

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

order to ensure supplies a request was made to the Neivelli project, but they did not find it possible to give the supply. Therefore, they have requested the Madras Government to come to their help. So far only 8 per cent. of the State's power resources are being exploited. With the commissioning of the projects under execution—details I gave earlier—nearly 21 per cent. of the potential will be exploited.

These were some of the points connected with the supplementary grants.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR : The refusal of Neivelli is not clear. After all, they produce electricity.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : They do not comply with the request.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR : It is difficult for me to say why. They said they would not.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN : They were not prepared to without consulting the Madras Government.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : That I do not know. But they do not give power.

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR : You kindly find out.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now I will put the motion. The question is :

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Kerala for the services of the financial year 1965-66, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Madam, I move :

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MOTION RE FOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE : (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : Madam Deputy Chairman; I beg to move :

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

The situation in the country concerning food...

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal) : On a point of order. The point of order is that the motion stands in the name of Mr. Subramaniam and he is present in the House. I do not have any motion which stands in the name of the hon. Minister who has got up to speak. I do not know what *locus standi* he has got without even being asked to speak that way according to the list of business. The Rule says in regard to such a motion that when a Member in whose name the motion stands is absent, he can authorise somebody else to speak on his behalf, to move it on his behalf. Since he is present in the House, it is incumbent upon him to move it himself or the motion lapses.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : If you want I will move. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I think Mr. Subramaniam will be well-advised to move this motion and if he wants the hon. Minister to be trained in this Bill, he can ask him to intervene in the debate and make a speech. We shall hear the speech.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa) : Before you give a ruling, I would say this. What is more is that the Chair called Mr. Subramaniam to speak. It is an insult to the Chair if he does not get up and asks somebody else to get up, whoever he is.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The usual practice is that we allow anyone in the Ministry to get up and speak but when the Minister is here I think the Minister should speak, more especially, when the motion is in his name.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I shall only make one submission. I shall move the motion and I would request my colleague, on my behalf, to read the statement and I will supplement the speech because of my disability today. Therefore I hope I will have the indulgence of the House for this concession that I shall move the motion in my name but. . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : No.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has a disability. It is for the House to give the indulgence if he is not able to deliver his speech and if he asks the Deputy Minister. .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : That is not the point. If necessary I shall go to his house and nurse him his whole life. That is not the point. The point is procedure. You cannot have two sets of procedure because of illness. Suppose I am ill, then you cannot alter the procedure. You have to take the alternative. Mr. Subramaniam could have stayed out in the house.

SHRI NAFISUL HASAN (Uttar Pradesh): There is no difficulty as far as the procedure is concerned. The Minister can make the motion which stands in his name and. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I agree.

SHRI NAFISUL HASAN : And another Member, the Deputy Minister, may be asked to make the speech.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I will clarify myself. Correct me if I am wrong. Surely Mr. Subramaniam can make the motion. Move it. Then what happens ? Who makes the speech on behalf of the Government ? Then the speech should come to this side. The speech should come to some other Member.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We know, Mr. Gupta, what you want to say. Miss Patel wants to say something.

M20RS/65—6

कुमारी मनिबेन बल्लभभाई पटेल
(गुजरात) : महोदया, रुलिंग आपको देना है या हमें देना है, यह मैं समझना चाहती हूँ।

उपसभापति : रुलिंग तो मैं देती हूँ और बी भी है।

You have said what you have to say. Mr. Subramaniam, if you really cannot, because of your disability, make a speech—really you should after having moved the motion—I think you should speak for any length of time that you are able to and the further clarification may be given by your Deputy.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I move :

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

I am sure hon. Members are aware that we are facing a very difficult situation in view of the failure of the monsoon. The food situation has been with us for quite a long time and so far as the agricultural programme is concerned, I do agree that in spite of our best efforts, it has not been possible for us to reach the various targets that we fixed for ourselves. To that extent I am prepared to confess failure that in spite of our desires and in spite of our efforts, the production did not keep pace with the increase in population but this year the position has been made a little more difficult because of the unprecedented monsoon failure. I have looked into the records of the behaviour of the monsoon and I find that within this century, there has not been as much widespread failure of the monsoon as we have had during this year. Therefore, it may not be correct to say that it is mainly the failure on the agricultural front which has caused the present situation. This natural calamity occurs not only in India but elsewhere also. I was recently in Australia and I was told that they were also facing drought situation which had not happened during the last sixty years and they were destroying thousands of cattle for want of fodder, for want of even drinking water. In the same way this year Africa has been affected. South America has been affected. Unfortunately even in the most developed countries, we have not reached the stage where we are able to get over the vagaries of the weather. Still agriculture

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largely depends upon the monsoon and monsoon conditions and therefore in a country like ours, when such a natural calamity occurs, if the production is affected in a big way, it is nothing surprising and it is this situation which we are called upon to meet. As far as estimates are concerned, there are varying estimates but my estimate is, even during the *kharif* season, we may be facing a shortfall on the whole of about 8 million tons of foodgrains. The *rabi* crop also is not quite promising because in the beginning of the winter, rains have not been quite good and fortunately during this week, we have had extensive and heavy rains in the Madras State and in the bordering areas, but that has not spread to the other areas in India. On the whole, from 1st October till this day, the monsoon has been only about thirty or forty per cent. of the normal fall. Therefore *rabi* prospects also are not quite rosy. This is what we are called upon to face. The problem would arise not only on the food front but we might have difficulties with regard to drinking water also. We might have difficulties with regard to fodder for cattle and in the wake it might be possible that epidemics might spread. We have to foresee all these things and be forewarned and take action to meet all these contingencies and the Government are contemplating steps and formulating programmes to meet this situation but ultimately we have to see that during this year the availability of foodgrains is increased to the maximum extent possible. That has to be done by short-term production programmes within the country taking into account the various water resources and other resources available. For that also we have launched upon a programme and we have circulated a note which gives details about it. In addition to that, this year particularly, we have to depend upon imported foodgrains also, and in our present foreign exchange situation we have to rely to a great extent upon imports under P.L. 480. Fortunately we are getting uninterruptedly at the rate of 500,000 tonnes per mensem, and I do not think there will be a breakdown in this. But this order of imports also may not be sufficient to meet the situation. Therefore we have also to see whether it would be possible to get from the various sources additional quantities of foodgrains to meet this situation. In addition to this

we are also trying to get various protective foods, like multi-vitamin tablets, nutritive biscuits, milk powder and various processed foods, and we have a special programme for the children because, at this stage, particularly in this calamity, we should see that the next generation's health does not get affected. Therefore I attach great importance to the child welfare programme during this period, particularly in the scarcity areas which cannot take care of the children and of, perhaps to a certain extent, pregnant mothers and nursing mothers also. Already we have had discussions with the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission about this, and I hope it would be possible for us to launch a large-scale child welfare programme which, I hope, will not be confined to this critical period alone. My own idea is that this should become a permanent feature; this child welfare programme particularly for the poorer sections of the people should become a permanent feature. I have always held the view that if we have to have socialism in our country, that socialism should begin with the children. Let us at least give equal opportunity to the children to be born and to be brought up under certain minimal comforts and minimal amenities. I hope what we begin today will become a permanent feature. In the same way we are trying to have fodder collected in the forest areas and are creating fodder banks to store it, locating them at strategic points, so that it could be moved to the various areas where the situation may become critical. These are some of the steps which we are already considering in the Central Government. More than that we have alerted the State Governments with regard to these various programmes, and I am glad that the State Governments also are taking various steps. But ultimately the country should get over these difficulties which arise out of vagaries of the weather by reaching a higher level of production and being in a position to build a buffer stock to meet these natural calamities. Therefore I am sure the House would be interested to know what is our programme to reorganise and reorientate our agricultural programme so that, within a measurable time, as early as possible, we reach the stage of self-sufficiency. For that also we have already submitted a programme, which has been printed and circulated to the hon. Members. This programme has already been scrutinised

by the Planning Commission and for the last one week the Cabinet also has been considering these various things. And with this I would like to place before the House the various policy decisions which have been taken by the Government of India. First of all, the decision that has been taken by the Government of India is that in the Fourth Plan, in the economic development programmes—I am not speaking about defence; that stands by itself—that in the economic development programmes agriculture would be given the highest priority, and as the hon. Members are aware, we are thinking in terms of a Rs. 2,400 crore programme for agricultural development during the Fourth Plan. Whatever might be the limitations with regard to the resources available, on the whole the Government have taken the decision that the outlay required for agriculture would not in any event be cut down. As a matter of fact, the Prime Minister has declared that; while Rs. 2,400 crores have been indicated, if it is possible to have a bigger programme and for that financial resources are needed, Government would not hesitate to allocate those additional resources also for the purpose of putting through this programme. And this Rs. 2,400 crores would necessarily mean a certain amount of foreign exchange also, and so a policy decision has been taken that this priority would be applicable not only for the allocation of internal resources, but for also the allocation of foreign exchange resources, of course subject to the other priority needs of defence. But within the economic development programmes agriculture would get the highest priority. Then for the purpose of reaching this self-sufficiency we have formulated a programme, what is called the *intensive agricultural programme for the areas selected out of the 330 million acres which we sow every year*. Out of these 330 million acres, about 72 to 75 million acres have assured water-supply. And out of these 75 million acres we are selecting about 32 million acres to 35 million acres for purposes of intensive production in this area, and in progressive paces, from the first year of the Fourth Plan onwards, the Government programme is to have improved varieties of foodgrains sown in this area, the improved varieties being paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, bajra, ragi. These are the chief ones we are selecting from among the improved varieties, and we are evolving new

varieties which are capable of high yields, which would stand high fertilisation and yield twice or even thrice the normal yield of our indigenous variety. This programme has been accepted, but the implications of this programme would be, if we have to use these high-yielding varieties, it requires high fertilisation also. Therefore the levels of availability of fertilisers also would have to be increased, and we have indicated in the paper circulated what would be the order of nitrogen, of phosphatic fertilizers (in terms of P_2O_5) and of potassic fertilizers (in terms of K_2O), which would be required for putting through this programme. In 1966-67 we envisage one million tons of Nitrogen, 37 million tonnes of P_2O_5 and 0.20 million tonnes of K_2O , and in 1967-68 progressively it goes on increasing, and in 1970-71, that is the final year of the Fourth Plan, our estimate would be 2.4 million tonnes of Nitrogen, 1.00 million tonnes of P_2O_5 and 0.70 million tonnes of K_2O . This would mean roughly 4 million tonnes of plant nutrients in terms of Nitrogen, P_2O_5 and K_2O , which should be made available to make this a success. Government have accepted these targets, and we are also finding out methods to see that these targets of availability are reached in the years to come. For the purpose of reaching these targets the first step which will have to be taken is to see that the factories which we have put up, the fertilizer factories which we have put up, work to the maximum. Unfortunately, even during this year, when fertilizer is in shortage with reference to the demand, it had not been possible to work them to full capacity because of the want of raw materials, which could not be imported due to the scarce foreign exchange. We have taken a policy decision that in the allocation of foreign exchange highest priority will be given to this also, so that the raw materials required for the fertilizer factories to run them at the highest level, it should be possible for us to get those raw materials, like rock phosphate and sulphate, so that our factories could work to the maximum extent possible, to the maximum capacity.

And if there is a shortfall after taking into account the indigenous production, it has also been decided by the Cabinet that every attempt would be made to allocate the foreign exchange necessary for the purpose

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the rabi season's requirements. For that we will always be on the look out to find out sources of foreign exchange for the import of these things.

SHRI NAFISUL HASAN : What about setting up additional fertiliser factories in the country?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Naturally we have to do that also. I am glad the hon. Member has interrupted me; otherwise perhaps I might have gone on to the subject of pesticides. What is important is that just as we should not be dependent upon foodgrain imports, for fertilisers also we cannot be continually and indefinitely dependent on imports and we must not waste our foreign exchange resources. Therefore, it is necessary to have as much of indigenous production as possible.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Uttar Pradesh) : May I submit that the Food Minister need not make a lengthy speech.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I will please Mr. Bhupesh Gupta by saying whatever is necessary to be said. Let him be pleased about it.

The point for consideration is whether it is advantageous to be importing foodgrains or it is advantageous to be importing fertilisers or whether it is advantageous to have fertiliser production programme here. I have absolutely no doubt that economics will show that it is much more advantageous to produce fertilisers within the country under whatever terms it may be. That is why the Government is now considering various steps for the purpose of putting up fertiliser factories within the country. I am sure immediately we consider having particularly factories in the private sector, my hon. friend Mr. Bhupesh Gupta would immediately say, this is being done under U.S. pressure. What I want to impress upon the House is that there is no question of pressure from anybody. We have voice enough and we have intelligence enough to see what is in the best interest of the country. I do not think we are going to take any policy decision through any pressure from any quarter, which is likely to be against the interest of the country. That much *bona*

fides at least should be granted to the Government and to those who are in charge of the Government today. We have, therefore, to create conditions in which fertiliser factories do come up here, whether it be in the public sector or in the private sector. We want conditions in which these factories come into existence, because even if foreign investment comes here, even taking into account the profits they are likely to make, and the profits that they are likely to take out, if you take the alternative of importing foodgrains or the fertiliser from abroad, as against having fertiliser factories established in the country, it would be a thousand times more advantageous to have these factories within the country, whoever be the investors. We should have the production and, that is the most important thing. Therefore, the Government intends taking a policy decision. Already the cabinet sub-committee is going into this question with regard to the distribution programme and with regard to the pricing policy and the various other things involved in it so that it may be possible for more and more factories to come into existence within the country. There is no question of pleasing this country or that country. It is a question of safeguarding our own interests, particularly safeguarding the interests of agricultural production which alone would give us the capacity to feed the millions of our people. I do not think we should work ourselves into a situation in which we will be faced with another catastrophe like this one. Therefore, we have to see that all measures are taken for the purpose of bringing about the fertiliser industry within the country. I am also hoping that with the help of this cabinet sub-committee, within the next week or two, we will be able to announce this distribution and pricing policy with regard to fertiliser which will facilitate more factories to come up in the public sector and in the private sector.

With regard to distribution in particular, I want to say this. I am sure some hon. Members would have seen the recent report of the Projects Evaluation Committee of the Planning Commission where it shows how under the pool system and under the monopoly system, fertiliser distribution has been functioning. It is not merely a question of physically making the fertiliser available. It is also important that it should be done at the proper time. And along with that, what

is even more important is the extension service and the advice with regard to the use of the fertiliser, with reference to the crop and the soil. That is most important. Now in other countries the distributing agency is also used for this purpose. But because of the monopoly system which we have adopted for distribution through cooperative societies, there is this attitude of take it or leave it". And particularly in a situation of shortages, this becomes very acute and it was brought out dramatically how our distribution system particularly in the fertiliser sector failed to deliver the goods. Therefore, it becomes necessary to review it fully and we hope that it would be possible for us to take a decision in which the producer himself will be made responsible for the distribution. As a matter of fact, the FACT organisation which is a public sector organisation, distributes its own production. I have seen it—I have been in charge of this industry also for some time—I have seen how this FACT organisation has organised its distribution agency throughout the area and also given advice to the farmers for the purpose of using the various types of fertilisers with reference to the soil and crop, and they have done an excellent job. Therefore, when we say distribution it does not necessarily mean that it should be handed over to the private sector. That is not necessary. When the public sector is itself made responsible to sell what it produces it takes all the necessary steps for the purpose of organising itself for the work. Therefore, it becomes necessary for us to consider all these things and take a policy decision and I hope a certain amount of the competitive spirit will be brought about in this distribution and in all these things so that the farmer will have the advantage in the process. Now the farmer is at a disadvantage. He has to go with the begging bowl for his fertiliser. The various agencies should change and the change should be to the benefit of the farmer. That is the most important thing.

Therefore, Madam, these are the various things with regard to fertilisers which we have to take into consideration. By this process we hope that within the next four or five years it should be possible for us to build up fertiliser factories sufficient to meet our entire needs. It is not going to end by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan. By the

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Fifth Five Year Plan, if we are to keep up the tempo of agricultural activity, if we are to keep up this tempo of agricultural activity in order to meet the increasing population which will be there by the end of the fifth Plan, the production will have to be doubled.

Instead of four million tons of plant nutrient we should have eight million tons of plant nutrient by the end of the Fifth Plan. Therefore, the order of investment which would be required in the fertiliser industry during the Fifth Plan period will almost be double or even a little more than double. We have to take care of the Sixth Plan period also because we are not only building for the present we are building for the generations also. This will have to be kept in mind. In addition to fertiliser being made available, it is also necessary to have plant protection measures because those varieties are susceptible to various pests and diseases. Therefore, the agricultural chemicals required for this purpose—they are of various types—will have to be produced within the country. We have already put up some factories of sufficient magnitude to meet the immediate requirements but for the increasing needs we will have to expand and perhaps establish new factories for producing the new developing chemicals which are necessary to meet the demands in the country. That also will be taken care of and to the extent necessary we will be importing also. Then there is the question of multiplying seeds. We have had some experience during the Third Plan period in regard to the multiplication of seeds and I should say that the State farms with twenty-five or fifty acres have been successful but the majority of them, I should say, have not come up to our expectations. This may be because in the small areas it is not possible to give the technical assistance required for that purpose. That is why we have now a big programme of big State seed farms. For this purpose, we have already created the post of a Director-General of State Farms and an individual with practical farming experience and also administrative experience has been appointed to this post. He will immediately take up the Suratgarh and the Jetsar Farms which I am afraid are not in proper shape today. The management may have to be strengthened and we would see that these farms are used to the best advantage possible, particularly

for the purpose of producing quality seeds which are required. In addition to that, our intention is to have at least one seed farm round about five or ten thousand acres in every State for the purpose of producing these seeds. That programme is also being taken up vigorously and very soon, within one or two months three or four State farms will be coming into existence. By this process we want to have a sufficient number of big seed farms where we will have the equipment necessary, where we will have the various types of agricultural machinery necessary for the purpose of producing seeds and processing the seeds. That is also important. With all this, it becomes necessary to have water also because without water all this would become useless. Therefore, we have to take note of the requirements of water, particularly. It is not that the other areas would be completely neglected. I am concentrating my speech on this aspect, on how to make this intensive programme a success. The other areas also will be looked after as we are looking after them but an intensive approach will be made with reference to this. As far as this is concerned, unfortunately our irrigation programmes till now have been only protective. There is not sufficient water available for intensive agricultural programmes and that is mainly the reason why under our old irrigation projects we are able to take only one crop and we see that water would be available for five or six months. We have always got accustomed to a long-term crop which will go on for five or six months. What is important is that instead of one we should have in all these areas multiple cropping where water is available. Our intention is to develop tubewells or filter points or surface wells even in the command areas so that we may have instead of one crop two crops. Therefore, when we say that we will have maize, it is possible to have maize after a paddy or wheat crop. It is always possible to have two crops in these areas. After a paddy crop, it is possible to have a wheat crop also. There will be a certain amount of overlapping but what is important is to develop water availability. Unfortunately, in our ancient irrigation system—and I am particularly aware of what is prevalent in Tanjore—we have the flow system, water flowing from field to field. This is part of traditional agriculture but when we

want to have high fertilisation, when we apply fertilisers in this flow system, the fertiliser is washed away from one field to another so much so that in one there is an abundance of fertiliser and in the fields above the fertiliser is not used by the plants to the maximum extent necessary. Therefore, modernising the irrigation system is absolutely essential, that is, field channels which could control the irrigation at the various points. Our experience has been this : Whenever there was scarcity of water and we tried to control irrigation and give less of water, on all those occasions we have had at least fifteen to twenty per cent. increased production. That has been our experience in Madras and that has been the experience in Andhra also. Therefore, a programme of modernisation of irrigation projects is absolutely essential. An expert team has gone into it and a project report for modernising the whole thing has been received and now it is being taken up with regard to the delta area in Andhra. In the same way, all our ancient irrigation projects will have to be locked into and modernisation programmes will have to be undertaken where we will have to have field channels controlling irrigation at every field point. This is most important. Therefore, the development of minor irrigation and modernisation of existing channels becomes almost essential. We are taking up this programme in an intensive way during the Fourth Plan period. It is this package of better seeds, fertiliser plant protection and water control of irrigation which gives optimum yield. Everyone of these things, used by itself will give some marginal result but when all these four are used as a package then the increase is substantial. The benefits that each one of these items give when used individually are not the same as the benefits that would accrue when all these are used as a package. That is the experience we have gained and, therefore, when we have to have this intensified agriculture with huge investments, naturally the farmers should get the credit for this purpose. Here also in regard to the credit programme, the co-operatives have not come up to the level of meeting the requirements of every farmer. That is why we are thinking in terms of having alternative credit organisations so that sufficient credit may be made available to the farmers. We are having under contemplation an agricultural credit corporation which would act as a supplementary agency

along with the co-operative banks for the purpose of making sufficient credit available to the farmers. These are all the decisions taken but there is another decision which is to be taken—that is crucial in my view—and that is this: When huge investments are made and if some natural calamities should arise there should be some control on the losses to the farmer.

So along with this we should have a crop insurance scheme which would see that whenever because of natural calamities there is loss of heavy investment the farmer is compensated. This will have to be worked into the programme but that can come a little later. This is how we visualise this programme and this intensive agricultural approach programme has been accepted by the Cabinet, by the Planning Commission. We are also taking steps to multiply seeds, paddy seeds, wheat seeds, all these new varieties and also hybrid maize, hybrid sorghum, hybrid bajra and ragi. We are already in the process of multiplying seeds so that for the next year's programme 5 to 6 million acres under improved seeds will be possible. So as far as this is concerned we are taking all steps necessary for the purpose. This is how we are approaching the programme for the future building up an agricultural economy in our country which would produce enough to meet the needs of the people. By this programme I won't say that by next year we would reach self-sufficiency. If we are able to implement this programme in the best manner successfully, I am confident it would be possible for us in a phased manner to reach self-sufficiency by the end of the Fourth Plan. This is the new strategy which we have evolved and I can assure this House that this has been decided upon not by politicians but by technicians, by the scientists, by the agricultural economists, by the agricultural administrators. It has been reviewed and then decided upon on a pilot scale and I am assured by the technicians and by the scientists - and I have confined myself not only to our own scientists and technicians but I have consulted others also from foreign countries and everybody has assured me—that this is a worth while programme and this agricultural development programme will assure us success in our quest for self-sufficiency. Therefore these are the approaches that we are making to agricultural development and the priorities which we have

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indicated have already been accepted by the cabinet and it is on this basis that we are going ahead.

Even for 1966-67 the order of resources which would be made available to the agricultural sector is important. We are very much strained with regard to foreign exchange, and even with regard to internal resources because of the various developments that have taken place due to Pakistani aggression but in spite of that we are ensuring that during 1966-67 at least 40 to 50 per cent of what we spent during the last year of the Third Plan will be made available so that the programme will be sufficiently stepped up even during the first year of the Fourth Plan apart from the larger allocations of resources during the Fourth Plan. This is what we are doing. Even for 1966-67 we are taking all steps to see that this is assured.

Then naturally for making this a success the administrative set-up also is important. Even the best of programmes may run into difficulties if we do not have the administrative machinery to meet the needs of the situation. That also is very much under contemplation. As hon. Members are aware, for the fertilisers we have a Committee under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister himself to look into the various programmes not only of production but also the import programme and various other things. Therefore at the highest level it is being reviewed and whatever bottlenecks there are, they will also be reviewed by this Committee. With regard to the establishment of new fertiliser factories also if there are any impediments in the way, they will be considered by this high-level Committee and they will be removed. In addition to that a Production Board has been constituted under my chairmanship in which the various Ministries involved are brought together and this Committee has been enabled to take binding decisions for the purpose of seeing that the programmes in the agricultural sector are not bogged down by procedural difficulties. In the light of the experience of the working of this production Board—not that I am fully satisfied with it—I am quite confident that with a little more effort it should be possible to make this Production Board sufficiently action-oriented and it should be

possible for us to take various policy decisions which are necessary for launching the actual programmes. In this connection we have also another Committee to look into the credit aspect of it, a special Agricultural Credit Committee. That also functions under my chairmanship and in it also the various Ministries are brought together. In addition to all this recently we have taken another decision. Agriculture would require various industrial equipments; for example, for plant protection measures equipment is necessary. Apart from that agricultural implements also are necessary and these things will have to be done in the Industries and Supply Ministries. If a programme goes to the Industries and Supply Ministries, it takes its own time, five to six months, sometimes years also and the programme gets locked up. Therefore we have come to a decision that we will have a separate cell in the Food and Agriculture Ministry where the technical officers from the Industries and Supply Ministries would be located and they will be purely functioning for the purpose of attending to the requirements of Agriculture and Food Ministry. This is a thing which I think could perhaps be repeated with regard to other sectors also. Even though the administrative control may be in the other Ministry, these people will serve the purpose of the Agriculture and Food Ministry. These are some of the steps which we have taken and I hope and trust that with all these measures—not that there will not be further scope for improvement; I have no doubt there is much more scope for improvement but as we go on we can go on improving—we will be able to succeed. In addition, I am quite well aware of the inadequacy of the administrative system which exists today. I have been speaking about it quite frankly and I think it is necessary. Leave alone individual functioning and individual shortcomings but as a system our administrative system is outmoded particularly for the development programmes, particularly for the welfare programmes, therefore I am quite positive that the system has got to change and the sooner we make the changes the better it will be for agriculture. This will have to be looked into. Now we are thinking in terms of a Reforms Commission but this Reforms Commission should not become another routine matter with some recommendations for a few more Joint

Secretaries and a few more Deputy Secretaries. I hope it will not end up in that. I hope it will make the necessary fundamental and basic changes in the system itself which are necessary today. I hope these changes will be brought about but in the meanwhile on my own initiative I am taking various steps for reorganising my Ministry. I do not say it is an ideal one but in the present set-up this is the best that could happen.

For this purpose a massive research programme is necessary not only for the sake of the present but particularly for the sake of the future. As hon. Members are aware I have reorganised the Indian Council of Agricultural Research with a scientist at its head and that process is going on and we hope to have, instead of a dispersed research without any co-ordination whatsoever, a purposive research co-ordinating the national research programmes with regard to the various commodities and the problems involved in relation to those commodities. This is also being taken up in a co-ordinated way and I have no doubt particularly of the human material, particularly of our scientists. I have come across scientists of the various countries of the world and I have also come across particularly the younger generation of scientists of our country and I can say with confidence that our scientists are equal to any of the scientists in any part of the world but unfortunately we have not given them opportunities, we have not given them amenities, we have not given them status, and particularly the agricultural scientists, we have thrown them to the dust, almost to the dust. Their status will have to be raised, their emoluments will have to be raised but I tell you even without any of these things our young scientists are going forward. Even within these 18 months I saw results which would not have been achieved in other parts of the world have been achieved by our young scientists and if today we are in a position to take up this new programme it is mainly because of the achievements of our scientists in evolving new varieties which will stand heavy fertilisers, which will suit our soil and our climate.

It is this new generation which is coming up, the scientists, technicians and technocrats, which alone gives me hope, whatever

our failures might be, the failures particularly of the politicians of this generation. I have full faith and full hope in the future, because I see these young scientists, technicians and technocrats, who alone would give us a new future, a new assurance particularly to the coming generation. I have no doubt in my mind that if we put our trust and faith in these people instead of the various other things, we will be marching towards self-sufficiency and perhaps we will be reaching the stage of self-sufficiency much earlier than what we imagine.

Thank you, Madam, and I hope now Mr. Bhupesh will be satisfied with this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now, there are 37 amendments. Amendments Nos. 1 to 7 stand in the name of Mr. Dharia and Shrimati Tara R. Sathe.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : (Maharashtra) Excuse me, Madam. Being satisfied with the reasons now advanced by the hon. Minister, I do not want to move my amendment No. 5. The others I am moving.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Amendments Nos. 8 to 36 stand in the name of Shri Bhupesh Gupta. Amendment No. 37 is in the name of Shri Vajpayee.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam, I move :

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

'and having considered the same, this House recommends that an integrated national food policy should be adopted for the whole of the country by introducing uniform system of procurement and equitable distribution of foodgrains, other cereals and pulses in all the States and Union territories."

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

'and having considered the same, this House recommends that wholesale trade in foodgrains by private individuals or firms should be prohibited and the same should be managed preferably through co-operative societies or by the States."

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

'and having considered the same, this House recommends that arrangements should be made to pay remunerative prices for the agricultural produce."

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

'and having considered the same, this House recommends that repayment of loans and credits taken by those farmers, who are affected by famine, from co-operative societies or Government should be suspended and the Reserve Bank of India should be informed accordingly'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House recommends that States should be requested to take up famine relief measures and to provide employment to all those who are affected by famine'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House recommends that special assistance should be provided to the States and the Union Territories affected by famine conditions'."

(The amendments also stood in the name of Shrimati Tara Ramchandra Sathe.)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Madam, I move:

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 dependence on U.S. food imports under PL 480 must be treated as detrimental to national honour and that this dependence must be put an end to'."

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 recent

attitude of the U.S. Government in regard to India's food imports under PL 480 and to the so-called economic aid to our country, brings to the forefront the supreme urgency of the vigorous efforts in all directions for doing away with U.S. food imports under PL 480'."

10. "That at the end of the Motion the following be added namely:

'and having considered the same, this of opinion that Government must formulate an effective policy and line of action for achieving self-sufficiency in the matter of food and mobilise, in co-operation with the willing co-operation of all parties and popular organisations, a nation wide campaign for the purpose'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House deems it necessary to emphasis the fact that the recent events have amply demonstrated that sovereignty, national independence and national honour cannot be upheld and safeguarded while continuing heavy U.S. food imports under PL 480'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House notes with regret and great concern that notwithstanding verbal declarations about food self-sufficiency, the Government has hitched its wagon to the PL 480 thus perpetuating the dependence and all that it means'."

13. "That at the end of the motion the following be added namely:

'and having considered the same, this House takes serious note of the fact that the U.S. Government is openly trying to exploit India's present economic and other difficulties and using PL 480 as an instrument of economic and political pressure to change the policies of the Government of India'."

14. "That at the end of the motion the following be added namely:

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the Government must take the public into confidence and disclose all material facts and information in its possession showing how the U.S. authorities are trying to impress their ideas and views on India on several political and economic questions in the name of creating favourable conditions for U.S. food assistance to this country'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that it is insulting to the national honour and to our people's patriotism to say that India cannot meet the challenge of the present food situation without U.S. food imports under PL 480'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the continuance of U.S. food imports under PL 480 and the requisite efforts for making India self-sufficient in food cannot go side by side because the PL 480 imports have already proved to be a stumbling block to India's self-sufficiency in food specially to increase in production of wheat in full measure'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that it would be most unfortunate if the recent patriotic upsurge of our people is not fully utilised to mobilise them against PL 480 and for overcoming dependence on it'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the situation created by the failure of rains or other

natural calamities, should not be exaggerated, much less taken advantage, of for further tying the country to PL 480 imports'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the earnestness of Government's sincerity and seriousness in regard to the food problem lies in great measure in its practical steps here and now to put an end to this precarious dependence on U.S. imports under PL 480'."

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

'and having considered the same this House is of opinion that nothing is more perverse and misleading than the contention that India cannot, for the present, do without PL 480 food imports'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House takes note of the fact that with the increasing food imports under PL 480 since 1956, the food situation, far from being solved, has gone on aggravating'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that proper steps have not been taken to ensure that the loans advanced by the Reserve Bank of India through Co-operative Banks for agricultural purposes do reach the actual producer of food grains'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the interest charged on agricultural advances is too high for the poor cultivators to pay'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House notes with profound encouragement and satisfaction the public demand

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throughout the country for ending dependence on the U.S. PL 480 food imports, and urges upon the Government to fulfil this great patriotic, national demand by concrete actions'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that with a view to correctly assessing the situation from the point of view of eliminating PL 480 imports the Government should immediately call a consultative meeting of prominent economists in the country and thus seek their advice instead of leaving matters to be settled by the officials alone'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the task of increasing food production, reorganising the distribution of food in a manner that ensures cheap and adequate food to the urban and rural population should be given the topmost priority and that for this purpose all necessary initiatives should be taken by the Government so as to inspire all honest and patriotic people to bend their energies'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that in order to meet the challenge on the food front, the policies of the Government which suffer from serious bias against agricultural labour and poor peasants, must be reorientated in the direction that strengthens and safeguards the interests of the mass of cultivating peasantry'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the bureaucratic and anti-people manner in which even the existing price control, rationing, statutory or informal, procurement, etc., are enforced and implemented,

must be given up and substituted by popular, democratic implementations'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House notes with regret that in the implementation of even the positive measures, the Opposition Parties and popular mass organisations are not associated and that the preference goes for serving the narrow interests of the ruling party, in addition to reliance on bureaucracy thereby encouraging corruption, wastage and the like all along the line'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of the opinion that the entire policy of the Government with regard to increasing production, procuring surplus foodgrains, fixing prices and organising distribution has to be radically changed of any real improvement in the present critical situation has to be brought about'."

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

'and having considered the same and with a view to bringing about the urgently needed change in the country's food policy, this House recommends the following immediate steps, namely:

- (a) All cultivable fallow lands, whether held by the Government or local bodies, should be distributed among agricultural labourers and poor peasants, free of cost. The proposal to give them to joint stock companies or individual capitalists should be dropped. Cultivable fallow lands owned by private landlords should be taken over by the State and leased out to agricultural labourers and poor peasants.
- (b) Vast tracts of so-called 'forest lands' on which there are no forests at present, should be opened up and distributed for cultivation.

- (c) All ejections, either by the Government or by the landlords, should be immediately stopped. In the case of those lands which are necessary for irrigation, power or other projects and from which, therefore, the cultivators will have to be removed, adequate compensation and alternative land should be provided to the cultivators.
- (d) All loopholes in the existing land reforms and ceiling legislation should be removed as quickly as possible. Effective and real ceilings should be imposed on holdings of big landlords who still own large areas of land. All surplus land thus secured should be distributed among agricultural labourers and poor peasants.
- (e) All agricultural labourers and poor peasants, who are thus allotted land should be given adequate financial help by the State to purchase bullocks, agricultural implements, etc. in order to make their plots of land cultivable.
- (f) Small and medium irrigation should be developed rapidly and on an extensive scale in such a manner as to yield speedy results.
- (g) Measures of land development, such as soil conservation, construction of percolating tanks, tapping of under-ground water, should be undertaken on a scientific basis and at Government cost.
- (h) No new tax burdens should be imposed on the rural poor and all new taxes recently imposed on the peasantry in certain States, such as surcharges on land revenue and enhanced water rates should be withdrawn forthwith. Existing water rates, development levies and other taxes which weigh heavily on the middle and poor peasants should be substantially scaled down. Peasants who own uneconomic holdings should be exempted from land tax and compulsory grain levies and should be provided with free irrigation facilities.
- (i) A proper price policy should be evolved. Purchase prices of agricultural commodities should be fixed, taking into consideration the cost of cultivation on the one hand and the relative prices of non-agricultural commodities bought by the peasants and their general cost of living on the other.
- (j) Proper arrangements should be made for an assured and timely supply of cheap credit, as also fertilisers, irrigation facilities, etc. to the poor and middle peasants.
- (k) Branches of the State Bank should be opened on a much wider scale in the countryside so that credit can be given directly or through local co-operative societies to the cultivators. The rate of interest charged to the cultivators should in no case be above four per cent. Special credit facilities should be given for foodgrain production.
- (l) In order to facilitate the above process, nationalisation of bank should be immediately carried out.
- (m) Wholesale trade in foodgrains should be taken out of the hands of the private sector and be nationalised.
- (n) Rationing of foodgrains should be introduced in all corporation, municipal and town areas, as well as in rural areas where there is acute scarcity. In other rural regions, cheap grain shops should be opened for agricultural labourers, poor peasants and non-agricultural sections of the population. There should be no distinction between the urban and rural population in regard to the quantum of ration provided.
- (o) Popular committees, including representatives of political parties, mass organisations, panchayats, co-operatives, etc. should be set up to supervise various aspects of production, procurement and rationing."

[SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA]

32. That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:

'and having considered the same, this House takes a serious view of the manner in which the Minister of Railways discussed with the U.S. authorities the food situation in India during the latter's recent visit to the U.S.A. and the House is further of the opinion that such action on his part not only transgressed his authority but created resentment among the people in the country and caused misgivings among the genuine friends of our country abroad'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the Prime Minister should personally take the initiative to consult the Opposition in a proper way for the formulation of a national food policy and for creating necessary conditions and machinery for its loyal implementation'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that unless the present policy is radically orientated, the problem is not going to be solved merely by bringing 32.5 million acres under improved cultivation, nor is the target of the additional 25.5 million tonnes going to be achieved in this manner'."

35. That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that it is economically and socially dangerous in the extreme to allow the business houses of the country to start farming, and that in view of this, the demand of the industrialists in this regard must be rejected once and for all'."

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

'and having considered the same, this House notes with regret that despite the assurance of the Union Food Minister on behalf of the Government last September in this House, still a number of persons, arrested and detained in con-

nection with the food movement in Bihar, West Bengal and other places have not been released'."

(Amendment Nos. 8 to 36 also stood in the name of Shri P. K. Kumaran.)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :
Madam, I move:

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

'and having considered the same, this House disapproves the policy pursued by Government so far and suggests that:—

- (a) in allocation of funds in the 4th Plan, priority be given to agriculture as the major industry in the country;
- (b) co-ordination councils of peasants and agricultural workers be set up from block levels upwards to ensure maximum efforts of both for food production;
- (c) cultivable waste land be distributed amongst the landless labourers and adequate funds and implements be made available to them for the purpose;
- (d) production oriented prices be assured to the tillers;
- (e) rationing be introduced in all cities with a population of over one lakh and the famine effected areas;
- (f) greater financial aid be granted to peasants for sinking wells and other minor irrigation works; and
- (g) food zones be abolished and the whole country be treated as one unit'."

(This amendment also stood in the names of Shri V. M. Chordia and Shri D. Thengari).

The questions were proposed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The discussion will begin tomorrow. Mr. Patel will speak tomorrow. The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at thirteen minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 8th December, 1965.