

and their lives and property will be safe in the Railway Ministry's hands?

SHRI C. M. POONACHA: As I explained earlier, we can provide the assistance or such assistance as is sought by the West Bengal Government in this regard. As referred to earlier, we have provided 8 companies to assist the G.R.P. West Bengal. It was entirely a matter for the West Bengal Government to deal with. Rightly or wrongly, according to their own assessment they have put only 3 companies here, 3 companies in Sealdah Division and 2 companies elsewhere. These 8 companies have been deployed in a manner as has been found necessary by the West Bengal Government with the result that only 10 mail and express service trains in this sector could be provided with escort. If they want more companies, we are willing to provide that Force also. It is up to the West Bengal Government to make a fair assessment and to seek any further assistance and also to position the R.P.F. and their own Force in such a manner as to meet the situation that has arisen in this regard.

EXTENSION OF INDIAN FOREST SERVICE TO JAMMU AND KASHMIR STATE

9. SHRI A. M. TARIQ:†
SHRI KRISHAN KANT.
SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA:
SHRI A. D. MANI:
SHRI ARJUN ARORA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Forest Service has been extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, what criteria were adopted for inclusion of officers in this cadre; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some senior officers have been left out and instead some junior officers have been included in the cadre?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. M. Tariq.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Indian Forest Service has been constituted with effect from the 1st July, 1966 in accordance with the All India Services Act, 1951. All the States including Jammu and Kashmir have a cadre of their own in the Service.

(b) A Special Selection Board, presided over by an ex-Member of the Union Public Service Commission nominated by the Chairman of the Commission, considered the cases of State Forest Service officers, who fulfilled the conditions of eligibility and prepared a list of such of the officers as were adjudged suitable on the basis of their records. The recommendations of the Board were approved by the Union Public Service Commission, before the appointments of the officers concerned were notified in the Gazette of India.

(c) Yes Sir. Those who were not adjudged suitable were not appointed to the Service, irrespective of their position in the State seniority list.

شری اے - ایم - طارق : میں

ملفدری جی سے یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں
کہ سینئر لوگوں کو کس بنیاد پر
سروس سے الگ کیا گیا ہے بنیادی
سوال تو یہ تھا اور جو جونیئر لوگ
لئے گئے ہیں ان کو کس بنیاد پر لیا
گیا ہے ؟

†[श्री ए० एम० तारिक : मैं मंत्री जी से
यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सीनियर लोगों को
किस बुनियाद पर सर्विस से अलग किया
गया है । बुनियादी सवाल तो यह था ।
और जो जूनियर लोग लिये गये हैं उनको
किस बुनियाद पर लिया गया है ?]

†[] Hindi Translation.

श्री विद्या चरण शुक्ल : अध्यक्ष महोदय इसमें जैसा मैंने बताया जो चयन किया गया है उसमें उनका मेरिट देखा गया है सीनियरिटी को उतना महत्व नहीं दिया गया और मेरिट के अनुसार सेलेक्शन बोर्ड ने जो-जो उसमें चयन किये उनको हमने फिर से केन्द्रीय लोक सेवा आयोग के पास भेजा और उनकी अप्रवृत्त के बाद उनकी जांच पड़ताल करके जब उन्हें पक्का कर दिया तब उसके बाद गजेट आफ इंडिया में प्रकाशित किया गया पर इसके संबंध में कई शिकायतें आई हैं और कुछ लोगों ने दख्खिस्तें भी दी हैं। हम लोगों के जो रेगुलेशन हैं इस प्रकार के चयन के लिये जो नियम कराये गये हैं उसमें इस बात का प्रावधान है कि इस तरह की जो दख्खिस्तें दी जाय, रेप्रेजेंटेशन दिये जाय उनके ऊपर विचार किया जाय और मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब ऐसी दख्खिस्तें आयेंगी तो नियमों के अंतर्गत उनके ऊपर विचार किया जायेगा और उचित रूप से उनके ऊपर निर्णय किया जायेगा।

श्री अ - अम - طارق : क्या ये

दुरुस्त है कि जो लोग लुगों को नहीं लिया गया है उन के ख़ाफ़ उन की सरुस बक में कुछे अइदुरस रिमार्क्स तेह लिखन वे किहरे पछले बीस साल में उन के पास नहीं भेजे गये हैं हमें ज़ाब के लिये - तो क्या ये भी दुरुस्त है कि जो लोग लुगों को लिया गया है उन के सरुस रिकार्ड भी कोनी बहुत अछे नहीं हैं और सरकार की तरफ से जो लोग इस कमीशन में बैठे थे खुद उन के सरुस रिकार्ड बहुत अछे नहीं हैं और कश्मीर के फारेस्ट कमीशन में उन लोगों के ख़िलाफ़ रिमार्क पास किए गये हैं और वहां के जो इस वक्त के चीफ मंत्री थे उनके बारे में भी वहां के लोगों को + ई अच्छी राय नहीं थी तो क्या सरकार इस डेमोक्रेसी में जो इन्साफ की बुनियादों पर कायम है उन लोगों के साथ इन्साफ करेगी जिनका हाफ नाहक मारा गया है और उनको एक मौका और बख्शेगी।

फ़ोरस्ट कमिशन में उन लुगों के ख़ाफ़ रिमार्क्स पास किये गये हैं और वहां के जो इस वक्त के चीफ मंत्री थे उनके बारे में भी वहां के लोगों को + ई अच्छी राय नहीं थी तो क्या सरकार इस डेमोक्रेसी में जो इन्साफ की बुनियादों पर कायम है उन लोगों के साथ इन्साफ करेगी जिनका हाफ नाहक मारा गया है और उनको एक मौका और बख्शेगी ?

†[श्री ए० एम० तारिक : क्या यह दुरुस्त है कि जिन लोगों को नहीं लिया गया है उनके ख़िलाफ़ उनकी सरुसबुक में कुछ एडवर्स रिमार्क्स थे लेकिन वह कमी पिछले बीस साल में उनके पास नहीं भेजे गए हैं जवाब के लिए। तो क्या यह भी जरूरत है कि जिन लोगों को लिया गया है उनके सरुस रिकार्ड्स भी कोई बहुत अच्छे नहीं हैं और सरकार की तरफ से जो लोग इस कमीशन में बैठे थे खुद उन के सरुस रिकार्ड बहुत अच्छे नहीं हैं और कश्मीर के फारेस्ट कमीशन में उन लोगों के ख़िलाफ़ रिमार्क पास किए गये हैं और वहां के जो इस वक्त के चीफ मंत्री थे उनके बारे में भी वहां के लोगों को + ई अच्छी राय नहीं थी तो क्या सरकार इस डेमोक्रेसी में जो इन्साफ की बुनियादों पर कायम है उन लोगों के साथ इन्साफ करेगी जिनका हाफ नाहक मारा गया है और उनको एक मौका और बख्शेगी।]

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : सभापति महोदय इस समिति में राज्य सरकार की तरफ से चीफ कन्ज़र्वेटर आफ़ फारेस्ट और जंगल विभाग के सचिव बैठे थे और उनको तो वहां की राज्य सरकार ने उस पद पर रखा था। उन्होंने आफिसरों के सरुस रिकार्ड्स

को ठीक से समझ कर देखा है। जहां तक हमारे लोग बैठे, जहां तक केन्द्रीय सरकार के सदस्य थे उनका तो सवाल हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने नहीं उठाया है, जहां तक ऐसे सरकारी आफिसरों का सवाल है जिनके आफिशियल रिकार्ड्स की कुछ एन्ट्रीज थीं जो उनके खिलाफ थीं लेकिन उनके पास भेजी नहीं गई थीं तो ऐसे आफिसरों को इस बात का फिर से मौका दिया गया है कि राज्य सरकार उन एन्ट्रीज का फिर से उन आफिसरों के पास भेजेगी और उन आफिसरों को इस बात का मौका दिया जायेगा कि उन एन्ट्रीज के खिलाफ यदि वे कुछ कहना चाहते हैं या बताना चाहते हैं तो बतायें; और उसके बाद वह सवाल फिर से जो एक रिव्यूइंग कमेटी बनाई गई है उसके सामने आयेगा और अगर रिव्यूइंग कमेटी में उन आफिसरों के केसेज की फिर जांच पड़ताल करने पर यह पाया जाय कि किसी तरह से उनके खिलाफ अन्याय हुआ है तो उसको ठीक कर दिया जायेगा, दुरुस्त कर दिया जायेगा।

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I know from the Minister in view of the fact, as Mr. Tariq said, there were charges against the representatives of the State Government sitting in the Selection Committee like the Chief Secretary and also charges against those who have been selected, will the Government consider the whole thing *de novo* so that all these matters can be looked into?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have already said that the State Government have appointed the Forest Secretary and the Chief Conservator of Forests according to their own choice. As far as the irregularity about the selectors is concerned, we have to associate the Secretary of the Forest Department and the Chief Conservator of Forests with the Selection Committee and we are not concerned really whether these officers

were appointed properly by the State Government or not, but they were the nominees of the State Government on the Selection Board which was presided over by an ex-Member of the U.P.S.C. There is no question of reopening and taking this matter up *de novo*.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know why a departure was made from the normal practice? The normal practice in such Selection Boards is that a Member of the UPSC plus the highest officer of the Service which is being constituted and the highest officer of the Service in the State—they form the Selection Board and it is the primary responsibility of the UPSC to make these selections. Why was it necessary to appoint an ex-Member of the UPSC to conduct this selection and why a Member of the UPSC itself could not undertake this work which would have been in the fitness of things?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I do not think any departure was made because several Selection Boards have been constituted in the past also, where ex-Members of the UPSC have been nominated by the Chairman of the UPSC to preside over such Selection Boards. This may be because of the internal difficulty that Members of the UPSC may not have time to devote to the various Selection Boards organised by the Government from time to time. As far as the association of the highest officers of the various services is concerned, they are associated. The Chief Conservator of Forests of the State Concerned, for which the particular selection is made, is associated and also the Secretary of the Forest Department of the respective State are also associated with the Selection Board.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask whether the UPSC was given a list of officers who are not considered fit for inclusion in the cadre or they were supplied with only a list of officers selected by the Selection Committee?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
As far as I know, the UPSC was given a list of officers selected or who were considered suitable for selection

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE The Minister has admitted that some of the senior-most officers were superseded by junior officers. So far as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are concerned, gross injustice has been done while constituting this new All-India Service. The genuine, legitimate claims of those people have been suppressed. So I would like to know whether in reviewing these, the complaints received from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes would also be considered and due representation of 16 per cent would be given to them in this All-India Service?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
This review which I have just mentioned in my previous reply was really undertaken on the representation made by certain Scheduled Caste persons. We are very anxious ourselves to see that no injustice is done to the officers belonging to the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE And about the percentage?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
As far as the other observation of the hon. Member is concerned that senior-most officers have been superseded by the junior-most officers, that is not correct.

SHRI B D KHOBARAGADE: What about the 16 per cent reservation which should be made for the candidates of the Scheduled Castes according to the Constitution?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
Unfortunately there is no such reservation when it is a question of initially constituting a service. But as far as we can take care of it administratively we are trying to see that some sort of protection is given to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN:
Sir, it would appear that when these selections were being made, in some of the States certain senior officers were under certain enquiries and therefore naturally their claims were not considered and they were temporarily superseded. It would appear, Sir, that now these enquiries are over and some of the officers concerned have been cleared absolutely of the charges that had been made against them. Would the hon. Minister consider such cases of temporary supersession that had been made by the selection committee at that time on account of the fact that enquiries were pending and on account of the fact that today those enquiries are over and those officers have been absolutely cleared? Would the hon. Minister consider those cases particularly those arising in one or two instances in Mysore State?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:
I have already indicated that there is this Reviewing Committee which is going into all these cases, that is to say those cases which are brought forth by the respective officers. As far as these cases are concerned, of officers who had departmental proceedings going on against them when the final selection was made, if such officers were found suitable their names were kept in abeyance pending the finalisation of the departmental proceedings against them. If after departmental enquiries are over these officers are exonerated of all the charges, they could be selected. But if after the departmental proceedings were over it was found that the charges against them were correct then their names would be dropped from the list. In answer to an earlier question, I said that as far as I was aware the list of officers selected was sent to the UPSC. Now I have got the information that all the names that were considered were sent to the UPSC, that is to say the names of those officers who were selected and also of those who were not selected.

श्री राज नारायण : क्या सरकार इस बात को साफ करेगी कि उन्होंने

भारतीय वन सेवा का जम्मू काश्मीर राज्य में जो विस्तार किया है क्या उसके लिए उन्होंने वहां की सरकार से पहले से ही सहमति प्राप्त कर ली थी या नहीं क्योंकि इस सरकार का यह मालूम है या नहीं कि वहां पर प्रिवेन्टिव डिटेक्शन ऐक्ट अलग से लागू है, वहां पर इलैक्शन ट्राइब्यूनल अलग रंग से चलता है। काश्मीर अपने को कुछ स्वतंत्र राज्य समझकर इस तरह से सारा काम कर रहा है, इसलिए हमें डर है कि बाद में अगर यह सरकार किसी चीज के लिए वहां की सरकार से पूर्व सहमति प्राप्त नहीं कर लेगी तब तक वह लागू नहीं होती और आगे चलकर इस तरह की जो कठिनाई पैदा होगी उसके बारे में इस सरकार को क्या कहना है ?

श्री विद्या चरण शुकल : गभापति महोदय यह कहना बिल्कुल गलत है कि जम्मू काश्मीर सरकार अपने को स्वतंत्र मानकर चलती है। जिस तरह से भारतवर्ष के दूसरे राज्य काम करते हैं उसी तरह से वहां की राज्य सरकार भी चलती है और इस मामले में राज्य सरकार की पूरी तरह से सहमति है।

श्री राजनारायण : मैंने यह पूछा था कि वहां पर अलग से प्रिवेन्टिव डिटेक्शन ऐक्ट है, वहां पर एक अलग से ट्राइब्यूनल है जैसा कि भारतवर्ष में नहीं है। तो इस तरह से वहां पर अलग से व्यवस्था क्यों की गई है ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: That has nothing to do with this question, Sir.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister this. This Act was passed in 1961. Why was there such a long delay in the formation of this service? And secondly, I want to know whether the fact has come to the notice of the Government that

while fixing up seniority very undue weightage was given to certain officers even though some officers were better qualified and had put in longer service and these senior officers were superseded by junior officers because of the weightage given while equating the posts? And thirdly, I would like to know while this service was constituted and what percentage has been reserved for promotions?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: As far as delay is concerned, there was some delay because all the State Governments had to be consulted. Various points had been raised by the State Governments and several conferences were held to iron out these different points because unless all the State Governments who are participating in it give their full cooperation and agreement we cannot proceed with the formation of the service. As far as supersession is concerned, as I have already stated, while constituting the service initially we have given the highest importance to the merit of the officers and not to seniority. And then what was the third point?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: The percentage reserved for promotion.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: Yes. Now when there is initial constitution of the service there is no question of reservation for promotion. When examination by the UPSC is held and when the officers go and compete then the question of promotion arises.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, my hon. friend Shri Khobaragade has raised a very material point. There are reservations for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes but in spite of particular quotas being reserved for them, under some pretext or under some reason, this reservation of quotas is never reserved. Will the hon. Minister bring before the House a statement making this very clear that these quotas reserved for the

Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes will be observed? What we find is that for several years, in spite of assurances given by the Government, the quota is never filled and a tremendous injustice is done in the case of these Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA:

This is a justifiable demand. We had it examined very thoroughly and we found that whereas the quota could be reserved in the services—and we have done it in the case of the IAS, IPS and also IFS—when examinations are held for making selections, when we are constituting a service initially without any examination or any such thing on the basis of certain records, then if we introduce an element of reservation, it would do more harm than good and because of this we had to reluctantly drop this proposal of reserving a percentage when initially constituting the service.

شری اے - ایم - طارق :

منسٹر آف اسٹیٹ اور آپ کی وساطت

سے پرائم منسٹر سے درخواست کرونگا

کہ اس معاملہ کی تحقیقات اس

بذریعہ پر ہے کہ ۳۶ آفیسر کو جو بہت

سیلیئر تھے جن کی سروس قریب ۲۰ سال

۲۱ سال، ۲۲ سال اور ۲۵ سال کی تھی

ان سب کو یہ سمجھ کر کہ یہ ناکارہ

ہیں، ناقابل ہیں الگ چھوڑ دیا

کیا اور ایسے ۲۵ لوگوں کو جن کی

سروس ۵ سال، ۶ سال، ۷ سال اور

۱۰ سال کی تھی انہیں لے لیا گیا -

اگر یہ درست ہے کہ یہ ۲۵ آدمی جن

کی ۲۰ سال، ۲۲ سال کی سروس ہے اور جو فارست گارڈ سے فارسٹر اور فارسٹر سے کنزرویٹور ہوئے انہیں نہ لیا جائے اور دوسروں کو غلط انتخاب سے لیا جائے۔ اس لحاظ سے کشمیر میں اس وقت مرکز کی سبکار اپنا اعتماد کھو رہی ہے اور میری گزارش ہے کہ پرائم منسٹر اس مقصد کو پیٹھ نظر رکھ کر ہندوستان کی جمہوریت کے تقاضے کو مدنظر رکھ کر اس بات کی پوری چھان بین کریں - اگر یہ بات جائز ہے تو میں اس کی حمایت نہیں کرتا لیکن اگر نا جائز ہے تو میں ادب کے ساتھ درخواست کرونگا کہ وہ اس ایوان کو اس بات کی ضمانت دیں کہ جو بھی ہوگا انصاف، جمہوریت اور سکولرزم کو سامنے رکھ کر ہوگا۔

†[श्री ए० एम० तारिक : मैं मिनिस्टर आफ स्टेट और आपकी वसातत से प्राइम मिनिस्टर से दरखास्त करूंगा कि इस मामले की तहकीकात इस बुनियाद पर है कि 36 आफिसर को जो बहुत सीनियर थे जिनकी सर्विस करीब 20 साल, 21 साल, 22 साल और 25 साल की थी उन सबको यह समझ कर किये नाकारा हैं, नाकाबिल हैं, अलग छोड़ दिया गया और ऐसे 25 लोगों को जिनकी सर्विस 5 साल, 6 साल, 7 साल और 10 साल की थी उन्हें ले लिया गया। अगर यह दुखस्त है कि ये 25 आदमी जिनकी 20 साल, 22 साल की सर्विस है और जो फारेस्ट गार्ड से फारेस्टर और फारेस्टर से कन्जरवेटर हुए उन्हें न लिया जाए और दूसरों को गलत इन्तखाब से लिया जाए इस लिहाज से कश्मीर में इस वक्त मरकजी सरकार

अपना एतमाद खो रही है और मेरी गुजारिश है कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर इस मकसद को पेशेनज़र रख कर, हिन्दुस्तान की जम्हूरियत के तकाजे को मद्दे नज़र रख कर इस बात की पूरी छानबीन करें। अगर यह बात जायज है तो मैं उनकी हिमायत नहीं करता लेकिन अगर नाजायज है तो मैं अदब के साथ दरखवास्त करूंगा कि वह इस एवान को इस बात की जमानत दें कि जो भी होगा इन्साफ जम्हूरियत सिक्वूलरिज्म को सामने रखकर होगा।]

श्री विद्याचरण शुक्ल : जैसा कि माननीय सदस्य ने कहा वैसी शिकायत मिली और इन शिकायतों पर ध्यान दिया जाता रहा है। मैं माननीय सदस्य को आश्वासन देना चाहता हूं कि इन सब शिकायतों के ऊपर पूर्ण रूप से बड़ी गम्भीरता से छानबीन की जायेगी और नियम के अनुसार जो कुछ भी शिकायत दूर की जा सकती है वह अवश्य दूर की जायेगी।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The position is like this. The question that Mr Tariq has asked raises a serious matter. He asked why so many people had been treated in this manner. I should like to know whether in this matter proper consultation took place between the Centre here or the authorities here dealing with this matter and the representatives of the State Governments, quite apart from what took place in a particular Board. The hon. Minister referred to consultations with State Governments, about the formation of this All-India Service. I want to know where these consultations took place. Did they take place this year or last year and before the elections were held?

Finally I should like to know whether the Government has considered the advisability of discussing *de novo* the question of All India Services, their rules and regulations, the authority in regard to them at the Centre and in the States in respect of pro-

motion and various other things, etc. These are also very necessary. I would like to know whether, when this occasion arose with regard to the All India Forest Service, the Government utilised the opportunity for such consultation so as to revise the existing rules and regulations of All India Services which certainly do not fit in with the scheme of federation, especially when so many non-Congress Governments are operating in the States.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: I have already explained that when this service was being constituted the merit was given the highest priority and in the selection that was made officers of all the State Governments concerned were also associated so that a very thorough probe can be made into the past records of officers before they were finally selected.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The word 'associated' is all right. I can be associated but still my views may not prevail. The point is whether they had an affective voice in this. And what did they say?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA: The officers of the State Governments were regular members of the Selection Board for the particular States. As far as the question of consultation with the State Governments is concerned the process of constitution of this Service started before the last general election. So there is no question of consulting the State Governments *de novo* because the constitution of the Service started a little before the general election took place.

राजस्थान के गेहूं के कोटे में कटौती

10 मौलाना अब्दुल शक्र : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) इस महीने राजस्थान के गेहूं के कोटे में कितनी कटौती की गयी है;

(ख) इस कटौती के कारण होने वाली कमी को किस प्रकार पूरा करने का विचार है; और

(ग) क्या राजस्थान के मुख्य मंत्री ने केन्द्रीय सरकार का ध्यान इस कमी की ओर दिलाया है ?

†[REDUCTION IN WHEAT QUOTA OF
RAJASTHAN

10. MOULANA ABDUL SHAKOOR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of reduction made this month in the quota of wheat for Rajasthan.

(b) how the shortage resulting from this reduction is proposed to be met; and

(c) whether attention of the Central Government has been drawn by the Chief Minister of Rajasthan towards this shortage?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) There has been no reduction in the quota of wheat for Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

‡[खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस० एम० गुरुपाद स्वामी) : (क) राजस्थान के गेहूं के कोटे में कोई कटौती नहीं की गयी है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठते।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am glad to hear that there is no reduction in the quota for Rajasthan but may I know why there is reduction of quota in West Bengal because according to the Press...

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Though it does not arise out of this question, to avoid a wrong impression being created in the House I thought it better to answer this question. There has been no reduction in the quota for West Bengal. There has been a substantial increase.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Now I can ask supplementaries on this, because I said this thing so that he would say something and then I would get full opportunity to ask about West Bengal. Now I can ask.

AN HON. MEMBER: This relates to Rajasthan and Rajasthan should get priority.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: All right; after Rajasthan.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The hon. Minister has said that there has been no reduction in the quota for Rajasthan. I would like to remind him that not only this month but for the last few months Rajasthan has been receiving much less grain than was promised by the Government, much less than the quota fixed by the Government, and so I think he should clarify the statement when he says that there is no reduction in the quota. Then had there been any substantial shortfall in the grains actually supplied to the State of Rajasthan? Secondly, there are reports from Rajasthan that a large number of the cheap grain shops which were established in the famine-stricken areas are being gradually closed down because, for the last three or four months, there has been shortfall in the grain supplied by the Central Government. And I would like to remind the hon. Minister that three-fourths of Rajasthan is in the grip of a serious famine this year; not only this year but a large part of the State has been under famine conditions for the last 3 or 4 years continuously with the result that people have no

†[] English translation.

‡[] Hindi translation.