

should come and make a statement clarifying the position about the status and scope of the Committee on Punjabi Suba.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :** I think the Prime Minister took the suggestion of the hon. Member. I think the Prime Minister replied.

**SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA :** The Prime Minister did not reply.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :** But a suggestion was made that it need not be discussed.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) :** I have no objection to the Home Minister coming.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :** That was replied to in the sense that it was not necessary to raise the issue in this House.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh) :** Madam, the question of whether the Committee on Punjabi Suba is a Parliamentary Committee or not cannot be decided at a meeting of leaders of different parties. It is for the Chair, for you and for the House to decide. I feel there is no relevance in the suggestion made by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta which was accepted.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :** I am jealous of Parliament's privileges and rights just as many matters are raised and brought here.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :** If that is the opinion of Members, let this be conveyed to the Government.

Mr. Vajpayee, you may move your motion.

## MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :** महोदया, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ कि :

“देश की खाद्य स्थिति पर विचार किया जाये।”

\*[“That the food situation in the country be taken into consideration.”]

महोदया, खाद्य स्थिति के सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने जो समीक्षा प्रकाशित की है उससे

\*[ ] English translation.

यह ज्ञात होता है कि खाद्य स्थिति अत्यंत गम्भीर है। अवर्षण के कारण अनेक राज्यों में फसल को गहरी क्षति पहुंची है। महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, राजस्थान, मध्य प्रदेश, मैसूर, आंध्र प्रदेश और उड़ीसा के कुछ भाग इस अवर्षण से सर्वाधिक प्रभावित हैं। संकट की गम्भीरता का अनुमान इस बात से भी लग सकता है कि इस समय 20 लाख व्यक्ति भिन्न-भिन्न राज्यों में राहत के कार्य पर लगे हैं। सरकारी अनुमान के अनुसार मार्च के महीने में यह संख्या 50 लाख तक हो जायेगी।

प्रश्न यह है कि देश में कितने अनाज की कमी है, क्या सरकार उसका कोई ठीक अनुमान लगा सकी है। कुछ क्षेत्रों में यह शिकायत की जाती है कि खाद्य मंत्री महोदय अनाज की कमी के अनुमान निरंतर बढ़ाते रहे हैं। समीक्षा के अनुसार कमी के आंकड़े 140 से 150 लाख मीट्रिक टन तक पहुंच सकते हैं। प्रश्न होता है कि क्या यह आंकड़े ठीक हैं। सभी इस बात को स्वीकार करेंगे कि आंकड़े एकत्र करने की सरकारी प्रणाली दोषपूर्ण है। यह भी कहा जाता है कि परिस्थिति को जितना गम्भीर बता कर पेश किया जाता है उतनी गम्भीर परिस्थिति नहीं है। पूछा जाता है कि अगर देश में सचमुच में अनाज की कमी है तो यह क्या कारण है कि कमी वाले क्षेत्रों में भी काले बाजार में अधिक दाम दे कर जितना अनाज प्राप्त करना चाहें कर सकते हैं।

महोदया, शायद सरकार भी इस प्रश्न पर एकमत नहीं है कि देश में कितने अनाज की कमी है। आज के ही समाचार-पत्रों में प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने लन्दन के सन्ध्याकालीन पत्र “स्टैंडर्ड” को जो भेट दी है उसका विवरण छपा हुआ है। प्रधान मंत्री महोदया का कहना है, मैं उन्हीं शब्दों को उद्धृत कर रहा हूँ : “भारत में अन्न की कमी उतनी अधिक नहीं है जितनी कमी उसके अच्छे ढंग से वितरण की है। फिलहाल देश में अनाज का समान वितरण नहीं हो पा रहा है।” उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि “देश में अनाज की

[ श्री अश्विनी बहारी वाजपेयी ]

कमी है लेकिन भुखमरी की हालत नहीं है। अनाज की कमी का खाता बहुत ही बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर खोवा गया है। सरकार जिस तरह से भिन्न-भिन्न देशों से वहां की सरकारों से, गैर-सरकारी संस्थाओं से, अनाज या दूध का पाउडर या अन्य उपयोग की वस्तुएं प्राप्त करने का प्रयत्न कर रही है उससे तो यह पता लगता है कि परिस्थिति भयावह है। स्पष्टतः इस बात के पक्के अनुमान लगाये जाने चाहिए कि सचमुच में कमी किन्ती है और फिर सोचा जाए उसे किस तरह से दूर किया जा सकता है।

महोदय, एक बात साफ है कि अन्न की कमी के सवाल को कानून या व्यवस्था का सवाल बना कर हल नहीं किया जा सकता। केरल में जो कुछ हुआ या पश्चिम बंगाल में जो कुछ हो रहा है या अन्य प्रान्तों में जो कुछ हो सकता है उससे एक बात साफ है कि यदि राज्य सरकारें लाठी या गोली से जनता के असंतोष को दबाने का प्रयत्न करेंगी तो उसके परिणाम अच्छे नहीं होंगे। देश में अनाज की कमी है, वितरण ठीक न होने के कारण कमी का प्रभाव और भी बढ़ गया है, लोगों में असंतोष है, अन्य प्रश्नों पर जो असंतोष है वह भी अपने निकलने के लिये मार्ग खोजना है, और अन्न की कमी लोगों के सामने आ जाती है और जब राज्य सरकारें दमन के तरीके अपनाती हैं तो समस्या सुलझने के बजाय और उलझ जाती है।

केरल की जनता को इस बात पर रोष होना स्वाभाविक था कि उसे मद्रास और आंध्र की तुलना में राशन में चावल की मात्रा कम दी जा रही है। वहां के भूतपूर्व राज्यपाल महोदय ने भी लोगों को केन्द्र के विरुद्ध उकसाया। यह बात अलग है कि जब लोग भड़क गये तो उन्होंने दमन की धमकी दी जिससे परिस्थिति और भी बिगड़ी।

अभी-अभी पश्चिम बंगाल में जो कुछ हुआ है बड़ा खेदजनक है। बगीरहाट में 16 तारीख को लोग एक स्मृतिपत्र पेश करने के लिये

अधिकारियों के पास जा रहे थे। यदि कोई अधिकारी स्मृतिपत्र ले लेता और सहानुभूति के साथ जनता की मांगों पर विचार करने का आश्वासन देता तो शायद परिस्थिति न बिगड़ती। लेकिन मुझे आश्चर्य है कि वहां जनता का स्मरण-पत्र लेने के लिये भी कोई अधिकारी नहीं था। राज्य सरकारें किस तरह से काम करती हैं यह इसका एक उदाहरण है। वहां के लोगों का कहना है कि पिछले तीन महीने से उन क्षेत्रों में चावल की कमी है। यह बात नहीं है कि चावल सरकारी गोदाम में नहीं है। लेकिन जो चावल सरकारी गोदाम में है वह जनता में वितरण के लिये नहीं लाया गया। चावल की कमी के साथ मिट्टी के तेल की कमी भी मिल गई। लोगों का उत्तेजित होना स्वाभाविक था, लेकिन अगर अधिकारी कुशलता से परिस्थिति पर काबू पाने का प्रयत्न करते तो दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण घटनाएं न होती। लेकिन लोगों की आवाज को दबाने के लिये वहां गोली चली और बशीरहाट में हुए गोली-कांड के विरोधस्वरूप दूसरे दिन स्वरूपनगर में विद्यार्थियों ने जलूस निकाला। वहां भी गोली चली और दस वर्ष का एक लड़का पुलिस की गोली का शिकार हो गया। उसका नाम था नूहल इमलाम। उसे स्कूल के मैदान में दफनाया गया तो स्कूल के हर्डमास्टर ने आखों में आसू भर कर कहा कि इस लड़के की कब्र पर हम एक "एपिटॉफ" लिखेंगे कि "यहां सोया हुआ है नूहल इमलाम जिसने मांगा था चावल और जिसको मिली गोली।" बड़ा दर्दनाक प्रसंग है यह। खाद्य मंत्री महोदय राज्य सरकारों को यह बात अच्छी तरह से समझाएं कि जब देश में अन्न का अभाव है और शासन सबको उचित मात्रा में पर्याप्त अनाज देने की स्थिति में नहीं है तो लोग अगर उन्नेजित होते हैं तो जरा कुशलता से, समझदारी से, काम ले। मेरा स्पष्ट मत है कि जब तक किसी अधिकारी के या पुलिस वाले के मारे जाने का खतरा न हो तब तक गोली नहीं चलनी चाहिये। थोड़े से पत्थर फेंके जायें और पुलिस गोली चला दे और गोली चलाने

का आदेश देने के लिये मैजिस्ट्रेट भी न हो, न्यायाधीश भी न हो तो फिर लोगों की भावनाओं को नियंत्रित करना कठिन होगा। हमें परिस्थिति का मुकाबला बड़ी सहानुभूति के साथ करने का यत्न करना चाहिये।

इस समय मुख्य समस्या अनाज के वितरण की है। देश में जितना अनाज प्राप्त है, जितना हम विदेशों से ला रहे हैं, क्या उसे ठीक तरह से बांटा जा रहा है? जब हम इस प्रश्न की चर्चा करते हैं तो हमारा ध्यान क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबंधों की ओर जाता है। जोनल रेस्ट्रिक्शन्स रहें या हट जायें, यह एक विवाद का विषय बन गया है। मैंने 21 फरवरी को एक सवाल किया था कि क्या सरकार जोन समाप्त करने के प्रश्न पर विचार कर रही है, तो मुझे जो उत्तर दिया गया वह इस प्रकार है :

"The necessity or otherwise of continuing the existing food zones is reviewed periodically in consultation with the Chief Ministers of the States. The date for the next review has not yet been fixed. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate at present when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken."

इसके बाद खाद्य मंत्री महोदय ने लोक सभा में बताया कि उन्होंने विशेषज्ञों की कमेटी बनाई है जो जल्दी ही अपनी रिपोर्ट देने वाली है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा, इसमें कौन-कौन से विशेषज्ञ हैं? क्या विशेषज्ञ खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्रालय से संबंधित हैं या कुछ स्वतंत्रवेता विशेषज्ञों के हाथ में यह सवाल सौंपा गया है। महोदय, मुझे आप क्षमा करें, विशेषज्ञ हमें हर तरह को राय देने वाले मिल सकते हैं। जैसे किसी मामले को लड़ने के लिये हर तरह के वकील मिल सकते हैं उसी तरह से किसी पक्ष को पुष्ट करने के लिये विशेषज्ञों की सम्मति ली जा सकती है। अगर विशेषज्ञ मंत्रालय से संबंधित हैं तो वे मंत्री महोदय का रुख देखकर रिपोर्ट देंगे, और मंत्री महोदय का रुख स्पष्ट है। वे क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबंध हटाने के पक्ष में नहीं हैं।

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : Then they are not experts.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मेरा अनुरोध है कि खाद्यान्न से संबंधित किसी भी प्रश्न पर हमें आइडियालाजी के आधार पर विचार नहीं करना चाहिये फिर वह आइडियालाजी वह विचारधारा चाहे सोशलिज्म की हो या मुक्त व्यापार की, लेसेज फेरी—*Laissezfaire*—की, स्वतंत्र पार्टी की विचारधारा हो। हम यदि विचारधारा के पूर्वग्रह से मुक्त होकर, यथार्थवादी दृष्टिकोण से, खाद्यान्न के प्रश्न पर विचार करेंगे तभी हम आज की परिस्थिति में उसे हल कर सकेंगे।

कभी-कभी कहा जाता है कि हमने देश में समाजवादी समाज रचना का संकल्प किया है, अब हम अनाज का व्यापार व्यक्तिगत हाथों में कैसे छोड़ सकते हैं। मेरी दृष्टि से यह सोचने का तरीका ठीक नहीं है। जापान में समाजवाद नहीं है मगर सरकार अनाज का राजकीय व्यापार कर रही है और सफलतापूर्वक कर रही है। प्रश्न किसी सिद्धांत का नहीं है, प्रश्न इस बात का है कि आज की परिस्थिति में व्यावहारिक क्या है। मंत्री महोदय क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबंधों का इस आधार पर समर्थन करते रहे हैं कि इससे अच्छा कोई विकल्प उनके सामने नहीं है। लेकिन क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबंधों के कारण जो बुराइयां पैदा हो रही हैं उन पर भी हमको गौर करना होगा। हमारे यहां दो तरह के राज्य बन गए हैं एक बचत वाले राज्य हैं, एक कमी वाले राज्य। दोनों के बीच में एक दीवार सी खड़ी हो रही है। बचत वाले राज्य कमी वाले राज्यों को अनाज देने के लिये तैयार नहीं हैं। मध्य प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री ने साफ कह दिया कि हम अपना अनाज बाहर नहीं जाने देंगे। आंध्र से, मद्रास से केरल में चावल भेजने में एक कठिनाई अनुभव हुई। यह ठीक है कि खाद्य मंत्री सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों को साथ लेकर चलने का प्रयत्न करते हैं। मगर मेरा निवेदन है, बचत वाले राज्यों में अपनी फसल अपने तक सीमित रखने की जो प्रवृत्ति पैदा हो रही है यह बड़ी घातक है। आज तो सभी राज्यों में

एक ही पार्टी का शासन है, कल अगर भिन्नभिन्न राज्यों में अलग-अलग दलों का शासन हुआ तो इस समस्या पर कैसे पार पाया जायेगा। मंत्री महोदय यह कह कर मुझे चुप करा सकते हैं कि निकट भविष्य में अन्य राज्यों में अन्य दलों की सरकारें बनने की कोई आशंका नहीं है। लेकिन दूरदर्शिता की मांग है कि हम समस्या के इस पहलू पर भी विचार करें। क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबन्धों के कारण कमी वाले क्षेत्रों में कृत्रिम अभाव पैदा होता है, मूल्यों में असाधारण वृद्धि होती है और उपभोक्ता गहरी कठिनाई में फँस जाता है। इसके विपरीत क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबन्धों के कारण बचत वाले राज्यों में किसान को उसके परिश्रम का पूरा मूल्य नहीं मिल पाता और वह गेहूँ, चावल की बजाय व्यावसायिक फसलें बोने की ओर आकृष्ट होता है।

महोदय, मैंने कुछ आकड़े इकट्ठे किये हैं जिससे पता चलता है कि पिछले कुछ वर्षों में गन्ना, जूट, तम्बाकू, इनका क्षेत्र बढ़ता जा रहा है। नेहरू जी ने एक बार कहा था कि हमारे देश में गन्ने और गल्ले में होड़ लगी है। ऐसा लगता है कि इस होड़ में गन्ना जीत गया है, गल्ला पिछड़ गया है। 1950-51 में गन्ना 42.17 लाख एकड़ में बोया जाता था और 1961-62 में यह क्षेत्रफल बढ़कर 59 लाख 45 हजार हो गया। तम्बाकू का क्षेत्रफल भी बढ़ रहा है। सन् 1950-51 में 1 करोड़ 11 लाख 6 हजार एकड़ भूमि में तम्बाकू बोया जाता था, जो बढ़कर 1 करोड़ 58 लाख 40 हजार एकड़ हो गया है। जूट में 14 लाख 11 हजार से बढ़कर 25 लाख 59 हजार एकड़ क्षेत्रफल हो गया है। पंजाब के किसानों को विशेषकर बड़े किसानों को जो अनाज रखने की क्षमता रखते हैं, इस समय शिकायत है कि उन्हें क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबन्ध के कारण अपनी फसल का पूरा मूल्य नहीं मिल रहा है। यह ठीक है कि अगर प्रतिबन्ध हटा दिये जाय तो व्यापारी मुनाफा कमाने की कोशिश करेंगे, मैं इस तथ्य की ओर से आखिरी मूदना नहीं चाहता हूँ। लेकिन आज, सरकार को तय करना है

कि बचत वाले क्षेत्रों में जिस अनाज का मंडने और जिस अनाज में घुन लगने की आशंका है, उसे कमी वाले क्षेत्रों में जाने दिया जायेगा या नहीं? यदि व्यापारी थोड़ा मुनाफा कमाते हैं तो कड़वी गोली की तरह से उसे निगलने के लिए तैयार रहना पड़ेगा। मेरे पास आकड़े हैं, उनसे पता लगता है कि पंजाब में इस समय 15 लाख मन गेहूँ, 40 लाख टन चना, 25 लाख मन मक्का और बाजरा बाजार में पड़ा हुआ है और बाहर जाने का रास्ता बंद है। जिन दामों पर सरकार खरीदना चाहती है उस दाम पर लोग बेचने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं। नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि यह अनाज बिगड़ रहा है। महोदय, मुझे आज सबसे कुछ चने दिये गये, ये चने पास हैं और मैं उन्हें टेबल पर नहीं रख सकता। इन चना में घुन लगा हुआ है। बड़ी बातों में पड़ा हुआ है। अब इस चने का क्या होगा?

यही स्थिति अन्य राज्यों में भी है। राजस्थान में भी चने की समस्या है। वहाँ पर 50 लाख मन चना, 10 लाख मन मक्का, 5 लाख मन जुआर पड़ी हुई है और उसे बाहर भेजने की छूट नहीं है। मध्य प्रदेश में 5 लाख मन चना पड़ा हुआ है। जब चने की नई फसल आने वाली है। गेहूँ की भी नई फसल आयेगी। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूँगा कि जो नई फसल आने वाली है, उसको ध्यान में रख कर आप इस प्रश्न पर विचार करें कि अनाज के लाने ले जाने पर जो प्रतिबन्ध लगा हुआ है, अन्तर्प्रान्तीय और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय प्रतिबन्ध उन प्रतिबन्धों को हटाया जाय तो क्या बुराई होगी?

हम यह दावा करते हैं कि हमारा देश एक है। आज प्रधान मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि देश में अगर कमी है तो मिलकर उसे बांटना चाहिये। बांटने से दुख कम होता है और वाटने से सुख बढ़ता है। लेकिन उचित बंटवारे की गत यह है कि हम देश के सभी भागों में अनाज के एक मूल्य निर्धारित करने का प्रयत्न करें लेकिन क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबन्धों के

कारण यह सम्भव नहीं है। मूल्यों में जमीन आममान का अन्तर बना हुआ है। जो गेहूं पंजाब में 56 रुपया प्रति क्विंटल बिकता है वह महाराष्ट्र में 150 रुपया प्रति क्विंटल बिक रहा है और मद्रास में 160 रुपया प्रति क्विंटल बिक रहा है। यही हाल चने का है। पंजाब में चना 54-55 रुपया प्रति क्विंटल बिक रहा है लेकिन बंगाल में 145 रुपया प्रति क्विंटल बिक रहा है। मध्य प्रदेश में चना 50 रुपया प्रति क्विंटल बिक रहा है लेकिन केरल में 150 रु० और मद्रास में भी 150 रु० प्रति क्विंटल बिक रहा है। जब दामों में इतना बड़ा अन्तर होता है तब अनाज के चोरी-छिपे लाने ले जाने की प्रवृत्ति को प्रोत्साहन मिलता है। कभी रात में उत्तर प्रदेश और पंजाब की सीमा पर या पंजाब दिल्ली की सीमा पर खड़े हो जाएँ तो हमें चोरी छिपे अनाज लाने ले जाने के दृश्य दिखाई देंगे इस तरह से कर्मचारियों में भ्रष्टाचार करने का लोभ जागता है और हम उन्हें परिस्थितियाँ देते हैं, मौका देते हैं कि एक ट्रक पर 250 रु० लेकर ट्रक को जाने दें। 5 मीटर ले जाने वाले को पकड़ लेते हैं। लेकिन ट्रक के ट्रक निकल जाते हैं क्योंकि चैक पोस्ट पर लगे मिपाही और कर्मचारी वहती गंगा में हाथ धोना चाहते हैं और क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबंध लगाकर हम इस गंगा को हर एक प्रदेश के किनारे पर वहाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

यह बात भी साफ है कि क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबंध से पहले अनाज के भाव कम थे और क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबंध के बाद भाव बढ़ गये। सूखे के कारण जो परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है, उसका विचार हम भी न करें, तो भी प्रतिबंधों के परिणाम-स्वरूप भावों में वृद्धि हुई है, इससे इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता है।

एक बड़ी विचित्र बात यह है कि इस संकट-काल में व्यापारी तो मुनाफा कमाई की कोशिश कर ही रहे हैं, लेकिन सरकारें, विशेषकर राज्य सरकारें भी मुनाफा कमाने पर लगी हुई हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में ये आंकड़े आये होंगे कि बचन वाले क्षेत्र अपना

अनाज बाहर नहीं जाने देना चाहते हैं और अगर अनाज बाहर जाने की छूट देते हैं तो उस पर अनुचित मुनाफाखोरी करते हैं। वह अपना खर्चा निकालें, इस पर मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं होगी। सरकारी स्तर पर अनाज जाए, मैं इसका भी विरोधी नहीं हूँ यदि व्यावहारिक दृष्टि से उसे सफल किया जा सके। लेकिन सरकार को कोई दाम की नीति तय करनी होगी। हम आज की स्थिति में अनाज के मामले में सरकार को अनापशनाप मुनाफा कमाने की छूट नहीं दे सकते हैं। लेकिन ऐसा लगता है कि राज्य सरकारें किसी के अंकुश में नहीं हैं और निरंकुश हो गई हैं। मैं एक उदाहरण रखना चाहता हूँ चने का। पंजाब 58 रु० क्विंटल चना महाराष्ट्र को देता है और वहाँ पर वह चना 100 रु० प्रति क्विंटल बेचा जाता है। पंजाब से चना गुजरात को 54 रु० प्रति क्विंटल गया और उसको वहाँ पर 80 रु० क्विंटल बेचा गया। इसी तरह पंजाब से चना मद्रास को 65 रु० क्विंटल गया और वहाँ पर 128 रु० क्विंटल बिका। गुलाबी चना मध्य प्रदेश से महाराष्ट्र को 90 रु० क्विंटल गया और वहाँ पर 170 रु० क्विंटल बिका। इसी तरह से राजस्थान अपने क्षेत्र में मुनाफा कमा रहा है। राजस्थान सरकार ने मक्का 40 रु० क्विंटल के भाव से खरीदी और बिहार को 71 रु० क्विंटल के हिसाब से बेचा। महाराष्ट्र की सरकार ने चावल 100 रु० प्रति क्विंटल के हिसाब से बेचा जबकि चावल का थोक भाव 75 रु० से लेकर 90 रु० प्रति क्विंटल तक था। कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटियों के नाम पर मुनाफे की अनुचित छूट दी जा रही है। राजस्थान सरकार कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटियों को चना बेचती है, लेकिन प्रति क्विंटल 9 रु० मुनाफा कमाती है। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार तो सबसे बाजी ले गई। उसने अपेक्स मार्केटिंग सोसाइटी को अपने राज्य का गुलाबी चना खरीदने और बेचने का एकाधिकार दे दिया है। अपेक्स मार्केटिंग सोसाइटी के अलावा मध्य प्रदेश में कोई चना न खरीद सकता है और न

बाहर भेज सकता है। एक मंत्री महोदय ने मध्य प्रदेश की विधान सभा में बताया है कि अपेक्स मार्केटिंग सोसाइटी 95 रु० प्रति क्विंटल के हिसाब से गुलाबी चना खरीदती है और बम्बई के किसी आल इंडिया फेडरेशन को 130 रु० से लेकर 150 रु० प्रति क्विंटल की दर से बेचती है। 95 रु० की खरीद, 150 रु० की बिक्री, एक क्विंटल के ऊपर 60 रु० से ज्यादा मुनाफा, वह भी अनाज में और आज की संकट पूर्ण स्थिति में। क्या राज्य सरकारों को सीधी राह पर नहीं लाया जा सकता? मध्य प्रदेश में चना बाहर भेजने की इजाजत केवल कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटियों को है, मगर हर जिले में कोआपरेटिव सोसाइटियां नहीं हैं। जो सोसाइटियां हैं वे मुट्ठी भर लोगों के हाथ में हैं। वे किस तरह से चलती हैं इसका उदाहरण हम दिल्ली में देख चुके हैं। राजस्थान में सरकार ने लोगों से वादा किया था कि अगर 40 रु० 50 प० क्विंटल के हिसाब से चना सरकार को बेचा जाय, तो जितना चना सरकार को बेचा जायेगा, उतने चने की मात्रा राज्य से बाहर भेजने की छूट दी जायेगी। लेकिन बाद में यह छूट वापस ले ली गई और राज्य सरकार अपने वादे से मुकर गई।

3 P.M.

खाद्यान्न की दृष्टि से अलग-अलग प्रांतों की दीवारें ही नहीं खड़ी हैं। एक-एक प्रांत में भी दीवारें खड़ी कर दी गई हैं जिसका परिणाम यह है कि कमी वाले क्षेत्र अलग पड़ गये हैं, बचत वाले क्षेत्र अलग पड़ गये हैं। राजस्थान में मक्का कहीं 40 रु० प्रति क्विंटल बिक रही है, कहीं 65 रु० प्रति क्विंटल बिक रही है। ज्वार का भाव कहीं 42 रु० प्रति क्विंटल है, दूसरी ओर 62 रु० प्रति क्विंटल। मेरा निवेदन है कि नई फसल को देखते हुये इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबन्धों को हटाने के सम्बन्ध में निर्णय किया जाय। विशेषज्ञों के भरोसे मंत्री महोदय न बैठें। "कामन सेस" से काम ले। कुछ खतरा जरूर है लेकिन खतरा

मौल लेने का साहस दिखाना होगा। समस्या केवल अन्न के अभाव की नहीं है। समस्या मनोवैज्ञानिक भी है जिसको हल करने के लिये क्षेत्रीय प्रतिबन्धों को हटाना बहुत कुछ कारगर साबित होगा।

महोदय, मेरा निवेदन है कि संविधान में संशोधन किया जाय जिसके द्वारा राज्यों के जिम्मे अनाज का उत्पादन बढ़ाने का काम सौंपा जाय। अनाज की वसूली और अनाज का वितरण केन्द्रीय सरकार को अपने हाथ में ले लेना चाहिये। इसके लिये संविधान में संशोधन जरूरी होगा। मंत्री महोदय यह आशंका प्रकट कर सकते हैं कि राज्य सरकारें ऐसा संशोधन करने की स्वीकृति नहीं दे सकती, लेकिन देश के व्यापक हितों में और दूरदर्शिता के आधार पर आज इस तरह का निर्णय लिया जाना जरूरी है। निकट भविष्य में अनाज की समस्या हल होने के आसार नहीं हैं। लेकिन अलग-अलग राज्य सरकारें अलग-अलग नीतियां अपना कर इस प्रश्न पर देश की शांति और व्यवस्था को संकट में न डालें, इसके लिये केन्द्र के हाथ में अंतिम अधिकार होना चाहिये। मैं कह चुका हूँ कि आज जब एक ही दल की सब जगह सरकार है तब यह स्थिति है। भविष्य में यह स्थिति बदल सकती है। उसका निराकरण करने के लिए भी संविधान में संशोधन करके उत्पादन का भार राज्यों पर डाल देना चाहिये और प्रोक्योरमेंट और डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन का भार केन्द्र को ले लेना चाहिए।

खाद्यान्न क्षेत्र समाप्त कर दिये जाय और अनाज लाने ले जाने पर लगे सभी प्रतिबन्ध हटा लिये जायें। फूड कारपोरेशन की शाखाएं सभी राज्यों में कायम की जायें। उसको रुपये की जरूरत है। बल मंने समाचार-पत्र में पढ़ा कि आन्ध्र में लोंग चावल बेचने के लिये तैयार है, लेकिन फूड कारपोरेशन के पास रुपया नहीं है। 300 करोड़ रुपये की आवश्यकता है। केन्द्रीय सरकार को फूड कारपोरेशन की रुपये की आवश्यकता पूरी

करनी चाहिये जिससे बचत वाले क्षेत्रों में बड़ी मात्रा में अनाज खरीद सके और अनाज के उचित वितरण की व्यवस्था कर सकें।

बड़े शहरों में दृढ़तापूर्वक राशन लागू किया जाय। जो राज्य सरकारें इसके लिये तैयार नहीं हैं उन्हें विवश किया जाय। छोटे किसानों के लिये, खेतिहर मजदूरों के लिये बाहर से जो गेहूँ आता है उसके उचित मात्रा में बांटने की व्यवस्था की जाय।

दूरगामी दृष्टि से पांच वर्ष के भीतर अन्न के सवाल पर देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने का संकल्प लिया जाय और उसके लिये ठोस तथा प्रभावी उपाय अपनाये जायें। खेती का योग्य रामस्त्र पड़ती भूमि को, चाहे वह सरकार के कब्जे में हो अथवा स्थानीय निकायों के, जोता जाय। वनों की खेती योग्य भूमि हल के नीचे लाई जाय। अभी कुल 49.23 मिलियन एकड़ भूमि ऐसी है जो खेती योग्य है, लेकिन उस पर खेती नहीं होती। बड़े पैमाने पर वहाँ खेती का प्रबन्ध किया जाय।

भूमि सुधार तथा अधिकतम जोत के कानून दृढ़ता के साथ लागू किये जायें। किसानों पर नये टैक्स न लगाये जायें। बड़े हुये अभिसार वापस ले लिये जाय। सिंचाई की दरें ऐसी हो जिससे किसान सिंचाई की सुविधा का उपयोग कर सकें। अनार्थिक जोतें कर मुक्त करने के प्रश्न पर गंभीरता से विचार किया जाय।

अन्न संकट गंभीर है। हम चाहते हैं कि यह समस्या सबके सहयोग से सुलझा जाय। शासन सबका सहयोग प्राप्त करने की बात तो करता है किन्तु इस दिशा में ठोस कदम नहीं उठाता। यदि केन्द्र से लेकर जिला स्तर तक सर्वदलीय समितियाँ बनें, लोगों के रोष को, क्रोध को ठीक तरह से शांत करने के उपाय ढूँढ़ जायें तो परिस्थिति गंभीर होने लगे भी उस पर विजय प्राप्त की जा सकती है। लेकिन जायद वर्तमान शासन से इतनी दूरदर्शिता, दृढ़ता और बुद्धिमत्ता की आशा करना दुराशा मात्र है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपना प्रस्ताव पेश करता हूँ।

*The question was proposed*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are 15 amendments. Twelve amendments are in the name of Mr. V. M. Chordia, and three amendments in the name of Mr. Abdul Ghami. But Mr. Abdul Ghami is not here. Mr Chordia may move his amendments now.

SHRI V. M. CHORDIA (Madhya Pradesh). Madam, I beg to move :

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

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the whole of India should be treated as a single unit for food distribution and supply and all the food zones should be abolished."

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

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that arrangements should be made to make foodgrains available at reasonable prices in those areas where State Government's have arbitrarily procured foodgrains from the farmers in the name of levy and monopoly purchase."

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

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the importance of irrigation schemes should be realised and top priority should be given to them in order to make India self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains."

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

"and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that Government should give up the policy of making huge profits on fertilizers and that, instead, make available to the farmers fertilizers at subsidised low prices."

[Shri V. M. Chordia]

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that corruption and favouritism and, in particular, the lassitude prevailing in the agricultural research institutes should be removed and they should be made more efficient and useful'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the support price proposed by Government should be determined after taking into consideration the income and expenditure relating to the production from marginal land, and the prices should be so fixed as not to attract the farmers to produce other commercial crops'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that steps should be taken for devising and manufacturing machinery necessary for agricultural purposes in small fields'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the recovery from the farmers of minimum monthly charges for electricity used for pumping sets should be stopped, and arrangements should be made for the recovery of only the actual expenses'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the manufacture of pumping sets required for irrigation purposes should be encouraged'."

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

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

ments should be made to provide to farmers power connections for running electric pumping sets'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that concrete steps should be taken to relieving the farmer from mental worries and indebtedness'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the Ministries of Agriculture in the States should be under the direct charge of Chief Ministers or Senior Ministers'."

*The questions were proposed.*

SHRI ANAND CHAND (Bihar) : Madam Deputy Chairman, the Motion was one for consideration of the food situation in the country, but my hon. friend has taken most of the time in emphasising the difficulties or the shortfalls which in his opinion, the country and the cultivators are facing because of the promulgation of Single State Food Zones. I should have thought that in a discussion of this kind he would have brought the whole policy of food production, distribution and imports into the orbit of this discussion so that the House would have had the chance to debate the problem as a whole. Anyway, since he has chosen only to point out certain defects which, according to him, are standing in the way of distribution, I would try, within the limited time at my disposal, to put before the House the other side of the picture.

Shri Vajpayee has been at pains to explain that, in his view, there is no paucity of foodgrains as such in the country, but there is maldistribution.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I quoted the Prime Minister. I did not say anything like that.

SHRI ANAND CHAND : That was the impression that I at least got.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : A wrong impression.



**SHRI ANAND CHAND :** In my opinion it is not so. We are facing a serious shortage of food in this country. The question is not one of only distribution. The question is also one of increased production. The figures that have been given in 'the Review of the Food Situation' from which he quoted, make it absolutely clear that the food deficit last year was to the extent of about 7 million tonnes. And this year it is going to rise to the tune of 12 to 14 million tonnes. Now, Madam Deputy Chairman, although from the chart of distribution one can say that the average per capita availability of food might be about 13 ounces, which is supposed to be the basic minimum under these circumstances, we must not forget but we must always bear in mind this factor, that in India unlike in other countries, we have not got supplementary foods like eggs and milk, to supplement these cereals. Therefore, the intake of 13 ounces which at the present moment is the food supplied to us, is not enough in this country without the subsidiary foods being available at cheap and economic rates, to keep the body moving or to produce the calories that go into working the human body for 24 hours.

Shri Vajpayee has been at pains to explain, and I myself had some doubts which I expressed the other day when speaking on the motion of Thanks to the President's Address, that with the food zones as they are now, where practically every State is cordoned off into one food zone, there is restriction on the movement of foodgrains from one State to another and that we are not, in my opinion, adopting a national policy so far as food is concerned. That was my view, and that remains so, to a certain extent. But when we look, at it in the present context of things we must not forget, what would be the result if the food zones were abolished altogether and immediately. One effect, to my mind, would be increase of prices all round. Shri Vajpayee was at pains to explain that prices would fall or tend to fall, because in certain areas at the present moment food is available, foodgrains are available. He said gram gr was available in Punjab, that it was surplus, but they were not selling it because they want higher rates. On the other hand he says if the movement of

foodgrains is made free in the country and if it is in the hands of the private trade then the prices of foodgrains would fall. These two things are not complementary to each other. If today there is hoarding because they want higher prices then if the food zones are removed tomorrow, then there will be profiteering on a large scale. The prices will not go down. My hon. friend also made the point that so far as some particular areas are concerned, the availability of foodgrains is there, but the purchase machinery is not there. I may respectfully point out that there is this purchase machinery in the States. There is also this Corporation which has been established by the Centre. But at the present moment paucity of foodgrains is there. In the end he very rightly pointed out that he wanted distribution plus the purchase of foodgrains in this country and that the matter should be taken over by the Union Government. So far so good. But this poses two very important problems. One is the problem of finance and the other is the administrative problem. Wherefrom is the centre to produce the tremendous finance that would be required if you want the foodgrains in each of the surplus States and in each surplus area, to be procured and sold by the Union Government? Secondly, is there going to be a duplicate machinery of administration so that this procurement may be effected in each State? Agriculture is—and rightly so—today a State subject. In this direction the Centre or the Union Government has to work with the utmost cooperation of the States and this can only be done if there is harmony and not disharmony between the Food and Agriculture Ministry at the Centre and the Ministries in the States. Therefore, to a very large extent, we have to depend upon the administrative machinery which is at present functioning in the States so far as procurement and distribution of foodgrains are concerned. Of course, the movement of foodgrains from one area to another is there. Those areas which are happily today surplus in foodgrains are sending their foodgrains to the deficit areas. When there was scarcity of rice in Kerala, the adjacent States in the Southern zone came to its aid and rice was moved. There is no question of this not being done. The position is this. If these food zones are abolished all at once, then it will be just loosening the flood-

[Shri Anand Chand]

gates and the prices will go up all round and there will be no stopping them.

Madam Deputy Chairman, with your permission I will mention certain points which my hon. friend did not mention but which I think are pertinent to the debate which is now going on in this House. It is true that food production in this country has not been up to what it was anticipated. The First Plan had a certain target. The Second Plan had a certain target and the Third Plan, of course, has a target which is higher than that of the Second Plan. We must remember that when we mention these targets that are there in our Plans, the targets that are mentioned are the potential targets. In other words, when we state that by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan, the potential target would be something like 92 or 95 million tonnes, it did not mean that 95 million tonnes would be produced in the country. The potential target meant that given all the facilities in the matter of manures, in the matter of seeds and in the matter of human effort, it would be possible to produce 95 million tonnes at the end of the Third Five Year Plan. And along with those important incumbents that I have mentioned there is one more very necessary incumbent, namely timely rains in the country. The monsoon in India has always been erratic. Last year, of course it had been more erratic than in any year perhaps in living memory. It has always been erratic and it is to supplement that deficiency that the Union Government and the State Governments under these Five Year Plans have launched upon large-scale, major, medium and minor irrigations. In certain fields, of course, we have met with success. Take for instance minor irrigation. In the First Five Year Plan the target was 11.2 million acres, and the actual achievement was somewhere in the tune of 9 million acres. In the Second Plan the target was 9 million acres and it was achieved fully. In the Third Five Year Plan the target for minor irrigation is 12.8 million acres and the achievements are expected to come to round about 13.1 million acres. So, we cannot just say off-hand that nothing has been done so far as this particular problem is concerned. Let us see where then these shortfalls lie, why we have not been able to achieve the

approximate potential which we aimed at. If we go into the question a little more deeply, we will find that it has really been the fertilisers, which have brought us down, which have brought down the production of food in this country. Madam, regarding fertilisers the question can be asked, when it was estimated that the planned capacity would be something like six lakh tonnes, why has production been only to the extent of four lakh tonnes? There again, it is a question of continuing the process. I think we forget that in this or any planning, when we put in a certain date, when we put in certain finances, there are certain other aspects also to be considered. Take, for example, electricity. When we say that a particular project is going to yield two million Kw. of electricity, it does not follow that it is produced in that particular year. Sometimes it is achieved in another year following or in the following years, or the following couple of years but the yield is achieved fully and certainly. In the same way, in respect of fertilisers, when the capacity was aimed at six lakh tonnes the idea was that it would be produced purely by State enterprise. It could not be done and the private sector also did not take this up because the profit was not much. That is the reason why now the private sector has been introduced into the question of production of fertilisers. I know there has been a lot of criticism about it. The Prime Minister today answers it and she said that to a certain extent it might be cheaper for people from outside coming and putting up this thing. It is a healthy thing also because if Government by itself is not able to produce then at least if a factory situated here produces fertilisers in this country, we will not have to drain away our meagre foreign exchange resources to import these fertilisers from outside, an import which is a big drain on our economy. So, I hope that in the days that lie ahead, in the years that lie ahead this lag will be made up and with increased fertiliser production, the production of food per acre will rise. This is the only way in which we can meet the present food crisis in the country.

One word more before I resume my seat. There is a programme for the installation of wells, I believe something like a hundred thousand wells electrically operated

are going to be put up, which would irrigate another three million acres. There is a problem before the Government for the revival of the Krishak Samaj, the Cultivator's Forum that were in existence. I know that they have been dormant in certain areas. It was a good idea but it was allowed to remain dormant. I hope the Food Minister will take more interest in it now that he is closely associated with it to revive it. There is the problem of the Young Farmer's Association which, I believe will be able to help and then there is the idea of the Tonnage Clubs where every farmer who is able to produce a certain amount of foodgrains per acre which exceeds a certain tonnage can become a member thereby developing discourse and intercourse between each other and pool the knowledge in this particular respect. This would help production to a large extent. All these things will, of course, take time. The basic question is: time being short what has to be done to meet the deficit which we are facing? I think the Government could not have done otherwise than what it has done, one, it has to emphasise greater production per acre and two, take in imports from wherever they are available. It is not a question of begging, as the Prime Minister said. This is a question of bare necessity, this is a question of interdependence. Therefore, I hope that in the times to come we will solve the problem to the satisfaction of the people of India.

Thank you.

**SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL** (Gujarat): Madam, I think the House will be grateful to our friend, Shri Vajpayee, for focussing the attention of the House and of this country on this problem. In fact, this is a problem which has been with us ever since independence. One wonders why this country which, before partition, in the British Empire used to feed the Empire, was the granary of the Empire, has become a country that should beg for food every time. This is the achievement after eighteen years. Even the late Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, warned the country more than once and his planners that if we failed on the food front, our Plans would be nowhere. It seems his warnings were not heeded to or sufficient attention was not

paid to the warnings. And, why? There is distinctly a section of opinion, more than, a section a class, which has developed a vested interest in controls. They want controls over everything. Even though this policy of controls has been tried and has been given up because of its failure, whenever there is a shortage, failure of rains, they want controls imposed again. A vested interest has developed for this type of controls, whether it is a control on sale or zonal restriction or anything. My hon. friend, Mr. Vajpayee, rightly pointed out the greed of the State Governments to make money from another State Government, the greed of a State which takes advantage of the circumstances of a deficit State and charges more. This can only happen when we have these restrictions, zonal restrictions as well as restrictions on sale and purchase. The Government machinery is always slow and faulty. We were hoping that the Food Minister, after he took charge, after he had talked with the Party Leaders, I think it was in July or so last year, would bring in a new outlook and would tackle the problem with a little more imagination and in a new way. Unfortunately, his task has been made more difficult because of the drought that we are suffering from but is it only drought? Is the Food Minister not a prisoner of his ideas, of a machinery, of a doctrine and of people who want to follow such doctrines, because of which he is not able to change the situation? Looking at the papers, Madam, one feels very sorry. The other day I was looking at a paper while I was going to Madras in the plane I was given "The Free Press Journal" and there is a small news item there. One should be grateful to the countries that have come forward to help us but what about us, what are we doing when we have come to this stage, when we are begging in this condition before the whole world? Italy's National Television and individual newspapers have collected about 6,000 lire, that is Rs. 4.7 crores of rupees, to help India solve her food problem. The independent news paper "La Stampa" said that it had sent three plane loads of food to India and twelve more would follow. From the Vatican City, His Holiness the Pope will on Sunday send twenty-two lorries destined for India with food supplies. We are grateful to His Holiness in that he has come forward in the time of our need to

help us but where does it put our country? From Oslo, Norway, to-day the news item says that Oslo has decided to grant 2.5 million kroner, that is about Rs. 1,700,000 worth immediately of famine relief to India. This is a Government announcement.

Where are we? We are like beggars standing before the whole world.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN (Andhra Pradesh): Shame.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Mysore): Not at all.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Very good; you go in for it.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: This is the beginning. The whole world is doing it. It makes us feel ashamed that we are unable to manage our affairs properly and why? Have not other countries managed their affairs properly? Have not other countries improved their agriculture? Have not countries which had a backward agriculture become the most productive and have they not started earning foreign exchange out of their export of rice, out of their export of food? Why don't we learn from them Madam? It is this obstinacy that is coming in the way and I was hoping that the new Food Minister would be able to give a new look to this situation and change. We may perhaps have a little more patience and sympathy with him to help him to tide over the difficulty but the patience of the people cannot be tried indefinitely. The Food Minister and the Congress Government had better remember that the French Revolution came out of a situation of starvation of the poor people. There was wine flowing, there was food flowing, there were dances, there were poets and writers, in Paris. Paris was very affluent but when the people did not have food, came the French Revolution. So this Government had better take a lesson. This morning we had the Prime Minister's speech and all that we got was this:

हां जो, हम यह जानते हैं, हमें पहले भी कहा गया है। अगर जानते हैं और पहले भी कहा गया तो आप बात सुनेंगे नहीं तो लोग अपना इलाज कर लेंगे।

Madam, this country has been bled white in taxation for building river valley projects. How many of them are producing what they were supposed to? Are they

giving us enough water and irrigation? And it is the greed of the State Ministers to collect heavy water charges that comes in the way of agriculturists. All this should be scrapped. The agriculturists, the small agriculturists should be given encouragement. He should be given advice because the bulk of our agriculturists is not sufficiently literate. I hear sometimes in the evening the radio giving hints as to what to do. I do not know how many of the poor agriculturists ever listen, whether they have the radio and whether they have the time to listen. I know the Congress election machinery is being spread all over to the villages and at the time when the agriculturists are at home their propaganda is spread through the radio and at the time when the poor agriculturists are in the field this sort of hints to the agriculturists are being sent. Who hears it and how does it help the poor agriculturists? It does not because the basic idea is not to help the agriculturist.

Madam, this morning there was my calling attention notice about the Narmada Valley project, and how the Minister dodged the question. We will be patient with the new Minister; perhaps he has not found his feet. But why was Dr. K. L. Rao hiding behind when he has been in the know of things? Two years ago he came to Gujarat to meet the Chief Minister. At that time Dr. Jivraj Mehta was in charge. He met the members of the legislature and he assured us that the Narmada scheme will be taken in hand early. It was at that time that I pointed out to him that just before the first elections the Government of India promised Gujarat the Tapti scheme and before the second election the Mahi project. And both of them are still hanging fire, undone and incomplete. Now that the next election is ahead they have come up with this Narmada scheme. Madam, the Narmada scheme has a history behind it and few Members would know it. A retired engineer of the Central Provinces Government under the British regime—Mr. Wadia, I think was his name—had prepared a scheme. He went round from door to door to everyone of the new Congress Ministers after the new Congress Government was formed and explained to them that this was the one scheme that could give an immediate return and the largest benefits to this country not only for agriculture but

also for development. The Narmada river would become navigable right up to Jabulpore. You will get a quantity of electric power that you will not be able to use for years; you will get enough power to develop the aluminium resources in the valley and what not. But the Congress Ministers would not look at it. The matter was bungled and the scheme was put into the cold storage because each one of the Provincial Governments wanted their own pet schemes and not one benefiting everybody. Here Dr. K. L. Rao is faced with the same problem. Every State wants to put a spoke in the wheel and some of them—I am sorry to say—like the dog in the manger. The Maharashtra Government has the least land to lose in this Narmada scheme; yet they must also put a spoke in the wheel apart from Madhya Pradesh which loses a large amount of agricultural land. This is a matter that can be settled with Gujarat. If one State loses a couple of acres of good agricultural land, the river valley project gives you lakhs and lakhs of additional acres for cultivation. What is the Central Government doing? Will they just go on sitting idly and watching the situation? At this rate they will never be able to solve the food problem. It is necessary that the matter should be pursued with a new spirit and schemes of this type which will give us more food quickly should be taken in hand and implemented fast. The many schemes that have been hanging half done should be completed. Instead of planning more and trying to put in more money in new schemes, if the schemes that are already in hand are completed, Madam, there will be great relief in the matter of food production.

It is quite true, Madam, that encroachment has been made on the land available for food production by cash crops but there is plenty of land in this country yet, even with all this development. In Bihar, there is plenty of land. On some of the rivers I know of enterprising farmers who have gone and settled on land because there the rule is, a man who is able to show that he has been cultivating the land for two years and paying revenue becomes the owner. After the abolition of the zamindari this rule has been put in; only the people do not know it sufficiently. If a thing like this was known to the people, if the refugees or people who are displaced

from elsewhere were told of this, I am sure that lots of people would go and settle down there because a large portion of the land there is on the rivers where water comes from the Himalayas and water is available all the time. Does our Government try to do anything about it? Has the Government tried to attract people, agriculturists, to go and settle down there and grow food? At one time there was a talk that the food portfolio of the States should be held by the Chief Ministers. But the Chief Ministers are interested in much more power, in much more manoeuvring and having a say in all matters and telling Members of Parliament of their States where they should vote and where they should not, whether they would be given tickets next time or not, and how they should behave instead of concentrating their attention on the production of good. That is the reason why we are going down every day. Madam, it is a sad story that so many years after freedom the State Governments have to resort to firing on people who are asking for food, that a little boy should lose his life because he was in a crowd that was asking for food. That shows the extent to which the callousness of this Government goes. There can be no defence for this callousness. It is utter incompetence, utter neglect and indifference to the needs of the people. As long as they get the vote every five years, they do not care.

That is the attitude of the Government and that is what needs to be changed. While I personally would like free enterprise to flourish, a free peasant to flourish, I would not be opposed to the Government directing a peasant, telling him what to do, if he is told efficiently, if he is told what to do in time. That would help us to solve our food problem. But we have not got an efficient machinery to educate the farmer. We blindly copied an idea of giving land to the tiller. After having given him land, the poor peasant does not know what to do. So, he produces what he can, even though he could produce much more from the same piece of land if he was told how to do it, if he was told what to do and when, if better seed was available and if fertilisers were available. This is what the Government should do. It is doing very badly in all these respects and that is why we have this situation when, after so many

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years of freedom, we have to use bullets on our people who ask for food, when we have to go with a begging bowl all over the world. India is the biggest beggar in the world. Everything you want. So far it was only money. From this year it is begging for food. What a shame to the country?

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Madam Deputy Chairman, I heard with great earnestness the two great speeches made from that side of the House on the food problem of the country. They also admit that this is a very grave crisis so far as the food problem in this country is concerned. We are facing a mighty crisis and how to get over the crisis ought to have been the approach of our two friends, instead of capitalising on the situation for political purposes.

Now, my good friend, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, for whose birth and blood I have got great respect but not for any of his politics, has been proclaiming from this House that India has been reduced to a state of beggary so far as food is concerned. India, he says, is the biggest beggar for food. And he was also pointing out the various countries which have made their contribution by giving relief to the famine-stricken people of India. He was also acknowledging with thanks and with gratitude the various forms of help that was sent to us, but at the same time he was accusing that India has become a beggar today. How can he reconcile these two stands of his? I would like to know it. Was he telling it. . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): It is difficulty in understanding.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Except that it was for political purposes, these two stands of his cannot be reconciled. He was grateful for the help rendered by those people and at the same time he was condemning the Government of India. . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The point is, the only difference is some difficulty in the understanding of the hon. Member.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What do you want?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: I would explain it to him. I am only acknowledging it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: This stand is no good. Capitalising on a grave crisis for political purposes is absolutely no good. Does he or does he not know that there has been a devastating failure of rains this year causing the greatest havoc on food production. . . .

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: And who is responsible for it?

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: . . . in a century. For rain, not you and not I, it is all a mystery of the sky.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Irrespective of your Five Year Plans in the past eighteen years?

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: In a century such a great failure has not occurred. Does not my friend realise that in a century, for the first time, such a great havoc, natural calamity, has occurred in this country on account of the failure of rains? This is recognised by all, not only in this country. I would like to know whether our hon. Member, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, does not have the patience to be here. I would like to quote from the authority of the Food and Agricultural Organisation about what the situation is. It is not only in India. There has been a great failure in Australia. There has been a great failure in New Zealand, in Africa, in Europe and everywhere else. The whole earth probably has moved on to a situation or belt where rainlessness prevails this year. I do not know and I cannot explain it. The situation is that everywhere there has been failure of rains. (Interruption). Please do not disturb me. I will quote from here and let my friend opposite note it. From 1934 to 1938 Latin America had a surplus of nine million tonnes every year. During 1960 all the surplus was wiped out and today they are in a great deficit. I am quoting from the FAO and it is not mine. Similarly, during 1934-38, East Europe, including the USSR, had a surplus of five million tonnes. During 1960 the USSR and other East European countries are deficit to the extent of 14 million tonnes of food. Will you say the same thing to those countries? Do you think that only on account of the Governments of those countries such a situation has arisen?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: That is not capitalising?

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY :** During 1934-38 in Asia there was a surplus of two million tonnes. In 1960 the deficit in Asia was 16 million tonnes and in 1966 the deficit is 30 million tonnes. Similarly, the situation in Africa is not any better. Therefore, it is an extraordinary calamity that we have been called upon to face and my hon. friends on the Opposition Benches should give their co-operation to solve this grave problem.

My good friends, Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Patel, have been saying that there had been shooting when the people had been asking for food, that this Government had been answering them with lathis and bullets. Far from the truth. Of course, I very much regret that a boy of ten years died on account of firing. Do you mean to say that if the intention of the Government was to answer hunger-marches with bullets, a boy of ten would have been aimed at to be killed?

**SHRI LOKANATH MISRA :** They want to reduce the population.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY :** Certainly this is belied. Probably it is for other reasons. I do not know. I am not well posted. Probably Mr. Subramaniam will be able to speak well on the matter, but my very common sense tells me that a boy of ten years could not have been the target of attack by the Government in respect of hunger-marchers. The people would have been dealt with in a much better way, if only it was not for reasons other than answering hunger-marchers with bullets and lathis. Please, for heavens' sake do not make such ungenerous remarks. Please co-operate and let us see how many countries face this situation. More than half of India is facing this situation and has been affected by drought. The result is that production has fallen down tremendously. Mr. Vajpayee was talking to us, but let us estimate what the shortfall in food production is. What is the food budget? He himself did not say it. I would like to tell him that last year we produced 88.5 million tonnes of food. On top of it we imported 7 million tonnes of foodgrains. All this was consumed by the people. Last year nearly 96 million tonnes of food was consumed. This year we have hardly produced 76 million tonnes, according to the estimates. That means 20 million

tonnes is the shortfall this year, on account of the drought conditions prevailing in the country, not only in this country but also in other countries.

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** Even the Minister does not claim a shortfall of 20 million tonnes.

**SHRI P. K. KUMARAN :** Even the Minister does not say so.

**SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY :** It is all based on facts and figures. Anybody can justify these facts and figures. These are not myths that I am quoting. Of course, I am very glad that attempts are being made to cope with the situation arising out of the shortfall of 20 million tonnes of food. The other countries have been good enough to share with us our great shortfall this year, and probably 10 million to 12 million tonnes of foodgrains he is going to import. For another 10 million tonnes he has got programmes. I do not know if my good friends have seen this book. He has programmes for producing high-yielding varieties of foodgrains. This book has been placed with us. Lands to the extent of 4.5 million acres are proposed to be brought under various hybrid varieties of crops like Taichung Native 1, Tainan 3, hybrid maize, hybrid jowar, hybrid bajra, etc. All these are high-yielding varieties. I am absolutely certain that a great innovation has been brought into agriculture. The capacity of these hybrid varieties is enormously great. They give three or four times more yield per acre. I am sure that with the introduction of these varieties we will be able to step up our production. Another probably 10 million tonnes of foodgrains are going to be produced by this scheme. This is a new technology that has come into our country. It is spreading like wild fire. Every farmer is taking to it. In place of only 5 or 6 quintals of bajra or 3 or 4 quintals of maize yields today, it will yield up to 40 quintals. Such programmes are being taken in hand. After all in a country where there are 65 million farmers, you cannot educate them overnight. You cannot revolutionise them overnight. You cannot do that. Probably you will only create trouble by that. But it is a question of taking to new ways of technology, and it takes time. But I am very happy that in spite of the fact that there have been trouble creators in our country mainly for

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the sake of politics and not at all in the service of agriculture, in spite of that, I am absolutely certain that people are going to take to this new method, and we are going to solve this problem. I am saying this because of my own personal experience. I have taken to the production of hybrid maize and it has come up exceedingly well. Today I have received a letter saying that the District Collector came and saw my farm along with nearly two hundred people and they felt so happy to see an enormously good crop within only 30 or 40 days. The innovation itself is a recent one. Five years before this was not known. It is now spreading I am sure it is going to save us. This is a challenge. Really the crisis is a challenge and we are going to face it. We are going to see an enormously good crop within successful. This is a challenge opportunity to educate the people, to make people take to new methods of agriculture and see that the country is self-sufficient. We should not be getting defeatist, we must not develop cold feet we must be courageous. I am sure if only my friends give up these politics and concentrate on food instead of simply criticising, night and day, things will be all right. What an ungenerous statement has been made by my friend. Mr. Vajpayee, when he said that the Food Minister in order to make his own opinion prevail appoints experts of his own class or his own relatives, and that he makes them say what he has in his mind.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I did not say anything like that. What I said was that if the experts do belong to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, they are likely to be influenced by the view of the Minister. I did not say that he has appointed his relatives. The hon. Member did not understand me.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Anyway at least I am very happy for the correction.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: He should correct himself. He did not follow my speech.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I have taken the English translation here. I am saying this after following the English translation. You may accuse me that I do not know Hindi. Anyway I am happy. It

is ungenerous to say that. He is as much a patriot as you are. We want solutions to the problems of the country, not political slogans. That is why such ungenerous statements should not be made. We are all after one problem, that is, to make this country self-sufficient in food, and that shall be our aim instead of trying to pick holes and doing every sort of thing. That is not generous.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What a tragedy he is the Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: That has not made me any less patriotic than anybody in this country or in this House.

Madam, agriculture is a slow process, everybody knows it. In this country particularly out of 340 million acres of sown area 250 million or 260 million acres entirely depend upon rainfall. If the rainfall fails, Mr. Vajpayee or Mr. Dahyabhai Patel has to complain only against God and not against Mr. Subramaniam. Please pray for better rains and the problem will be solved. Anyway, efforts are being made in other directions also. In spite of that I would like to earnestly appeal to the Food Minister that the Indo-Gangetic plain can feed the entire nation; there is an ocean buried under the soil of the Indo-Gangetic plain. One tubewell could irrigate thousands of acres. Therefore, the solution of the agricultural problem of this country is to go into this question and get the Ganga from under the soil. There is plenty of Ganga water under the soil. Please make an attempt and give 1 lakh of tubewells to U.P., 1 lakh to Bengal, another lakh to Bihar and another lakh to Punjab. In the entire Indo-Gangetic plain there is such a huge quantity of water and I know it. Therefore, if you take out the Padma Ganga, you are sure to solve this problem of agriculture. After ten years there will not be any more problem. We are not going to depend upon the skies any more, because there is plenty of Ganga water under the soil.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN (Kerala): He is talking of Padma Ganga. Who will be Bhagirath?

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I suppose I am not raising very many controversies, but all the same I would like to



point out to the hon. (Food Minister that I am not happy with regard to the efforts that are being made for internal procurement, though his efforts for procurement from outside the country has been an enormous success. I would take this opportunity of offering my grateful thanks to all those countries that have responded to our call in this hour of great crisis. Those countries are helping us in a very big way. I am very grateful for that, but I would like to tell my friend, Mr. Subramaniam that with the efforts that are being made to make an effective internal procurement I am not quite satisfied. The procurement has been very lethargic. It has not been as satisfactory as it ought to have been. Therefore the tempo of internal procurement must be increased. Further there is a snag. As was pointed out—Mr. Vajpayee or Mr. Patel, I do not know which of them raised that topic—the question of more control in the field of agriculture from the Centre is very important. It might be that the Constitution provides that agriculture is a State subject and the Centre cannot do anything. But if there is any shortage indents for greater amount of food are simply thrown at the face of the Food Minister of the Government of India, and they think that is the responsibility of the Centre to supply them enough food. Not enough effort is being made either for more production or more procurement. Therefore, I say that something has got to be done. So I have given notice of a Resolution that there should be an Expert Committee appointed to go into all these problems in an integrated way and see what can be done in the matter.

They were complaining of the zonal restrictions. Without zonal restrictions, what would have been the fate of the country? Complete anarchy. It is possible now by making each State a zone, to identify the areas of shortfall and the areas of surplus and it is possible to make efforts to procure, to make effective procurements, in surplus areas and distribute in areas where foodgrains are needed. But if the whole country, the entire continent is thrown open as one zone, what is going to be the fate of the country? Even with State trading, even with zonal restrictions, my friend was

complaining of the disparity in prices from Punjab to U.P. from U.P. to Madras and from Madras to West Bengal. All these difficulties, whether they are right or wrong.

PROF. M. B. LALL (Uttar Pradesh) : He was not pointing out the disparity in prices, he was pointing out the profiteering by the State Governments.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Profiteering wherever it is, is bad. It has got to be condemned. I do not know whether the Government resorts to profiteering. It is rather difficult for me to believe that Government, in this hour of great crisis, takes to profiteering. It is enough if it saves us from this situation. It is enough if it gives us some food to eat and saves the country. But if anybody says that the Government takes to profiteering, it is difficult for me to believe it. I do not have any figures. If you have any figures, please talk to the Food Minister. I am not going into details. He is the authority.

(Interruptions)

With regard to rationing, rationing is a must. Unfortunately this country has been called upon to face very many situations. We expected that the Himalayan mountains were going to give protection to this country for all time to come and unfortunately, the Himalayas had to be protected on account of the treacherous act of China. We expected that the farmer in the village was going to produce food and that food we could procure and distribute in the urban and non-agricultural areas and thus save the country. But it is the ryot and the small farmer in the village who are now required to be fed by Shri Subramaniam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have taken 20 minutes.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : This is the situation which we are facing and we shall try to solve it as best as we can.

I would like to caution my friends not to cross the limits of decency in either trying in their attitude to capitalise on politics . . .

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : He is talking nonsense.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : . . . for their political . . .

**SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :** What is he talking? Who has crossed the limits of decency? Perhaps, he does not know what decency means.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :** That remark was not called for and proper at this juncture. I do not think that you should reflect in that way. Nobody crossed the limits of decency.

**Shri Khandubhai Desai.**

**SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI (Gujarat) :** Madam Deputy Chairman, particularly this year we are face to face with a difficult situation as far as food is concerned. I would not like to go into the detail about the neglect or what has been ignored during the last decade in the matter of food and agriculture. The present Minister may not be wholly responsible for the difficulties which we are passing through. And I am afraid, because of past neglect, the food situation in the context of our agriculture, would have to be faced for nearly a decade more.

At the outset, I would say that now we are passing through one of the worst times as far as the food supply is concerned. Within a short time, Government must make up its mind regarding the food problem in a long range way. The only year in which, I remember, we were out of difficulty was the year 1955, when the prices were low and we had to give price support. Then we became complacent and concentrated more on sophistication, on large industries and other things. I do not mean to suggest for a moment that we should not have gone in for industrialisation. But some of us often and on pointed out on the floor of this House to the Planning Commission and the planners that the development of agriculture and food and industry should go *pari passu* so that an imbalance is not created. The present food difficulty is mostly due to this imbalance. And particularly this year we are facing unfavourable nature. Even if we are not faced with unfavourable nature, still the food difficulty would have been there. We have been importing from year to year more and more food from outside, from two million tonnes per year to nearly 10 to 12 million tonnes this year. Even last year when it was supposed to be a bumper crop and when the nature was so favour-

able, we had to import seven million tonnes. It is not good. Nature, this time, has shaken us from our slumber, I think. Therefore, it is time now, when the Fourth Five Year Plan is still in the making, that more attention is paid to food and agriculture.

The difficulties that the country is facing in regard to food and agriculture in all its aspects also jeopardise the industrial expansion which we have experienced during the last year. Most of the industries, as we know, are based on agriculture. Agriculture and industry go together and any improvement in agriculture will not only give us food but the improved methods and the opening of the mind of the peasantry will also give us better industrial raw materials.

With little hesitation, I might also say that whoever was inspired by or thought of the food zones, has tendered the greatest disservice to the nation. But after this is done, I do not think it is wise for us today to criticise it any further but we should see as to how best we can get out of the difficulty which is more or less man-made. It is very difficult to convince the people of the deficit area that they should get wheat or rice at nearly double the price at which it is available in the surplus area. Let us see how this country in the matter of agriculture and industry is situated. Fortunately, for us every State has got some surplus in one commodity or other. Some States have got surplus corn, some have got surplus cotton, some have got surplus oil-seeds, some have surplus coal, some have surplus jute and so on. Now, Kerala has got surplus export trade. Suppose this particular scheme of considering every surplus State as a sovereign State under the charge of a Chief Minister comes into being, what is going to happen to this country? It is bad. It will set in motion disintegration, to say the least. To say that every State should be self-sufficient in food is to talk of the impossible in away for the time being because land water and rains are not equally distributed. Some land and some climate are entirely suitable for a particular type of crop, which is good for the nation. And, therefore, I will plead with the Government that sooner the zones are abolished the better it is for the country in every way.

Then, Madam, I would like to say that the estimates of deficit in food and surplus

in food in state zones are also not correct. When a psychology of scarcity is created and different zones are created, it is but human for the Chief Ministers and the Agriculture Ministers of those States to exaggerate their deficit. The surplus of the States is shown as less and the deficits are shown as more, and therefore, according to the figures that are made available to us, the deficit in the country as a whole is multiplied which again creates a vicious circle and creates a psychology whereby everybody goes on exaggerating.

Then, Madam, let us understand that our country is a country of small peasants. The Nagpur Resolution on paper has recommended co-operatives.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU (Uttar Pradesh)  
Cooperative farming.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI: I am just coming to it. Now, Co-operative farming is a substitute for large-scale agricultural production, and we want to imitate, if we can, large-scale agriculture by tractors and what not by imitating what is happening in some of the countries of the new world like Brazil, Argentina, Canada, United States, etc. It is nearly ten years since we passed this Resolution, but we have not been able to see it through. The peasant is very much attached to his piece of land, whether it may be 5 acres or 10 acres. That does not mean that I am against co-operative farming. That is probably the best way. But idealism and practice differ. The peasantry would have to be educated. Till then what is to be done? You cannot wait as far as food is concerned. Therefore, some alternative also should be thought of, namely how to make the small peasant and the small farmer utilise the smaller instruments of production instead of abandoning the whole idea of co-operative farming. You have imported so many tractors, big tractors. They are lying idle, as I understand, for want of spare parts, and even, I am given to understand, for want of good know-how and good technicians to work them. Anyway, it is no use crying over spilt milk now when we have found that we have failed in so many aspects during the last ten years. Let us not commit that mistake again but plan agriculture in a way so as to yield more food.

Madam, I come from a peasant family. All my relatives are themselves peasants. Two or three of them I know particularly. They are able to produce on their land 2 to 2½ times of what they produced earlier. So it is possible. It can be done. It is good that with the Food Ministry has been merged the Ministry of Community Development. I do not know why it was not thought of earlier. A lot of people, youngmen, with some agricultural frame of mind, what are called village workers, had been vegetating all these ten years and wasting their time and money of the country. What the farmers require is rudimentary education, how to produce more. The village workers should not go on sermonizing them. There are progressive farmers who know their job, and once the scheme is placed before them they take to it.

Madam, we have been hearing a great deal about chemical fertilisers. Of course, chemical fertilisers is a must. I have no doubt in my mind about it. But at the same time organic manure in the form of millions of tons of cowdung or animal dung, that is being burnt, could have been saved. That could be done only by education. If green manure could be mixed up with chemical fertiliser according to the best technique it would be better; otherwise it is said that if chemical fertilisers alone are used without the proper admixture of organic manure or green manure, the land is spoiled. I do know-how, but that is what is being said by the agricultural experts. When I again suggest the saving of millions of tonnes on organic manure, I had suggested it on the floor of this House about seven years back. There is no use of again talking theoretically, because 'domestic Kitchens' is a continuous affairs, and domestic kitchens are increasing every day owing to the large increasing population. Now they have to be given a substitute domestic fuel and I suggested about five years or seven years back that we have got in this country large deposits of low grade coal. Now at least, it will be a good investment to make, and the investment should be made in turning the low grade coal into domestic fuel, soft coke as it is called, low carbonised coal as it is called, and the result will be that while producing low grade domestic fuel in the mines you will be creating various gases; you will be having a lot of by-products also. All that

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

would have been done then. I made an enquiry some time back in the Planning Commission as to what had been done about that proposal. I was informed that there were different opinions that some pilot plant was being thought of at the Central level. Now for food and agriculture I think substitute domestic fuel also must go side by side, and the village people must be educated to use this soft coke for their kitchens. This is also a suggestion which some of us have made repeatedly on the floor of this House. But very little attention has been paid to it. As I said in the initial stage, let us not be complacent and think that there will be good rains next year or the year after and that the food problem will be solved within five years. That way I am not a pessimist, but I must say that the food problem will be with us for nearly a decade because, even if the initial steps are taken immediately as an emergency, it will take quite a long time before the improved method of agriculture the improved utilisation of manure and the improved water facilities materialise. It will take quite a long time before you succeed in educating the ordinary peasant. Therefore, the agriculture of this country would have to be thought of indigenously, in the light of what suits us best. Some *via media* between what the Western countries have done, and what countries like Japan are doing, some such *via media*, would have to be found out. We have got to remember that our agriculturists are very intelligent and are prepared to take on anything new and better. But what is lacking is our determined will, a will to approach and educate them through the proper Community Project people. Community Project people have been created only for this very purpose, to educate the farmers. But I must say without fear of contradiction that the Community Project organisation has become, in most of the villages, in the rural areas, the laughing stock of everybody.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU : Quite true.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI : Now, under the able and efficient guidance of our young Food Minister this personnel, which is in a large number, for the time being unwanted, will be utilised very properly. If properly utilised, they can give fillip to agriculture.

(Time bell rings.)

Five minutes more please.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have taken over twenty minutes.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : He is a senior Member.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI : Only two minutes more, and I have done.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Five minutes.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI : I have placed before this august House my humble view that in the next five years we may not become self-sufficient in the matter of food. According to me it will have to take more. Now keeping that in view, all the cities—whether the Chief Ministers like it or not—all the cities with a population of five lakhs and more should be cordoned off, that is, rationing would have to be done in cities with a population of five lakhs and more.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU : Three lakhs.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI : I should say five lakhs because I am a little wary. You are a radical man though older, I know, but I am a little conservative. After all it should be remembered that a yard stick decided on should apply uniformly throughout the country, whether it is one lakh and more, or fifty thousand and more, or twenty-five thousand and more, but you should not put into your mouth more than you can much, because we have had our past experience. So let us give thought to and prepare ourselves from now on for a smooth passage taking a long-range view of the matter, and let rationing cover, to start with, cities with five lakhs and more. Now that will cover anywhere from fifteen million to twenty million people. It is those people who have got large purchasing power, and who create all these problems.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU : Quite right.

SHRI KHANDUBHAI K. DESAI : Now there is the State Trading Corporation. You have created all the structures institutions. All the institutions have been created but may I say with all humility that they have been created in a haphazard way and never looked after with a view to their

proper utilisation We passed here the legislation for bringing into being the State Trading Corporation, and we all paid tributes to the then Minister who piloted the Bill and said that he had done a good job by going in for the State Trading Corporation But how has State-trading fared? Therefore, all the instruments that you have created must be given life, and if some of the instruments that you have created are not working well, I would suggest your closing them down, and keep only those institutions that are worthy of retention by their utility Therefore, rationing in cities with a population of five hundred thousand and more is a must, and our Chief Ministers of States, whether the States are surplus or deficit in food, must take to this step of rationing Now rationing is not a happy state of affairs it may not be good psychology, but then, in the present circumstances they must all take to it whether they like it or not The country should be viewed as a composite whole and if there is scarcity of, or less food, it must be distributed equitably throughout the land That is all I have to say, Madam, on the food situation You may go on importing but there is nothing like producing more in our own country Thank you

श्री जगत नारायण (पंजाब) मैडम डिप्टी चेयरमैन, मैं राम रेड्डी जी की तकरीर सुनकर हैरान हू क्योंकि उन्हें आपोजीशन के लीडर श्री वाजपेयी और श्री डाह्याभाई पटेल जी ने जो यह कहा कि आज हम मसारा में भीख माग रहे हैं उससे उनको बड़ा गुस्सा आ गया। मुझे याद है कि पिछले सेशन में जब फूड समस्या पर बहस हो रही थी तब श्री राम रेड्डी जी ने बड़े-बड़े फिगर्स दिये थे कि प्लानिंग कमिशन ने इतना खर्च किया जिससे हमारे मुल्क में इतना अनाज पैदा होगा। उस वक्त उन्होंने सरकार को कोसा था कि क्या वजह है कि इतना रुपया खर्च करने के बावजूद भी हमारे मुल्क में अनाज पैदा नहीं हुआ। मैं उनको याद दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि वे अपनी तकरीर को घर में जाकर पढ़ें कि उन्होंने पिछले मर्तबा क्या कहा था। मैं अपने फूड मिनिस्टर साहब से भी पूछना चाहता हूँ कि

SHRI N SRI RAMA REDDY That was about the economics of agriculture, not the food situation Today we are discussing the food situation

श्री जगत नारायण उस वक्त भी हम फूड निचुएशन पर बहस कर रहे थे।

SHRI S S MARISWAMY (MADRAS) Then he was speaking as an agriculturist and now he is speaking as a Congressman

श्री जगत नारायण मैं वजार साहिब से एक बात पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हमें कितना अनाज चाहिये जिससे कि हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों को दो वक्त खाना मिल सके अपनी पैदावार के साथ-साथ? तो आज हालत क्या है? वर्ल्ड रेडक्रॉस ने अपील की है जो इस प्रकार है—

*World Red Cross Appeal for Food Aid to India* The International League of Red Cross Societies yesterday appealed to its members to supply powdered milk and other protein-rich foods to relieve the 'alarming' food situation in India "

*"French Food Aid* France will gift powdered and condensed milk, vitamins and insecticides collectively valued at Rs 16 crores to help India in its food crisis "

आज हमें कितने फूड की दरकार है जिसके लिए आज सारी दुनिया लगी हुई है अर्पण करने के लिए कि हिन्दुस्तान में फैमिन हो गया है और उसको किसी न किसी तरह से बचाओ। हमारे सेक्रेटरी जनरल उ थाट और डायरेक्टर जनरल फूड डिपार्टमेंट के श्री सेन ने भी अपील निकाली है

*'Thant and Sen Appeal for Food Aid to India* According to U Thant and Dr Sen 100 million people in seven large States have been affected by the food shortage India requires from 11 million to 14 million tons of foodgrains and 130 thousand tons of powdered milk to overcome the shortage "

इसका मतलब यह है कि हमें 11 से 14 मिलियन टन फूड की जरूरत है। थाईलैण्ड में जो हमारे सेक्रेटरीगये हैं उनके बारे में एक खबर यह निकली है जिसको मैं आपको पढ़कर सुनाना चाहता हूँ।

*'Smaller quantities may be available from the U A R Argentina and Cambodia*

## [श्री जगत नारायण]

The U A R. gave 35,000 tons last year though the deal was for 60,000 tons. Altogether, India may be able to secure five to six lakh tons of rice this year as against about seven lakh tons in 1965."

10 मिलियन टन अनाज हमें अमरीका से मिल रहा है और इसी तरह से हम बर्मा से भी अनाज ले रहे हैं। इस तरह से हमें कुल कितना अनाज चाहिये इसके बारे में कुछ नहीं बतलाया गया है क्योंकि इस समय सारी दुनिया हमारे लिए अनाज इकट्ठा करने में लगी हुई है और हम उसको खर्च नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। फिर मैडम, आप यह बात सुनकर हैरान होंगी कि एक तरफ तो यह सिचुएशन है और दूसरी तरफ पंजाब की यह हालत है कि यह मेरे पास 13 फरवरी का ट्रिब्यून पड़ा हुआ है और उसमें जो कुछ लिखा है आपको पढ़ कर सुना देना चाहता हूँ

*"Wheat Glut at Moga while country suffers from shortage: Over three lakh maunds of wheat worth about Rs. 72 lakhs have accumulated here when certain States are suffering from an acute shortage of food. When so much wheat is available why it is not being procured by the State either for its own reserve stocks or for other States is a mystery. Reports are there that the stocks were kept in the hope of making money on the abolition of the Food Zones for which pressure is being now put on the Centre."*

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

इस सरकार को किस तरह समझाया जा सकता है, समझ में नहीं आता है : क्योंकि सरकार खुद महंगे दाम पर गल्ला बेचना चाहती है, अभी जालंधर की यह हालत है कि परसों वहाँ की मण्डी के लोग मिलने आये थे और कहने लगे कि आप जब पार्लियामेंट में फूड के मामले पर बहस हो तो यह बात कहिये । वे कहने लगे कि हमारी मण्डी में फुछ नहीं तो करीब 2 करोड़ मन अनाज पड़ा हुआ है जिसमें गन्धम, मेज, बाजरा और चना शामिल है। इस समय वहाँ पर पोजीशन यह है कि फेयर प्राइस शाप्स

में गन्धम 64 रु० प्रति क्विंटल है और मार्केट में 59 रु० प्रति क्विंटल बिक रही है। यानी जो फेयर प्राइस शाप्स में जाकर अनाज खरीदता है उसको 64, 65 रुपये क्विंटल खरीदना पड़ेगा। यहाँ जहाँ तक मार्केट का ताल्लुक है उसके 58 से 60 रु० क्विंटल मिल सकता है। इस वक्त पंजाब की मार्केट में अनाज का ग्लट हो रहा है और इसकी वजह क्या है ? इसकी वजह साफ है कि यहाँ दिल्ली में राशनिंग हो गया है। पहले यहाँ पर स्मगल करके ह्वीट और दूसरी चीजें ले आते थे और ऊँचे दामों में बेच दी जाती थी। अब यहाँ पर अनाज की जरूरत नहीं है क्योंकि राशनिंग हो गया है। इसलिए मार्केट में जो स्टॉक आ रहा है उसको उठाया नहीं जा रहा है। आपने जो ह्वीट जोन्स बनाये हैं वहाँ पर ह्वीट सस्ता मिल रहा है और लोग खरीद नहीं रहे हैं। लेकिन हम से कहा जाता है और दुनिया को परेशान किया जा रहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान में फैमिन हो रहा है और वहाँ पर लोगों को खाने के लिए अनाज नहीं मिल रहा है। हमारे राम रेड्डी साहब चले गये और वे हमारे नेताओं की सच्ची बात सुनकर नाराज हो गये जब उन्होंने कहा कि हम भिखमंगे हो गये हैं। चीन की हालत यह है कि जो चीन हमारा दुश्मन है उसने अपने देश के बारे में क्या किया है और पैकिंग वाले हमारे बारे में यह कहते हैं :

*"The result is to feed the malicious humour and propaganda of our ill-wishers all over the world. Radio Peking, for example, has dug up a decade-old Hindustani beggars song—'Baba Roti De!'—from some film, and plays it frequently to malign us. Some graceless Yank—Francis E. Rafterman, Director of the US Agency for International Development—has made the derisive statement that one Indian out of 23 is fed entirely by the PL-480 food-grains "*

आज जितनी इमेज श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री ने देश की बनाई थी पाकिस्तान से जग करके, वह सारी इमेज हमारे फूड मिनिस्टर साहब खत्म कर रहे हैं। आपको यह बात

सुनकर हैरानी होगी कि पोप ने अपने श्रद्धालुओं की एक मीटिंग बुलाई और वर्षों के बीच आध घंटे तक हिन्दुस्तान में भुखमरी के बारे में तकरीर की। मैं आपको उस लेटर का मजमून पढ़कर सुनाना चाहता हूँ जो पोप को दो बच्चों ने हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों की मदद के लिए भेजा था

*Pope Renews Plea to help India* Renewing his plea for help for India, Pope Paul VI stood today at his studio window and publicly read a letter from two Italian youngsters who sent him their savings for the people of India. A down pour drenched 6,000 persons who stood in St. Peter's Square for the pontiff's Sunday noon blessing

Vatican officials said the letter came from a boy and his sister, Emilio and Lucia, who wrote on behalf of themselves and a baby brother of a few months

The officials did not identify the children of their city, but said they sent the Pope 'a few thousand lire' (1000 lire make about Rs. 7,601.)

'Listen to the letter' said the pope

'Dear Holy Father: Papa told us about the troubles of the Indians and that you explained it is not possible to be good Christians if we do not help our poor brethren. So we have decided to send you the money we saved. Papa and Mamma said, it would be as if they had four children instead of three.'

इस तरह की हालत है और इस ढंग से हिन्दुस्तान के मुताल्लिक अनाज इकट्ठा किया जा रहा है और अनाज मगाया जा रहा है। मेरे भाई श्री राम रेड्डी कह रहे हैं कि हम जानबूझ कर उनको बदनाम कर रहे हैं। हम यह कैसे न करें क्योंकि हिन्दुस्तान में इतना अनाज इकट्ठा है कि आप उस अनाज से सारे मुल्क का काम चला सकते हैं? मैंने पिछली मतर्वा फिगर्स दिये थे कि हमारे मुल्क में 80 या 90 मिलियन टन अनाज पैदा होता है। एक पौंड रोजाना प्रति आदमी के हिसाब से अगर खाना दिया जाय, जितना कि एक कैदी को मिलता है, तो हमारी सरकार ने पिछले साल मुल्क में जितना अनाज होने

के बारे में कहा था उसके मुताबिक हम 50 करोड़ आदमियों को खाना खिला सकते हैं और दो वक्त खाना लोग खा सकते हैं। तो मैं मिनिस्टर साहिब से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो अनाज हमारे मुल्क में था वह कहा चला गया है? वाइस चेयरमैन साहिब, आप बुजुर्ग आदमी हैं और आपको पुराना जमाना याद होगा कि जब अंग्रेजों के जमाने में एक रैली ब्रदर्स हुआ करते थे। अब भी हैं मगर उस जमाने में उस फर्म की यह हालत थी कि सारे हिन्दुस्तान में उगली बाचेज थी और सुबह उठ कर वे इस भाव, जिस निरख पर, गदुम खरीदा करते थे या दूसरी चीजे खरीदा करते थे, सारे हिन्दुस्तान में उन चीजों का वही निरख होता था। उसकी क्या वजह थी? वजह यह थी कि वे सब से बड़े बायर थे। आज हमारी सरकार भी सब से बड़ी बायर है। वह बाहर से अनाज मगाती है, स्टोक भी करती है, सारी स्टेट्स की सरकारें भी खरीदती हैं। तो जब यह सरकार इतना अनाज खरीदती है तो क्यों यह रेट मुकर्रर नहीं करती है। यह भी रेट मुकर्रर करे जैसे रैली ब्रदर्स वाले किया करते थे। वाइस चेयरमैन साहिब, आपको याद होगा कि रैली ब्रदर्स यहाँ से अनाज खरीद कर बाहर के मुल्कों को भी भेजा करते थे। एक दफा फेमिन हुआ था तो हमारे एक शायर ने एक गीत गाया था। दाना-दाना उठा कर के रैली ब्रदर्स ले गये, इस किस्म का नज्म था। उसका मतलब यह था कि हमारे यहाँ मुल्क में फेमिन हुआ है क्योंकि रैली ब्रदर्स यहाँ से दाना-दाना उठा कर बाहर के मुल्कों में ले गये हैं। तो पहले हम इतना अनाज पैदा करते थे कि उसको हम अपने मुल्क में सप्लाई करते थे और बाहर भी भेजा करते थे। अब हमने तीन प्लान्स पर अरबों रुपया खर्च किया है, हमने बाहर से फर्टिलाइजर्स लिये और तमाम चीजे ली। कर्जा तो आज हमारे हिन्दुस्तान के सिर पर इतना हो गया है कि जो बच्चा पैदा होता है उसके पैदा होते ही उसके सिर पर पांच सौ रुपया कर्जे का हो जाता है, सारी दुनिया का।

## [ श्री जगत नारायण ]

जब तक वह बड़ा न हो, 500 रुपया कर्जों का उसके सिर पर आ जाता है, इतना हमने बाहर के मुल्कों से कर्जा ले रखा है। सुबह मेरी बहन कह रही थी कि हम अपने पैरों पर खड़े होने की कोशिश करें और हम अपने पैरों पर खड़े होने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। लेकिन आप देखिये कि तीन प्लान्स में हमने अरबों रुपया खर्च किया और हमारे मुल्क की कैंसी तस्वीर दूसरे मुल्कों में दिखाई जा रही है। वहां छोटे-छोटे बच्चे चर्चों के सामने सन्दूक रख देते हैं और यह कहते हैं कि उसमें हिन्दुस्तान को अनाज भेजने के लिये पैसे डालो। आजादी के बाद यह बात पहली बार हम सुन रहे हैं। इससे पहले कभी हमने न इसे अखबारों में पढ़ा और न सुना। यह सोचना होगा कि यह सारी बात क्यों हुई। इसकी वजह यह है कि वोटों के लिये हमारी सरकार जो अनाज देहात में पड़ा हुआ है उसको निकलवाने की कोशिश नहीं करती है। जैसा कि मैंने आप से अर्ज किया कि आज पंजाब की मंडियों में ग्लट है। इतना अनाज वहां आ रहा है कि कोई उसे उठाने वाला नहीं है। वहां की सरकार भी उसको उठाने वाली नहीं है। मैं समझता हूं कि जिन प्राविसेज के पास ज़रूरत से ज्यादा अनाज है, वहां की सरकारों से सेंटर को कहना चाहिये कि वे उस अनाज को खरीद लें और फिर आपको मुहैया करे बजाय इसके कि दूसरे मुल्कों में हमारे मुल्क का ढिंढोरा बजे और दो-दो चार-चार साल के बच्चे हिन्दुस्तान के लिये भीख मांगें। यह हिन्दुस्तान के नाम पर एक बहुत बदनुमा ध्व्वा है।

सवाल यह पैदा हुआ है कि हम खुद-कफील क्यों नहीं हो रहे हैं। आप यह सोचते हैं कि फर्टिलाइजर बाहर से आना चाहिये और उसके लिये करोड़ों रुपये के कारखाने लगाये जायें। मगर मैं यह समझता हूं कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो गोबर होता है उसका भी फायदा नहीं उठाया जाता है। हमारे पास जो बी० डी० ओ० हैं, ग्राम सेवक हैं, लेडी ग्राम सेविका हैं वे अगर देहात में जा कर

लोगों से कहें कि गोबर के उपले नहीं बनाना चाहिये, उसको जलाने के काम में इस्तेमाल नहीं करना चाहिये, तो हमारे गांवों में ही जितना मवेशियों का गोबर होता है उसी में मेन्योर का बहुत-सा काम हो सकता है। पहले जब कभी दस पन्द्रह साल के बाद कहत हुआ करता था तो जो हमारे बुजुर्ग थे वे इस तरह में अपनी पैदावार पैदा करते थे कि सारा देश कभी भूखों नहीं मरता था यह कभी नहीं हुआ कि कभी सारे हिन्दुस्तान में कहत पड़ गया हो। मुल्क के किसी कार्नर में कहत का असर हुआ करता था, बाकी सारे हिन्दुस्तान में लोग ऐश व आराम से रहा करते थे। तो मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि यह जो मेन्योर की प्राब्लम है इसके लिये जब तक आप दूसरे मुल्कों से रुपया ले कर और कारखाने लगा कर मेन्योर पैदा न कर मकें तब तक कम-से-कम आपको जो हमारे देश में गोबर होता है उसका इस्तेमाल करने की कोशिश करनी चाहिये। इसके लिये जितने आपके बी० डी० ओ०, बिलेज लेवल वर्कर और लेडी वर्कर हैं, उनमें आप कहिये कि वे देहात में जाकर के बहनों से और जमींदारों से कहें कि वे किस तरह से गोबर की मेन्योर को इस्तेमाल करें ताकि अनाज ज्यादा पैदा हो सके।

मैंने पिछले सेशन में भी यह अर्ज किया था कि लुधियाना में मेक्सिकन ह्वीट का तजुर्बा किया गया है। मेरे भाई अब्दुल गनी ने वह पढ़ कर सुनाया था कि मैक्सिकन ह्वीट का जो तजुर्बा किया गया उसमें उसकी सात गुना ज्यादा पैदावार हुई एक एकड़ में। अगर एक एकड़ में सौ मन पैदा होता था तो सात सौ मन पैदा हुआ। तो अगर हम मैक्सिकन ह्वीट का इस्तेमाल करेंगे और मेन्योर वगैरह का ठीक इन्तजाम करें तो इससे हमारी पैदावार बहुत बढ़ सकती है। फूड मिनिस्टर और प्राइम मिनिस्टर के सामने उन्होंने सारी बातें पेश की और तजुर्बों की कामयाबी के बारे में उन्होंने उनको किताबें वगैरह भेजी।



फिर भी क्या वजह है कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट इस तरफ तवज्जह नहीं देती है।

श्री अर्जुन अरोड़ा ( उत्तर प्रदेश ) वह तजुर्बा जिसको अब्दुल गनी साहब ने भेजा था वह भी सरकारी पैमे और सरकारी मदद से हुआ था।

श्री जगत नारायण म भी यह नहीं कह रहा है कि वह प्राइवेट तरीके से किया गया। उसको अमेरिका वालो ने किया, फोर्ड फाउन्डेशन वालो ने वह तजुर्बा किया और सरकार की मदद से किया। मौलवी साहब ने वह तजुर्बा नहीं किया। न उनके पास कोई जमीन है और न मेरे पास कोई जमीन है जिसमें वह तजुर्बा किया जाता। वह तजुर्बा सरकार ने किया। मैं तो यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मैक्सिकन द्वीप से अगर इतने दिनो में और जगह भी तजुर्बा किया जाता तो हमारी पैदावार काफी बढ़ सकती थी।

वाइस चेयरमैन महोदय, आप को याद होगा कि स्वर्गीय लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जो हमारे प्रधान मंत्री थे उन्होंने अपनी कोठी में हल चलवा दिया था इसलिये कि वहाँ भी अनाज और सब्जी पैदा हो। उसके बाद भी देखिये कि हमारे कितने वजीरो और कितने अमीर आदमियों की कोठियों में हल चला है। उनमें आज भी इतनी जमीन फालतू पड़ी हुई है कि उसको देख कर के आदमी हैरान हो जाना है। मुझे फार्मोसा जाने का मौका मिला। वाइस चेयरमैन महोदय, आप हैरान होंगे यह सुन कर के कि वहाँ जो रेलवे की डबल ट्रैक है उसमें भी लोगो ने खेती कर रखी है। जैसी यहाँ दिल्ली से जालन्धर तक डबल रेलवे लाइन है, वैसी ही जो वहाँ डबल लाइन है और जो रेलवे की प्रापर्टी है उसमें भी लोगो ने कास्त की हुई है। किसी ने उसमें आलू बो रखा है, किसी ने खुब बो रखा और किसी ने कुछ बो रखा है। वहाँ सड़को के पास और रेलवे लाइन के पास कुछ फीट जमीन छोड़ कर बाकी सब ओर उन्होंने उपज के लिये इस्तेमाल

कर रखा है। यहाँ आप ट्रेन से ट्रेवल करने होंगे और रोड से भी जाते होंगे तो देखते होंगे कि वहाँ कितनी ऐसी जमीन पड़ी हुई है जिसमें कुछ पैदा नहीं होता है। अगर हमारी सरकार इस तरफ ध्यान दे और उसी तरह का इन्तजाम करवाये जैसा कि फार्मोसा और दूसरे मुल्को में है तो मैं समझता हूँ कि आज जो हमारे सामने दिक्कत है और आज जो वैगर्स बाउल ले कर के हमको दुनिया के सामने जाना पड़ रहा है, वह चीज खत्म हो सकती है और फिर हमको किसी में मागने की जरूरत नहीं रहेगी।

इतना मैं और कहना चाहता हूँ कि इजराइल का छोटा-सा मुल्क है। वहाँ जब तमाम दुनिया के यहूदियों ने जा कर के देखा कि यह तो डिजर्ट है तो उन्होंने मेहनत करके यह किया कि उन्होंने दस साल में वहाँ लहलहाते खेत खड़े कर दिये। इसके लिये उन्होंने यह किया कि उन्होंने मेहनत की, पानी पहुँचाया और दूसरी बातें की। हमने अपने यहाँ भी करोड़ों रुपया डिजर्ट पर खर्च किया है, लेकिन हम आज तक उतनी कामयाबी हासिल नहीं कर सके हैं जितनी उस छोटे-से मुल्क ने हासिल की है जो आधे पंजाब के बराबर है। उन्होंने अपने मुल्क में डिजर्ट में लहलहाते खेत खड़े कर दिये हैं और किसी मुल्क के आगे वे अपना हाथ नहीं पसार रहे हैं। क्या हम इतना नहीं कर सकते हैं कि राजपुताने में जितना डिजर्ट है उसको हम लहलहाते खेतों में बदल दें। हम उसको जरूर बदल सकते हैं बशर्ते कि हमारी सरकार उनसे मदद ले। आप इजराइल वालों से पूछिये कि उन्होंने किस ढंग से अपने डिजर्ट को लहलहाते खेतों में तब्दील किया है। हमें उनसे मश्रद लेने में घबराना नहीं चाहिए।

मैं बैठ जाऊँगा एक मिनट में, बेशक घटी न बजाए।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ वाइस चेयरमैन महोदय कि जो हमारी पालिसी है वह दो जगह लैक करती है। एक तो प्रोक्योरमेंट में।

[ श्री जगत नारायण ]

हम डरते हैं बड़े-बड़े लैंडलार्ड्स से प्रोक्वोर करने में। उनसे प्रोक्वोर किया तो बोटे नहीं मिलेगी। लैंडलार्ड्स बड़े व्यापारी बन गए हैं और गांवों में स्टॉकैस्ट बन गए हैं। वे तब रिलीज करते हैं जब उनको पता लगे कि मार्केट में भाव कम हो जाएगा। जब पंजाब में बारिश हुई और दिल्ली में राशन हुआ तो सारा स्टॉक मंडियों में आ गया। आज हालत यह है कि प्राइसेज गिर रही हैं। 65 से 58-60 पर आ गई हैं। जरूरी यह है कि लैंडलार्ड्स से प्रोक्वोर किया जाए, वेशव उनकी नाराज करें।

दूसरी चीज में यह समझता हूँ कि जब तक हमारी सरकार स्टेट ट्रेडिंग नहीं करेगी, तब तक आप कभी भी हिन्दुस्तान को अपने पावों पर खड़ा नहीं कर सकेंगे और हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों को खुराक मुहैया नहीं कर सकेंगे। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग करने से घबराना नहीं चाहिए। स्टेट ट्रेडिंग करके हिन्दुस्तान जो भिखारी बन गया है उसे बचा लेना चाहिए, ताकि हम किसी के आगे हाथ न फैलाएँ और अपने पावों पर खड़े हों और अपने मुक्त के लोगों के मह में जो खुराक डालें वह अपनी पैदा की हुई खुराक हों।

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA (Andhra Pradesh) Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this food problem has been getting the attention of this House and outside for a few months now. The problem is acute no doubt but to say that we are famine-stricken is an exaggeration. I was rather disappointed when the Minister, the other day, when there was a question as to how many States in the country were famine-stricken instead of saying we were really not famine-stricken, said that Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and several others were famine-stricken. I was really surprised. There may be shortage of foodstuffs, there may be drought; there may be shortfalls in expectations but actually we are not famine-stricken. And this picture has gone abroad also. It is a very sad thing that our Members day in and day out go on saying that we are beggars in spite of the

clear statement made by our Prime Minister. We are not beggars; we may take aid just like any other country. No country in the world is self-sufficient in everything. Some people have industries and no food, while some have food and no industries. Some have coal, some have steel and whatever is in short supply in a country is imported from outside. It is done everywhere. It is a well established practice; it is a well understood thing. So why do we say that we are beggars? It is not at all fair, it is not fair to our dignity; it is not fair to our conception of things. It is not right. The other day our Chairman was saying that a person asked another whether he had stopped beating his wife. If he does not say that he has never beaten her, the presumption is that it was being done. Like that when the question was put as to how many States in our country are famine-stricken, the Minister should have contradicted it and said: "There are shortages in some States; there are shortfalls in some districts; but actually there is no famine." Famine means dying of hunger. There is nothing like that in spite of some instances that were quoted by some. People probably have died of poverty but not of starvation. I do not know; I do not want to be contradicted. I want a statement from the Minister about this matter. Poverty, of course, we have got in our country. It is there and even after eighteen years of freedom we have not been able to wipe it out. It is a very sad thing. There are poor people; even if there is plenty going round, they cannot get two square meals a day. That is a different matter. We should all be very anxious to project a good picture of India in other countries and not disgrace ourselves by projecting our country in an undignified manner.

Now, the Food Corporation came into existence one year back. I do not know whether we are better off after that or not. Probably it looks very gloomy now because of the drought this year and it is unfortunate and but for this perhaps we would have given a better account of ourselves. Anyhow, we cannot say that we have done very well with regard to either procurement or distribution. We must take into our hand full control or we must leave it without any control whatsoever. There is rationing in some areas; there is no rationing in some areas. There is statutory

rationing in some areas and there is informal rationing in some other areas and some people are left to get on as best as they can. I do not think this is really a satisfactory situation. Now, we have been crying hoarse for a very long time—not only now—that we have to produce more but what have we done to produce more? Have we given sufficient incentives to the farmers to cultivate more or have we created conditions to drive away the small farmers to the cities to get a better living? Actually I know the children of farmers and agriculturists feel that it is no use struggling hard throughout the year on the land to get a very small income at the end of the year. So they go away as clerks or even as attenders to get Rs 100 to Rs 150 in an office. That gives them Rs 1,800 to Rs 2,000 at the end of the year. If the farmer were to cultivate he has to struggle very hard in sun in rain against drought, against so many things. And there are man-made difficulties also. We say we supply them agricultural implements, fertilisers, loans, etc. but are they reaching them at all? Or if at all they reach them are they reaching them in time? The other day one Punjabi gentleman was saying that these things do not go to the agriculturist but to the Aggarwal. This is a very sad state of affairs. Our co-operative societies do not function properly, our people are not honest; our people are not sincere—some of them of course—and so the agriculturist suffers. For everything they have to buy they have to pay very high prices and they have to pay incentives to get loans to get implements, fertilisers, etc. It is a very hard job for them. So they feel that it is better to go and work in a factory or in an office or anywhere else than struggling hard on one acre or two acres or even five acres. So better incentives must be given to them.

We have also been exaggerating the situation. When there is a shortage all of us must tighten our belts and adjust our food habits to the necessities of the times. Instead of that what is the use of our friends from Kerala saying that they want rice and rice alone? And what is the excuse given? It is that they do not know how to make *chapatis*. Is it a very difficult thing? In fact we all have learnt this from the Nairs coming from Malabar. They all know it, it is not very difficult. It is quite easy. People who shout in the demonstrations can take it upon themselves to teach how to do this how to make *chapatis* in an attractive way so that the children do not dislike them. They can make it in a variety of ways.

In fact I have been pained to find that even the Ministers are blaming the surplus areas particularly Andhra that we are not co-operating with the deficit States and particularly Kerala. We are having rationing and we are people who are not used to anything else except rice. But we are eating wheat. At least the people from Kerala know—what is that.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) All right. You can continue tomorrow.

SHRIMATI C. AMMANNA RAJA  
Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) The House stands adjourned till 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Thursday the 3rd March 1966.