

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA**THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(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 Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1967, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th April, 1967."

I lay the Bill on the Table.

**MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION—
contd.**

SHRI V. V. RAMASWAMY (Madras): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Chief Ministers of all the States are going to meet at Delhi in two days. This meeting has been convened by the Government of India to discuss various problems, particularly Centre-State relations and the food problem. So the Food Minister has brought this motion to discuss the food situation. This is with a view to obtaining the considered opinion of the House so as to help the Government to formulate their proposals for discussion with the Chief Ministers and their Food Ministers. An amendment has been moved by this side of the House which has suggested various helpful points and -which deserve serious consideration and acceptance by the Government. All this shows that the gravity of the food problem is borne in mind by all. But during the various speeches made by the Members on either side, it was painful to see that party politics was introduced. I hope a sense of realism will be continued.

The main factors to be taken into account are, (1) the shortage in production, and (2) the soaring prices from the consumers' point of view. Both are related to each other. If there is supply equal to demand, the price will not rise but will gradually decline as fresh supply is pumped in.

So in order to keep up the supply, there must be production and more production. If there is shortage, we cannot allow our people to starve and so we have to import from helpful sources. It should be remembered also that during the pre-independence era, our country was importing rice from Burma, Thailand and even Karachi (Sind). Those sources are now closed but we have failed to raise the production of foodgrains in spite of huge plans and projects. The question is, why have we failed? The blame, rather the excuse is placed upon the failure of rains and continued droughts—that is on nature. But has the man done his best? The farmer, the producer, in spite of various handicaps, has been struggling to till and produce as much as possible. So he cannot be blamed. With whatever irrigation facility that was available, with his drying well, the farmer has been clinging on to his traditional and respected service. But what are the factors that stand in the way of increased production? During the closing period of the last World War, statutory rationing was in force throughout the then composite Madras State. The demand was met by Imports from Burma and other places to meet the shortfalls in the State production. The Government took the responsibility of feeding the people with rice, both urban and rural. The people in the rural parts who used to take millets, began to change over to rice and neglect the growing of their foodgrains. "When the Government is there to give us rice why should the farmer be worried about paddy which did not fetch a favourable price and hence switched over to grow cash crops, such as chillies and groundnuts which fetch-

[Shri V. V. Ramaswamy.] ed high prices. So the deficit not only in the produce of rice but also in millets began to increase.

Again in 'our independence days we see emphasis has been rather more upon industrial developments. A considerable number of textile mills and sugar *miAs*, both in the private and in the co-operative sector have sprung up. Cotton is in great demand and the agriculturists are prone to devote upon growing cotton. The starting of sugar mills has made the growing of canes very attractive. The procurement price of paddy is not commensurate with all the costs incurred by the agriculturist and also he is worried very much With the procurement levy, etc. So the traditional paddy fields have been turned in cane fields and banana gardens. Thus the paddy acreage is slowly decreased and hence the fall in rice production.

Another factor is, various industrial housing colonies have sprung up—where?—in the paddy fields. The farmer who feels that he is not allowed to hold on, to feed himself and his every-growing family, demanding various modern amenities, considers it prudent to sell away his paddy fields at very attractive sums and invest the same in buildings in the urban areas, which give good dividends and also provide avenues for modern life. Thus the rice-producing acreage is also gradually decreased. To make up for this new lands are to be reclaimed and made arable with irrigation facilities. It is true that rains have failed. If rains fail, the plough will not work. Yet have we used what meagre rain we get, to the fullest advantage possible? The great perennial rivers of Andhra are not used fully. It seems that only less than 10 per cent, of the water is used and the rest falls into the sea. If some water is given to Madras, the thirst of Madras city can be quenched and further utilised for irrigational purposes. The rivers of Kerala can be harnessed to the combined advantage of both Kerala and Madras for

generating electricity and irrigation facilities. These factors should be borne in mind when proposals for agricultural development are considered.

Given the irrigation facility the farmer is anxious and ready to strain every nerve to increase the production and thus feed the people. He must get all other help, in time, and when asked for, without difficulties. Farm manure and green manure have been neglected and forgotten. Chemical fertilisers are in increased demand. If we fail to help him in this way, he will turn to other avenues. However the most important factor is the price. The procurement price must be so fixed as it may help the paddy grower to stick on to the production of food-grains, without turning to cash crops.

With regard to the Zonal system, Sir, I like to say that the working of the Southern rice zone was, to all practical purposes, good in itself. The present Single State Zone has brought about very many complications. Of the four States in the Southern zone, Kerala is chronically deficit, while Madras and Mysore are bordering on the verge of self-sufficiency. Now this precarious self-sufficiency is affected more often than not by the vagaries of nature. Andhra Pradesh is by far the biggest surplus State and is in a position to spare 6 to 8 lakh tonnes of rice. Free flow of rice from Andhra to Kerala will, in the first instance, eliminate completely the tendency to smuggle rice from Madras and Mysore to Kerala, thus arresting the upward tendency of the [market in these States except, naturally Andhra. Of course in the initial stages the price in Andhra may rise, but within a fortnight everything] will settle down to normality.

To overcome the present difficult food position in our State, the only best solution would be to revive the Southern rice zone without any restriction on movement and price. Sir, I now turn to pulses, to gram and

gram dal. Bengal gram is consumed in our State very much more than in any other State. But Madras State is not at all producing Bengal gram and hence its entire requirements have to be met by imports from surplus states, such as Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, etc., the major source of supply being Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. But for the last two years the surplus State Governments have banned the free movement of gram and its products, resorting to procurement themselves. The gram and gram dal thus procured were sold through co-operatives to deficit State Governments. The surplus States procured the gram at Rs. 50 and Rs. 55 per quintal, which were sold to deficit States at Rs. 65 thus making a profit of not less than Rs. 10 per quintal. There was also 'inordinate delay in the process of procurement by the surplus States, and after that procurement, the gram was sold to the deficit States, in which process also there was further delay. Then came the problem of transportation. Now all these processes involved a delay of not less than five to six months. By this time the sufferings of the consumers in the deficit areas became very acute. Unavailability of gram and gram dal became widespread, and in remote areas it came to be an article which could not be had at all. Again, gram and gram dal are consumed in our State more than any other pulses, and hence non-availability and, as a result thereof, the high price of gram and gram dal affected the prices of other pulses like red gram, black gram and green gram. Madras State is not self-sufficient in all these pulses and the deficiency is round about 75 to 80 per cent in these pulses. Hence the prices in our State of red gram, black gram and green gram are dependent on the prices ruling in the surplus areas. Already our State is groaning under the high price of red gram, black gram and green gram as a result of failure of crops, which is aggravated by unavailability of gram and gram dal, which are to be imported from northern

States, and the imports of which will help to stabilise the prices of other grams in our State. In these circumstances, lifting of the ban on the movement of gram and gram dal from the surplus States, and resort to free movement will have a great salutary effect and may go a long way to bring down the prices of other pulses. April and May is the new crop season for Bengal gram in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan areas where the crop is good, and it is the time for lifting all sorts of restrictions over price and movement of the commodities. It is said that at the maximum all-India level a total of nearly five million tonnes of foodgrains has been procured and that there is the import of 2 to 3 million tonnes. This will have to be done; the present level will have to be maintained. It should be the responsibility of the Centre to supply to the deficit States and Union territories. The imported grains should be stocked in the deficit States only. With new irrigational facilities, and enough supply of fertilizers to be supplied on guaranteed agreement so that the farmer will give at least 50 per cent of his increased produce, we can gradually increase the production and correspondingly decrease our dependence on foreign States for food in the course of the next four or five years. In the end may I quote three couplets from our saint Thiruvalluvar for the benefit of the House though it is in Tamil?

"Vinninru Poippin Virineer
Viyanu'akathu Ool Ninru
Oodarrum Pasi.

Erin. Oozha ar Oozhavar Pooya-lennum
Vari Valankkonrik-ka.

Oozhuvar Oolakattarku Ani Antarrathu
Ezhuvarai Ellam Poroottu"

This is to emphasise the importance of agriculture and the importance of the farmer.

Thank you, Sir.

श्रीमती पुष्पाबेन जनादनराय महंत: (गुजरात): सम्माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, भारत की अन्न समस्या बड़ी बिकट है। अन्न का कम उत्पादन होने से राष्ट्र की परिस्थिति चिन्ताजनक हो रही है, प्रजा की परेशानी और कठिनाइयाँ भी बढ़ रही हैं।

भारत में हर तीसरे साल अकाल होता है। इस परिस्थिति के कारण अन्न उत्पादन प्रति वर्ष कम होता है और एक वर्ष की कमी का दूसरे वर्ष पर असर होता है। इस 'विशस सर्किल' के चालू रहने से राष्ट्र का जीवन और आर्थिक प्रश्न जटिल हो रहे हैं।

समाज जीवन संग्राम रटगिल फार एजिस्टेंस का सामना कर रहा है। केंद्रीय गवर्नमेंट और राज्य अपनी शक्ति और साधन से सहायता कर रहे हैं। इस सहायता के उन्नत स्वेच्छिक संस्थाओं और व्यक्तियों की भी सहायता और सहायता इस कठिन काल में प्रजा के जीवन में सहारा दे रही है। मैं यहां से स्वेच्छिक संस्थाओं और व्यक्तियों को धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

जो चर्चा अन्न समस्या पर चलती है, उसी से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि राष्ट्र के अन्न उत्पादन और व्यय में संतुलन नहीं है, जो डेफिसिट रहता है और एक चिन्ता का प्रश्न है। राष्ट्र की आवश्यकता बहुत है। अंदाज़ी उत्पादन 90 से 95 मिलियन टन है, किन्तु वास्तव में 70 से 72 मिलियन टन उत्पादन होता है। उसी से जानकारी होती है कि हमारा डेफिसिट बहुत है, राष्ट्र को भरपेट अन्न देना कठिन है।

चर्चा में एक सूर निकला कि पहले अन्न के लिए भारत में चिन्ता नहीं थी। तो अन्न कहां चला गया? उत्पादन कम क्यों हो रहा है और क्या कारण है कि दिन-प्रति-दिन प्रजा की परेशानी अन्न के लिए बढ़ रही है? देश परदेश से अन्न आयात करना पड़ता है।

स्टैटिस्टिक्स बताते हैं कि जमीन की कमी नहीं, तो अन्न क्यों नहीं पैदा होता है?

उपसभापति जी, मैं एक बात कहना चाहती हूँ कि अन्न उत्पादन में क्या कमियाँ हैं। कृषिकार श्रम करते हैं, राज्य सरकार सहायता दे रही है और निष्ठात लोगों की सलाह-सूचना मिलती है, तो अन्न क्यों कम पैदा होता है। सबसे पहला यह प्रश्न है कि वर्षा की अनियमितता हमारे लिए खतरनाक है। पानी नहीं, बिना पानी खेती नहीं, बिना खेती अन्न नहीं। यह भी ऐसी कठिनाई है, जिसको हल करना कठिन है। कुदरत पानी न दे, तो मनुष्य की शक्ति का माप है। कुदरत कोषाधान होती है, तब मनुष्य लाचार बन के अपनी मर्यादित शक्ति का माप समझ लेता है, किन्तु मनुष्य प्रयत्न सब कठिनाइयों को कम करने में सहायक होता है।

अन्न की कमी का एक कारण वर्षा की अनियमितता है। दूसरा यह है कि हमारी पापुलेजन बढ़ रही है। आज 50 करोड़ मनुष्यों को अन्न देना है। उनकी भूख संतुष्ट करने की राज्य की जिम्मेदारी है। तीसरा कारण, देहातों के लोग उद्योग और धंधे के लिए शहर में आने लगे हैं और वे गेहूँ चावल इत्यादि खाने की सामग्री मांग रहे हैं, यह प्रश्न पहले नहीं था या था तो कम था। शहर की बस्ती बढ़ने से अन्न का प्रश्न और कठिन बन रहा है।

सबसे बड़ा प्रश्न तो कौन क्राप की आमदनी अधिक होने से उनका उत्पादन अधिक होना है। कौन क्राप बढ़ने से अन्न का उत्पादन कम होता है। उसका असर अन्न पर होता है। क्या सरकार सोचेगी कि कौन क्राप का परिमाण इतना न बढ़े कि अन्न उत्पादन कम हो? यह जटिल प्रश्न है, किन्तु यह समस्या हल करने की प्रथम आवश्यकता है।

जोन बंदी भी एक कारण है। आज जिन स्टेट में उत्पादन अपनी जरूरियात से अधिक

होता है, वे भी जोन-बंदी के कारण अन्न की निकासी पर प्रतिबन्ध रखती हैं। इनसे दो प्रकार का नुकसान है। एक तो कृषिکارों को दाम कम मिलता है और मिडिलमैन तो संग्रह कर गड़वा है, जिसके पास पूंजी है वह सब प्रॉफिट ले जाता है और अन्न का दाम बढ़ जाता है। इससे काला बाजार और चोरी होती है। एक राज्य का अन्न दूसरे राज्य में चोरी से चला जाता है। उनका दाम जिनकी अर्थिक ताकत होती है, वे दे सकते हैं, गरीब की गुंजाइश नहीं होती है।

दूसरा प्रश्न नेशनल फूड बजट नहीं हो सकता है, क्योंकि हर एक राज्य की जोन-बंदी से उत्पादन या स्टॉक का अंदाज निकालना कठिन है। इसी से मैं प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि इस नेशनल क्राइसिस में जोन-बंदी नाबूद किया जाय।

हमारी राष्ट्रीय कानूनीसी है कि आज भी हमारे यहाँ संग्रह करने वाले भोजूद हैं। अन्न का संग्रह करके अधिक दान लेने की जो प्रथा है, इससे बड़ी मुश्किल पैदा होती है। राज्य को इस तरह संग्रह करने वालों को सख्त शिक्षा देनी चाहिये।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, अन्न का दाम बढ़ता है या कम होता है। ओपन मार्केट में क्या दाम देने की आवश्यकता है, वह समय में नहीं आता है। इसलिये कानूनी ढंग से जो ज्यादा दाम दे, उनको सख्त नश्वर का प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये।

कृषिकार खुद श्रम करते हैं, किन्तु समय आ गया है कि खेती के सुधार और उत्पादन पर विचार किया जाय। यहाँ के किसान मेहनती हैं खेती का काम जानते हैं, किन्तु कभी कभी फन्दे में फँस जाते हैं, जिससे उनको नुकसान होता है और राष्ट्र को भी होता है। उनकी मरजी और अज्ञानता पर खेती नहीं छोड़ देनी चाहिये। हरेक तालुका पंचायत की जिम्मेदारी है कि किसानों को सलाह दें। किसान अपनी समझौती पर काम करेगा तो राष्ट्र का भविष्य चिंताजनक हो जायगा।

किसानों को अब समझने का समय आया है कि खेती राष्ट्र का प्राणप्रश्न है। उनको खेती को सुधारना, उत्पादन अधिक करना और खेती का विकास करना जरूरी है।

किसानों की परिस्थिति भी चिंता का विषय है। जब तक हम उद्योग की तरह खेती का प्रश्न हल नहीं करेंगे, तब तक किसान अपनी सूझसे काम करते रहेंगे। उनकी समस्या को राष्ट्रीय स्वरूप देना चाहिये।

माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी खेती सुधारने के लिये उतम सीइसे खेती के इम्प्लीमेंट्स और लोन्स की जरूरत होती है और जहाँ तक लोन नहीं दिया जायेगा और जल्दी से जल्दी नहीं दिया जायेगा वहाँ तक खेती के सुधार का मूल्यांकन कम रहेगा।

आज किसान जागृत हैं। जागृत किसान मेहनत कर रहे हैं, उत्पादन बढ़ा रहे हैं किन्तु उनकी समस्या यह है कि :

लोन समय पर नहीं मिलता।

सीइस बाने के समय के बाद मिलते हैं।

कुवां बगेरा के लिये लोन के प्रश्न और विधियाँ इतनी लंबी होती हैं कि उनको लोन पाने में समय और साधन की बरबादी होती है।

अन्न का उचित दाम मिलता नहीं।

जहाँ इरीगेशन है वहाँ पानी का कन्ट्रोल पी० डब्लू० डी० के पास होने के कारण खेतों में पानी मिलने में समय व्यतीत होता है, इससे फसल को नुकसान होती है। तालुका पंचायतों को इरीगेशन का काम सुपुर्द करना चाहिये।

राष्ट्र में अन्न उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये बड़ी और छोटी इरीगेशन योजना का कार्य शीघ्रता से उठाना चाहिये। कुवां खोदना बगेरा माहुर योजनाएं चल रही हैं किन्तु पानी का संग्रह बड़े तौर पर नहीं होने से

[श्रीमती पुष्पाबेन जगदीन राय मेहता]

कुवें का पानी कम होता जा रहा है। पानी कहीं से आता नहीं। सबसाइल पानी के अभाव से पानी कम होता है।

दूसरे, समुद्र किनारे पर के प्रदेशों में जहां ज्यादा कुवें बनवाये हैं वहां की परेशानी यह है कि पानी कम होने के कारण समुद्र का पानी अंदर घुस रहा है और इससे जमीन बिगड़ रही है। इसलिये मैं आपके लक्ष्य पर यह रखना चाहती हूँ कि जितनी आवश्यकता लिफ्ट इरिगेशन की है उससे अधिक आवश्यकता बड़े प्रोजेक्ट की भी है। माननीय सदस्य श्री चौरडिया ने कहा कि हरेक खेत पर कुंवा होना चाहिये। मैं भी उस विचार से सहमत हूँ किन्तु गुजरात का हमारा यह अनुभव है कि कुंवा पर मशीन ज्यादा लगाने के बाद पानी खींच जेतें हैं तो कुंवा खाली हो जाता है। इसलिये पानी का प्रबंध आवश्यक है।

उपसमाध्यक्ष जी, पानी का प्रश्न गुजरात का प्राण प्रश्न है। आज पानी की इतनी परेशानी है कि पीने का पानी भी नहीं मिलता है। इसलिये नर्मदा प्रोजेक्ट का कार्य शीघ्र ही शुरू करना चाहिये। जो पानी समुद्र में जा रहा है उसकी कोई उपयोगिता नहीं। मैं आपसे एक निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि नर्मदा योजना होने के बाद कितनी खेती बढ़ेगी वास्तव में 65 लाख एकड़ मध्य प्रदेश में बढ़ेगी। बीसों लाख एकड़ गुजरात में बढ़ेगी 10,000 एकड़ महाराष्ट्र में और 1 लाख एकड़ राजस्थान में बढ़ेगी, इसलिये कुल 111 लाख एकड़ में पानी से ज्यादा अन्न उत्पन्न होने वाला है। राष्ट्र का विकास अन्न स्वावलंबन और आजीवन का प्रश्न समझ कर यह योजना राष्ट्रीय हित को लक्ष्य पर लेकर शुरू करनी चाहिये। स्माल इरिगेशन की भी उतनी ही आवश्यकता है।

मनुष्यों की परेशानी और अन्न उत्पादन वगैरह की जो चर्चा हुई, उसमें हमारे प्रोडक्टिव्ह कैटल पर ध्यान नहीं दिया गया। पशुओं की भी चिंताजनक परिस्थिति है। पशुधन का नाश हो रहा है। फीडर की कमी है

और कौनसेन्टेड्स भी पूरे परिणाम में हम नहीं दे सकते हैं। इसी से पशु मर रहे हैं। उपसमाध्यक्ष जी, हम अन्न की समस्या हल करते हुए पशुओं के प्रश्न पर अपना लक्ष्य केन्द्रित नहीं कर सके हैं। हमारे भारत में जहां भगवान् कृष्ण पशु पालक थे, जहां गोकुल था, वहां आज परदेश से मिल्क पाउडर मंगाना पड़ता है। मुझे दुःख है कि विदेश से पाउडर मंगाकर हम बच्चों को पिलाते हैं और हम शौक से टोन्ड मिल्क पीते हैं।

हमारी नीति अन्न के बाद पोषण के मुख्य उद्योग पशुपालन के संबन्ध में स्पष्ट नहीं है। बहुत सी योजनाएं हैं, किन्तु पशुपालकों और पशुओं के संबन्ध में कोई नीति नहीं है। ग्रास लैन्ड्स, रिजर्व ग्रास लैन्ड या ग्रास बैंक वगैरह की योजनाएं हैं, किन्तु व्यापक नहीं हैं, अमली नहीं हैं। मुझे चिंता है, इस परिस्थिति का अगर शीघ्र ही मुकाबला नहीं होगा, तो हमारे देश में पशु रहने वाले नहीं हैं। दूध, भस्खन और घी पुराने जमाने की बात हो जायेगी।

मेरी प्रार्थना है कि पशुओं का सुधार और दूध का उत्पादन और पशुपालन के अन्य प्रश्नों को हल करने के लिये केन्द्र और राज्यों में अलग डिपार्टमेंट या मिनिस्ट्री जरूरत के अनुसार होनी चाहिये।

आपके समक्ष मैं प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि गुजरात का तृतीयांश भाग में "ड्राट" की परिस्थिति है। शोड़ा इरिगेशन और लिफ्ट इरिगेशन से उत्पन्न हुआ था लेकिन वर्षा और तूफान कुछ दिन पहले होने से उनको नुकसान हुआ है और कठिनाई बढ़ गई। किसानों और मजदूरों के मुंह से अन्न कुदरत ने छीन लिया है। मैं प्राइम मिनिस्टर को धन्यवाद देती हूँ कि उन्होंने इस आपत्ति में सहायता के लिये कुछ धन देने की इच्छा जाहिर की है।

मेरा अंतिम निर्वेदन है कि वर्षा हो जाने से मुश्किल कम नहीं होगी। किसानों को—seeds, loan for implements for their maintenance, for the payment towards the daily wages of labourers. भी देना चाहिये और जिनके बैल ड्राट से मर गये हैं उनको बैल लेने में सहायता देनी चाहिये। जिन स्टेट्स में बैल उपलब्ध न हों उन्हें दूसरे स्टेट्स से खरीद कर किसानों को देने का प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये।

पशुओं, और खास कर के दुध देने वाले पशुओं को, घास या कान्सेन्ट्रेट्स देना चाहिये। जहां तक नया फाडर उत्पन्न न हो वहां तक इनको दिया जाय। वर्षा के प्रारम्भ में दुष्काल अस्त मानव और पशु दोनों को अधिक सहायता देनी होगी क्योंकि अशक्त होने के कारण पानी का सामना करना पड़ता है।

अन्न का प्रश्न राज्य सरकारें और केन्द्रीय सरकार हल करते हैं। परन्तु मेरी प्रार्थना जनता को भी है कि “अन्न बचाओ”, “सेव फूड” की घोषणा करनी चाहिये। स्वयं श्री लालबहादुर शास्त्री ने घोषणा की थी कि अन्न स्वावलम्बन आवश्यक है, हफ्ता में एक समय का भोजन त्याग करने और अन्न उत्पादन बढ़ाने की घोषणा पर फिर से अमल करने की मेरी प्रार्थना है। घर घर में यह नारा घोषित होना चाहिये कि अन्न बचाओ।

राष्ट्रीय, सामाजिक और कोई भी क्षेत्र में कार्य करने वाली संस्थाओं और व्यक्तियों से मेरी प्रार्थना है कि वे अन्न स्वावलम्बन का प्रचार और प्रसार करें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, लैन्ड रिफार्म्स, खेत की सीलिंग, इकानामिक होल्डिंग कितनी चाहिये, यह एक बड़ा गहरा प्रश्न है। आज देहातों में दिल से किसान काम कर रहे हैं लेकिन जो कठिनाइयां उनको भोगनी पड़ती हैं, उनको जल्द से जल्द हल करने के लिये लैन्ड रिफार्म्स पर बहुत ध्यान देना चाहिये।

आज हर एक राज्य में हर एक डिसट्रिक्ट में सीलिंग अलग अलग है। जहां इरीगेशन की सुविधा है वहां कम सीलिंग हो तब भी काम चलेगा मगर जहां सुविधा नहीं है वहां एक समय की फसल से किसानों को काम चलाना होता है। अगर हम सोचते हैं कि हमें अन्न की समस्या हल करनी है तो हमें जोनबंदी वगैरह नाबूद करनी चाहिये।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): I have still got a list of large number of Members who want to participate in this debate. May, I therefore, request hon. Members to limit their remarks to ten minutes? Mr. Jagat Narain.

श्री जगत नारायण (हरियाणा) : वाइस चैयरमैन महोदय, 4 तारीख को पार्लियामेंट्री अफेयर्स की तरफ से एक डाक्युमेंट्री विज्ञान भवन में दिखाई गई थी। उस डाक्युमेंट्री में बिहार और यू० पी० की खुशहाली के मुतालिक तस्वीरें थीं। मैं बाबू जगजीवन राम जी से बड़े अदब से कहना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने वह डाक्युमेंट्री शायद देखी नहीं होगी, मगर उनको वैसे ही बिहार की सारी हालत मालूम है, मगर जिन जिन लोगों ने वह डाक्युमेंट्री देखी थी, जिस कतार में मैं बैठा था वहां कुछ लेडीज बैठी हुई थीं, वह सब उस डाक्युमेंट्री को देख कर आंखों में आंसू बहा रही थीं। मेरा पोता जो पांचवां जमात में पढ़ता है, वह छुट्टियों में यहां आया हुआ है और वह मुझसे तीन दिन से बराबर यह सवाल पूछता है कि बाबूजी, हमें यह बतइो कि बिहार और यू० पी० में जो छोटे छोटे बच्चे हैं मेरी तरह क्या वे चार चार, पांच पांच दिन से भूखे हैं। तो मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि यह डाक्युमेंट्री जो पार्लियामेंट्री अफेयर्स की तरफ से दिखाई गई थी, उसमें ऐसी चीजें थीं जिनका औरतों और बच्चों और जिन्होंने उसको देखा था, उनके दिमाग पर असर था। तो मैं सज्जता हूं कि इतनी फूड की समस्या हो और इसी

[श्री जगत नारायण]

समस्या की वजह से ही आज कांग्रेस के हाथों से ताकत दो तिहाई निकल गई हो, तो यह एक ऐसी सीरियस चीज है जिसकी तरफ फूड मिनिस्ट्री और फूड मिनिस्टर साहब को पूरा ध्यान देना चाहिये ।

मैं बड़े अदब से मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दूसरी जंग से पहले हिन्दुस्तान में अनाज की कमी नहीं थी, इंग्लिस्तान में हमारा अनाज जाता था, अंग्रेज यहाँ से बाहर अनाज भेजता था और उस वक्त यहाँ पर न कोई ट्यूबवैल थे, न फर्टिलाइजर्स थे और न कोई और तरह की सहायित्तें थीं । हमारे आदमी खेतों में काम करते थे और इतना अनाज पैदा करते थे कि वह सारे भारतवर्ष के लिये काफी होता था और बाहर के मुल्कों को भी एक्सपोर्ट होता था । तो क्या वजह है कि आज वही घटती है, उससे ज्यादा आज आप बिजली दे रहे हैं, ट्यूबवैल लगा रहे हैं, नये इम्प्लीमेंट्स दे रहे हैं, फर्टिलाइजर्स दे रहे हैं, फिर भी आज हम ये सारी बातें होते हुये दूसरे देशों के मोहताज हैं और आज दूसरे देशों में हमारी एक बैगर की इमेज हो गई है । मैं यह समझता हूँ कि किसी जगह कोई गलती है । आज यह एक हमारे बड़े पुराने जो कांग्रेस के नेता हैं, जिन्होंने बड़ी देश सेवा की है और जन कार्यों में आगे आने वाले नेता हैं, इनके हाथों में फूड का मामला आया है तो यह जानने की कोशिश करें कि दूसरी जंग से पहले यही जमीन थी, यही पानी था, नये इम्प्लीमेंट नहीं थे, ट्यूबवैल नहीं थे, फर्टिलाइजर्स नहीं थे, अपने घरों में लोग खाद पैदा करते थे, फिर भी उपज इतनी होती थी कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान के लिये काफी होती थी और बाहर के देशों को भी हम भेज सकते थे, तो क्या वजह है कि आज हम दूसरे देशों के मोहताज हो गये हैं । फिर

उस वक्त कोई फैमिली प्लानिंग नहीं थी, कोई इस किस्म की बात नहीं थी, थोड़े बच्चे पैदा करो, ऐसी कोई बात नहीं थी, हर घर में पाँच सात बच्चे होते थे, तो क्या वजह है कि उस वक्त हम इतना अनाज पैदा करते थे कि बाहर के देशों को भेज सकते थे और वह अपने लिये भी काफी होता था, लेकिन अब हम अपना ही पेट नहीं भर पाते हैं । तो इसमें कहां फाल्ट है, इसको जानने की आप कोशिश करें ।

दूसरे मैं उनकी खिदमत में यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जो फ्रैक्ट्स एंड फीगर्स वे सप्लाय करते हैं, उसके मुताबिक एवरेज 8 करोड़ टन हम अनाज पैदा करते हैं । कभी उससे कम, कभी उससे ज्यादा, मगर एवरेज 6 साल का 8 करोड़ टन निकलता है । एक टन में एक हजार किलो होते हैं और आप उसको जरूर दे लें, तो आधा किलो फी आदमी को अगर आप दें, चाहे वह बच्चा हो, चाहे वह अस्पताल में बीमार हो, चाहे वह बूढ़ा हो, तो यह आधा किलो 43 करोड़ आदमियों के लिए हर रोज काफी है । फिर क्या वजह है कि इतना अनाज हम पैदा करें फिर भी हमारा देश भूखा रहे और आज हालत यह है कि बिहार और यू० पी० में लोग तीन तीन दिन के बाद खाना हासिल करते हैं । यह उस डाक्यूमेंट्री में दिखाया गया था कि किस तरह से मारनाड़ी और दूसरी सोसाइटियां वहाँ पर लोगों की मदद कर रही हैं । तो मैं बड़े अदब के साथ बाबू जी की खिदमत में अर्ज करूँगा कि यह जो हमारी एवरेज उपज 8 करोड़ टन की है, इसको अगर वे किलो में जरूर करें तो वे देखेंगे कि अगर वे आधा किलो पर हेड पर डे दें तो भी यह 43 करोड़ आदमियों के लिये काफी है जब कि आप यू० पी० में सिर्फ डेढ़ या पीने दो किलो एक आदमी को एक हफ्ते के लिये देते हैं । जब आधा किलो देकर के 43 करोड़ आदमियों के लिये यह काफी है, तो इसमें कहां

गलती है, क्या वजह है कि आज लोगों को अनाज खाने को नहीं मिल रहा है क्या फाका-कशी हो रही है। यह आंकड़ें आपके मुहैया किये हुए हैं। इसलिये मैं बड़े अदब के साथ इन से अर्ज करूंगा कि इसके मुताल्लिक वे जरूर जवाब दें और यह बतायें कि आया यह आंकड़ें गलत हैं और 80 मिलियन हम पैदा ही नहीं करते हैं या क्या बात है। यहां पर यह सवाल पूछा गया था कि क्या आपके आंकड़ें गलत हैं तो स्टेट मिनिस्टर साहब ने कहा था कि ये आंकड़ें बिल्कुल ठीक हैं। अगर ठीक हैं तो फिर क्या वजह है कि जो हम इतना पैदा करते हैं वह हमारे देश के लिये काफी क्यों नहीं है। यह निहायत ख़ूबरी चीज़ है और मैं चाहूंगा कि वे इसकी छानबीन करें कि क्या वजह है? जो हमको हर साल पैमफ्लेट फूड के मुताल्लिक दिये जाते हैं, उनमें एक बात वाज़ह तौर पर लिखी रहती है कि हम प्रोक्योरमेंट नहीं कर सकते और स्टेट्स वाले प्रोक्योरमेंट नहीं करते हैं। आखिर इसमें कसूर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स का है, या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट्स का है, या किसका है। प्रोक्योरमेंट करने का जो काम है वह आम लोगों का नहीं है। आपको यह कोशिश करनी चाहिये कि प्रोक्योरमेंट किया जाय। इस तरीके से प्रोक्योरमेंट नहीं होगा।

मैं तो इस हाउस में पहले भी कह चुका हूँ और मैंने जनरल एलेक्जन्स के मौके पर भी अर्ज किया था कि हम समझ नहीं पाते हैं कि आज क्या बात-हो गई है। जब देश आज़ाद हुआ था और जब हम उस पंजाब से आये थे जो आज पाकिस्तान में है और जब हम पहुँचे थे दिल्ली में या जालंधर में तो उस वक्त दस रुपये मन गंदम बिकता था। और जब मैं सचचर साहब की मिनिस्ट्री में था 1955 में, तो उस वक्त हालत यह हो गई थी कि गंदम का भाव नौ रुपये मन हो गया था और सरकार का यह खयाल होने लगा था कि कहीं लोग कैश क्राप्स के लिये न दौड़ पड़ें और गन्ना वगैरह न बीजना शुरू कर दें।

इसलिये उस वक्त गवर्नमेंट को दस रुपये मन गंदम खरीदना पड़ा था। यह मैं 1955 की बात बता रहा हूँ। 1947 से लेकर 1955 तक जो गंदम के भाव थे वे दस रुपये मन थे। मगर 1955 के बाद गंदम की यह हालत हो गई है कि हमारे यहां अमृतसर और जालंधर में, जो कि अनाज के घर हैं, वहां हमने केन्द्रीय सरकार के फूड कॉर्पोरेशन को 56 रु० क्विंटल के हिसाब से गंदम दिया था, लेकिन आज वह हमको 132 रु० क्विंटल के हिसाब से खाना पड़ रहा है। हालांकि पंजाब हिन्दुस्तान का अनरी है और सबसे ज्यादा वह हिन्दुस्तान को अनाज मुहैया करता है, फिर भी आज वहां पर यह हालत है।

मैं बाबू जी की नोटिस में एक बात यह लाना चाहता हूँ कि बहुत सा गंदम स्टोरो में पड़ा हुआ सड़ जाता है। मैं उनको एक हकीकत बयान कर रहा हूँ। पिछले अक्टूबर में पंजाब में जो गंदम सप्लाई किया गया था, मैं यह नहीं कह सकता कि वह सेंटर ने सप्लाई किया था या पंजाब गवर्नमेंट ने सप्लाई किया था, लेकिन यह मैं कह सकता हूँ कि वह दो साल पुराना था। एक तरफ तो हिन्दुस्तान में फाकाकशी हो रही है और लोगों को गंदम नहीं मिल रहा है और दूसरी तरफ जो हम को पिछले अक्टूबर में गंदम सप्लाई किया गया, वह दो साल का पुराना था। इसको आप बेरि-फाई कर सकते हैं पंजाब गवर्नमेंट से। उसमें कीड़े थे, वह बहुत खराब था और पंजाब गवर्नमेंट की नोटिस में भी यह मामला लाया गया कि यह आप क्या सप्लाई कर रहे हैं। इससे अन्दाज़ा होता है कि हमारी प्रोक्योरमेंट की स्कीम भी गलत है और हमारी जो डिस्ट्रि-ब्यूशन की स्कीम है वह भी गलत है। नहीं मालूम किस तरह से हमारी सरकार डिस्ट्रि-ब्यूशन करती है और किस तरह से प्रोक्योरमेंट करने की कोशिश करती है। तो मैं बड़े अदब के साथ अर्ज करूंगा कि वज़ीर साहब इस मामले की तह में जाने की कोशिश करें। मेरी यह अपनी राय है कि हिन्दुस्तान में अनाज की कमी नहीं है। अगर हम पूरी तरह

[श्री जगत नारायण]

प्रोक्थोरमेंट करें, अगर हम अच्छी तरह से किसानों की मदद करें, अगर हम अनाज को चूहों से बचाने की कोशिश करें और अच्छे गोदामों में उसको रख तो हमको अनाज की कमी नहीं होगी। आज भी हमको बाहर से अनाज मंगाने की बहुत थोड़ी जरूरत पड़ती है। इसलिए जो हमारे आज आंकड़े हैं उनके मुताबिक मैं समझता हूँ कि हम जितना अनाज यहां पैदा करते हैं उसमें ही हमारे वजीर साहब अपने आपको आत्मनिर्भर बनाने की कोशिश करें। मैं यह राय रखता हूँ कि जो पी० एल० 480 लेने की कोशिश की है यह एक गलत कोशिश की है। इससे हमारे लोगों में जो उत्साह था अन्न पैदा करने का, जो इनीसिएटिव था वह सारा इनीसिएटिव खत्म करके रख दिया है। इसलिए खत्म करके रख दिया है कि गवर्नमेंट समझती है कि रुपी पेमेंट है, पैसा देना नहीं पड़ेगा गन्धम आ जायेगी तो हम प्राइसेज को ठीक कर लेंगे। (समय की घंटी) जी मैं एक मिनट में खत्म कर दूंगा। मैं यह कह रहा था कि जो सिस्टम है पी० एल० 480 का इसको खत्म कर दिया जाय। मैं किसी और विचार से नहीं कि अमरीका का है, इसलिए अमरीका का दबाव आता है इस बात से नहीं, मैं दूसरे नुक्ते निगाह से कह रहा हूँ कि इसको आपको बन्द करना ही चाहिए। जब तक आप पी० एल० 480 लेना बन्द नहीं करेंगे तब तक इस देश के लोगों में किसानों में इनीसिएटिव नहीं आएगा न ही गवर्नमेंट में इनीसिएटिव आएगा और न गवर्नमेंट मुस्तीदी से एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट्स की मदद करेंगे और न एग्रीकल्चर की तरफ इतना ध्यान देगी जितना उसे देना चाहिए।

मैं बड़े अदब से कहूंगा बाबू जगजीवन राम जी से कि जो महकमा उन्होंने लिया है बहुत से मिनिस्टर उसमें फेल हुए हैं आगे सिवाय किदवई साहब के। वे किदवई बनने की कोशिश करें आज जिन्होंने एक बार

अन्न की समस्या को हल करके रख दिया था। उनका नाम है कि कोई किदवई मिनिस्टर बना था जिसने फूड की समस्या को हल करके रख दिया था। मैं समझता हूँ कि आज उनको यह मौका मिला है। उनसे मैंने दो अर्जे की हैं, उनका पता लगावें और एग्रीकल्चर के महकमे की तरफ अपनी पूरी तवज्जह दें, जिस तरीके से भी कर सकते हैं लोगों की मदद करें और पी० एल० 480 से इस देश को निजात दिलाएं—यही उनकी खिदमत में दरखास्त है।

श्री पंडरोनाथ सेताराम जी पार्षद (महाराष्ट्र) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश की खाद्यान्न परिस्थिति पर सदन में इसके पहले भी चर्चा हो चुकी है। देश में खाद्यान्न की कमी गत वर्षों से अनुभव की जा रही है खास करके पिछले दो वर्षों से। किसी भी देश की जनता को पेट भर भोजन और सम्मानपूर्वक रक्षा—इन दो तत्वों की मूलभूत आवश्यकता रहती है। दूसरा तत्व सर्वथा पहले पर निर्भर है। खाद्यान्न की कमी वस्तुतः सब संकटों की जननी है। भारत आज इसी परिस्थिति में पड़ा हुआ है। जब तक हम खाद्यान्न में आत्मनिर्भर नहीं होते देश की स्वाधीनता और गणतन्त्र भारी खतरे से खाली नहीं हैं।

गत वर्ष देश के अधिकांश प्रदेश में सूखा पड़ा था और इन वर्ष भी उत्तर प्रदेश तथा बिहार में सूखा पड़ा। तब से देश में 'जय कितान' का नारा उद्घोषित किया जा रहा है। इसी प्रकार चार साल पहले हमारे देश पर चाइना ने आक्रांण किया था, तदनन्तर पाकिस्तान ने हम पर हमला किया था। उन दिनों हम लोगों ने 'जय जवन' का नारा लगाया था। नारे हम समय समय पर लगाते हैं। वे हमारे जागृती के संकेत तो जरूर हैं, तथापि केवल जय-बाप का नारा लगाने से समस्या का हल कदापि नहीं होता। उसको मुलजाने के लिये सारे

देशवासियों तथा सरकार को मिल कर अपनी मारी शक्ति लगा देना जरूरी होता है। भारत के जवान तथा किसान दोनों ही बड़े बहादुर हैं। वे दोनों सदा अपना कार्य-पालन अपना खून और पसीना बहाकर बड़ी वीरता से करते हैं, तथापि उन्हें जो साज-सामान की मदद लगती है वह सही ढंग से उचित मात्रा में और समय पर नहीं मिलती, यह बड़े दुःख की बात है। जवानों की कठिनाइयाँ तो मैं नहीं जानता, न मैं जवान हूँ और न आज का विषय युद्ध है, मैं एक देहाती किसान होने के कारण यह अनुभव करता हूँ कि देश में दुमिख का एकमात्र बड़ा कारण किसानों का दारिद्र्य है। हमारे देश की खाद्यान्न उपज संसार के अन्य देशों की तुलना में प्रति हेक्टर औसत पैदावार की एक चौथाई है। आँकड़ों का ज़ोर देकर मैं सदन का अधिक समय नहीं लेना चाहता। खाद्यान्न के साथ साथ देश में अन्य वस्तुओं के उत्पादन हेतु शासन ने योजना आयोग का निर्माण किया है, परन्तु आयोग को उतनी सफलता नहीं मिली जितनी कि अपेक्षा की गई थी। अधिक अन्वोत्पादन की समस्या में तो योजना आयोग लगभग असफल ही रहा है। तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्त तक देश में 10 कोटि टन अनाज के उत्पादन का लक्ष्य था। दूसरी योजना के काल में गुल्ला माड़े 8 कोटि टन पैदा हुआ था तथापि तीसरी में घट कर साढ़े 7 कोटि टन पैदा हुआ है। असफलता का मुख्य कारण है योजना आयोग में कृषक प्रतिनिधियों का अभाव, अव्यावहारिक योजना तथा शासकीय दुर्बलस्था इत्यादि। आज के योजना आयोग की रचना में परिवर्तन होना जरूरी है। ऐसी ही परिस्थिति पूमा, सूरतगढ़ तथा अन्य बड़े सरकारी अनुत्पादन केंद्रों की हैं। इन केंद्रों पर व्यय करोड़ों रुपए का होता है किन्तु फल 'न' के बराबर मिलता है। उनमें भी ठीक सुधार किया जा सकता है।

संसार के दूसरे देशों में अनेक बड़े बड़े उद्योग-धन्धे चलते हैं, तथापि अपने देश में एकमात्र बड़ा उद्योग कृषि का ही है। हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान है। हमारे यहां के 80 प्रतिशत लोग खेती का व्यवसाय करोड़ों एकड़ उजाड़ भूमि पर करते हैं, परन्तु बड़े दुःख की बात है कि हम अपनी जनता का निर्वाह अपने देश के अनाज से नहीं कर सकते। अमरीका से पी० एल० 480 के अनाज तथा अन्य देशों से भी अनाज मोल लेते हैं। यह बात हमें शोभा नहीं देती।

आज के खाद्य एवं कृषि मंत्री गरीबी तथा कृषि जीवन के बड़े अनुभवी पुरुष हैं तथा राज्य मंत्री भी एक उत्साही युवक किसान हैं। इन दोनों से मुझे बड़ी आशा है कि वे अपने कार्यकाल में कृषि उद्योग में क्रान्तिकारी परिवर्तन करके देश को अन्न में आत्मनिर्भर करेंगे।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय देश की अनाज की उपज को बढ़ाने की दृष्टि से मैं अपने कुछ सुझाव आपके द्वारा शासन के सामने रखता हूँ :—

1. खाद्यान्न की कमी के कारण देश में संकट-काल घोषित किया जाय।

2. आगामी 5 वर्ष में आत्मनिर्भरता की योजना बना कर युद्धकाल के समान देश की सारी ताकत लगा कर उसे पूर्ण सफल करना चाहिए।

3. विदेशी अनाज लेना पूरी तरह से बन्द हो।

4. नाइजान, टेरीलिन, साइकिल, स्कूटर, मोटरें इत्यादी के कारखानों में उन वस्तुओं की निर्मित पर कुछ सीमित नियंत्रण लगा कर कृषि यंत्र भी बनने चाहिए।

5. सिर्फ वर्षा के अनियमित पानी पर निर्भर न रह कर देश में जहां तक सम्भव हो, छोटे छोटे नहर, कुएं, कूप-नलिका, तालाब, आदि अधिक बनवाएं, और उनके द्वारा सिंचाई व्यवस्था करें, खाद, कीटाणु-नाशक दवाइयाँ, बीज,

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छोटे-छोटे यांत्रिक औजार की व्यवस्था करें तथा ऋण इत्यादि की सुविधाएं किसानों को सरलता से जल्द से जल्द उपलब्ध हों।

6. सरकार किसानों की खड़ी फसल की बीमा योजना लागू करे।

7. सरकार द्वारा दूध, डेरी, पशु, मुर्गी, मछली पालन आदि से पूरक खाद्यान्न को अधिक सहायता तथा बढ़ावा मिलना चाहिये।

8. किसानों से सरकारी ऋण तथा लगान अनाज के रूप में शासन को लेना चाहिये।

9. हर जात अनाज के 'कोठार' यानी आधुनिक गोडाउन बनाने चाहिये क्योंकि देश के उत्पादन का लगभग एक चौथाई अनाज कीड़े, मकड़ी और चूहे इत्यादि खा जाते हैं।

10.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री महावीर प्रसाद भार्गव) : पाटील साहब, 10 इन्टर भी हों गये।

श्री पंडरीनाथ सीतारामजी पाटील : . . . तहसील में एक कृषि विद्यालय और हर जिले में एक कृषि महाविद्यालय खोल कर उसमें शासन द्वारा किसानों के लड़कों को निःशुल्क आधुनिक कृषि शिक्षा मिलनी चाहिये।

11. जमाखोरी तथा अधिक मुताफा-खोरी को कड़ी से कड़ी सख्त शासन द्वारा मिली चाहिये।

12. अनाज के वितरण का राष्ट्रीयकरण तुरन्त होना चाहिये। आज अनाज के एक्स्पोर्ट तथा वितरण में बड़ा दोष है उससे कालाबाजारी और वूतखोरी अत्यधिक बढ़ रही है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अंत में सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि कृषि उत्पादन वस्तुओं

के दाम आज बाजारों में किसानों को उचित नहीं मिलते। उनका शोषण होता है। वह कर्ज के महासागर में डूब रहा है। इसलिये मुख्य बात यह है कि गैर कृषि चीजों को तुलना में कृषि चीजों के उचित मूल्य देने का पूरा बंदो-बस्त सरकार द्वारा होना चाहिये। उससे किसान सुखी होगा। वह अपना प्राप्त धन खेतों में डालकर उत्पादन बढ़ावेगा, यानी निश्चय ही भारत खाद्यान्न में आत्मनिर्भर बनेगा।

श्री के० सी० बघेल (मध्य प्रदेश) :

उपासभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अन्न समस्या के सम्बन्ध में लोगों ने बहुत मूल्यवान और उपयोगी सूचनाएं दी हैं। मैं दस मिनट के अन्दर ही अपना भाषण समाप्त करने की कोशिश करूंगा कुछ बातें सुझाव के रूप में रखना चाहता हूं जैसा कि मैं अपने देश की समस्या को समझा हूं।

सबसे पहली बात जो शासन को याद रखनी चाहिये वह यह है कि हमारे देश की समृद्धि भारत की सारी समृद्धि किसानों की समृद्धि के ऊपर निर्भर है और हमने यह जो, उसके प्रति एक बड़ी भारी उपेक्षा की, उसको नेगलेक्ट किया, उतका ही परिणाम आज हम भोग रहे हैं। मैं यह मानता हूं कि इन्डस्ट्रिय-लाइजेशन की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत है लेकिन हमने उस प्रपोजन को त्याग दिया जिसको हमें राष्ट्रपिता गांधी जी ने बताया था और पांच बुनियादी चीजों में जिसमें कि भोजन, कपड़ा, शिक्षा, रक्षा और मकान शामिल है उनकी तरफ हमने बिल्कुल ध्यान नहीं देकर औद्योगीकरण की तरफ ही ज्यादा ध्यान दिया आज उसी का परिणाम है कि हमारे देश में तरह तरह की बातें देखने को मिल रही हैं और हमको जो रिवर्सज आज मिल रहे हैं उसका मूल कारण मैं यही मानता हूं। आज किसानों को फूसलाने के लिये आप

उससे कहते हैं कि तुम देश की रीढ़ की हड्डी हो, कोई कहता है अन्नदाता ही कोई "जय किसान" के नारे लगाते हैं। लेकिन वास्तव में देखा जाय ये सब बातें फुलाने की ही हैं, सही हालत को बताने को नहीं हैं। आज का किसान अपनी कमाई के भरोसे अपने लड़कों को ऊँची शिक्षा नहीं दे सक रहा है। हालत यह होती जा रही है कि उसकी पैदा की हुई चीजों की कीमतें बाजार में बहुत कम भाव पर दी जाती हैं। हमने देखा है कि दुनिया में कोई ऐसा वर्ग नहीं है जो अपनी चीज की कीमत अपने मुँह से नहीं माँगता है लेकिन केवल एक बेचारा किसान ही ऐसा है कि जिसके द्वारा उत्पादित वस्तुओं की कीमत को व्यापारी या सरकारी कर्मचारी या शासन तय करते हैं। उसको झकमकारकर उस निर्धारित कीमत पर देना पड़ता है। आज जहाँ जहाँ किसानों को अपनी चीज देनी पड़ती है वह तो पुराने गेटों के मुताबिक तीन चार गुना अधिक कीमत पर बेचता है। लेकिन उसके मुकाबले में उसकी जरूरत की वस्तुएँ जैसे तम्बाकू, कपड़ा, लकड़ी, सुपारी, मिट्टी का तेल इत्यादि आठ गुने के हिसाब से ज्यादा कीमत पर उसको खरीदनी पड़ती हैं। इस तरह उसकी हालत सुधरी नहीं है। जो लोग कहते हैं अनाज से पैसा किसान को ज्यादा मिलता है वह गलत कहते हैं। वह पैसा तो दलालों और मुक्तखोरों की जेब में चला जाता है। तकावी वितरण में उसे सरकारी कर्मचारियों और सरकारी दलालों द्वारा लूटा जाता है। मेरा सुझाव है कि तकावी का वितरण गांवों के सब लोगों के सामने सरकारी कर्मचारी करें। जब 200 रुपये से ऊपर की तकावी दी जाती है तो जो सरकारी कर्मचारी बांटता है उसमें फ्रिडाचार करता है, यह हमारा अनुभव है। यह अधिकांश रूप से देखा गया है।

कितने दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि जिस देश में अस्सी प्रतिशत लोग कृषि उद्योग पर जाँवित हैं वहाँ पर हमको अन्न की भीख मागने के लिये

दूसरे देशों के पास जाना पड़े। आज किसान की हालत का मुकाबला किया जाये तो जो 100 रुपये या 125 रुपये तन-बाढ़ पाने वाला मामूली ग्रेड 4 का सरकारी कर्मचारी है वह अच्छे से अच्छे किसान से ज्यादा गढ़लिये पाता है, अपने लड़कों को अच्छी शिक्षा दे सकता है। अच्छे से अच्छा किसान उसका मुकाबला नहीं कर सकता है। मैं छत्तीसगढ़ परिया से आता हूँ। वहाँ लोग बेजबान हैं, पोस-लविग हैं यानि शांतिप्रिय हैं। मैं देखता हूँ कि कितना मर मर कर कमाते हैं फिर भी अपना पेट नहीं भर पाते हैं और अच्छी चीज बाजार में बेचनी पड़ती है। आज किसानों का दिल टूटता जा रहा है, वह ज्यादा अन्न पैदा करके मुँसोबत में पड़ना नहीं चाहता है और इसलिये नौकरी चाकरी ज्यादा पसन्द करते हैं। जो किसान थोड़ी बहुत खेती करना चाहता है तो वह कैश क्राफ्ट की तरफ जा रहा है। यह सब क्यों हो रहा है? इन्डस्ट्रियलाइजेशन के कारण नौकरी चाकरी के लिये सभी लोग इधर उधर जाते हैं। और हाय पैसा हाय पैसा का राग अलापने हैं। स्कूल मास्टरी करने के लिये किसान अपने लड़के को गांव के बाहर भेज देता है। वह लड़का जो किसान बनता वह शिक्षक बन कर आराम तलबी को कमाई करना चाहता है।

मैं एक सुझाव क्राप इन्थोरेन्स के बारे में देना चाहूँगा। क्राप इन्थोरेन्स की स्कीम सरकार को शीघ्र लागू कर देनी चाहिये ताकि किसानों के अन्दर भुख्खा की भावना जल्द से जल्द जागृत हो। आज ऐसा नहीं हो रहा है। वह हर हमेशा डरता रहता है कि कल उसकी क्या हालत होने वाली है, उनके बच्चों का भविष्य क्या होगा?

माइटर इरिगेशन की स्कीम बहुत इफेक्टिव इंग से लागू होनी चाहिये। अगर इसके ऊपर पहले से अधिक ध्यान दिया गया होता तो मेरे ख्याल से 50 परसेंट

[श्री को० सी० बघेल]

अधिक लैंड में सिंचाई हो जाती। सरकार फैंलो लैंड पड़ती जमीन के वितरण करने में बहुत ज्यादा पक्षपात से काम लेती है और हमने देखा है कि सरकारी कर्मचारी जितने उनके पहिचान के लोग हैं या उनसे जो मिले जुले लोग हैं, दलाल टांडर के लोग हैं जो खेती किसानों नहीं करते हैं ऐसे लोगों को लैंड दे देते हैं। जो जमीन बांटी जा रही है वह जो अन्नो मेहनती किसान हैं या जो वहाँ के वाशिये हैं उनको नहीं दी जा रही है। खास कर मैं अपने कुछ इलाकों के अनुभव से गेने प्रताप, महासुन्द, वसन्ता, सरणईपाली है। इस बात को आपके सामने पेश करना चाहता हूँ। समय कम है इसलिये मैं इस प्वाइन्ट को टच करके छोड़ देता हूँ और डोयेल में जब आगे कभी मौका लगेगा, तो मैं उनको पेश करूँगा।

मैं जोनल सिस्टम को देश के लिये घातक समझता हूँ, देश हित को दृष्टि से। इसलिये जिन भाइयों ने उनके बारे में कहा है कि जोनल सिस्टम हटता जाहिये मैं उनका समर्थन करता हूँ। मैं मद्रास और उड़ीसा की सरकार को आज कॉन्फ़िडेंस देना चाहता हूँ अभिनन्दन करता हूँ कि उन्होंने बहादुरी के साथ गेने प्रताप को माफ़ कर देने का जो कदम उठाया है, निश्चय किया है वह प्रशंसनीय है। यह सोचने की बात है कि आज 3000 ० तक की आमदनी पर इन्कमटैक्स माफ़ होता है और ऐसे लोग जो तरह तरह की दवाजी करते फिरते हैं, लुटाई करते हैं, मुनाफ़ा खोरी करने हैं उनको तो इतना इन्कम-टैक्स माफ़ लेकिन हमारे दो एकड़, चार एकड़ वाले किसान की भी लगान देना पड़ता है। तो यह जो लगान देना पड़ता है, रेवेन्यू टैक्स देना पड़ता है उसका जित तरह से आज मद्रास की सरकार या उड़ीसा की सरकार माफ़ कर रही है उसका अनुकरण दूसरी राज्य सरकारें भी करें ऐसा मेरा मुझाव है।

मैं आपके नोटिस में यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि 30,000 ट्रेक्टर्स जो फारेन कन्ट्री से मंगाये गये थे वे ट्रैक्टर आज बेकार पड़े हुए हैं क्यों कि उनके स्पेयर पार्ट्स नहीं हैं। किसानों को किराये पर देने के लिये वे मंगाये गये थे। अगर वे ट्रैक्टर काम किये होते तो मालूम नहीं कितनी अधिक पैसावर हुई होती लेकिन यह सब नहीं हो पा रहा है। उन 30 हजार ट्रैक्टर्स के लिये वर्थें नहीं स्पेयर पार्ट्स हम यहाँ बना सकते हैं। जब हमारे पास स्टील के बड़े बड़े कारखाने हैं, जैसे भिलाई, रूस्केला, दुर्गापुर और बहुत सी फैक्ट्रीज तमाम जगह बन रही हैं, टाटा बगैरह के कारखाने पहले से हैं ही, तो इन तमाम जगहों में स्पेयर पार्ट्स क्यों नहीं बनाये जा सकते हैं। इसके लिये सरकार क्यों नहीं ध्यान देती है। 30 हजार ट्रैक्टर्स बेकार पड़े रह जायें और उससे किसानों का इतना नुकसान हो, तो यह बहुत शोचनीय बात है। किसानों के साथ यह कैसी हमदर्दी है?

आज जो किसानों के अन्दर फ्रस्ट्रेशन है उसको जल्दी से जल्दी दूर करने की बात आप को सोचनी चाहिये। पहले यह कहावत देश में मशहूर थी:

“उत्तम खेती मध्यम बान

कनिष्ठ चाकरो भीखनिदान।”

लेकिन आज कहावत जमाने के साथ उल्टी हो गई है।

“उत्तम नीकरी मध्यम बान

कनिष्ठ खेती भीखनिदान।”

यह स्थिति आज हमारी हो गई है।

आप देखिये कि हमारा देश खेतिहर प्रधान देश है। यदि हम अन्न की भीख माँगें तो ऐसे देश पर कौन विश्वास कर सकेगा। एक कहावत है :

बेद रोगी तरुणजोगी

सूर पीरी घाव रे।

किमिया घर भीख मांगे

इन्ही जानि पतियाव रे ।

आज हमारे प्रति जो लोगों का विश्वास घट गया है उनका कारण मूलतः यह है कि कृषि प्रधान देश होते हुए भी हम भूखे मर रहे हैं जिस तरह से बंद रोगी हो तरुण योगी हो सूर वार की घोट में घाव हो श्री किमिया यदि घर घर भीख मांगता है तो ऐसे व्यक्ति को कोई विश्वास नहीं करता। इसी तरह से आज हमारी वकत और साख गिर गई है। आज यह हमारे लिये लज्जा और शर्म की बात है। इस पर हम को फिरसे सोचना चाहिये। विन्तोबा जी और गंधी जी जैसे लोगों ने कहा है कि जो सरकार प्रजा को पेट भर भोजन नहीं दे सकती उसको शासन पर बैठने का अधिकार नहीं है।

अन्त में मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि सिंचाई, बाढ़, उत्तम बाज, नये अजार, तांत्रिक शिक्षा आदि पर ध्यान दिया जाय और तभी पुष्ट और संतुष्ट होंगे और देश में खुशहाली बढ़ सकेगी और तभी हम जय किसान कहने के सही मायने में हकदार हो सकेंगे। अभी तो सब कोकोडाइल टीयर ही है। मगर मच्छ का आसू बढ़ाना है किसान के साथ समदो की बातें करना।

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the food problem as any other economic problem is essentially one of production and distribution. In no other field of economic activity do deficiencies in production and supply create so much havoc as in the field of food. People expect naturally and legitimately that their Government is bound to feed them all. I should think it is the paramount duty of any Government to see that all the people are fed well.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, with your permission I may quote a verse from the

famous "Raghuvamsa" written by M-ahakavi Kalidasa, one of the greatest poets of the world, if not the greatest. He says:

प्रजानां विनयाच्चनात् रक्षणात् भरणादपि
स पिता पितरस्तासां केवल जन्म हेतवः

That means, the king is the real father because he gives protection to people against hunger, against aggression and against indiscipline. No doubt our Government have taken some steps to improve the food situation. In spite of the best efforts the problem remains intractable. I think it is partly due to a sense of complacency, and lack of urgency. It is no doubt true that the food situation has become aggravated on account of the continuous failure of the monsoon. Nevertheless it does not absolve the Government of its responsibility to plan ahead in such a manner that they could anticipate the evil consequences of these natural calamities and provide against them.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, therefore, it seems to me that topmost priority, not even top priority but topmost priority, should be given to agricultural production. Of course we can have two views in this matter. One is a long-range view and the other is a short-range view. "While we should not neglect the long-range view of the matter, I should think we should more and more concentrate upon the short-range methods which can only give immediate results."

In this connection I have had opportunities of making certain suggestions on previous occasions. Therefore, I do not want to cover the same ground again but I should like to point out that the one answer to this immediate problem lies in harnessing the results of research of the science of agriculture and technology. Our research scholars have stated that the output and profits can be maximised by the efficient use of inputs. Among the inputs, they are of the view that research in the year 1966 revealed that

[Shri K. p. Mallikarjunudu.] a hundred per cent increase can be effected by an effective use of fertilisers. They say that it can be done by broadcasting phosphates on the field and placing the nitrogenous fertiliser at 5 cm. below the surface. In addition to that they say that the use of fertiliser can be economised and made more effective. They propose the application of phosphorous by mixing it with cowdung before application to the fields. They also say that application of fertilizers through the leaves and partly through the soil leads to a saving of 50 per cent in the quantity of fertilisers. They suggest another method of economising the use of fertilisers: by spraying the fertiliser on the field, particularly the fertiliser known as urea. By¹ such -methods, by proper and effective use of the agricultural inputs, our experts are of opinion that 10 million tonnes of additional rice can be produced during 1967-68 from the 13 million hectares of land with abundant water-supply. Out of 30 million hectares of irrigated land, we have got 13 million hectares of land which enjoy abundant, water supply. According to our experts and scientists we can produce 10 million tonnes of additional rice from these 13 million hectares of land which enjoy abundant water supply.

It is not a disputed fact that rice is the staple food of our country. It is consumed by the largest number of people in India. Apart from that, rice is grown in a much larger area than the one sown with other cereals. Under these circumstances I would suggest that we should concentrate on the increased production of rice. In this connection, I may be permitted to state that our State - $\text{\text{£}}$ Andhra Pradesh can give good results if proper facilities are provided. I may state that there are 3.2 million hectares of good irrigated land in Andhra Pradesh at the present time. I am proud to say that our Andhra farmers are very efficient and hardworking. It is not my own testimony; it is not a self-serving testimony as lawyers call. I am supported in this view by no less

a journal than the "London Economist". It says:

"Andhra Pradesh is the rice bowl of India. An increase of 70 per cent in yield was secured on some farms last year by the introduction of high-yielding varieties."

That is the testimony of no less a journal than the "London Economist".

Therefore, I say that the Government should provide as many facilities possible by supplying fertilisers and high-yielding varieties to the *farm* of Andhra Pradesh so that they can considerably increase the production and mitigate our difficulties.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): One minute more;

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: I am hurrying up. I have written down a lot but in view of the shortness of time, I am condensing it.

I am not speaking from any narrow parochial point of view, I am speaking from a broad perspective of solving the food problem. Andhra Pradesh in the Kamadhenu, it is a milch cow from which you will get milk in abundance.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I do not know what to say really to the Central Government on the question of food. One would have expected that at least after the General Elections, they would indicate some drastic change in their policy. But I understand that the policy has not been formulated yet and that the old policy continues. This is what I get from the report which has been submitted to this House. Right at the beginning, I should like to make one thing clear. Now, for the first time, there will be a food conference of the representatives of the State and Central Governments to discuss the food problem in the country. Unlike in the past, this conference would be attended by the Chief Ministers of eight— if I am right—non-Congress States,

eight Congress-run States plus the Union Ministers here. This in itself is a new development and certainly it has serious implications in the context of the matter under discussion, namely, the country's food problem. Now, according to the latest figure, these non-Congress States which will be represented at the Conference on the 8th and 9th account for 228 million people out of the 500 million people in our country, a clean majority of the population. Area-wise also, these States account for a greater part of the cultivable area under the plough than the areas in the States run by the Congress Governments. I mention these facts because agriculture is a State subject. Food, in a way, is a State subject apart from the assistance that the Centre gives and Central responsibility is indeed very great. Agriculture, where the production takes place, is a State subject. Naturally, you cannot expect the old type of approach to the problem or the old type of deliberations at the Conference, certainly not the old type of policy. Previously, the Central Government decided according to the likes of its party or the guidance of its party, the Congress Party, and things went on smoothly in the sense that the Chief Ministers, more or less with certain modifications, fell in line. This is no longer going to happen. Be clear in your mind. The State Governments, especially the non-Congress State Governments, will be agreeable to a food policy in so far as it is acceptable to them. I take that you will also be agreeable to a food policy in so far as it is agreeable to the Centre or to the Congress Government at the Centre or to the Congress Governments at the States. What does it mean? It means that a serious effort must be made to break away from the past and evolve an entirely new food policy which accommodates not only the Governments of the Congress-run States but also the Governments of the non-Congress States. There will be clearly fundamental and divergent approaches to the matter and one should find a common mea-

sure of agreement. The mere fact that today you will be called upon to find a common measure of agreement in order to arrive at what may be called a national food policy underlines the need and urgency for giving up the present policy.

Now, a number of non-Congress Governments and their representatives will be participating in this Conference with an entirely different outlook from the one that you have been having all these years. Mr. S. K. Patil has gone and Mr. Subramaniam has gone. But it does seem that somehow or the other the American food policy in the Indian Parliament does not go as far as this Government is concerned. May I tell Mr. Jagjivan Ram, very frankly? His success as Food Minister today lies in how he accommodates the different points of view, how he adjusts himself to the new reality, how he takes good things from those who are coming to the Conference, people not belonging to the Congress Party, but at the same time also giving them whatever he thinks is his positive line of approach. This is very, very important. I do hope that some kind of a national food policy will be attempted at the Conference now that a need to make a serious effort to evolve such a policy has arisen on account of the fact that it will not be a one-party affair but there will be many parties represented at the Conference, not only at the non-official level but at the official level also. There will be the Chief Ministers coming from the Swatantra Party; there will be the Chief Minister coming from the Bangala Congress; there will be the Chief Minister coming from the Communist Party (Marxist)—and there will be the Chief Ministers coming from other parties also; they will be coming from the Akali Dal Party and they will be coming from the DMK and the Congress Parties also. Therefore, I think the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that he is going to face at the Conference and he should therefore go there with an open mind, if possible with some constructive propo-

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sals if he has any. As I said before, the old policy has got to be abandoned. What is that policy? This policy, so far, has remained a policy of dependence on American food. This is the pillar of that policy and at the same time I think, the other aspect of the policy should be gone into. Mr. Vice-Chairman, if you ask me, it is very difficult to say what is the other aspect of the policy but perhaps it is going the old way, trying to avoid the Centre's responsibility as far as possible. That is the Centre's line. Now, this has to be given up entirely and a different approach will have to be made.

Now, before I make some criticism, may I deal with some aspects of the situation? This Report, unfortunately, still underestimates the gravity of the food situation. In one place all that the Report itself says is that a serious situation is going to be developed; a serious situation on the food front may develop. But there is no indication how that situation is going to be tackled. Well, I hope some serious effort will be made at the Conference to tackle it. As I said, the policy is one of dependence on foreign food, begging for foreign food, begging for fertilisers in order to increase production. Quite clearly, we cannot tackle the food problem in the country by dependence on foreign food. This is number one. This has to be realised. I hope the Chief Ministers coming from the non-Congress Governments will strongly impress upon the Central Government that this policy has got to be abandoned; they have to fight tooth and nail. I do not say, abandon it the next moment. The new policy should be with the clear objective of making the country self-sufficient in food production and overcoming this dangerous and nationally derogatory dependence on foreign food.

No conference would be worth looking at unless that line is taken at the conference. Policies should be sought to be evolved with that understanding,

with that perspective in view, realisable, immediate perspective. This is very, very important. Therefore, what does it mean? We have to tackle the problem of production. We have to tackle the the problem of distribution. We have to tackle the problem of crisis. These are the major aspects of the problem that one has to come to grips with, and unless we tackle them properly, no new food policy can emerge.

Sir, we have been told about a National Food Budget. I do not know what that National Food Budget is. Till now they have been taking up the line of national starvation or semi-starvation. This line of national semi-starvation can never be allowed to masquerade as a National Food Budget under this Government for the simple reason that other non-Congress Governments will never accept such a kind of manoeuvre on the part of the Central Government or false pretences on the part of the Central Government. The Central Government will be confronted with evolving, what may truly be called, a National Food Policy to feed our people, to give them nutrition and to make their life a little better in the matter of food, tackling all aspects of the problem.

Now, Mr. Vice-Chairman, what we get from the report is rather disturbing. The production has gone down by about 16-17 million tonnes compared to 1964-65. Yet the Presidential Address says that in another three or four years the production would go up from 74 millions to 100 million tonnes. Do we have magicians in the Government who will produce food out of their hat? There is no indication at all how the production will be increased to such a level by 25 or 26 million tonnes in three or four years' time, when under the First Plan production stagnated except for one year. Now the production in the early part of the Fourth Plan has gone down. This should have been explained to the House properly. Well, nothing has been explained in the report at all. Therefore, I think that here you must.

bear in mind that mere declarations will not do. If declarations could produce food, then this land would be having plenty of food - because even in the First Plan we set the target at 100 million tonnes. But we know where we are today. We are short of the target by 26 million tonnes at the end of the first year of the Fourth Plan. This is one thing. I find with regard to production according to the statement they have issued.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, now let me come to the question of procurement, another important aspect. Procurement is another failure. We set up the Food Corporation in our country with a view to procuring foodgrains and building up stocks. What do we see? What have we done? According to this report, in January-February they have procured only 2.6 lakh tonnes of rice and 6.2 lakh tonnes of wheat, altogether 8.8 lakh tonnes. Last year, in 1966, the Food Corporation of India procured only 12.52 lakh tonnes of foodgrains both on Central Government and State Governments account. Now this is the position. Yet we were told by Mr. Subramaniam last year that the procurement would be of the order of at least 7 million tonnes.

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

We wanted an explanation in the report as to why this has not been done. This is on record. Even earlier, what was promised was not done. Even earlier the total food-grains procurement was about 4 million tonnes, I believe. Even that has not been achieved. It seems the procurement programme is going down instead of going up, according to the official figure. Now it is quite clear that unless we procure the entire marketable surplus, may be 18 million tonnes or so—rice and wheat taken together—we will not be in a position to tackle the food problem at all. Well, for that we need a very wholesome and vigorous operation by the Food

Corporation of the country. Also the procurement prices should be so fixed that the peasant gets remunerative prices and we are in a position to forestall the operation of the black-marketeers and profiteers so that peasants are interested in the operation of the Food Corporation of India and other agencies which may buy on behalf of the Government.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, the State Government, I hope, will impress upon the Centre that this should be done. In the past this was not done. One reason was that some of the State Governments were non-cooperative. They did not like the Food Corporation of India to buy in their States. The State I come from is a case in point. West Bengal, last time, procured only 52,000 maunds of foodgrains, and that too from rice millers. Nothing was procured, not a grain, by the Food Corporation of India. Not a grain of paddy was purchased either by the Food Corporation or by the State Government from the peasant, with the result that we are in an extremely critical situation in West Bengal today.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, the first thing, therefore, to discuss here, apart from the question of production to which I shall come later, is to make procurement a grand success. Here I may inform you that the new West Bengal Government has announced its food policy on the 29th of the last month, and immediately the Minister had gone to the villages, to help procurement in the Bengal villages. All the leading Members of all the Parties are going to the villages in order to help the Ministers and others in order to impress upon the peasant, offering them a little higher price, Rs. 21 to Rs. 23, so that they sell to the Government agencies. At the same time they have asked all those owners of land, having 10 to 12 acres—depending upon the area, whether it is an irrigated land or not—to sell all the surplus stock, over and above their needs for cultivation and personal consumption, to the Government. Now

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the campaign is going on. That is how-it should be done. Machinery should be set up. Popular co-operation should be sought and the Government should come to the scene in a big way. You are in a position to do so because a large number of State Governments not only would like to participate in the procurement drive but their Ministers would like to participate in the drive on the basis of a sound economic policy which is in the interest of the peasant.

You will be surprised to hear that this procurement drive during this period failed, had been sabotaged by the Congress leaders who were in control of the State Governments because they would not like to command their patrons, the hoarders and profiteers, who had been finding money for the Congress election fund.

Sir, this Government, in 1964, imported 6.3 million tonnes of foodgrains. In 1965 they imported 7.5 million tonnes of foodgrains, and in 1966 they imported 10.4 million tonnes of food-grains. Now, according to American papers, they have a Plan of importing, if the Americans oblige them, 20 million tonnes of foodgrains. And you know how the Americans are looking at the problem. That is again interesting. Literally they are making fun of us. They are saying that we are not making any self-effort at all. Some of the American newspapers and others are writing like that. I have brought something for you here. This is how they make fun of us. Here I am reading it. Mr. W. R. Poage, Chairman, U.S. House of Representatives Agriculture Committee says:

"She lacks a great deal . . ."— She means 'India'—

"... of the self-help efforts I expect of a person who applies for public charity".

We are looked upon as if we are applying for public charity and then we

are told that we are not making self-effort. He is right in this sense. It is not 'she'—well it is 'she', the Prime Minister is a 'she'. She and her Government are behaving in this manner. Then Senator Allen Ellender, Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee says:

"They will say Uncle Sam will carry the load. We are being too soft-nosed".

This is how the Americans are reacting to this and this Government become so insensitive in such matters that these insulting utterances do not affect it at all. It goes on 'begging and begging all the time. Now to-day another development is taking place. From P. L. 480 we have been taken, in addition, to international pressure, namely, the Consortium will now also solve India's food problem. The Americans have started the mischief. The Americans say: 'We are prepared to give you 3 million tonnes of additional foodgrains provided you get a similar quantity of foodgrains from other countries and now the Consortium comes here. We shall be subjected to collective pressure of the West under American aegis. Therefore we have been made into an international charity boy, going round the world with a hat in our hand, to France, America, Canada, Australia, etc. and ask them: 'Give us a little food' and the Americans have told: 'Unless you go round the world in this manner as an international charity boy, even the American charity on which you count so much will not be forthcoming.' What else could be a devastating gesture to our people, to our self-respect and to our nation, I should like to know from the Government. Now the Government should seriously consider this. This is not a party issue at all. I know many Members opposite sincerely want the country to become self-sufficient in food. After all we may be Congressmen or Communists. We are all Indians. We want our image of national honour not to be sullied, not

to be tainted by this kind of behaviour on the part of anyone. Therefore that problem is very very important.

Then comes distribution. What has happened to distribution? The report is misleading. The report says this. To-day you cannot get away by saying this because there are non-Congress Governments to tell you that what you are telling about the States is false. Previously when we said from the Opposition you could get away by saying that the State does not say so, namely, the State Government does not say so. To-day you are not in that happy position. Now what do you say? You boast about statutory rationing in your report and claim that 30 million people are under statutory rationing. You claim that 201 million people are under informal rationing but what does Mr. P. C. Ghosii, the West Bengal Food Minister say? I have got this from him. According to the Bengal Government estimates, the informal or modified rationing was almost on the point of collapse and statutory rationing also is gravely endangered in Bengal. The same is the position in the other States where rationing of this kind obtains. Why is this not mentioned? You may say perhaps that this report was written before the non-Congress Government came into existence. Then you should not have submitted this kind of report to us which you know, would not be accepted even as an objective narration (if facts by the State Governments. The Bihar Government does not say what you say in your report. The Madras Government does not say what you say in your report. The Kerala Government takes a different view of the situation in that State than what, you say in this report. The Bengal Government has a different version today and if that is the position, do not try to behave in the old way. Do realise, Mr. Food Minister that you are the Food Minister of a country where the majority of the States, at least half of the States, are to-day not under your control at the

level. Therefore when you prepare a report of this kind, consult the State Governments, find the facts from them and then compile them in a proper way and present it to the Parliament and do not try to treat us as if the whole thing is an one-party affair to-day whether at the State level or at the Central level. You must understand that. Therefore we are facing a situation when far from extending the rationing to all towns with a population of a lakh and more, which was the promise of the Government the rationing already in existence is collapsing, breaking down, is facing supply difficulties. This is the position to-day. Take the case of West Bengal. Last year you supplied well over 16 lakh tonnes of foodgrains in this period whereas during December, January and February you supplied only 2.60.000 tonnes of grains to Bengal. Now it is quite clear that Bengal cannot maintain the rationing unless proper supplies are maintained by the Centre. I must point out to you that... (*Interruptions*). What are you saying? Get up and say.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): When you finish, he will explain the whole position.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is better to have movement of tongue rather than of the hand. Therefore West Bengal needs at least 15 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains here and now for the remaining part of the year in order to maintain its commitments including the rationing commitments. Rationing is certainly operative in the State but this was done as a result of certain commitments clearly given by the Centre to the State. In fact it was maintained largely on the basis of supplies from the Centre. If you look into the debate of the past you will find it. To-day we find the Government is playing a kind of a hide and seek game over this matter. It should not be so. The Government should fulfil this commitment. Let it

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta] not be said that when the non-Congress Governments came into power in the different States, the Central Government took a tardy attitude with regard to them and pleaded all kinds of inability in this matter. I hope it will not be said. This is also important but I do agree that this matter needs to be discussed. With regard to rice, they say that rice is in short supply. Everybody knows that difficulty is there with regard to rice although production can certainly be increased. I had talks with the Chief Minister of Orissa in a private capacity and earlier I had also talks with the Chief Minister of Bengal. In fact one day I met Mr. Ajoy Mukerjee in his Chamber in the Assembly House where the Orissa Chief Minister was also present. We know each other. Therefore we discussed this subject informally and I had the impression that if the Central Government would make available certain quantities of wheat to Orissa, Orissa would be in a position to, at least would try seriously to make the same quantity of rice available to Bengal. That is how things should be tackled. I am not going into the more delicate question of zonal system, etc. All I say is, today since you are getting all the Chief Minister here, see to what extent you can mobilise mutual help between them. That is very very important. Mr. Annadurai can help some. Mr. Brahmananda Reddy can help others. Madhya Pradesh can help some. Similarly other States can help others. To-day it is essential to develop this kind of cooperative spirit, more especially when different types of State Governments have come into existence.

As far as production is concerned, that is the crucial thing. I do not know, Mr. Vice-Chairman, how you feel about it. You have been connected with feudalism, I am told, in old days. But those days are gone, as you know very well.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Mr. Gupta, you

know I am in the Chair. I cannot say many things from here.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I hear, Sir, that a gentleman living in a stone house in Hyderabad and bearing the name of Mr. Akbar Ali Khan had been connected with feudalism. He is a very knowledgeable man. He knows feudalism.

Now, therefore, that way, you cannot do so; you cannot increase food production that way. But it is possible to increase food production within our country by avoiding excessive investments in fertilizers and other things; not that they are not necessary; they should be brought in to the extent desirable keeping in view the question of our independence and our national interests. But at the same time what is most important today in a country like ours is to mobilise the labour power, the idle labour power, and harness the idle labour power to production, by mobilising again the cultivable waste land. Forty-seven million acres of cultivable waste land are there. Suppose you utilise a part of it, a good part of it, to increase production and mobilise the idle labour in the rural areas then, immediately, you can bring about a considerable change in the productive sphere in agriculture, resulting in good yields of foodgrains, not only in quantity, but also per acre. This is the opinion of many economists in the country, and that should be done. Now regarding agriculture, in the draft of the Fourth Five-Year Plan I have found it said that land is to the tiller. Now this has become a cliché for the Congress Party. But land to the tiller is the real problem. It is the life and death question today. If we do not get the land to the tiller, there shall be the noose around our neck, the American noose. Therefore I think that in many respects you have to take steps to reorganise our agriculture, by giving the land to the tiller of the soil, by recognising the rights of the cultivators and

giving them the proper price, and also making credit and other facilities available to them. Even according to the latest report of the Planning Commission and other papers we find that 85 per cent of our rural credit is still dependent on the source of money-lending classes, whereas the co-operative sources only cover 20 per cent or so, and even there much of the moneys that flows to the co-operative channel does not reach the really cultivating peasant but goes into the pockets of some very rich people in the villages. Therefore, reorganisation of our co-operative institutions is also very very important apart from, of course, the extension of these institutions by adequate assistance from the Centre, from the Reserve Bank and others. Co-operative laws have got to be changed and the conditions under which loans are given must also be modified in order that the peasants, the actual tillers, do get the advantage which is supposed to be given to them under the cooperative arrangement.

In this connection I wish also to refer to irrigation and other facilities. The Government should think and the non-Congress Ministries should also think whether it is not advisable today to shift the emphasis from major irrigation to medium and minor irrigation, which we can develop on the basis of our own national resources. There are countries in the world today, which have brought about considerable improvement in irrigation, not by relying on grandiose plans and depending on foreign assistance, but by depending on their local irrigation channels, minor and medium ones especially, by mobilising the labour in working out certain irrigation projects and so on, and you should also think along this line. But this also will never be successful unless the peasant realises that now a new change has come about, that a new change in the policy has taken place.

[THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

The peasant should realise that now he will be helped to get out of his poverty and hunger, get out of unemployment and, as a result thereof, of sorrow, destitution and all kinds of suffering. If you cannot make it possible immediately, at least create such a climate in the rural area. Then I think we can set in motion a whole number of small irrigation projects depending on the labour incentives and the creative effort of our working people, or village people, in order to bring more land under irrigation. That should be the approach.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please finish now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I am finishing, Madam Deputy Chairman. I strongly protest against Mr. Asoka Mehta's treachery in his matter. What business he has got in more extensions to the foreign fertilizer concern when they have not fulfilled even the terms generously given earlier? It is so because these fertilizer concerns want to exploit India.

*SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): If it is in the interests of increasing food production, even then it should not be given. Is that what you mean?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Well, Mr. Akbar Ali Khan, you are somewhere between a feudal lord and a capitalist. It is not increasing food production. You are selling your independence. The Americans are dictating to you in these matters. Day after day concessions are being given to them. Day after day this treacherous Ministry is making surrender to the Americans. Day after day national honour is being bartered away. Day after day new avenues are being created by this incompetent anti-peasant, anti-national Government so that the Americans can come in and dig into our economy in a manner whereby they will be in a position to dictate

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta], terms to us. Madam, you may be interested to hear the details a little. One day I asked a very higher-up in Government on the Vietnam policy. I asked that gentleman, an important man in the Government—I shall not say more than what I am saying now —"Why don't you say something over Vietnam?" That gentleman said, "We would like to say something, but don't you see that the Americans will not like it, and we have to be dependent on American food." This is the pontics; this is the politics of it. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Jagjivan Ram, it seems you are asking me to stop.

SHRI AWADHESHWAR PRASAD SINHA (Bihar): You are talking on Vietnam, not on the food situation, now.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know that you won't like it. That is my trouble.

Now Mr. Jagjivan Ram has come to hold this portfolio. Well, we have seen him in various roles except perhaps the Prime Minister. . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You told me that you are winding up, Mr. Gupta.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: It is winding up; I wind up now. I have seen him in various roles. I have nothing personal against him. I like him. He always laughs—one good thing about it. He always laughs, you see, and that is the good thing about it. Even if Bihar starves—three crore people of Bihar are starving—he would still laugh. Undoubtedly there is no difficulty about that. But I would like to strike one warning since this is the first food debate I am participating in after you have assumed charge of the Ministry. You have stepped into the shoes of Mr. S. K. Patil and Mr. C. Subramaniam and you know their fate. As Mr. S. K. Patil was tied to be 'buffered stock'

and bluff, well, he fell in Bombay. Mr. Subramaniam came with a 'package deal' to humour the country, and called the package deal his food policy. And he has had his package deal; Madras when the Congress was routed including himself. Therefore don't try to go the way of the politician; and apostles of buffer stock and bluff of which Mr. S. K. Patil is the 1; embodiment, nor the way Mr. Subramaniam has gone. After all, Bihar is practically lost to you, you are like the boy in the burning deck, and only the American survives. Therefore we would like to see you lost to the Americans at least for some time. How you can do so—I can tell you—by changing the food policy, and you will not carry the country today—food problem is not only a national problem but much of it is a State subject also—unless and until you recognise the reality that things have changed. Your food policy must be a reflection of national agreement, which is to be brought about by your change, by your accommodation at the forth-coming Food Ministers' Conference in which many Food Ministers coming from the non-Congress Governments would participate.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That will do.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Therefore I demand, change the policy in all vital respects, production, distribution and prices. This is all that I can say. I do make good suggestions to the Government and request the Government to implement them. But I have no faith in this Government any more, and since the situation has changed. I do make this proposal for the Conference to consider, and I at least hope that Mr. Jagjivan Ram, having seen what has happened in the past, will try to acclimatise himself to the new changing situation and seek now the suggestions and recommendations and advice of those who coming now into the scene and evolve, or at least try to evolve what may be called the modicum of a national food policy.

Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Madam, I must express my thanks to the hon. Members of the House who have participated in this debate and contributed in a substantial manner by suggestions, criticisms and proposals for the solution of the grave problem that the country is facing to-day. Food is a matter which is everybody's concern, and I welcome every suggestion and every criticism. There may be sometimes suggestions and~ criticisms coming from persons who have no idea whether rice grows on a plant or on a tree, whether potato grows under ground or over ground or what is the difference between tomato and potato. I welcome suggestions from them also . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: We know potatoes grow over the heads of Congress Ministers.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I did not mean to say that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta did not know the difference. But I say I welcome suggestions even from those persons. I welcome suggestions even from those persons who cannot discriminate between a plant of wheat and a plant of barley. I welcome suggestions even from those persons because food is a matter which is the concern of everybody. I welcome suggestions even from those persons who all their lives have spoken only on the briefs presented to them by others. And even in the matter of food, if certain people speak here on the basis of the briefs presented to them by others, I welcome their suggestions and criticisms. Sir, Dr. Gad-gil spoke about food policy and Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has pointed out the changed political conditions in the country. I do not know why he is so much worried and concerned about that. The federal character of our Constitution and country has come into play and I have no doubt that our Constitution had made ample provisions to sustain the full play of the federal character of our country. It is not necessary in a federation that

at the Centre and at the various federating units, a Government of the same party or persuasion should be in power. It envisages that at a certain stage of time, Governments belonging to different parties and persuasions, political ideas and ideologies, will be in power either at the Centre or in the States, and the Constitution has taken care of that. So I say that for the first time in our country, the federal character of our country and Constitution has come into play and we have to recognise that fact. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You must have a federal character in the Food Minister.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Have a little patience. I will take adequate notice of what you have said. I am not going to ignore you. Therefore, you should not grow impatient. The federal character has come into play and, therefore, wherever any food policy has to be evolved—it has been done in the past as well—complete involvement of all the States is very necessary. Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has pointed out very rightly that under our Constitution, agriculture is a State subject and so is food. Having recognised that fact, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta has a wonderful knack of blowing hot and cold in the same breath and even waxing eloquent over it. Having recognised the fact that agriculture is a State subject, having recognised that food is a State subject, he tries to throw all the burden of the deficiencies of the States on the Centre. Strange logic, strange argument..... (*Interruption*). Have a little patience. I am just trying to analyse what you have said. I am not doing anything more. Then Mr. Gupta likes to give maximum latitude to the State Governments which I also do. I am at one with him. Having recognised the fact that it is a State subject, why does he want to throw the entire burden on the Central Government? That is a strange thing. Any food policy has to be

[Shri Jagjivan Ram.]

evolved after involvement of all the State Governments is achieved and, therefore, I have taken care not to announce any new food policy and so long as no new food policy has been announced, it has to be presumed that the existing food policy continues. As I have said, we have invited the State Chief Ministers to a conference on the 8th and 9th of this month. The whole idea is that we will place certain proposals that we have at the conference. We are not proceeding, as Dr. Gadgil said, in a vacuum. We have certain basis to proceed on and we want to discuss that with the Chief Ministers. The problem that is facing us to-day is a difficult one. Everybody says that food should be kept apart from politics. But when Mr. Dahyabhai Patel started speaking, he started not with food but with politics. That is his first preoccupation. To make food a pawn on the political chess-board appears to be their first preoccupation, but I will not try to go to that level as he did. I want to keep food above politics and while dealing with the subject, I will try to maintain that. Food has to be treated as a national problem, and the whole nation will have to be involved in that. If we took at the various aspects of the food problem and the various suggestions that have been made here and analyse them we find the major aspects are production, procurement, distribution and prices. These I will put as the four broad aspects which any food and agriculture policy will have to depend upon. And when we really mean to solve the food problem, we will have to attack this not merely on the food front but on the agricultural front also. We cannot become self-sufficient unless we increase our production and in order to increase our production, we will have to take care of land, we will have to take care of the tenants, we will have to take care of irrigation, implements, seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and above all the orientation in the outlook and

attitude of the rural population. We have to give them education in the modern techniques and technology of agriculture. They are all very necessary things and they will have to proceed as a composite whole. In order to increase our production, a proper land system is necessary and wherever land reform has not been completed, it will have to be completed. I attach the greatest importance to this aspect. The cultivator should feel that he owns and possesses the patch of land that he cultivates and that he is his own master and unless that feeling is created in the farmer and in the cultivator, I am afraid we will not be able to do our best in production . . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal):
How are you going to bring about that?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Recognising and realising that agriculture is not a Central subject, howsoever eloquent he waxes, he is not competent to do that here. Why should he forget that aspect? It is a State subject, and fortunately now you have Governments in various States who have claimed to be radical all these years. It is a test for them. Are we going to stand in their way or prevent them from expediting reforms? What is preventing them from proceeding ahead with it?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Where is the necessary money? We do not have so much money in the State treasuries that we can pay compensation for the land.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Please
allow me to meet the point that you
have raised. Why do you feel an
noyed when I try to do it?

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I am not at all
annoyed. Why should I get annoyed?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Here is a good
test, I say, for all those who have

claimed all these years to be radical and progressive. Let them go ahead with land reform and I can assure them that I am not going to come in their way.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Very good.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: As a matter of fact, I may assure Shri Bhupesh Gupta and others of his persuasion that so far as the question of land reform is concerned, I personally feel that the actual man who moves he-hind the bullocks with the plough in his hands, unless he is restored to his rightful place as the owner of the land, the country is not going to solve this problem.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: One good thing you have said.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will say many good things. Let my friend have some patience.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I will be happy.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Land should belong to the actual tiller of the soil. Let my hon. friends raise that slogan and in this matter they will find me by their side and not behind them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I hope Shri Morarji Desai will not call you my fellow-traveller.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I will not mind if my hon. friend becomes my fellow-traveller.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: For twenty years you have not done this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: The difficulty is both of them, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta and Mr. Ghosh, are competing with each other. Let
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them leave off competition for the time being.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think patience is a virtue and you can have it sometimes.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Patience is one virtue and humour is another virtue.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I expect from you some virtue.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Next I come to the question of utilisation of land, all arable land in the country. We will have to undertake reclamation work on a large scale. It is not my habit to tell what I am going to do unless I have made myself sure that I am going to succeed. I have an idea of undertaking land reclamation on a very large scale and by an expeditious process. Wherever land is available and can be reclaimed either by mechanised methods or by manual labour, it has to be reclaimed. This has to be done and done very quickly.

Then comes the question of actual agriculture and I personally feel that ours is a country where we will have to try all methods, large-scale farming, small farms, mechanised farms, manual-labour farms and so on. We will have to make a combination of the bullock-cart age and the jet age. Ours is a country where even today we have compressed together generations, the traditional and the modern and we find a wonderful living together or coexistence of both in our country. We require donkeys and we require tractors.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Only difficulty is donkeys are too many.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Yes, and they always indicate themselves. I say we will have to utilise both. We will have large farms of the American type and also small holdings of the Japanese pattern. We will have intensive cultivation. We require

[Shri Jagjivan Ram.] tractors, power-tillers and so on. We will require the ploughshare also. So our agriculture being a combination of the traditional and the modern, the traditional will have to be given the touch of the modern so that the traditional and the modern, both these methods may help us to solve this problem.

I attach the greatest importance to irrigation. Fertilizers? Yes. Improved seeds? Yes. But above all, the primary requirement is irrigation and not only large-scale big river valley projects, but all projects, even small ones. I have already issued instructions that even *kutch* wells, open wells, tube-wells, lift irrigation, pumps, whatever method is available should be utilised so that the open surface water and also the underground water may be utilised. And this has got to be done on an emergency basis. A sense of urgency is not noticeable in the country in the face of the grave crisis that we are facing today. I welcome Dr. Gadgil's suggestion that we will have to rouse the public conscience. We have to involve the entire nation. When today we are faced with a grave crisis the whole nation will have to feel this is a period of urgency and everything has to be done on an urgent basis, on an emergent basis. We require fertilizers, improved implements and tractors and power-tillers. We require even improved ploughshares and we will have to undertake schemes for getting improved ploughshares. Some proposals for such manufactures are there and some beginning has already been made. I have already made a beginning in the matter of manufacturing improved implements. I am not talking only of tractors and power-tillers but also of improved implements. And we have entrusted this work to some of the cooperative societies. A beginning has already been made. But we have to expedite this so that we may provide every farmer with improved implements and so that with the given labour he may get better results.

As for irrigation, I do not propose to go into details now and I do not want to give the figures of the funds that are provided and so on, because all that information is already available to hon. Members. In the time at my disposal I would like to broadly indicate the lines on which I want to proceed in order to meet the situation and also to provide long-term solutions to the problems that have. A self-respecting India will not like to be dependent on other nations for feeding the nation. Every self-respecting Indian should try and contribute his mite for increasing the production in the country so that at the earliest opportunity we can say that we do not require any assistance from any nation so far as foodgrains are concerned.

We will have to provide improved seeds and hybrid varieties of maize and bajra and high-yielding paddy and wheat. They are giving wonderful results and we will have to extend the areas under them. At least in our irrigated areas these improved seeds, these quick-yielding varieties, these high-yielding varieties should be grown so that as my hon. friend Shri Dahyabhai Patel said, like Israel and Taiwan we can also increase the per acre yield of our crops. There is ample scope for that.

So far as fertilizer is concerned, without going into the question of ideologies with which Mr. Gupta is obsessed and oppressed . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Oppressed also?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Let me use some words. I say that today we require chemical fertilizers. But at the same time I would appeal to the nation to remember that we should not neglect our old traditional things like farm manure, compost and green-manure. We do require everything. We require all these things and a campaign will have to be carried on that till we become self-sufficient in the matter of fertilizers we will have to utilise every method which will

add to the fertility and productivity of our land. Apart from that, the taste and the flavour that the grain gets from organic fertilizers can never be had from chemical fertilizers. So even when we become self-sufficient in the matter of chemical fertilizers, in some selected areas we will have to depend upon organic fertilizers. I want to make that clear and I want to proceed on that basis.

Knowing the poverty and the helplessness of our peasantry, it should be the effort of any Government to make credit available to them at cheaper rates and by easier methods. I will not hesitate to say that the various benefits and facilities that have been provided for the cultivators have not succeeded in percolating to the small farmers. It shall be my endeavour, of course with the cooperation of hon. Members, and of those engaged in agriculture, to see that the various facilities that have already been provided to the cultivators and the farmers are made available even to the class of cultivators to whom outside credit is a very difficult thing. And co-operatives should be encouraged, genuine co-operatives. A decision has been taken that we will provide by a variety of methods through agricultural banks and finance corporations credit at reasonable rates to the farmers for implements, for irrigation, for improved seeds and for fertilizers.

SHRI SHANTILAL KOTHARI
(Rajasthan): And also in time.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Of course; if it is not in time it loses its value. So far as irritative and dilatory processes are concerned I will have to take up, again as my hon. friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, knows, with the State Governments and I will take this matter up with the Chief Ministers and the Agricultural Ministers, with the cooperatives 'and with the Reserve Bank to see how we can augment the credit available for this purpose. I hope we can simplify the processes and procedures through

which the farmer has to pass before he gets the credit. An element of vexatious procedure is there. We have also to change our conception of creditworthiness. To some extent it has been done but it requires to be strengthened further so that the cultivator, even if he does not possess land, if he cultivates somebody else's land, still gets some credit on the basis of his labour, on the basis of his hut or crop. We will have to change the whole conception of creditworthiness if we want to encourage agriculture in the rural areas. No doubt our rural areas have been neglected to a great extent during the British period but after independence we have turned towards the rural areas and anybody who says that nothing has been done in the rural areas, I will submit with great humility, has no knowledge of the rural areas at all. A wonderful revolution is going in the countryside, silent and imperceptible, but of far-reaching consequences.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Revolution imperceptible?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Yes; you do not possess the perception to notice that revolution.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: A revolution has to be perceptible.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It is revolution in the reverse gear.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Yes; that depends upon the perception a person possesses. A silent revolution is going on today in our country.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: We have not got a third eye of . . .

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: But they believe in a bloody revolution, that is the whole trouble.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not want to use the word 'bloody' for any person.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Not even for the Congress Government.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Why do
] you want me to reciprocate you?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I say I agree that the word 'bloody' should not be used for any person including the Congress Government.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: And as I have said we will have to tackle simultaneously various aspects. The bullocks will have to be taken care of because for many years to come in spite of tractors and power tillers we cannot dispense with our cattle wealth. And the bullocks and the cattle wealth will have to be taken care of for our agriculture and for our milk supply. Therefore the breed will have to be improved. We will have to provide pedigree bulls and stud bulls in the countryside so that the breed improves and milk supply increases. The fodder problem is linked with the problem of food and we will have to undertake a solution of the fodder problem on a large scale.

When we think of land reclamation naturally all these processes of conservation and others will follow. I do not propose to go into those minor details but all the same they are very important in themselves. Now long-term plans have been evolved but I want to say something about the immediate problem that we are faced with. Some friend said that we are producing 76 million tonnes out of which 66 million tonnes will be available for consumption and by a simple rule of arithmetic he said that there was no further necessity for food imports. I agree but will the simple rule of three apply in his case? Naturally the cultivator who is producing before making his produce available to the market will not depend upon the 12 or 13 oz that the simple rule of three will provide. Naturally he will consume more; it is quite obvious that in the surplus area the surplus producer consumes more than those in the rationed areas or in the modified rationed areas. Therefore we cannot presume that all this stock will be available for distribution throughout the country on

an equitable and equal basis and hence the necessity of requirements having to be met by food to be obtained from some source or < Well, I am not less allergic to being imported from other countries than my friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, but I want to be a bit realistic; Here it is the only difference. Bengal must have some rice; so should Kerala. If there is a shortage of rice in the country, if rice cannot be produced ...

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS
(Orissa): Not Bihar and U.P.; only Kerala and Bengal you have spoken about, because the Communist there?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have given the example of K (and Bengali even if non-Congress Governments were not there also. The complexion of the Government does not change the requirement of the people and I do not think the Communists will say that they will take only Communist rice. Stand technology with all its achievement has not succeeded as yet in producing Communist and non-Communist rice and I do not think it will ever be possible to do that. So the complexion of the Government does not make any change in the requirements of the foodstuffs for the people of any particular State and that is why I said that food should not be made a pawn on the political chess board. I have given the example of these two States because they are the major rice-consuming States Kerala with the pattern of consumption that they have, it will take some time before they can change pattern of their consumption. I quite accept that position. But rice being in short supply in the country it is just conceivable that we may by joint agreement I do not say that I am going to force anything upon anyone; how is it possible? It can only be done by mutual consent—be able to tackle this problem. It may be that we may have to persuade them

that instead of so much of rice can it *not* be managed by having a less quantity of rice and more of wheat but that is a matter for mutual arrangement by mutual discussion and mutual consultation. So long as we have this difficulty the solution appears to me to be very obvious and that is, during the period between the harvesting of the rabi crop and sowing of the kharif crop, in this period of two to three months we can have an intensive campaign in the country that wherever any source of irrigation is available, not one inch of land should be left fallow. Some short-term crop should be raised. There are several short-term crops in the country which take 60 to 70 days and in some cases even 45 days and if in this period we can produce a few hundred thousand maunds of foodgrains, coarse or any other variety, that will ease the difficult situation with which we are faced. And I will appeal to the House, to the political leaders, social workers, youths and students of the country to take up a campaign for short-term crops during this period. That is the only answer which will reduce our dependence—I am not purposely using the word 'eliminate'—upon foreign countries for food. That has to be done and it cannot be done only through governmental agencies. Therefore, I appeal to the entire country, let the whole nation be involved in this. During the coming months, particularly May and June, we have to grow, wherever water is available, short-term food crops before the sowing of the normal kharif crop. We have plans for summer paddy, but in addition to that, where water is not adequate for paddy, other varieties like *ragi*, *maize*, *chana*, etc., which do not require so much water, can be grown and that will add to the availability of foodgrains in the country.

Now, involved in this matter of production are two very important questions. One is the question of price and the other is the question of crop insurance. So far as the question of

crop insurance is concerned, a decision has been taken. A bill has been drafted and we are going to undertake the crop insurance scheme. As far as rice is concerned, I have always felt that, as in the case of other commodities, in the case of agricultural commodities also, in fixing their price, their cost of production should be taken into consideration. The cultivator will have to be paid a reasonable return certainly. The prices of agricultural commodities, especially foodgrains, concern millions and millions of people in the country. Therefore, while fixing agricultural prices, another aspect also will have to be kept in view, *viz.*, the incidence of the cost to the consumer. There will have to be a mean between the two, *i.e.*, a reasonable return to the producer and a reasonable cost to the consumer. It will be my effort to have an agricultural price policy which will be conditioned by these two important factors. A study of the cost pattern of important agricultural commodities will have to be undertaken. A small beginning has *been* made, but I want to accelerate the pace of study of the cost structure of important agricultural commodities. Once that is done, I think we will be able to evolve a rational system for fixing the prices of important agricultural commodities, including foodgrains. We will have, at the same time, to strike a mean between foodgrains and other cash crops. Though we are deficit in foodgrains, we cannot divert all the land available from cash crops to foodgrains, because we have to sustain some of our very important industries which are based on agricultural produce. Therefore, there also we will have to strike a mean between the areas that will be required for foodgrains and various cash crops on which some of our important industries are based. Those industries are so important that we can hardly afford to dispense with them. Therefore, we will have to take care of cash crops as well.

In the matter of pricing, we will have to decide well in advance of the

[Shri Jagjivan Ram.] sowing season and we will have to assure the cultivator that this is the price which he is going to get. I would mention another thing also. We will have to fix not only the ceiling prices but in important cases we will have to fix the floor prices also. For whatever cause it may be, if the cultivator is likely to be adversely affected by the prices falling down unreasonably, the Government should come into the picture and give him price-support. That should apply to all important commodities, whether it is cotton or whether it is wheat. Perhaps Mr. Dahyabhai was not properly informed when he talked of cotton, because in respect of cotton there is a floor price as well.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Would you say something about the procurement price of wheat and rice?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I am coming to that. I have not come to the procurement aspect yet. Now, the question of procurement is next only to production. We cannot presume that all the States are going to become self-sufficient in the matter of food requirements. That will not be realistic. With the pattern of agriculture that we have, with the type of soil that we have in various parts of the country, some are suitable for cash crops and others are suitable for food crops, but the country will have to be taken as a whole. And, therefore, I say that at every stage, on every important matter, the whole nation will have to be involved. We will have to arouse public consciousness to the fact that if there are certain surplus States, it does not mean that the residents of those States will be very well fed while the residents of other States will be starving. We will have to create that public consciousness and I agree with Dr. Gadgil that for that a public campaign will be necessary I appeal to the intelligentsia of the country that it is their duty. Let them arouse public consciousness. If the country is producing a given quantity of foodgrain, it should be our effort to see that it

is distributed equitably throughout the country, but that cannot be done only by governmental mechanism. We have tried various methods and there is no doubt that it has found very difficult to assess the production in any given State. Always there is dispute about the statistics. We will have to think of some independent authority which will give a forecast of the production figures of the State and which be acceptable both to the Centre and the State. I am going to undertake the job of setting up some agency which will go into the question of the statistics of production in various States. Having got the forecast, then we will have the conscience of the trading community so aroused that there will be no necessity of any procurement by any governmental agency, I am not prepared to do that or venture that yet. I am frank to the House. Therefore we will have to resort to some system of procurement. I am sure Bhupesh Gupta will appreciate it very much. So far as the method of procurement is concerned, I would leave it to the State Government concerned. Whether it is by a levy directly on the cultivator or whether it is from the miller or whether it is a combination of both, whatever be the method the State Government thinks that it will best suit the conditions of that State and is likely to succeed there, I will not come in the way. I would leave it entirely to the State Government. But I want to make it clear that I would like procurement to be done both in surplus and deficit States. Even in deficit pockets, there are surplus producers. Any cultivator knows that even in deficit areas there are surplus cultivators.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: question I want to ask him in this connection.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I so reasons why procurement should not be made from surplus cultivators.

Now, so far as the mechanism of procurement is concerned, I welcome this venture that is going to be undertaken in Bengal. Without any governmental agency, by arousing the conscience of the people and the cultivators if the leaders of public opinion can induce them to sell their surplus stock at reasonable prices, it will be a very good thing.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You know about the prices. You know from the note I have given you what the Bengal Government has told you, that prices should be raised, and that is not possible unless you financially accommodate them. It is very very essential.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I have that we should give a reasonable price to the cultivators, and that should be determined. If we feel that at that price it will be beyond the reach of the average consumer, the question of subsidising that will have to be considered. There are various mechanisms.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: The Bengal Government has said that the consumer price will not rise.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It will have to subsidise. Wherefrom that amount of subsidy will come is another matter. As I have said, so far as the consumer is concerned, he will have to be taken care of so that the prices, after paying to the cultivator, do not become quite beyond the reach of the average consumer. That will have to be taken care of. So the procurement question I leave entirely to the State Government. I leave it to them to devise suitable methods.

AN HON. MEMBER: It cannot be subsidised throughout.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: That will be for the State Government to consider. In that case, naturally they

will have to make them pay a certain price which will give a reasonable return to the cultivator and then they will have to find a solution

Having procured it, either by procurement internally or for the period we are in difficulty, by import, the question of distribution arises. There are various systems: statutory rationing, modified rationing, fair price shops, etc. We will have to see that during the process of procurement and distribution losses and wastages are avoided as far as possible and they are reduced to the minimum. That has to be done, whether they are wastages and losses in the pipeline or in storage places or in the fair price shops or in the ration shops by means which are not very desirable means. All these things will have to be tightened up and loopholes will have to be plugged. I do not mean to say that there are no wastages in storage. I will not claim that there is no leakage from the pipelines or even from the shops. But they will have to be plugged. I will not claim that we can totally eliminate that. Procurement has to be handled by man, and man continues as he is, hence a certain element of wastage will be there. But it should be the effort of those who are in charge also by association of public men—to see that these wastages and leakages and losses are reduced to the minimum.

Then there are wastages and losses and deteriorations even before they come to the storage. With the process of harvesting and the process of threshing as we have, any cultivator knows that there are losses, and various methods will have to be devised by which we can eliminate or reduce the losses at the time of harvesting, threshing, storage with the cultivator and storage with the traders.

The Food Corporation is just a beginning of the food trade coming to the public sector. Somebody has

[Shri Jagjivan Ram.] claimed that the amount of procurement by the Corporation has not been as much as in the previous case.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Very much below.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Perhaps I would like to inform the House that the Food Corporation function, if a State Government gives the authority as the agent of the State Government and under the authority and power delegated to them by the State Government they procure on behalf of the State Government for the State Government, and the stock procured is at the disposal of the State Government. It can be placed at the disposal of the Central Government only when the State Government so indicates. The Food Corporation is not supreme in the matter, and in case the procurement by the Food Corporation is less, it means that the authority given to it was not adequate for full play of their capacity. But the Food Corporation is a good beginning, and it has been a very encouraging beginning. They have not only procured, they have also made purchases in the open market in competition with others, and from the little that I have tried to see the functioning of the Corporation I can reasonably assure the House that the beginning is quite a good beginning. We are on the way to expanding the public sector in the wholesale procurement of food.

Bihar and U.P. have been very severely affected by drought.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why do you not declare them as famine area?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: I do not believe only in slogans. I believe in action, in execution.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Very good.

SHRI G. MURAHARI: (Uttar Pradesh): You are unable to execute. That is why you do not believe in that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: T:> declare them as famine area is not slogan. Certain, responsibility devolves on the Government to handle a particular tyay. You come under certain statutory obligation.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: If Mr. Bhupesh Gupta thinks he has enlightened me on that point. I will give him the satisfaction of that Bihar and the eastern part of U.P. are passing through difficult conditions.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Seven crores.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Crops having failed, both karif and rabi, sub-soil water level having receded, the problems not only of food but water and fodder have arisen, and I should be the endeavour of all concerned to meet the situation to the best of their ability. We are doing that, We are arranging to send as many rigs as possible for deepening wells, for digging new wells, for having tubewells. But during this short period it may not be possible to dig all the requisite number of wells, so arrangements for transporting water in certain difficult areas will have to be undertaken and plans for this have been made. The problem today in Bihar and eastern U.P. is, in the drought affected areas, to put some purchasing power in the hands of the people there. I attach the greatest importance to that—put some money in their hands and they will find something to eat.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Find employment for them.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Therefore I have repeatedly told the Bihar Government, the previous Government and the present Government, to go in on a large scale for hard manual work and light manual work both. Only hard manual work is not going

to meet the situation, because we can not forget the social conditions as they exist today; there are communities in our society who will not go to engage themselves in hard manual work; therefore some light work will have to be provided for them. Also we have some communities in Bihar for whom something will have to be provided in their homes so that they can earn something. I have read in the newspapers about alleged starvation deaths. It has been said that they had no employment and consequently they had no money. Very few complained that there was no foodgrain though there is need of augmenting food supply in those areas. The real difficulty is about putting some purchasing power into the hands of those people and then they will find something to eat. It may be that if it is available at the fair price shops, the price will be cheaper. If it is not available at the fair price shops, if there is no food-grain there, some eatable may be available, like the banana or it may be potato, it may be sweet potato, some edible which will be available. But the real difficulty today is that unless some purchasing power is put into the hands of the people in that area, their difficulty may not be met. It can be met in two or three ways—either by giving them hard manual work or by giving them light manual work or by giving—loan on a large scale, to the people in the affected areas depending upon the holding that they possess or as I have indicated earlier, revising the definition of credit-worthiness. And once that is done, I think we can avoid the possibility of starvation deaths. But the problem that has arisen in Bihar and Eastern U.P.'s colossal problem, they today stand in need of help and assistance from the whole nation, not only from the Government but from the social and non-official agencies. I want to pay a tribute to the various social service organisations engaged in rendering relief and succour to the drought-affected people of Bihar and Eastern U.P. They are doing praise-

worthy work but the field for service in those areas is unlimited. And I want to take this opportunity to appeal to my countrymen to contribute very liberally for the suffering humanity of the drought-affected areas of UP and Bihar?

Madam, I have taken enough time of the House. As I have said in the beginning, I do not propose to meet every point that has been raised. I just wanted to cover the broad aspects of the food question and the agricultural question. So far as the statistics and allotments of funds are concerned, they are available in the various publications and reports.

Again, I will emphasise—today we are faced with a difficult problem. The droughts have been unprecedented because of two successive years of monsoon failures. We require foodgrains. We have to supply to the deficit areas. And unless the surplus areas come to our assistance, our difficulties will increase. You will have to import food because the people of the deficit areas will have to be looked after by the joint endeavour of the Centre and the States. I will emphasise and repeat—whether they are the Congress Governments or the non-Congress Governments, in a matter like this the situation will be met only by the joint efforts of all concerned; only then we can meet the situation. And therefore, especially about these short-term crops, I will again appeal, that this is the only solution for the present year. Let all of us lead a very intensive campaign about these short-term crops.

Madam, I will again express my thanks to the Members of the House who have said kind words about me, who have given me words of encouragement. When I took over this portfolio, I approached it in a prayerful mood. With all the achievements of science and technology, agriculturists have for many years to come to depend upon the forces of nature. With all its advance, I doubt, Madam,

[Shri Jagjivan Ram.] whether science any day will be able to untravel the mystery of nature and control the forces of nature. So, I say that howsoever bold a person may be howsoever able he may be, unless he has the grace of god, he will not be able to solve the problem. I have to approach this problem with a prayer, and I require the help assistance, co-operation and good will of everybody.

Ours is a democratic and a party Government. The appointments of Ministers here are not made through the Public Service Commission. The appointments will naturally have to be on a political basis and I can not claim that I am not a political person. I am here not through the Public Service Commission. I hold a political appointment and I do not want to make a secret of it. Minister is a political entity and his is a political appointment.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Only he should not be an American . . .

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: The appointment is a political appointment. (*Interruptions*). He should be a realist and a practical man; he should be a competent combination of a politician and an administrator.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Minus American influence.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: And he should be a patriot looking to the interest of the country.

We have to look to the requirements of the people and in that, I seek the co-operation of everybody. To whatever party or to whatever political ideology he belongs, I shall make an appeal to him—do not treat food as a party question. Do not want to exploit the misery and hunger of the people for advancing your political purpose. That will be debasing . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You are spoiling your good speech. Do not

say all this. You have said all this before the election. Nobody is interested in exploitation.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: Therefore I say, do not make food a political question, do not try to exploit the misery and hunger of the people for advancing the political causes of certain parties and individuals. Treat it as a national problem.

Therefore I appeal for help and co-operation from everybody, from every social worker, from every youth of the country, to face this crisis. Therefore, I have said that I welcome suggestions; I welcome criticisms from informed circles and even from uninformed circles. Whatever will help me in evolving any method which will meet the situation will always be welcome.

Madam, I again express my thankfulness to the Members of the House for making useful suggestions and for saying encouraging words to me.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (राजस्थान):
मैं मंत्री महोदय को जो उन्होंने खाद्य स्थिति के बारे में स्पष्टीकरण देने का प्रयत्न किया है उसके लिए बधाई देता हूँ। उन्होंने आग्रह शार्ट टर्म क्राप्स के लिए किया है लेकिन जो आज़ कठिनाई है वह बीज उपलब्ध करने की है। क्या खाद्य मंत्री महोदय इस बीज की उपलब्धि के प्रश्न को केन्द्र की जिम्मेदारी के रूप में स्वीकार करने के लिए तैयार हैं या नहीं ?

श्री जगजीवन राम : मैं प्रयत्न करूंगा कि अधिक से अधिक इस मामले के लिए जोर डाल सकूँ।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : दूसरी चीज—जिसके सम्बन्ध में अभी तक नीति सफ़ट नहीं हुई है। क्या खाद्य मंत्री महोदय अन्न वितरण की समस्या को एक केन्द्रीय विषय बनाने के बारे में खाद्य मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में अपनी पूरी ताकत लगा कर स्वीकार करवाने का प्रयत्न करेंगे ?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Madam, may I ask. . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, you have spoken at length and made all points in the speech delivered by you.

(to *Shri Jagjivan Ram*), Have you anything to say about Mr. Bhandari's other point?

श्री जगजीवन राम : मैंने तो कहा कि सारी नीति मुख्य मंत्रियों से मिलकर निर्धारित करने का प्रयत्न करूंगा और उसमें वितरण का प्रश्न रहेगा ही और मुख्य प्रश्न रहेगा— ऐसा मान कर सदस्य महोदय को चलना चाहिए ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I shall put the amendment to vote.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: That is a non-controversial amendment.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing it or pressing it?

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: I am not withdrawing it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then I will put it to vote.

The question is:

"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 immediately in consultation with the State Government:—

(a) fair price shops should be opened in all the scarcity and famine affected areas to make available foodgrains at a fair price;

(b) the Centre should take responsibility for supplying foodgrains to the deficit States i

by pooling all their resources from all quarters;

(c) the States where rationing is obtaining should be assisted so that the States can meet the demand of those areas;

(d) liberal assistance, both financial and otherwise, should be given to worst-hit States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh so that they can carry on all relief operations including the opening up of avenues of employment through relief works and also can feed the children of affected areas;

(e) special attention should be given to the existing agro-based industries to run, to keep up the employment potential during these hard days of scarcity;

(f) to make the country self-sufficient and free it from dependence on other countries for food, the Fourth Plan should be reshaped giving top priority to irrigation, which is the only remedy against the vagaries of monsoon;

(g) greater attention should be given to high-yielding varieties of paddy, wheat and maize consistent with the soil and climatic condition of different regions;

(h) subsidized fertilisers and pesticides should be provided to the agriculturists until the country has turned the corner in the matter of food production;

(i) land reforms including fixing of ceiling and security to the actual tiller, should be immediately implemented everywhere;

(j) land revenue should be" abolished and be replaced by agricultural income-tax on the same principle as in general income-tax, for the purpose of giving incentive to the agriculturists;

(k) crop insurance measures particularly in foodgrains should be undertaken, without further delay;

[The Deputy Chairman.]

(l) food policy regarding food zones, procurement and remunerative price to the agriculturists should be annually announced long before actual harvesting starts, to give the agriculturists a sense of security and confidence.

(m) strong action should be taken against hoarers of food-grains;

(n) the foodgrains trade of the country should be nationalised forthwith to free the consumer and producer from the tentacles of traders;

(o) pricing policy should be so regulated that a balance is struck between the demands of the agriculturists for a higher remunerative price and also the purchasing power of the consumer;

(p) subsidised shops should be opened for suppressed sections of the society and also for fixed income groups such as industrial labour and poor Government servants;

(q) a phased programme for slashing down import of food-grains should be prepared and all steps be taken to adhere to it;

(r) the agricultural administrative machinery should be overhauled so that specific responsibility for production is allotted to the officers and their efficiency and promotion be judged on their performance;

(s) agricultural education should be reoriented to make it more purposeful and relevant to the actual field."

The motion was negatived.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We go on to the next item, the Calling Attention Notice. Mr. Niren Ghosh.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY U. K. GOVERNMENT TO SET UP MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IN CO- OPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the reported announcement by the U.K. Government of its decision to set up military bases in the Indian Ocean in Co-operation with the Government of the U.S.A.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): Sir, this subject was discussed in the Rajya Sabha on November 18 and in the Lok Sabha on November 23, 1965. The Deputy Minister made a statement in the Rajya Sabha while the then Foreign Minister made a statement in the Lok Sabha. We stand by the attitude taken by the Government of India on this question in those statements.

With reference to recent report on this question Government have made further enquiries. According to the British what is being done now is nothing more than what was contemplated before. According to them there is no idea of setting up military bases or stationing of foreign troops on these islands. They claim that the present proposal is no different from their previous proposal and the idea is to give only transit, staging and refuelling facilities to British and American military planes going to the Far East. They further claim that this is necessary in view of British commitments to Malaysia, Australia and Hong Kong and American commitments in the Far East. What the British Government are proposing to do now is to negotiate the purchase of three privately owned islands viz., Farquahar, Desreches and Aldabra in the Seychelles group and the Chagos Archipelago which belonged to Mauritius for the provision of transit and refuelling-cum-communication facilities.