश को अन्न के मामले में आत्म-निर्भर बनाने के लिए उपाय किये जा रहे हैं और उसके लिए

ग्री मोर फूड कम्पेन चलाया जा रहा है। हमारी सरकार ने इस काम के लिए अरबों रुपया खर्च कर डाला मगर आज तक वह देश को इस मामले में आत्म-निर्भर नहीं बना सकी। इसलिए मैं सरकार से कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस बार भूषण अकाल की कठिनाई झेलने के बाद अन्न की उपज अच्छी हुई है, इसका यश सरकार को नहीं दिया जाना चाहिये। यह "यश" इन्द्र भगवान को देना चाहिये जिसने समय पर वर्षा द्वारा देश को पानी दिया। इस कारण देश में अन्न की पैदावार अच्छी हुई। लेकिन ऐसी बात भी नहीं है कि अगर यह देश अन्न के मामले में लगन से काम करे तो वह आत्म-निर्भर इस मामले में नहीं हो सकता है। यहाँ पर सब कुछ हो सकता है अगर सरकार लगन के साथ काम करे। हमने अकाल भी देखा है और फसल को नुकसान होते हुए भी देखा है। अभी बिहार में जो अकाल पड़ा था उसमें वहाँ की सरकार ने बहुत अच्छा काम किया। हमने अपने इलाके में भी देखा कि वहाँ पर जो थोड़ी बहुत नहर की व्यवस्था हुई है, उससे पैदावार में वृद्धि हुई है। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार का जो कामकाज करने का ढर्रा है वह इतना खराब है कि वर्षों से नहरों के एम्बेकमेंट बने हुए पड़े हैं लेकिन वहाँ कोई साईफन अभी तक नहीं बनाया गया है। इस तरह की चीजों की तरफ जल्दी से ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। यही वजह है कि जहाँ पर इस तरह की चीजों की तरफ ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है वहाँ हम किस तरह से अन्न के मामले में आत्म-निर्भर बन सकते हैं। कैनारों के एम्बेकमेंट बन जाने के बाद भी और कैनल में खुदाई हो जाने के बाद भी उसमें पानी दूँ नहीं आता है। इस तरह की सरकार की ओर से ढिलाई होती है। मैं तो यह भी कहना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार कैनारों पर सिर्फ निर्भर न करे। हमारे देश में जितनी जमीन पर खती की जाती है उसका सर्वे किया जाना चाहिये कि खती के लिए

[श्री बी० एन० मंडल]

कितने पानी की आवश्यकता है। हमें हर गाँव में खेती के लिए पानी का इंतजाम करना चाहिये। अगर किसी गाँव में कोई नदी, पोखरा है तो इस बात का अन्दाजा लगाना चाहिये कि उससे गाँवको कितना पानी मिल सकता है। अगर गाँव में इसके बाद भी पानी की कमी होती है तो और ट्यूबवल्स लगाये जाने चाहिये और जहाँ पर पानी का पहले से कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है वहाँ पर भी हमें ट्यूबवल्स की व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये। फटिलाइजर और दूसरी चीजों के लिए सरकार जो प्रयत्न करती है, उसको वह भी तुरंत न करना पड़ेगा अगर वह पानी के बारे में अच्छी व्यवस्था कर देती है। इसलिए खेती के लिए सब से पहले पानी की व्यवस्था करना बहुत आवश्यक है। अगर वह फटिलाइजर और दूसरी चीजों के बारे में प्रबन्ध नहीं भी करती है तब भी अन्न के मंत्र में हमारा देश आत्म-निर्भर बन सकता है। लेकिन मैं देख रहा हूँ कि ऐसा नहीं हो रहा है और इसलिए मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस साल जो स्थिति है, उस स्थिति को देखकर सरकार को सो नहीं जाना चाहिये, उसको निश्चित नहीं हो जाना चाहिये। आज सरकार को फटिलाइजर, पानी, बीज और लैन्ड रिफार्म के सम्बन्ध में जितना काम करना है, अगर वह उसको अच्छी तरह से कर ले तो हमारा देश एक दो वर्षों में अन्न के मामले में आत्म-निर्भर हो सकता है। देश में इस समय जो फिजूल-खर्ची हो रही है, उस फिजूलखर्ची को रोककर उस रुपये को इस काम पर लगाया जा सकता है। इस काम के लिए पहली प्राय-रिटी दी जानी चाहिये ताकि देश अन्न के बारे में जल्दी ही आत्म-निर्भर हो सके। लेकिन ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है कि इस देश को दूसरे देशों पर निर्भर कराकर यहाँ की पालिसी को चञ्चल करने की ज्यादा कोशिश रहती है और यही कारण है कि यहाँ पर

अन्न की पैदावार ज्यादा नहीं बढ़ पा रही है।

इसके साथ ही साथ मुझ खेती की इन्डस्ट्री के बारे में भी कहना है। यहाँ पर छोटे छोटे ट्रैक्टर बनाने के बारे में बहुत देरी की गई है। इस मामले में बहुत गड़बड़ चल रही है। ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है कि कुछ इन्टरेस्ट लोग हैं जो यह नहीं चाहते हैं कि हमारा देश अन्न के मामले में आत्म-निर्भर हो जाय। वह चाहत है कि अमेरिका और दूसरे देशों पर ही निर्भर रहे जिससे जो हमारे देश की समाजवाद की नीति है, जिसको हम अपने देश में लागू करना चाहते हैं, लागू न कर सकें। शायद इन्हीं बातों के कारण इस तरह की बातें हो रही हैं, ऐसा मुझे मालूम पड़ता है।

बराबर कहा जाता है कि अन्न के मामले में, खासकर अकाल की स्थिति के मामले में राजनीति नहीं आनी चाहिये। लेकिन मैं आपका ध्यान इस ओर खींचना चाहता हूँ कि अभी हाल में जो बिहार में अकाल हुआ है उसमें राजनीति आई है। वह कैसे आई है, इसका एक प्रमाण मैं देना चाहता हूँ। बिहार में जबकि कांग्रेस की सरकार थी, 1966-67 में, तो उस हालत में 43.99 करोड़ रुपये सहायता के रूप में केन्द्र की ओर से दिया गया। लेकिन जो यह वर्ष बीता है, इस वर्ष में जब इतनी खराब हालत बिहार की थी तो वहाँ कितना रुपया दिया गया। 37.55 करोड़ रुपया दिया गया। यह सरकार बराबर कहती रहती है कि अकाल के मामले में राजनीति नहीं आनी चाहिये। लेकिन यह राजनीति है या नहीं है कि जिस समय वहाँ कांग्रेस की सरकार थी और उतनी जरूरत नहीं थी, तो उस समय 43 करोड़ रुपया दिया गया और जब कि वहाँ पर अकाल से लोग मरने पर थे तो उस समय 37 करोड़ रुपया दिया गया। इसको अगर राजनीति नहीं कहा जाय तो हमारा और क्या कहा जा सकता है। बिहार

की तरफ से मांग चार लाख टन अन्न की की गई थी, लेकिन यहाँ से जो ढाई लाख टन अन्न देने के लिये कहा गया था, वह भी नहीं दिया गया। इसमें वहाँ के लोगों को कितना फ़ट्ट हुआ, यह ममझने की बात है। वहाँ पर जो फ़यर प्राइम शाप्ल थी उनमें भी काफी अन्न नहीं रहता था। गांव के लोग हल्ला नहीं मचाते हैं। वे अलुआ खा करके या चिचोड, मिघाडा आदि जो पानी का फल होता है उसको खा करके किसी तरह से अपना जीवन व्यतीत करने थे। फिर भी सरकार यह कहेगी कि वहाँ पर अकाल का समय बहुत अच्छी तरह से निकल गया। मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ कि यद्यपि गरीब लोग हल्ला नहीं करते हैं, फिर भी गरीब लोगों का दिल है, दिमाग है, व भी इन बातों को याद रखते हैं और जब आप कमजोर होंगे, आपका दुश्मन आप पर चढ़ने आयेगा, तो यही योग उठ कर आपके दुश्मन को मदद देगे और आप का मुह रगड देगे। यद्यपि आज धर्म हमने उठा दिया है, लेकिन धर्म के अन्दर जो नैतिकता है, उस नैतिकता में राजनीति को ओतप्रोत करना जरूरी है, सभी देश में एकता हो और कोई अच्छा काम सम्भव हो सकता है। लेकिन इस ढंग की आज कोई बात नहीं हो रही है। इस लिये इस ओर में सरकार का ध्यान खीचना चाहता हूँ।

अब मुझे बिहार के बारे में यह कहना है कि वहाँ जो लोगों को अनाज दिया जाता है, वह क्रम से क्रम 12 औंस की दर से लोगों को दिया जाय। यह मेरा एक सुझाव है कि वहाँ जितना अन्न अभी दिया जाता है उसमें बढ़ती की जाय। इसके साथ साथ यह जो फंड जोन चल रहा है, इस फंड जोन को खत्म किया जाय। चूँकि वहाँ पर हथिया नक्षत्र में पानी नहीं पड़ा, इसलिये जहाँ जहाँ वर्षा नहीं हुई है वहाँ पर अकाल की स्थिति दूसरे साल रहगी और उसकी तैयारी अभी से सरकार को

करनी चाहिये। हार्ड मैनुअल लेबर स्कीम को वहाँ पर लागू करने के लिये सरकार को अभी से तैयार रहना चाहिये। हार्ड मैनुअल लेबर स्कीम का इस सरकार से सम्बन्ध है, इसलिये सरकार को उस टाइम के लिये तैयार रहना चाहिये। जो जमीन वाला काम है, जो मिट्टी वाला काम है वह तो वहाँ पर अकाल के जमाने में हो चुका है और वह प्लान के जरिये हुआ है या दूमरे जरिये में हुआ है, लेकिन जहाँ जहाँ पक्का काम करने की जरूरत है, उस पक्के काम को अब कराया जाय। इससे बहुत हित होगा और अन्न के उत्पादन में इसमें मदद मिलेगी। कुछ इरिगेशन स्कीम हैं। जैसे गंडक स्कीम है उस पर अगर 8 करोड़ रुपया खर्च कर दिया जाय तो तीन लाख एकड़ अधिक जमीन में उपज का इन्तजाम हो सकता है। इसी तरह में पुनपुन स्कीम है। उससे भी करीब 4 लाख एकड़ जमीन में अधिक पैदावार का इन्तजाम हो सकता है यदि तीन करोड़ रुपया उस पर खर्च कर दिया जाय। हम यह चाहते हैं कि हर बस्ती का सर्वे कर के पानी के लिये ट्यूबवैल बैठाया जाय। ऐसे ट्यूबवैल पर 70, 75 हजार रुपया खर्च होगा और उससे तीन सौ एकड़ जमीन में पानी उपलब्ध हो सकता है। इसलिये मेरा सरकार में अनुरोध है कि यदि वह इन कामों को करे तो इसमें बिहार की स्थिति आगे के लिये अच्छी होगी।

SHRI N. PATRA (Orissa) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to participate in today's food debate and in doing so I congratulate the Ministry and the hon. Minister for the way in which he managed to tide over the bad days confronted by the country and its teeming millions due to two successive droughts. He has created a Scarcity Relief Division for the first time to co-ordinate all relief activities. This is a laudable thing and it will help us to face any unprecedented flood, drought or other natural calamity. The prophets of doom, as stated in this brochure, were expecting that it would be very difficult for the country to meet the scarcity conditions but the hon. Minister within the short period since he

[Shri N. Patra.]

took over this portfolio has succeeded in bringing the disagreeing Chief Ministers together in the Conference for evolving national policies to solve the food problem. Even the Chief Ministers of surplus provinces who could have got more money by procuring and selling outside have agreed to make more intensive procurement and help the deficit States. The hon. Minister has been able to evolve a consensus and everybody is rising to the occasion due to the efforts of the Food Minister to face together the natural calamities.

5 P.M.

In this connection I want to refer to conditions prevailing in my State of Orissa. In August and September there were heavy floods in Buda Balango and other rivers of the two districts of Balasore and Mayurbhanj and other areas as a result of which five lakh acres of crop land have been inundated, covering the crop land by sand. Because of this crops worth about Rs. 10 crores have been affected. Not only that; previous to that we had in 1965-66 and 1966-67 two severe droughts which were followed by these floods in September. Over and above this, in October last while people were arranging to celebrate Durga Pooja—and Durga Pooja is a national festival in Orissa—suddenly and unexpectedly there was a cyclone which devastated an area of about 15,000 sq. miles. You can imagine the horrible conditions in such a vast area hit by the cyclone.

Of course, I visited the place after fifteen days. I saw that even in respect of the pucca built houses, the thatched structure has been blown off. Even big trees had fallen down. It was a horrible sight. About ten lakhs of mud houses have been affected. There was great loss of life and property. In the two successive droughts of 1965-66 and 1966-67 the estimated loss was about Rs. 81 crores and about Rs. 54 crores respectively. In the flood of September, the loss was estimated to be Rs. 10 crores. In this cyclone it can be said that the loss will come to about Rs. 20 to 25 crores. If you calculate all these, it comes to about Rs. 170 crores. You can imagine how difficult it is for a poor and economically backward State like Orissa to bear the strain and the burden. Not only that, Sir. Now, an unprecedented drought is there. Such a drought has not been imagined. The previous drought

was a local drought. The first drought was confined to Kalahandi mainly. The subsequent drought was also of a local nature. Now, there is a horrible drought covering many districts. Out of thirteen districts it has affected nine districts. I want to bring to your notice an instance of the intensity of the drought. I want to place before the Minister details about the drought prevailing in my own district. In our Ganjam district an area of 7.60 lakh acres is of cultivable land, out of which about 5 lakh acres are rain-fed and there are no facilities for irrigation. This has been completely ruined. We cannot expect even a few corns of grain. Then there is the Parjakkimidi area. It was formerly under a Raja, who was ruling the estate. The area consists of about 1,20,000 acres of cultivable land. Out of that we have grown crops in an area of about 92,000 acres. In an area of 34,000 acres of paddy land the crop has gone. The groundnut and ragi crops, which have been raised in an area of 27,000 acres, have been completely affected. It is a horrible sight. Therefore, it has agitated the minds of all the MLAs, without party labels. They made a joint effort to impress upon the State Government the need to declare the whole of the districts as a famine area. They asked the Government of Orissa to supply them with pumps. The Orissa Government, the present Swatantra coalition Government, has failed to meet the demands of the people. They arranged to supply only 30 pumps which are not also functioning properly. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister, the fact that the State Land Mortgage Bank, under the leadership of an active President, had decided to purchase 300 irrigation pump sets and give them on loan to the peasants. It was not approved by this Government. The same Bank had provided Rs. 10 lakhs and asked for the permission of the Government to purchase rigs for digging irrigation wells. That proposal has also not been approved by the Government. The Government wanted to do it on their own, but they could not execute it, it is told, for want of a diamond rig. But then why had you stopped these people, who were trying to meet the emergency situation? They are not in a position to do it themselves and have not also tried to take the co-operation of the State Land Mortgage Bank. Now, therefore, from this instance, I want to impress upon the Minister the necessity to take a serious view of the situation

prevailing in the nine districts of Orissa. Previously I told you that the entire coastal districts from Balasore to Cuttack have been affected due to floods, drought or cyclone and now nine districts have been badly affected by drought. I tell you, Sir, the situation in my State is very serious and, therefore, I request the hon. Minister to give all-out help to the drought-affected people of my State.

Thank you.

**श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :** महोदय, तीन बातें इस सरकार के द्वारा जो अन्न स्थिति का विवरण दिया गया है उसमें सामने रखी गई हैं। एक तो यह कि वर्षा इस बार समय पर हुई है, अकाल-ग्रस्त क्षेत्र कम हैं और बाढ़ से भी हानि कम हुई है, बाजारों में अन्न आने लगा है और कीमते तुलनात्मक दृष्टि से गिरने लगी हैं। इस सन्दर्भ में आज इस अन्न की स्थिति की चर्चा की जाय थकी मोटे तौर पर इस मारे विवाद का लक्ष्य दिखाई देता है।

यहां पर भिन्न-भिन्न विचार इस स्थिति के बारे में रखे गए। यह भी विचार आया कि कुछ भी स्थिति हो स्टेटुटरी राशनिंग रहनी चाहिए, अन्न क्षेत्र रहने चाहिए, प्रोक्योरमेंट होना चाहिए। यहां पर मैं पृष्ठ 2 से कोट करना चाहता हूँ जिसमें कहा गया है :

“.... it will be possible for Government to consider the gradual removal of some of the existing restraints on the food economy.”

और उसके लिए दो कारण दिए हैं कि :

“.... after a sizable buffer stock has been built and prices have declined more or less to the level of the procurement prices....”

अब ये दो मिद्धान्त रख कर रेस्ट्रिक्शन्स, रेस्ट्रेंट्स को हटाने के बारे में आपने कहा है। अब बफर स्टॉक का सवाल पूरा होता है प्रोक्योरमेंट की नीतियों से। अग्रिकल्चरल प्राइस कमीशन ने भिन्न-भिन्न राज्यों में प्रोक्योरमेंट की मात्रा तय की है। मैं

समझता हूँ कि 1967 के चुनावों के बाद ही नहीं परन्तु 1967 के पहले भी जितना लक्ष अग्रिकल्चरल प्राइस कमीशन ने तय किया प्रोक्योरमेंट के मामले में वह पूरा नहीं हुआ है, आज भी वही शिकायत है। इतना ही है कि अब कुछ प्रान्तों में दूसरी पार्टियों की सरकारें बनी हैं, इसलिए यहां सदन में यह आरोप लगाया जाता है कि जितना प्रोक्योरमेंट करने का उन्होंने वचन दिया था उतना उन्होंने नहीं दिया।

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** यह बात सही नहीं है।

**श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :** केवल इतना ही फर्क पड़ा है, नहीं तो दोष पहले भी था, आज भी है। अब प्रोक्योरमेंट के आकड़े किस आधार पर तय किए जायें, कितने किए जायें। उसके लिए आरोप भी लग सकता है। उसके लिए विवाद के कारण बन सकते हैं। यह एक भूलभुलैया है, इसमें से कौन सा रास्ता निकाला जाय, यह आप विचार करिए।

अग्रिकल्चरल प्राइस कमीशन ने प्रोक्योरमेंट की कीमतें भी तय कीं। आप शायद स्वयं भी इस वर्ष के लिये उन कीमतों को स्वीकार नहीं कर सके। आपने कुछ परसेंटेज बढ़ाया लेकिन इतना ही क्यों बढ़ाया यह कुछ प्रान्तों की आपके ऊपर शिकायत है। आप उनको क्या वह पर जबाब देंगे अगर वह राज्य, वह स्टेट अपने राज्य में प्रोक्योरमेंट की कीमत ज्यादा देना चाहती हैं। आप यहां से हुआ तो दे सकते हैं कि तुम्हें करने नहीं देंगे यह हम किसी तरह से बर्दाश्त नहीं करेंगे लेकिन उनके यह कहने पर कि आप की कीमतों पर हम प्रोक्योर नहीं कर पाते, आप जितने आकड़े हमसे मांगते हैं उतने आकड़े नहीं दे पायेंगे तो फिर यह झगड़े और फसाद की बात बनी रहेगी और फिर फसल कुछ भी हो, कितनी भी हो, आपकी ये दो शर्तें कि आप बफर स्टॉक बना लेंगे

[श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी]

और सेल्फ सफिशियट हो जायेंगे परी नहीं होंगी और पना नहीं यह समस्या इस सारी भूलभुलैया में से कैसे ठीक होगी ।

फिर दूसरी चीज यह है : Prices have declined more or less to the level of procurement prices. अब प्रोक्योरमेंट प्राइस का आपने कोई फूलप्रूफ, कोई एक सांइटिफिक मिथार तो तय नहीं किया और बहुत कुछ आपकी मंशा पर, नीयत पर निर्भर करेगा कि आप रिस्ट्रैट्स हटाने के लिये तैयार है या नहीं। यदि हटाने के लिये तैयार है तो ये दोनों कमीटियां उम इराद के अनुकूल बिठाई जा सकती हैं और अगर आप हटाने के लिये तैयार नहीं है तो ये दोनों कारण ऐसे हैं जो हमेशा खड़े रहेंगे कि वृष्टि ठीक हुई या नहीं, मार्केट एरांडवल्स हो गया या नहीं और प्राइसेस पिछले बार के इंडेक्स से गिर रही है या नहीं गिर रही है, परन्तु जितना गिर रही है आपका यह प्रोक्योरमेंट प्राइस इंडेक्स उससे ज्यादा गिर पड़े तो आपके लिये रिस्ट्रैट लगाने की बहुत बड़ी गुंजाइश है और आप कभी भी उम चीज को इन दो शर्तों के आधार पर तय नहीं कर पायेंगे । इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप इस मौके पर जब कि खरीफ की फसल अच्छी आई, रबी के सब प्रकार के आंकड़े अच्छे हैं, एक वातावरण बना है देश के अन्दर एक अच्छी फसल का, अन्न की समस्या के समाधान होने का, तो हम फिर यह रहे कि ये सारी चीजे कि पिछले दिनों में अकाल पड़ा इससे कोई लेना देना नहीं, हमने तो मिद्धांततः तय कर दिया, जैसा कि हमारे कुछ मित्रों ने मिद्धांत की चर्चा की है, कि स्टेटुटरी राशनिंग इस देश में रहना चाहिये, जोन्स रहने चाहिये और फिर यह स्वाभाविक बात है कि ये दो चीजे रहेंगी तो फिर कम्पलसरी प्रोक्योरमेंट भी रहना चाहिये, तो अगर आपका सिद्धांततः पोलिटिकल प्रोग्राम के अनुसार इस प्रश्न

के देखने का सम्बन्ध है तो मेरा आपसे आनेस्ट डिफरेंस है । मैं माफी चाहूंगा कि फिर यहाँ पर बैठ कर के सब की कंसेम ले कर के देश के राष्ट्रीय संघट के सवाल को हल करने के लिये कोई कोशिश करे तो उमके लिये कोई भूमिका नहीं रहती । लेकिन अगर परिस्थिति के आधार पर, अवैलेबिलिटी के आधार पर और कंडीशंस के आधार पर इस समस्या को हल करना चाहते हैं तो मैं समझता हूँ कि जो आपने केंस मेक आउट किया है इस रिपोर्ट की भूमिका के तौर पर उमकी जगह मैं अपेक्षा करता था कि अन्न मंत्री इस सारी भूमिका के आधार पर यहाँ पर सेविंग क्लोजेज रख कर बात न करतें और एक क्लीअर कट नीति लेकर लोगों के सामने एप्रूवल के लिए यहाँ पर आते ।

मुझे माफ करिये, जो केवल राजनीति का विचारधारा का दायरा है उस मामले में आप यहाँ सारे सदन का शतप्रतिशत समर्थन इस इकमीम पर भी और उस इक्सट्रीम पर भी ले ले पायेंगे, यह तो फाइन है । आपके ऊपर एक जिम्मेदारी है और अगर इस परिस्थिति का आपने सही जायजा लिया है तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इस समय वह रिस्ट्रैट्स हटाने का उपयुक्त समय आ गया था, आपने वह कदम न उठा कर इस अन्न समस्या को फिर से अधर में छोड़ने का एक प्रयत्न किया है ।

दूसरी चीज जो मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहूंगा वह है कि आपने जोन्स को कायम रखने की बात पर आग्रह किया है । मैं दूर आपको नहीं ले जाना चाहता, आपकी नीति के साथ यह मेल खाती है । लेकिन मैं उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ कि अपना त्रिपुरा का राज्य है, चारों तरफ शत्रु देशों से घिरा है, आज वहाँ पर केवल वन स्टेट जोन की बात नहीं, इसी नीति के आधार पर उसी राज्य के अलग अलग विभिन्न भागों में अनाज लाने ले

जाने की मनाहूँ है और आज भी आप देख लीजिये कि अगर नल्ला के भाव और अगर-तल्ला के बाहर के भावों में बहुत बड़ा अन्तर है, लोग उन रिमट्रेट्स के कारण आज अपने ही राज्य के उन स्थानों पर जहाँ पर लगभग दुगुना फर्क है चावल के दामों में वहाँ नहीं भेज सकते और पाकिस्तान नजदीक पड़ता है तो मजबूरी तौर पर जॉन के अन्दर के रिमट्रिक्शंसके आधार पर यह अनाज बाहर जा रहा है। इस विषय पर भा आप विचार लीजिये इन जॉनल रिमट्रिक्शंस को ममाप्त करने के समय आप इस एक पहलू को भी ध्यान में रख कर अगर इस संकट का समाधान करने का विचार करेंगे तो मैं समझता हूँ कि वह ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

हमारे पास फूड कार्पोरेशन हैं। आज प्राइमैज के मामले में आप में और अलग अलग राज्यों में मतभेद है, क्या दाम देना चाहिये, क्या रीज़नेबिल प्राइस होगी, क्या सपोर्ट प्राइस होगी, इसका एक विवाद चल रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस पृष्ठभूमि में अगर आप इस फूड कार्पोरेशन को अधिक एक्टिव बना कर इस मारी समस्या को हल करे तो अच्छा है। आप नये पहलू में विचार करें तो फिर यह फूड कार्पोरेशन सारे देश में अन्न के खरीदने को भा किसान को उपयुक्त दाम देने का भी दोनों काम कर सकता है। फिर आपको जिम्मेदार भी इस मामले में जो स्केयरमिटी मार्केट्स रह जाते हैं, जो इंडिस्ट्रियल मेटर्स रह जाते हैं, जो कांसमॉपालिटन मिटीज रह जाते हैं उन्हींकी बचैर्ग और फूड कार्पोरेशन के मातहत आप इस जिम्मेदारी को निभाते हुये इस समस्या को एक सरल और सुलझने योग्य स्थिति में ला सकेंगे। यह एक मौका है जब आप इस चीज को करिये।

मरा यह निवेदन है कि ट्रांजिट में अनाज नष्ट हुआ है। इसके उदाहरण हैं, 13 हजार टोन्स वीट की बोरियां ट्रांशिपमेंट में नष्ट

हुई हैं। आप दौप दे सकते हैं कि रेन्वे में खुले बैग्स मिले लेकिन यह बर्बादी हुई है, स्टोर्म में अन्न बर्बाद होता है, और इस बर्बादी की तरफ भा कोई न कोई ध्यान देना पड़ेगा।

इमेक्टसाइड्स के सम्बन्ध में कल राज्य मंत्रों महोदय ने यह तर्क दिया कि खरीदने वाले व्यक्ति को यह अधिकार है कि अगर अनाज खराब है तो उसको इंकार कर सकता है।

श्री जगजीवन राम : नहीं, नहीं। खरीदने वाले व्यक्ति को नहीं कहा था, राज्य सरकार को कहा था।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : राज्य सरकार का हा आप का ख्याल है। इमेक्टसाइड्स राज्य के गोदामों में भी है तो जब डिस्ट्री-व्यूशन के लिये यह जाता है तो जो डिस्ट्री-व्यूटर है, जो ट्रेडर है, जो आपके एजेंट है उनके पास कोई कसौटी नहीं कि वे देख सकें कि इमेक्टसाइड्स के प्वायजनिंग इफेक्ट में वह अनाज मुक्त है या नहीं।

श्री जगजीवन राम : उसके लिये ऐसा नहीं है।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : एमी कौन सी एजेन्स इमटेबलिश की है क्योंकि गोडाउंस के लिये इमेक्टसाइड्स आवश्यक है, इन्-मेक्टसाइड्स का प्रयोग हमें करना पड़ेगा। फड्पवायजनिंग के केंसेज की तरफ मैंने आपका ध्यान आकर्षित किया। तो इमेक्टसाइड्स के प्वायजनिंग इफेक्ट से मुक्त हो कर ही अनाज बिकने के लिये जाय।

श्री जगजीवन राम : ऐसा ही किया है।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : इसके लिये कोई पक्की व्यवस्था नहीं है, कोई जांच इसके लिये नहीं होती। अगर प्वायजनिंग इफेक्ट से कोई मरता है तो फिर सरकार

[श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी]

यह कह कर के अपनी जिम्मेदारी से नहीं बच सकते कि उनकी निगरानी की जरूरत थी हम उसके बीच में नहीं आते। इस तरह कहने से काम नहीं चलेगा।

महोदय, मेरा खयाल है कि पिछले दिनों में एग्रीकल्चर क्रेडिट्स का सवाल रहा है। एग्रीकल्चर क्रेडिट्स आज भी कोआपरेटिव सोसायटीज और सरकार कुल 6 परसेंट ही हंडिल कर रहीं हैं।

इसमें भी कोआपरेटिव्स में 650 करोड़ रु० से ज्यादा लॉन्स दे रखे हैं, उनकी अदा-यगी नहीं होती। मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि जिस तरह से आप नहरों के लिये इरिगेशन डिपार्टमेंट की जिम्मेदारी लेते हैं उसी प्रकार से कुओं से इरिगेशन की जिम्मेदारी भी इरिगेशन डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ से लीजिए अर्थात् ये कुछ इरिगेशन डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ से बनवाइए तलाबियों के बारे में हमेशा क्वांटम का झगड़ा होता है, रकम पूरी नहीं मिलती, कुआ बनने की बजाय गड्ढा बन कर रह जाता है, आपकी रकम वापस नहीं आती और इसलिये आप इरिगेशन डिपार्टमेंट की माफत कुछ बनवाकर ट्यूबवैल्स लगवाइये।

फेमिन रिलीफ का काम जो पिछले दिनों हुआ उसके बारे में दो बातों की तरफ आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। इसके 9 पेज और 12 में दिया गया है :

"Page 9 :

Free kitchens were run by Indian and foreign voluntary organisations.

Page 12 :

Voluntary organisations functioning in the States were given wheat at economic prices. The Prime Minister's Drought Relief Fund also release certain quantities of foodgrains to the voluntary organisations for use in free kitchens."

मैं समझता हूँ आपके नोटिस में भी यह चीज आई होगी कि इन वालुन्टरी आर्गनायझेशंस ने गिरजाघरों के इलाकों में लोगों को क्रास पहनना जरूरी बता कर ये फ्री किचेन्स चलाई है। मेरा आपसे निवेदन है कि इस प्रकार के संगठन जो आपका फायदा उठा कर इकानामिक रेट्स से आपसे अनाज लेकर इस तरह के किचेन्स चलाए उनके बारे में जरूर आपको निगरानी रखनी चाहिये और उनको किसी प्रकार की सहायता नहीं देनी चाहिये।

अब राजस्थान के लिये एक शब्द में कहना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर फेमिन रिलीफ में 4 लाख लोग काम करते थे, फेमिन रिलीफ का काम जब बंद कर दिया उस समय भी दो लाख आदमी काम करते थे। आपको इसका खयाल रखना चाहिये कि फेमिन रिलीफ का काम कब बंद हो। वह डाइवर्ट हो जाय, बरसात हो जाय, उसकी जरूरत महसूस न करे तो वह काम बंद कर दे यह बात समझ में आ सकती है लेकिन पचास परसेंट आदमी, on the day when the famine relief works were stopped. उस दिन भी काम पर हों, तो मैं समझता हूँ बहुत बड़ा जस्टिफिकेशन है कि वहाँ समय से पहले काम बंद कर दिया गया। आपको मालम है कि इस वर्षा के बाद भी भरतपुर और गंगानगर जिले में बाढ़ के कारण लोग पीड़ित हुए हैं खास कर भरतपुर जिले में। वहाँ लोगों की राहत देने की तरफ या फेमिन रिलीफ के कामों को बंद करने के लिये हम यहाँ से कोई चीज आवि-टरीली तय करे या राज्य सरकार को मदद देने की बात यहाँ तय करे तो इस पर हमें विचार करना होगा। मैं राजस्थान के लिये कह सकता हूँ कि जो पचास परसेंट लोग फेमिन रिलीफ के काम पर थे उस दिन काम बंद होना बिल्कुल गैर वाजिव था, वह बंद नहीं होना चाहिये था।

**SHRI M. C. SHAH (Gujarat) :** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Food Minister for guiding the country out of this grave emergency of two consecutive years of drought without any special hardship. He was also able to get the co-operation of the State Governments and the private and public sector voluntary agencies and therefore it was possible that the country tided over this grave emergency.

Sir, India is a great country with about 60 per cent of the population engaged in agriculture. Agriculture is our greatest industry and yet we find that we are not self-sufficient in our food requirements. I remember, even the late Prime Minister Nehru declared thrice that in a particular year the country would attain self-sufficiency. But it has not been possible to do so. Now, we are told that at least by the year 1970-71, it would be possible for our country to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains. Therefore, I request that this should be the last date and all efforts should be made to see that the country becomes self-sufficient by that time. I am told that in America about 10 to 12 per cent of the population only is engaged in agriculture and even then it feeds the entire nation and exports the surplus foodgrains. Therefore, it is very necessary that our per acre production must increase. There is no great chance of increasing or bringing more land under agriculture and the only alternative therefore is to increase the per acre production. And for that purpose, several things are necessary. In the first place, fertilisers should be provided in sufficient quantities and at the proper time. In spite of all our efforts, it is our experience that it has not been possible for the Government to supply the required quantum of fertilisers to our farmers and that has become a great drawback in our achievement. I would therefore request that, if necessary, firm agreements must be entered into with some foreign countries for the receipt of fertilisers up to 1970-71 by which time the country can become self-sufficient.

Secondly, from the farmers' point of view, we have been able now to evolve these new hybrid strains of wheat, jowar, maize, etc., and it has been possible now as a result of research in agriculture that our crop production could be increased to 70 or 80 per cent by this method. But these research facilities must be brought to the homes of the

farmers and if that is done, it will prove useful. It is our experience that our farmers are trying their best to increase the per acre production because it is in their own interest. But there are certain difficulties which came in their way and therefore the production of these hybrid seeds must be increased to a great extent so that these seeds should be made available to our farmers in required quantities.

Thirdly, the difficulty is about credit. Our land mortgage banks and co-operative banks have not been able to advance sufficient credit to our farmers and therefore, they have to go to the local money-lenders who charge 25 or 30 or even 50 per cent for the loans that they advance. Therefore, a suggestion has been made that we must have an Agricultural Finance Corporation with a capital of about one thousand crores. That can give credit to the farmers in required amounts and at the proper time. It is very necessary, because we have seen that our land mortgage banks and the co-operatives have not been able to discharge their responsibilities about supplying credit to farmers. Again, it is our experience that in getting loans from these bodies, the farmers have to spend two or three months; they have to visit the taluk headquarters off and on and they only know what hardship they have to undergo in getting the loans. This has to be simplified and the loans must be advanced without any delay. Of course, the return has to be guaranteed. But these formalities have to be simplified.

It is also necessary that for higher production some big farms and mechanical agriculture must be introduced. Our holdings are very small and therefore for mechanical cultivation, for mechanical agriculture, it is very necessary that big farms must be procured. Therefore, I would request that wherever it is possible, wherever fallow lands of Government are available, they must be utilised in a big way for mechanical agriculture so that production can increase substantially.

Sir, fortunately for us, the monsoon has been very good and it is stated in this brochure that we expect a production of 95 million tonnes. But even then 7.5 million tonnes will have to be imported. Now, I am not sure how far our statistics are correct. But it is no doubt true that this is a good year and therefore, all efforts should be made to

[Shri M. C. Shah.]

build up a buffer stock by procurement from the surplus States as well as deficit States. It all depends in what period and up to what quantity the buffer stocks are built up. If a buffer stock of 2 to 3 million tonnes of foodgrains is built with the Central Government, the hon. Minister's promise that he would be prepared to remove several restrictions including the zonal restrictions would be fulfilled. Under the circumstances these restrictions for the present may be necessary. But we find that the zonal restriction comes in the way of national solidarity and integrity. The prices that exist in the adjacent States compared to the ones existing in some other States are so varying that people feel as if they are living in separate independent countries. The prices of wheat, the prices of *chana*, the prices of jowar, differ very much from one State to another. I was told by one of my friends here that in Madhya Pradesh the Government has laid down the rule that any farmer who wants to sell his gram to another farmer in the other State has to deposit some security in the treasury.

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM :** That is wrong. It is for export outside.

**SHRI M. C. SHAH :** But I was told that by that method the State Government has earned about a crore of rupees. Is that the way for earning money even if it is for export? The country has to compete in the foreign market at comparative rates. But I am afraid these are short-sighted methods and they are not in any way helpful to us for national solidarity.

Sir, I would submit that as a result of this hybrid variety of foodgrains, it has been possible to raise three crops in a year. I am told that these hybrid grains mature within a period of 100 to 120 days. So three to four months is the time required between sowing and reaping the harvest. That way it has been possible to have three crops in a year. But it requires that the farmer must be provided with certain improved agricultural implements. It is also necessary that the ordinary time taken in harvesting the crop through human labour should be diminished, and with some mechanical instruments it should be possible to harvest the crop in a day

where about a week is spent now. If this is done it will be possible to have three crops in a year and that will help us very much in food production.

Sir, in the context of all these things I would urge that it is very necessary that the farmer should be given an incentive price. We have to balance the interest of the farmer and the consumer. There was a complaint that in the surplus States the State Governments got money at the cost of producers, and in the deficit States the consumer has to suffer. This complaint must be looked into and both the interests, consumer's as well as the producer's should be balanced so that the people may share the advantage of the all-round increase which is the most essential thing now. It should be possible for them to provide foodgrains at reasonable prices.

I would, therefore, request that for bringing down the prices a reasonable procurement price should be fixed and foodgrains to the State Governments should be supplied in reasonable quantity. I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the margin that exists between the wholesale price and the retail price. The poor consumer in a village has to pay much more because of certain stages whose profits go to increase the price for the retailer. Therefore, an effort should be made to remove these intermediate stages so that the retailer, the consumer can get his requirements at a reasonable price.

Sir, the Food Minister has been kind enough to invite the House to discuss the food situation in the country practically every Session. I wish that his efforts to have more and more food and more and more per acre production may succeed and the people may get their requirements at reasonable prices. Thank you very much.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU :** Sir, I have got very little amount of time at my disposal. Therefore, I shall not discuss the points which have already been touched upon by my other friends, and I would simply ask our hon. Minister two particular points regarding the policy on food of our country.

Sir, I am one of those who feel that the problem of food of our country today should be looked at in the background of the major economic situation prevailing in our country. That being so,

certain essential factors are to be taken into account before formulating the food policy of our country. Those factors, I feel, are that there is a marginal deficit of foodgrains in our country taken as a whole. Secondly, we have got an inflationary economy in our country, and thirdly, we should always bear in mind that the bigger farmer of our country is becoming a hoarder. His capacity to hold back his stocks is increasing and is being augmented. If we take all these essential factors into consideration, the conclusion, according to me, is irresistible, viz. that there is no necessity of control in the market in the matter of food itself.

The need for this control or regulation in any form you may like is not obviated because we have got a bumper crop this year or we may be expecting a bumper crop next year. I feel the continuance of control of this nature or that nature is needed so that our country may not fall in such a fateful condition which none of us would like. And if this is acceptable, then what should be the prime direction of our food policy?

The prime direction of the food policy should be monopoly procurement of the entire marketable surplus of the country. Again, there should be stricter control over the rice mills. By stricter control of rice mills I do not mean the so-called social control. I mean straight-way nationalisation of the rice mills.

Then there should be State control over the wholesale trade of foodgrains as one of our hon. Members was suggesting before. There are different levels in the trade of foodgrains which ultimately contribute to the rise of prices for the consumer. If we really want to obviate that artificial rise of prices, we cannot allow the profiteers and traders to make profits. Therefore, there should be effective control over the wholesale trade of foodgrains throughout the country.

Lastly, there should be drastic reduction in imports from foreign countries because that is necessary for our sovereignty, for our freedom. On these four cardinal plans I think our food policy should be based.

Sir, I am quite grateful to the hon. Minister that he has some idea of the nature of the problem and in the last Chief Ministers' Conference, these points were mooted. But I am sorry at the

same time to note that these policies have not been energetically followed and I want to give some examples to show that there is deviation, that there is faltering and that there is half-heartedness. Although the Government, particularly the Food Minister, has an idea of the nature of the problem, I regretfully note that there has been hesitancy, there has been half-heartedness, and there has been faltering. He must overcome all these things. Now, why do I say that there has been faltering? It is because the Government and all the Chief Ministers of all the States agreed in principle that there should be procurement, whether it is a deficit State or a surplus State. But there has been no policy firmly laid down by which the procurement is to be done and the matter has been left to the discretion of the State Chief Ministers. Sir, our past experience has shown that many Chief Ministers, particularly the Chief Ministers of the surplus States, are not as serious as they should be. I would not bring in politics here. Some of the hon. Members feel that the procurement is not energetically pursued because that prejudices the interests of big farmers or some political interests. But it is not a question of political interests. It is a question of a nation's food. Therefore, a firm policy should be laid down with regard to the *modus operandi* of procurement. It should not be left to the discretion of the State Chief Ministers, whatever might be the political complexion of the Government.

Now the Agricultural Prices Commission was good enough to fix a certain quota of procurement for each State. I will be very much grateful to the hon. Minister if he can tell the House whether all the Chief Ministers have agreed to procure as per the targets fixed by the Agricultural Prices Commission. So far as my information goes, the voluntary commitments that the Chief Ministers have made in the Conference, do not come up to the figure given by the A.P.C. Thus many fateful days are awaiting us. The A.P.C. after considering all the relevant factors, fixed certain targets for each State for procurement and if the Chief Ministers of the States do not energetically pursue the policy of procurement and fulfil the targets, then there will be bad days ahead for us because I feel that a substantial part of the increased yield for this year will be cornered by these traders or held back by the big farmers, thereby contri-

[Shri Chitta Basu.]

bating to artificial increase in prices and scarcity. Sir, again the official economists say—I will be glad if I am corrected by the hon. Minister—that about 30 per cent of the total production is the available marketable surplus. But according to the information of the A.P.C., in the year 1966, the procurement figure was not more than 8 to 10 per cent of the total production. That means that a large part of the marketable surplus lies with the traders or the hoarders. Therefore, the Government's policy should be to mop up the entire available marketable surplus so that these hoarders do not take advantage of this and increase artificially the prices of foodgrains. Therefore, there should be a policy of this nature and this can be done if the State Governments accept the policy of monopoly procurement. I think the food policy as enunciated is not based on that.

I have got only one more point to add and that is, we hear that the Government is contemplating to withdraw the subsidy given for the imported grains. The withdrawal of the subsidy will increase the prices and, therefore, I would request that considering the difficulties of the people, the subsidy should not be withdrawn.

Then so far as single State Zones are concerned, they must be retained so that the traders cannot take any undue advantage. It is the big traders and the business community who are trying for the abolition of the single State Zones as that provides them a scope to earn more profit; they are not concerned with relief to the people.

Another point that I would like to make is that there is an apprehension in our minds that the Government is also contemplating to shrink the scope of public distribution. In the year 1966, the Government of India and the State Governments taken together accounted for a public distribution of about 13 million tons. I think last year the figure will be of that order. I apprehend that the Government may feel that since there is a bumper crop, since there will be more amount of foodgrains available in the market, the necessity of public distribution system is obviated or minimised. I think that that will not be correct. The public distribution system should not only be retained, but if possi-

ble, it should be expanded also. So I feel that if these things are not done, the net result of the Government's food policy would be a reduction of the quotas for the States, particularly the deficit States, because I represent one of the deficit States, and higher prices for the consumers. Therefore, taking into account all these things, I have moved an amendment giving certain points on the basis of which the entire food policy of our country should be reoriented so that the fateful days that we have passed through do not arise again. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Mr. Mallikarjunudu. There are two speakers, yourself and Mr. Kesavan. I hope you will both try to finish before 6 o'clock.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU (Andhra Pradesh) : I shall be very brief. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I should congratulate the hon. Food Minister for having supplied us with copies of the review on the food situation which I might say makes encouraging reading. As a result of the various measures initiated by the Government and also as a result of the favourable monsoon, it looks as if we are put on the road to self-sufficiency so far as food is concerned. The Government has set as its objective to achieve self-sufficiency by the end of 1970-71, and the Draft Fourth Five-Year Plan hopes to achieve a target of 120 to 125 million tons of foodgrains by that period, thus ensuring self-sufficiency in food. This year, according to the review, it is expected that we should get 95 million tons of foodgrains. I do not know whether the Government's hopes would be realised, having experience of what the Government said last year. Last year, the hon. Food Minister stated in the House before the harvest began that Government was expecting a production of 80 to 85 million tons of foodgrains. But we found that we got only about 76 million tons. Likewise, I am afraid that our hopes that we would get 95 million tons may not be realised. If for any reason, by God's grace, the hopes are realised, we should thank ourselves and the Government.

In this connection I should like to congratulate the Government on the various measures undertaken by them which are compendiously called 'new strategy'. If I have understood it aright, it means a package of practices like

introduction of high-yielding varieties, water management up to the optimum extent, pest control and adequate fertilizer supplies. The Government, according to the Food Review of 1966-67 hope to extend the area under this package programme to 32.5 million acres by 1970-71 and we find that according to the figures supplied by the Government in the Food Review of 1966-67 an area of 6.2 million acres was covered under this package programme and the results of this package programme are rather encouraging. From the past experience with regard to the production of foodgrains in the areas covered by the package programme we find that 4,000 to 6,500 pounds of foodgrains are produced in an acre. Taking the average, it comes to nearly 5,000 pounds per acre with respect to the area covered by this package programme. If that measure of improvement can be maintained, we can hope to get at the rate of 2½ tons per acre on an acreage of 32.5 million which was proposed to be covered by the end of 1970-71. That brings us nearly to 80 million tons. According to the target set by the Government of India by the end of the original Fourth Plan there should be 120 million tons of foodgrains. By covering the area of 32.5 million acres at the rate of 2 or 2½ tons per acre, we will get the figure of 80 million tons and we will be left with a balance of 40 to 45 million tons and that gap can easily be bridged by the remaining 260 million acres of land which is cropped. From the figures supplied by the Government we see that an area of 295 million acres is the crop area out of which 32.5 million acres are going to be covered by this package programme. That package programme yields us 80 million tons and the remainder can be made up from the remaining 260 million acres of land.

Now, Sir, I wish to make a few observations for the consideration of the hon. Minister for expediting this programme of self-sufficiency in food. I would like the Government to take immediate steps for the completion of projects like the Nagarjunasagar Dam which are nearing completion. We all know that the Nagarjunasagar project which is the biggest reservoir perhaps in the world is going to irrigate 34 million acres of land when it is completed. So such a project which is nearing completion should be expedited, whatever be the cost.

Secondly, Sir, I would like the Government to see that the results of agricultural research are made available to the farmers and the farmers are made to adopt the results of such agricultural research. For example, I may inform the House that in one paper—magazine—I read that fertilisers can be applied by means of spraying as air operations. If that is done, not only the use of fertilisers will be economised but also it would be more effective. Such things, therefore, which are the result of agricultural research should be made available to the farmers and the farmers should be made to undertake those things.

Then, Sir, with regard to credit availability, I submit that the Government should encourage commercial banks to extend credit to the rural areas. Now that a movement is afoot in the commercial banking circles, the Government should also help the commercial banks to extend credit in the rural areas.

One more thing I will suggest and then sit down. In certain areas where there are irrigation facilities there is dearth of drainage facilities. For example, in Andhra Pradesh which is the granary of rice, in the rice-producing areas there are no drainage facilities and therefore those areas suffer. Therefore the Government should see to it that all those areas where there are irrigation facilities are provided with sufficient drainage arrangements. I hope the Government would take into consideration the suggestions that I have made and do whatever is possible. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat. Thank you.

**SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA)** (Kerala): Sir, I fully agree with what has been stated by the hon. Member, Mr. Balachandra Menon. Sir, 20 years have elapsed after the attainment of independence. What is the present position? What was the position before independence? So far as I am concerned, I come from Kerala. Before independence, we could get any amount of rice imported from Burma or we could purchase rice from Madras or from Andhra. We could consume even 1200 grams per day. That was the position then. Now what is the position of a Kerala citizen? With great difficulty we get 80 grams of rice per day. Probably that is because we committed a sin in joining the Indian Union. When Sir C. P. Rama-

[Shri Kesavan (Tazhava).]

swamy declared independence for Travancore, we sent him away and we willingly and wilfully joined the Indian Union.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : Perhaps you did it for rice.

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : It may be for that that your are punishing us and putting us in this difficult position. Sir, I must tell you that the Government at the Centre, the Congress Government has utterly failed in its food policy. It has no national food policy. That is the truth. Just before the first General Election in 1952 the then Food Minister came to our place and made a statement that by the end of the First Five Year Plan we would become self-sufficient in the matter of food.

Then we were getting 12 ounces of rice per head per day. During the Second Plan that was reduced to 9 ounces per head per day. During the Third Plan it got reduced to 6 ounces per head per day. Now we are in the Fourth Plan period although the Fourth Plan has not yet begun and we are getting now only 80 grammes, not even 3 ounces. I ask the hon. Minister whether you have got any regard for these starving millions of India. I shall cite one or two examples for the present state of affairs.

6. P.M.

On the floor of this House, during the last session, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, you yourself told the Finance Minister that in case he gave a loan of Rs. 12 crores to Andhra for completion of the Nagarjunasagar dam, Andhra would be prepared to supply the whole of India with rice. Why can't they do it, give Rs. 12 crores as a loan to Andhra so that we benefit by that? I ask why the dispute with regard to the Krishna and Godavari waters has been pending for the last so many years. Why can't they settle it? It is not only in the interests of Maharashtra or Mysore or Andhra; it is also in the interests of Kerala and all other States in India. Why did you fail to settle it? Why did you also fail to settle the Narmada river waters dispute that exists between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh? Sir, if you go from the southern end of our country to the northern end, that is the Himalayas, you will find that crores of acres of cultivable land is lying uncultivated. Why can't you

take this land and distribute it among the landless peasants? There are fifty crores of people in our land and a vast majority of them are landless people. You distribute it among them and they will cultivate it. If done so, you may also be in a position to export foodgrains from India. And in distributing this land you must give preference to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, whose population is not less than 10 crores and they are landless people. You must do that. But you won't do that to them, and it has not been done; that is a fact. Why did you fail? I do not find fault with the present Food Minister, because he is in a vicious circle. The great Nehru, at the time of the independence movement, was making many promises to we people with regard to socialism and other things. He also failed, because he was also in a vicious circle, and he could do nothing in that direction. And that is what is really happening. In this Review itself it is said that Kerala is a highly deficit area. Mr. Balachandra Menon said that we want 10 lakh tonnes of rice. We are deficit in rice to the extent of 10 lakh tonnes, but this 10 lakh tonnes deficit was some years ago. Now it is higher. Sir, when the Southern Zone was lifted, when President's rule was going on in Kerala, the Kerala Governor accepted the proposal for the lifting of the Southern Zone on the distinct promise that the Centre will supply at least 75,000 tonnes of rice per month to Kerala to give the ration at the rate of 160 grammes per head per day over and above the wheat they supplied, and the Centre was regularly supplying this promised quantity, and I have got the figures also with me. In 1965 they supplied nearly 8 lakh tonnes of rice when the President's rule was going on, when the Governor's rule was going on. In 1966 also a little more than 7½ lakh tonnes of rice were supplied over and above the wheat. And in this year, in March, the non-Congress Government came into existence. In this year, till the end of October, Sir, the supply of rice has been only just about 4½ lakh tonnes. This has been, as I told you, till the end of October. This month—today is the 29th of November—till this day only 19,000 tonnes of rice have been given to us. How are we to live with this small quantity? Sir, even 160 grammes is not sufficient for one meal for a man accustomed to have three meals a day. A labourer will require 300 to 400 grammes of rice at a time, for one single meal. And the pre-

sent 80 grammes is not sufficient for one meal even for a child of three years. This is a fact. Anyhow we are pulling on. But don't punish us like this. In March this year the present new Ministry came into existence. Before that there were practically no complaints, and even in January and February you were giving almost the promised quantities. But thereafter you failed. I may tell you this that if you, through your Food Corporation, purchase paddy from the surplus States giving a little more price, taking into consideration the agriculturist's interests also, you can get the required rice from within India itself, and you can supply the rice to all the deficit States. Mr. Bhadram, one of the hon. Members of this House said during the last session that if necessary funds were given to the Food Corporation of India and they were asked to purchase paddy from Andhra, direct from the peasants, it was possible to purchase 10 lakh tonnes of rice from that State. Don't allow the mill-owners to purchase; mill-owners are now blackmarketing, not only in Andhra, but also in Mysore, Maharashtra and even Kerala, everywhere. Seventy-two kilograms of rice I purchased for Rs. 4.00 before independence. Andhra is the granary of India, but I was in Kerala and I purchased for Rs. 4.00 72 kilograms of rice, it was sixty measures or one bag of rice. Now I must pay Rs. 4.00 for a kilo of rice—what a difference—and that too is not possible to get. This is the position. Anyway, don't put us into difficulties. Starving stomachs may create

trouble. China won't come here, I can assure you, but Chinaism may come if you continue this state of affairs, which nobody can foresee when.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

##### THE COURT-FEES (DELHI AMENDMENT) BILL, 1967

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 :—

“In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose herewith the Court-fees (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 1967, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 27th November 1967.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India.”

Sir, I lay the Bill on the Table.

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

The House adjourned at nine minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 30th of November, 1967.