

Naxalbari, Kharibari and Phansidewa by police reinforcement to the check posts to prevent unauthorized entry or exist. Tightening of border with Pakistan is being done in collaboration with the border security force.

Notifications under sections 4, 11 and 12 of the Arms Act, 1959 have been issued by the Central Government in respect of bows, arrows and spears within Siliguri Sub-division. 530 miscreants have been arrested since 12th July. Because of the effective steps taken the situation has improved.

#### CONSTABLES KILLED BY NAGA HOSTILES

351. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several constables of C.R.P. were killed by Naga Hostiles near Imphal on July 13, 1967; and

(b) if so, the details of the incident and the action taken to ensure that such incidents are not repeated in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) A detachment of the Central Reserve Police was escorting on the 12th July, 1967, a telephone line maintenance party in two vehicles from mile 44 to mile 62 on the Imphal-Tamenglong road in the Tamenglong sub-division of Manipur. The hostiles had set up a road block near mile 52 and ambushed our Security personnel. They opened fire with small arms and automatic weapons at close range from both sides of the road at about 07.30 hours. Twenty-three members of the party were killed on the spot and a lone survivor, C.R.P. constable, returned to mile 44 at about 11.30 hours. He was also badly burnt and wounded. One vehicle was completely burnt. The hostiles looted the arms and ammunition. Troops have been called in aid

of civil authority and are making a search for the offenders.

12 Noon

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): With your permission, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to read..

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may do it after the Calling Attention Motion.

#### CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

#### SERIOUS FOOD SITUATION IN KERALA

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Kerala): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the serious food situation in Kerala arising out of the inability of the Central Government to supply the agreed quota of rice, resulting in the virtual break-down of the rationing system and consequent suffering to the people in the State.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Sir, the grave food situation that the country is facing at present, specially the critical rice position, was discussed at the Chief Ministers' Conference, held at New Delhi on 7th July, 1967. The Kerala Chief Minister, who attended this Conference, was informed of the fact that it may not be possible for the Government of India to supply more than 44,000 tonnes of rice to Kerala in July. This promised quota of 44,000 tonnes included 35,000 tonnes to be supplied by the Andhra Pradesh Government.

Andhra Pradesh Government, however, later indicated that they have outstanding commitments for supply of rice to West Bengal and Maharashtra amounting to a little over 6,000 tonnes and that they would be able to send to Kerala only 28,700 tonnes of rice during July. About 4,500 tonnes of rice were also due from Madras

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]  
representing the outstanding balance of June allocation from that State to Kerala. The Chief Minister, Madras was also requested to supply another 5,000 tonnes of rice to Kerala during July in exchange for an equal quantity of wheat products to be supplied to Madras. He, however, expressed his inability to supply any more rice to Kerala. In order to make up the possible shortfall in supplies from Andhra Pradesh, efforts were made to find one more rice steamer for Kerala and it has been possible with the good offices of the Government of Ceylon to divert to Cochin a ship which was taking some Thailand rice to that country. This ship carrying 10,000 tonnes was expected to sail from Koshi-chang (Thailand) on 21-7-1967 but was delayed and has actually sailed on 23-7-1967.

Unfortunately, due to difficulties in availability of rice and procurement in Andhra Pradesh, movements from there to Kerala have not been according to schedule. Movement from Madras also has been quite slow. Till the 25th of this month, a total of about 19,000 tonnes had been despatched to Kerala from Andhra Pradesh and Madras. One ship carrying about, 7,500 tonnes of rice has reached Cochin. Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh has been personally requested to speed up the movements and has promised to do his best. The Chief Minister of Madras has also agreed to expedite the movement of the balance of rice due to Kerala.

Arrangements have been made to supply sufficient wheat to Kerala to make up for the shortfall in the supply of rice. Government of India are aware of the difficulties felt by the people of Kerala because of the shortfall in the supply of rice, but are doing their best in the matter. While hardship is no doubt being felt due to shortage in the supply of rice, the provision of additional wheat ensures that alternative foodgrains are available under the rationing system in Kerala.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN:  
May I know whether any extra quantity of wheat has been supplied to the Kerala State in June and July? May I also know the quantity of rice so far supplied to Kerala in July?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Extra quantity of wheat has been supplied to Kerala both in June and in July, and wheat is available to, supplement the shortfall in rice. So far as rice is concerned, as I have said, 19,000 tonnes have been moved to Kerala from Andhra Pradesh and Madras and 7,500 tonnes from import have also been moved. This is the quantity that has moved to Kerala this month. In the month of June, 65,000 tonnes were moved to Kerala.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN:  
May I know whether it is a fact that the present stock position in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India in Kerala is absolutely nil and because of that, it is not possible for the rations to be given during the week and rations at half rate and one fourth rate are being given, during the last few weeks, only after the week is over and that this is purely because of the deficient supply and stock position in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As I have said, Sir, there has been a shortfall in the supply of rice. But wheat is available and it is being despatched and there has been no complaint about the non-availability of wheat there. So far as rice is concerned, I have said the position is difficult.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA (Uttar Pradesh): May I know from the hon. Minister whether he has received any complaints that the distribution system of rations in Kerala has almost completely failed and that is the reason why there is so much complaint about shortage of foodgrains there? Although there is scarcity of food in those areas, the distribution system is also faulty. I have received several letters to that

effect. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any letters have been received in his Ministry also to that effect?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Sir, we receive many letters but I will not go into the details of those things except to say that so far as our supply is concerned, there has been a shortfall. But my information is that rice is available in the free market in Kerala, but the price has not been kept under check.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA (Maharashtra): Sir, while appreciating the various difficulties felt by the Minister, I would like to know whether he is aware of the feeling of bitterness caused when the supplies that are assured by the Central Government are not received by the State Government. Besides, because it is left to the State Governments to supply the grains; when these supplies are not made by the State Governments, it is ultimately the Central Government which is blamed. Why should the Central Government not take up the responsibility of giving or making these supplies in time, because there is statutory rationing and if it fails it will lead to serious consequences? In these circumstances, will the hon. Minister, as he has assured us on several occasions, have a National Food Budget and see that the supplies are made by the Central Government and not by the State Government? Besides, whenever these supplies are made by the State Governments, it is as if the supply is given by one country to another country. That is the feeling of those who are taking and also of those who are giving. In these circumstances, will the hon. Minister frame a policy whereby the responsibility will be taken by the Central Government only and not by the State Governments?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: In the first place, I am not prepared to accept this position that supply of food should be the sole responsibility of the Central Government. It has to be the responsi-

bility of the Central Government as well as the State Government. So far as allocation and despatches are concerned, the House is aware that we have to depend upon so many factors. Here the question is with regard to rice. There has been a shortfall in the supply of wheat and milo to several States depending on the arrival of the ships from other countries. Then again the Suez Canal difficulty came. That has also accentuated the difficulties. But so far as rice is concerned, the availability of rice is not adequate for our requirements. What I have been suggesting is that where there is shortfall in rice, we have to see that alternative foodgrains are available to the people in these localities and that is the step that we have taken so far as Kerala is concerned—to ensure that if there is shortfall in the supply of rice alternative foodgrains are available to them.

SHRI N. PATRA (Orissa): May I know whether a higher achievement in the sphere of procurement by the Kerala Government would have made them less dependent on the Central supplies which are very limited? May I know if any genuine efforts have been made by the Kerala Government which is mainly responsible for supplying food to the people of the State? Have they done all that they were required to do? I understand that during recent years the lands under cultivation of tapioca, a staple food ingredient, have been switched off to money crops such as rubber, etc. May I know the extent of such diversion?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It is obvious that any rice procured in Kerala will increase the availability for distribution in the rationed areas.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: The procurement this year is more than under the Adviser's regime.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have not said more or less, I have said. Obviously any procurement available in

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

the rationed areas and it is a statement of general principle and I do not see what objections can be taken to it, but it is a fact that the present Government, after they came to power, have relaxed the procurement exemption limit. That is again a statement of fact. So far as tapioca and the diversion are concerned, I am not in a position to give it. I may inform the House that action has been taken in Kerala to increase the acreage under the high-yielding variety of paddy also.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON (Kerala): Are the Government aware that the food deficit of Kerala is about 50 per cent. of the needs of the people and also that the high prices in the market are due to the black-market rice that comes all the way from Andhra, through Mysore, to Kerala and that about Rs. 7,000 has to be paid for lifting a lorry load of rice in the black-market and also that there is some black-market supply from Andhra which keeps the price of rice high in Kerala because of the unscrupulous method of supply of rice from Andhra to the neighbouring areas and to Kerala? Is it not a fact that the procurement in Kerala is much more than it was during the Adviser's regime and that the distribution system is the same? Is it not a fact that the peasants of Kerala, mainly of Travancore-Cochin, have only 2 or 3 acres and nothing more and that the one district which has to give more rice is Palghat and that maximum procurement has been made from there? Is it not a fact that the Government made a promise that they would see that rice is taken to Kerala and are not the Government morally bound to see that the Andhra Government, which is also a Congress Government, helps in this? Is it left to the Andhra Government to give or deny as it chooses or for the Centre to see that supply to Kerala is assured? Is it the position that the State Ministers should discuss and decide or should the Centre see that the promise

once made is fulfilled? Are the Government of India ready to take action against the hoarders of Andhra and see that this black-market is stopped? Are we to be treated as second grade citizens? Have we come to this stage where people in this House, coming from Kerala, have to demand that we get out before we starve and die? Do you drive us to that position? Is it to be a disgrace to be in India?

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I myself said that rice is available in that area but at a high price. Obviously that is the rice which has found its way to Kerala from the adjoining States. Naturally the price is high. So far as supply from Andhra is concerned, they have their difficulties. They have difficulty in procurement. Another difficulty was that the price there has risen and rice is not available at the procurement price. Third difficulty is that the monsoon has set in there and they found difficulty in reaching the target which they had originally fixed for procurement. When we apprehended this difficulty in Andhra, We tried to take steps to see whether we could increase our supply from the imported rice but as I have said, the West Asian situation has created the difficulty. We had to receive some supplies from the U.A.R. Otherwise we would have supplemented rice to Kerala. There is no question of first class citizen or second-class citizen. There are States in this country where the people have been predominantly rice-eaters and we are not supplying any rice to them. Our effort has been to supply any food-grains to sustain the people and that is the action we have taken in Kerala.

SHRI A. D. MANI (Madhya Pradesh): The Minister said in the opening statement that there was slow movement of rice from Madras. Was it due to transport difficulties or due to the unwillingness of the Madras Government to move rice to Kerala? Secondly, this morning the papers have published that a few MPs are

going to picket the P.M.'s house. The Food Minister's house is not mentioned in the report though he is directly responsible for the Food Ministry. May I ask what was the statement he made in the Informal Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament in this connection and what answer is he going to give to those M.P.'s who are going to picket the house of the P.M.?

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM:** So far as the movement from Madras is concerned, as I have stated, it was the arrears of the June allocation to Kerala. As the House might be aware, the Madras Government was very helpful in this respect that when we approached them to give a quantity of 10,000 tones of rice to be sent to Kerala, they readily agreed to that. That rice could not move completely in the month of June. That is being moved in July. There was some slow movement because there also there was not adequate stock in the area from which it has to move. There was no unwillingness on the part of the Madras Government and only yesterday I received a telegram from the Chief Minister of Madras that he is expediting movement to Kerala of the remaining portion of the rice.

So far as the Informal Consultative Committee is concerned, I do not think any question was raised in that and whatever might have appeared in the press is just a figment of the correspondent concerned. It was not raised in the Committee. I have seen some Members proposing to go to the P.M.'s house. What I can say to that is, we are making all the best efforts that we can and we have seen that alternative foodgrains are available in Kerala if there is a shortfall of rice.

**SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:** The people of Kerala are rice-eating people. There is acute shortage of rice in Kerala. The rationing system has almost broken down in Kerala. The Government of India cannot shirk its responsibilities by saying that it is the State Government's job. We have so

many restrictions for the movement of foodgrains. There are zonal restrictions and food cannot be moved and the Government of Kerala is not free to import from any other country. So it is the Central Government's responsibility to see that where there is statutory rationing there are adequate food supplies. They have made promises to make adequate supplies to Kerala but they have failed in their attempt and they now say that because of the West Asian situation they have not been able to get proper food supplies made to Kerala. It is the Government of India's duty to see that adequate food supplies are made and, if necessary, foodgrains are procured, particularly rice is procured in Madras, Andhra and some other places. Now there was the movement started by Mr. Gujral that rice should be saved for the sake of Kerala. I would like to ask whether the Government of India would take care to see that the rice that is now supplied to other wheat-consuming areas is stopped and special efforts are made to supply rice to Kerala. I remember, Sir, that when you were the Governor of Kerala you had said that it was the responsibility of the Centre to feed Kerala. The Government of India should not shirk its responsibility to feed the people of Kerala in the way in which the rationing system is continued there, especially when there is a feeling in the country, that, because Kerala is now governed by a non-Congress Government, the Government of India is not liberal . . .

**SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN** (Andhra Pradesh): No.

**SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:** . . . in moving foodgrains to Kerala and proper efforts are not made by the Government of India in that direction.

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM:** I entirely agree with the hon. Member, and with the co-operation of the State Governments with the Central Government adequate quantity of foodgrains—I am just using the word 'foodgrains' that the hon. Member has used—adequate

[Shri Jagjivan Ram.]

quantity of foodgrains is moving into the area. I assure the House that it has been done. In the case of Kerala the only question is about rice. The hon. Member raised the question of stopping rice supply in the wheat-eating areas. Leave aside the wheat-eating areas; I have just now said that even in the other predominantly rice-eating areas further rice is not being supplied. And so far as the wheat-eating areas are concerned, we were giving a nominal quantity of rice to the wheat-eating people in Delhi, and perhaps the House is aware that when the Delhi Members raised that question, we completely took off even that nominal quantity of rice from the wheat-eating people of Delhi. And for the rice-eating people resident in Delhi, the quantum rice that was being supplied to them previously has been reduced, and that was only with a view to making a gesture that in view of the rice supply position in the country the people of Delhi have undergone that sacrifice. So I can assure the hon. Member that in the different wheat producing areas no rice is being supplied, and that even in the rice-consuming areas, except Kerala and West Bengal, we are not supplying the same quantity of rice as we used to do before. For example, whatever rice was being supplied to the rice-eating population in Maharashtra State, especially Bombay, that also has been reduced, and we have not been able to supply anything during the course of this month. Some is the case with Gujarat and we have not been able to supply any rice for the predominantly rice-eating people in the rationed areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rajnarain.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: The last question, he did not answer.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश): क्या सरकार स्पष्ट करेगी कि मंत्री जी खुद इसकी जरूरत क्यों नहीं समझते कि केरल जाय, मद्रास जाय, मद्रास और केरल के दोनों मुख्य

मंत्रियों को एक जगह जुटायें और वहां को सारी स्थिति की जानकारी करें कि कितने चावल की शॉर्टेज है सही मानी में और मद्रास की सरकार या मुख्य मंत्री कितना चावल दे सकते हैं? अब तक इस सरकार ने ऐसा क्यों नहीं किया। स्पष्ट सवाल यह है श्रीमन्, कि जब इस सदन में, इसी राज्य सभा के सदन में, मैं, हमारी राज्य सभा के कुछ सम्मानित सदस्य बैठे हुये थे, सदन छोड़ा नहीं था और लोक सभा में गोपालन के नेतृत्व मैं बहुत से बैठे थे, सदन छोड़ा नहीं था, एक तरह का सत्याग्रह उनका चल रहा था, तो हमने भी एक मरेल रेस्पॉसिबिलिटी ली माननीय खाद्य मंत्री से मिल कर कि ऐसी ऐसी बातें करो और इतना चावल देने का वायदा करो ताकि हम उनको समझा बुझा कर साथ ले चलें। तो जो एक "पायस" पवित्र प्रतिज्ञा की गई सदन के अंदर और सदन के बाहर और जो वचन दिये गये हैं, उसकी पूर्ति क्यों नहीं हुई? मंत्री जी ने उसकी पूर्ति करने की और स्वतः कहां तक प्रयास किया?

एक और सवाल उठता है। मंत्री जी इस सदन में एक प्रकार से कह चुके थे कि मद्रास के मुख्य मंत्री से वह चाहते हैं कि वह निश्चित रूप से कितना गल्ला देंगे मगर वे अवाइड करते हैं, मद्रास के मुख्य मंत्री बचना चाहते हैं। वे तो मिलने के लिये व्यग्र हैं लेकिन मंत्री महोदय मिलते नहीं हैं। तो इन तमाम चीजों को मद्देनजर रखते हुये मैं जानना चाहूंगा माननीय मंत्री जी से कि इस अहम समस्या के समाधान के लिए स्वतः क्यों नहीं गये और जायेंगे तो कब जायेंगे?

श्री जगज्वान राम : जहां तक पिछले महीने का प्रश्न है यह बात सही है कि मद्रास के मुख्य मंत्री से एक दिन टेलीफोन पर बात नहीं हुई, लेकिन यह कहना कि उन्होंने जानबूझ कर कोई बात नहीं करनी चाही, सही नहीं होगा और मेरे लिये भी ऐसा कहना उचित नहीं होगा ।

**श्री राजनारायण :** क्या जो बात कह रहे हैं वह सही है। क्या सही नहीं है ?

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** नहीं बिलकुल सही नहीं है ।

**श्री राजनारायण :** आधा सही है ।

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** सही नहीं है । क्योंकि उन से मेरी बात हुई है और जैसा कि मैं ने अभी इस के पहले बताया है कि मद्रास के मुख्य मंत्री से जो बात हुई, उनको परिस्थिति बताई तो उन्होंने सहृदयतापूर्वक 10,000 टन चावल केरल को देना स्वीकार किया और यह कहा कि इसके बदले हमको 10,000 टन आटा या सूजी या मैदा दिया जाय ।

**श्री राजनारायण :** दिया कितना ?

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** वह बताया जा रहा है । जो बाकी था उस में उन्होंने कहा—मैंने अपने बयान में भी कहा—जितना बाकी था उसको ...

**श्री राजनारायण :** कितना बाकी था ?

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** यह तो स्टेटमेंट में पढ़ा था, 4,500 टन बाकी है । क्या इसको बार बार दोहराने को कह रहे हैं ।

**श्री राजनारायण :** श्रीमन्, माननीय मंत्री जी ने वायदा किया था कि फलां तारीख तक इतना इतना गत्ता पहुँच जायेगा ...

**श्री जगजीवन राम :** आप ज़रा धीरज के साथ बैठिये । मैं बताऊंगा, जो कुछ वादा था वह जून महीने के लिये था और अभी मैंने बताया है कि जून महीने में 65,000 टन चावल केरल को चला गया । यह सारा प्रश्न जुलाई महीने का है और जैसा मैंने पहले बताया कि जुलाई महीने की परिस्थिति कठिन होगी चावल के मामले में तो मुख्य

मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में ही बातें करके केरल के मुख्य मंत्री को यह बता दिया गया था कि जुलाई महीने में सिर्फ 44,000 टन चावल दिया जा रहा है । यह सारी परिस्थिति जुलाई के महीने में कठिन हो गई है, जैसा कि मैंने बयान में बता दिया है । और यह कहना कि मैं जाता क्यों नहीं, बात क्यों नहीं करता, तो मैं हाउस को बता देना चाहता हूँ कि इस बीच में मुख्य मंत्रियों से मेरी कई दफा बात हुई और आंध्र के मुख्य मंत्री यहां थे तो उन से मिलकर बात हुई, मद्रास के मुख्य मंत्री से बात हुई । इस मामले में मिलने जुलने में बात करने में, कोई कोताही नहीं रखी गई है लेकिन उन सब की अपनी अपनी परिस्थिति है जैसा कि मद्रास से हमारे पास टेलीग्राम आया कि हमारे पास इस वक्त स्वयं स्टॉक इतना नहीं है कि हम दे सकें । तो वैसी हालत में बहुत कठिन हो जाता है किसी के भी ऊपर दबाव डालना । इसलिये मैंने कहा कि जितनी सहृदयतापूर्वक हो सकता है उन्होंने कहा है, लेकिन परिस्थिति ऐसी है जिस में चावल की कमी रहेगी और जैसा कि मैंने बताया उसकी पूर्ति गेहूं भेज कर कर दी ।

**SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal):** It seems that rice is available in Andhra but that the same was not procured. The hon. Minister has given certain reasons, but the rice, despite the availability of rice in Andhra, has not been procured and moved to Kerala. And also it is rumoured or confidentially asserted that the Chief Minister of Andhra, Shri Brahmananda Reddy, is not interested in even honouring his minimum commitment in the matter of procurement of rice to be done in Andhra, which can be easily done in Andhra, because the Centre is not giving him the money for the Nagarjunasagar project, the amount demanded by him. So he is deliberately non-cooperating with the Centre in the matter of rice also.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): I strongly object to the statement that the Chief Minister has combined the supply of rice to Kerala with the allotment of finance to the Nagarjunasagar project.

MISS M. L. MARY NAIDU (Andhra Pradesh): I also vehemently object to the statement made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not question the *bona fides* of Mr. Brahmananda Reddy.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I am seeking a clarification.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: On a point of order, Sir.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: That is absolutely wrong. What Mr. Niren Ghosh has said is absolutely incorrect.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Sir, my hon. friend is trying to create unnecessary rivalry between the two States, although both are playing their part and they are doing their best. Therefore, he should be stopped from doing this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Niren Ghosh, it is better to appeal to the Chief Minister, to appeal to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, to appeal to other States also, to supply rice under the circumstances prevailing.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: The Centre has also its part to play, Sir. (*Interruptions*) Blackmarketing is going on. They have only minimum procurement there and certain nominal quantities are sent to other States, letting the traders to get high prices. In view of these things, may I ask whether the Central Government would insist on every State Government to have monopoly procurement of rice as a matter of policy? If you adopt that policy and if that policy is insisted upon, then everybody, at least all sensible people, will cooperate with you and

some amount of foodgrains can be supplied to many of the States to meet the present emergency position. So I ask whether as a matter of principle the hon. Minister would do this and try to impress upon the Government of Andhra Pradesh to stop these things and make a special effort in this direction. And secondly, I would like to know whether it is possible for the Government of India to rush some quantities of rice from whatever sources or whichever States there may be that are agreeable to do this, to meet the situation or has he made this statement just to please us? We are also interested to know that because the ration system has broken down in that State. There is agitation. There is disruption and the entire people are agitated because of want of rice. So I want to know whether the Government is ready to rush some rice to that State.

(Several hon. Members stood up)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall give an opportunity to everybody who wants to put questions and who is most anxious to seek clarifications. Now the Food Minister.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Sir, it will be quite unfair to say that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is not interested in the supply of rice to other States. He has been quite cooperative and I must express my thanks to him and to the others surplus States, and say that whether they are Congress Governments or non-Congress Governments, both kinds of State Governments, whether the Congress is in power there or non-Congress Governments are in power, they have all been quite cooperative in this matter and it is not fair to say that they are not. And then, Sir, I do not know whether it is competent to raise a question of policy during the Question Hour. He has raised the question of procurement policy.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It is not the Question Hour.



SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: No, it is the Calling Attention Notice under discussion. I am correcting myself. I want to know whether during the course of a Calling Attention matter a question relating to a policy of the Government can be discussed. So far as procurement is concerned, as I have informed the House on more than one occasion, different patterns of procurement are prevalent in various parts of the country and it is for the State Governments to see which particular method of procurement will be most effective in the State concerned. In some States a levy from the cultivators is in force. In other States the levy is from the traders or the millers. It is for the State Government to judge and it was decided in the last Chief Ministers' Conference that procurement is to be done both in the surplus States and in the deficit States, but the methods most suitable for the particular State can be decided by the State Government.

So far as rushing rice to Kerala is concerned, I have already said that we have been taking steps to see that rice is sent to Kerala from whatever source we can arrange to send it. As I have indicated, we were able to locate one loaded ship. We were trying to find out whether some loaded ships meant for other countries were available in any part of the world and whether we could request that Government to help us by diverting that ship to Kerala. Fortunately we located one such ship and as I have indicated, the Ceylon Government was quite good to us and they agreed and so that ship has been diverted and it is expected to arrive in Cochin either by the end of this month or on the 1st or 2nd of August, carrying 1,000 tonnes of rice.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: Sir, I do not want the statement made by the hon. Member, Shri Niren Ghosh, to go unchallenged. He is always trying to confuse the country and he presents a wrong picture to the people. Sir, I would like to say that being a surplus State, whatever

Andhra Pradesh can supply to other States, the State has been supplying. We have never said that because there is no provision of more funds for Nagarjunasagar, we will not supply rice to other States. These two have never been clubbed together and I am very grateful to the Food Minister for having clarified the position. I would also like to say that we are also having rationing and for more than three or four days in a week in Hyderabad we are not having rice. We certainly agree that we should share the general misery with the rest of the land and just because we are a surplus State we should not eat more than others. But we are undergoing the suffering as much as we can. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in Kerala the people refuse to take wheat and they want only rice. They are encouraging blackmarketing there. Where do the people get the money to buy rice from the black market? They are making politics out of this food problem. This should not be done. They are creating more politics out of this rice shortage. The problem is more a political one than one of rice shortage. Food shortage is there all over the country, not in Kerala alone. Is it made into a political question just because there they have a non-Congress Government and there is a Congress Government in Andhra Pradesh? This is what I want to know from the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. V. BHADRAM (Andhra Pradesh): The hon. Minister has said that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has committed himself to supply six lakh tonnes of rice on the Centre's account. But I personally feel that much more can be supplied and according to estimates as much as ten lakh tonnes can easily be supplied to other States.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: They cannot possibly do that.

**SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:** The hon. lady Member cannot know because she does not come from the surplus district that I come from. So this I want to know from the hon. Minister. He has categorically stated that there is difficulty in procurement of rice in the surplus States. I want to know whether in the surplus districts of Guntur, Krishna, East Godavari and West Godavari, there is any agency for procurement. Is it done through the millowners? That is number one. Secondly, is it a fact that there is blackmarketing and smuggling of rice on a large scale going on to Maharashtra and Mysore across the border, probably with the connivance of the State Governments?

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Shame, shame.

**SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:** Is it not a fact the Kerala people came to Tade-palligudam where there is a rice market, and they were refused permission to operate in the market? And fourthly, is the Food Corporation of India under the existing law in the surplus districts not allowed to operate in the open market and to buy the surplus rice? Is it a fact that the millers can pay a little more price per quintal whereas the Food Corporation of India cannot pay a rupee or two more? As a matter of fact, the whole thing is controlled by these millers and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is a prisoner in the hands of the black-marketeers and millers.

**SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY:** Not at all.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You put your question and do not make insinuations.

**SHRI M. V. BHADRAM:** Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Food Minister, the real position. I would like him to clarify the procurement position, how it is being done, whether through the millers or not, and whether blackmarketing and smuggling on a large scale are going

on and rice is going to Maharashtra and Mysore, whether that is a fact or not. And lastly, the Chief Minister had assured a supply of 6 lakh tonnes. What quantity out of this 6 lakhs tonnes has actually been supplied by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh?

**SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM:** As the House is aware, Andhra Pradesh is a surplus State for rice and the Andhra Pradesh Government had offered to supply 6 lakh tonnes of rice on the Central account. Later on they revised it and they said it may be 5 lakh tonnes. So far as the method of procurement is concerned, in Andhra Pradesh it is not from the cultivator. It is from the rice miller. Therefore it is taken from the rice millers. Whether the Food Corporation of India takes it or any other agency takes it, it is taken from the rice millers.

About smuggling I am afraid I have not such a thorough knowledge of the smugglers as the hon. Member has and therefore I am not in a position to say anything about it.

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Uttar Pradesh):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware that the Kerala Government has itself relaxed the procurement leveies? While they want all favour from other States they are not trying to impose a levy on their own people?

**SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:** Sir, as a producer:

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Order, order. Mr. Balachandra Menon, you have had your say.

**SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON:** It is a wrong statement.

**SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR:** Secondly, when the country as such is facing a difficult time is it not proper for the Government and the people of Kerala to advise their people to change their food habits and is it also not a fact that the Chief Minister of

Kerala who is a member of a party that is out to create a difficult situation in the country and disrupt the whole democratic structure, is making politics out of this food problem? Again and again when the Food Minister of India says that they will be given all necessary help.

SHRI G. MURAHARI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, on a point of order. I would like to know whether a Member in this House could say that a Chief Minister of a State is out to create disorder. I think, Sir...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The trouble is this. (*Interruptions*). When I stand everybody must sit. The pot cannot call the kettle black. What is the use of one party trying to accuse one Chief Minister and the other party trying to accuse the other Chief Minister? Let us not enter into such discussions when we are discussing an important matter affecting the lives of the people.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Chairman, I never said that the Kerala Chief Minister is disrupting. I said that the Kerala Chief Minister belongs to a party which is out to create disruption, chaos and disorder in the country. The members of that party taking advantage of parliamentary democracy are trying to make a political situation out of the food problem. It is not a problem either of the Congress Party or of the Communist Party or the S.S.P. or the P.S.P., but it is a national problem and if the hon. Food Minister says that in this hour of national crisis people should change their food habits, while the people in Bengal are coming forward to take wheat, while the people in Bihar who are rice-eaters are taking to milo and wheat, what is the speciality with the Kerala people? Is it because Mr. Namboodiripad is the Chief Minister that they will not change their food habits? I would ask the Food Minister that he should muster courage and tell boldly to the people of Kerala that in order to face this national crisis they should change

their food habits rather than add to the difficulties of the nation.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will not divert my attention to the political aspects of the question as I have not done in the case of the previous questioners when he tried to shower all sorts of epithets on the Andhra Chief Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sir, Mr. Chandra Shekhar is becoming violent.

SHRI C. D. PANDE: (Uttar Pradesh): In reply to your violence.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will not go into that aspect. I only want to inform the House as I have done previously that they relaxed the exemption limit when they came to power.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not enter into political aspects. Let us only go into the economic aspects because it is a matter of feeding the people.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: Sir, I would like to know whether it is not the responsibility of the Government of India under the Constitution to feed the people of India and if that is so, whether it is not the responsibility of the Government of India to take such steps to see that the procurement in the various States goes according to plan and if any State is not carrying out its commitments, is it not the duty of the Government of India to see that it sets up a machinery to ensure that proper procurement is done? If that is so, I would like to know from the Government of India why they are not taking adequate steps to see that procurement of rice is done properly in Andhra Pradesh because we have been told just now that the rice millers are in charge of procuring rice in Andhra Pradesh. There is the Food Corporation of India which has been set up with a lot of fanfare by the same Government of India and when it was set up we were told that one of the functions of the Food Cor-

[Shri G. Murahari.]

poration of India was to procure food and also to engage in trading in food-grains but unfortunately we find a situation today where the Food Corporation of India just does not exist. We don't hear of the Food Corporation of India anywhere. So I would like to know why the Government is such a helpless spectator of the maldistribution of foodgrains; I would call it maldistribution. In one State you have rice, you have wheat and you can get enough to eat while in another State which is a completely rice-eating State like Kerala, they are not getting enough rice. I do agree with Mr. Chandra Shekhar when he says that they should not completely depend on rice but I would like to tell him that in Kerala they do not eat rice; they eat tapioca. When rice is not available they eat tapioca. It is not as if the Kerala people are depending only on rice; they eat anything that they can get. But to expect a completely rice-eating State like Kerala to switch over to wheat is unjust. I would like to know from the Government of India whether they would take steps to see that food distribution is done Centrally and that procurement is also done by the Central Government. There should be an equitable distribution of food in the country.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not go into the Constitutional question. But as I have said it should not be the sole responsibility of the Central Government to feed the country and that State Governments should not have any responsibility in that regard. It should have to be the joint responsibility of the Center and the States concerned to so manage the available food in the country that there is as far as possible equitable distribution of the available foodgrains. In Andhra it is not the millers only; it is a levy on the millers. That should not be forgotten. The method of procurement in Andhra is a levy on the rice millers. Up till now that method has been quite successful. The Andhra Government's com-

mitment to the Central Government is 5 lakh tonnes of rice and I am sure they will fulfil that. There has been a shortfall this month and they have indicated that there were certain difficulties. As a matter of fact in the letter that I have received yesterday from the Food Minister of Andhra he has said that for their own rationing system in Hyderabad and other areas their stock was just adequate to carry them through this month and that they were making efforts. But in spite of their best efforts they were not able to procure as much as their expectation was for this month.

As for switching over, I have not said that Kerala should entirely switch over to wheat but certainly I will suggest, when there are some insurmountable difficulties, when in spite of the best efforts of the Central Government and the State Governments there is a shortfall in rice supply, that has to be supplemented. I will not suggest tapioca; it may create . . .

SHRI G. MURAHARI: But the rations are insufficient.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It has been the traditional pattern that they have supplemented with tapioca, I do not suggest that; I suggest that it should be supplemented with wheat and we have seen to it that an adequate quantity of wheat is available in that area.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: It is a matter for regret that in the matter of food, politics should be introduced, as you have rightly pointed out. My submission is that if there has been shortfall in completing the target, it is not due to any other consideration except the inherent difficulty of the weather and of there being insufficient rice. I assure you that on the question of food we consider the whole of India as one unit and as has been pointed out we have ourselves reduced our ration in order to feed our friends in Kerala. But when there is a genuine difficulty, let it be examined on merit and not say that the quantity of the ration is not sufficient. I can also say that the levy system that we are adopting, as point-

ed out by the hon. Food Minister, is working very well. Going to the yets is much more difficult and to create a machinery for it would cause very heavy expense. So, we are following this method of procurement through millers. There was a very useful suggestion made last time that the Government of India and the Government of Kerala should start bakeries in different parts of Kerala. As regards 'chappaties and 'rotis' it is difficult for Kerala people who are not used to these, but if bakeries are established and wheat is supplied to bakeries on a large scale and bread is supplied to the people, I think, to a certain extent it will meet the situation. I do hope that the hon. Food Minister and the Kerala Government will establish bakeries on a large scale.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: What is his question?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is, in what manner bakeries are to be started in Kerala.

श्री राजन.रायण : यह अकबर अली खान साहब ने कहा कि "Food is not related to politics." तो हमारी रिवरेंट यह है कि अकबर अली खान को एक दिन भूखा रहने दीजिये तो पता चल जायेगा कि कूड रिलेटेड विद पॉलिटिक्स है या नहीं।

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: What I said is this. Let the food question be solved on merits and do not introduce politics into food. Do not bring in this mentality of Congress Government and non-Congress Government. We were very comfortable when Mr. Rajnarain was not here. He has come and created this difficulty.

MISS M. L. MARY NAIDU: May I ask the hon. Minister if he is aware of the fact—unlike what Mr. Bhadram made the House to understand—that all of Andhra is not a rice-growing area. Only the three districts, which he mentioned, may be rice-growing areas. There is particularly Rayalaseema, consisting of cuddappah, kur-nool and Anantapur districts, and also part of Telegana where no rice is

grown. Even in respect of Nellore, which is famous for its rice, only Nellor taluk grows rice. In other parts of Nellore district no rice is grown. As for rationing, only a few towns are rationed. God knows how our villagers are getting their quota of rice. We do not know what a hardship it is for them. Unlike Kerala the people in the interior of Andhra have no fish to supplement their food. We eat millet, but it failed last year. We do not have rationing extended to our villages. The hardships which the Andhra people undergo are just undermined by the hue and cry raised saying that Andhra is surplus. It is surplus in rice because we eat millet and we eat—I do not know their names in English—"Chondas" and other things. Only because of this we are called surplus and not because we are really surplus in rice. In any case, I am very happy to note that communism can be so united, though, as far as their Party is concerned, they have no pity for the poor of their own States. If we are united like them, we could feed the whole of India better.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, I have an impression from the words which have fallen from the mouth of some Members on the Congress Benches as well as from the hon. Minister as if the States which are deficit in the production of food are objects of commiseration. Now, I may tell the hon. Minister that it may be that the States of Kerala and West Bengal are deficit in food production, but that is not because we do not want to produce food. That is because we add to the wealth of India in other ways. These are the two States which are the maximum earners of foreign exchange by exporting jute, cashewnut, rubber, etc. As far as the State of West Bengal is concerned, we know that many rice-producing acres of land are now engulfed by the expansion of factories. I have personal knowledge that five hundred or even more acres of land in the Fudge Fudge area have been by Birlas in order that they may establish a factory there. In this fash-

[Shri A. P. Chatterjee.]  
 ion our food-growing lands are being taken over for certain other reasons and we add to the wealth of the country. We add to the export earnings of the country. Now, therefore, it is not a question of charity. It is a question of duty on the part of the surplus States to send their surplus food to the States of West Bengal and Kerala. Further, will the hon. Minister say whether the States of Kerala and West Bengal, which earn a greater part of the foreign exchange, would be given the right to import food-grains direct from abroad by diverting some part of the foreign exchange earnings to these two States? If so, we can see whether the food problem in our States can or cannot be solved by us. These are the two questions which the hon. Food Minister will kindly answer.

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) (Kerala): Mr. Chairman, Kerala is a deficit area and it is an admitted fact. We want ten lakh tonnes of rice every year for the distribution of ration at the rate of 6 oz. per head per day. While you, Sir, were the head of the administration there, there was a food crisis. It was in November, 1964. On the morning of 10th November, 1964 you spoke to the then Prime Minister, our late Shastri about the crisis in Kerala and the late Prime Minister immediately rushed rice to Kerala and you could overcome the difficulty. Now, everybody knows that the school going children on their way to their schools faint on account of starvation. This is a fact. If the Cabinet Ministers want to know the truth of it, let the Food Minister or the Prime Minister go to Kerala and make a personal study of this matter. In this connection, I would say when the Prime Minister heard that there was a food shortage or a famine in Madhya Pradesh, she immediately rushed to Madhya Pradesh to make personal enquiries. For the last three months this food scarcity is going on in Kerala and several untoward things have happened there. But you do not mind it. would say that it is discrimination. The people of Kerala are also

citizens of India. They are starving. There is fifty per cent food deficit there. We earn dollars for the whole of India. Seventeen per cent of the dollars is being earned by the Kerala people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put a question.

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA): I ask a simple question. We are given 6 ounces of rice every day per head. But the rice which is now given is 2 ounces or 3 ounces. That is not sufficient even for a child for one day. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was saying that we must try to use wheat also. I may assure my hon. friends that we are using wheat for the last so many years. But the 6 ounces of ration which we get are not sufficient for one meal in a day. The rest is made up of wheat, tapioca and other things. Our only demand is that we want 6 ounces of rice per head per day. You promised to give us 75,000 tones of rice per month and you have failed. It is the duty of the Central Government to give us rice whether they will get it from Andhra or elsewhere. Is there any difficulty to import rice from Burma or Thailand if it is not available from Andhra? That is my question.

SHRI K. SUNDARAM (Madras): May I know from the Food Minister whether wagons were not made available at Tadepalligudam for transporting rice from Andhra to Kerala but at the same time hundreds of wagons were awaiting allotment at Vijaywada during the months of May and June? Is the Minister aware of this?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Taking the last question first, I am not quite aware of these wagon difficulties. I will look into that.

I am not expected to reply to everything has been made out in the long speeches. Most of what has been said is not relevant to the issue as well. But there has never been a feeling on the part of anybody, whether it is the Central Government or the surplus States, that they are allotting those foodgrains to deficit areas in a spirit of charity. a repu-

diate that suggestion. That has ever been the attitude of the Central Government or any of the States. I made it clear in the Chief Ministers' Conference that a pattern of agriculture and horticulture had been developed in our country in the various States. Some States are more suitable for certain agricultural crops or cash crops. Certain areas may be more suitable for horticulture. Therefore, it cannot be expected that every State will become self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. The country as a whole will have to be taken into consideration. The question of foreign exchange has been raised. I have explained in this House on more than one occasion that there are difficulties in locating rice in the world market. A friend has mentioned about Burma and Thailand. I had explained on previous occasions that we were expecting 1,50,000 tonnes of rice from Burma. Of course they have their own internal difficulties. They have not been able to procure the requisite quantity, and that has also added to our difficulties. From Thailand we are getting. Sometimes the Food Minister or the Chief Minister of Kerala receives certain offers from some parties and they have been good enough to forward them to me. When we make the enquiry, we find that these offers have no basis; they do not materialise. So it is not a question that we are not trying to spend foreign exchange. As I have said we are trying to locate rice and divert it to Kerala. They are certainly on the basis of foreign exchange. So, it is all a question of availability, and as I have explained earlier, the Suez Canal issue also has added to our difficulties. It is not my intention to say that Kerala should switch over to wheat. But what I have suggested is that in view of the temporary difficulty that has arisen, I again repeat it is a temporary difficulty, we have to supplement the shortfall with whatever foodgrains we can. That is what I have suggested. Kerala people have taken to wheat. I will not say they have not, they are supplementing their rice

quota with wheat. But rice ration that is being given is small, because in the rural areas it is expected that some free rice will be available with the cultivators as well. Again I want to make clear that political considerations I have never brought in the matter of food distribution and I would request everybody that this should be kept out of politics. I will make every effort to meet as much as we can of the rice supply to Kerala, but failing that I will make an appeal to the people of Kerala to co-operate in this temporary difficulty by supplementing the shortage of rice with wheat.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. ANNUAL REPORT (1965-66) OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BANGALORE AND RELATED PAPER

II. ANNUAL REPORT (1965-66) OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KANPUR

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. TRIGUNA SEN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(a) A copy of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for the year 1965-66. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-905/67]

(b) A copy of the Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur for the year 1965-66. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-790/67]

I. REPORT (1964-65) OF THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH, HYDERABAD AND RELATED PAPERS

II. REPORT (1965-66) OF THE CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH, HYDERABAD AND RELATED PAPERS

DR. TRIGUNA SEN: Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers—

(1) Report on the activities of the Central Institute of English, Hyderabad, during the year 1964-65.