

**REPORT OF THE COMPANIES ACT
AMENDMENT COMMITTEE**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Companies Act Amendment Committee. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-452/57.]

**SECOND REPORT OF THE PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE (1957-58)**

SHRIMATI PUSHPALATA DAS (Assam): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee (1957-58) on the regularisation of excesses over voted Grants/Charged Appropriations disclosed in the Appropriation Accounts (Civil), 1954-55.

**ALLOTMENT OF TIME FOR THE
APPROPRIATION (NO. 5) BILL,
1957**

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that under Rule 162(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I have allotted one hour and thirty minutes for the completion of all stages involved in the consideration and return of the Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 1957, in the Rajya Sabha, including the consideration and passing of amendments, if any, to the Bill.

**MOTION REGARDING FOOD
SITUATION**

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI A. P. JAIN): Sir, I beg to move:

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

Sir, since the food situation in the country was last discussed in this House during the course of the consideration of the amendment to the

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Essential Commodities Act, quite a number of important things have happened. The House would be aware that the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee which was appointed by the Government of India has submitted its report. That report is a very valuable document. It covers, practically, all the aspects of the food administration as also the schemes for increasing food production. It has made some very valuable suggestions, and I take this opportunity of paying my heart-felt tribute to the work done by that Committee. It has submitted its report in record time. Some of the recommendations made by that Committee endorse the action which has already been taken by the Ministry. The Committee has suggested certain new proposals. The Government is carefully examining the recommendations of the Committee but we have not come to any conclusions in regard to some of the recommendations. Of course, the recommendations which cover the already approved schemes of the Government of India are being implemented perhaps with a little more confidence. No discussion of the food situation can be realistic unless it takes into account all the recommendations made by the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee, and I do expect that during the course of the debate hon. Members will express their opinion about the various recommendations contained in that report so that in coming to conclusions the Government have the benefit of the advice of hon. Members.

Now, I would like to give some idea of what we have done in regard to the food administration since this House last discussed this question. The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee has very carefully examined the question as to whether there is need for reviving controls, I mean physical controls, as prevailed during the war time, and the observations of the Committee are contained on page 75 of the report. It says :

"In the first place, complete rationing will involve a large

[Shri A. P. Jain.]

increase in Government's commitments for maintaining supplies to the rationed population. This will require large stocks to start with and large imports thereafter as was our experience between 1948-53. The demand is likely to go on increasing year after year. It is estimated that if complete rationing is introduced, the total ration commitment in Bombay State alone will be about 17 lakh tons of foodgrains per year."

In the next page, it observes:

"It is estimated that for the Bombay State alone the administrative cost of complete procurement and rationing would be about Rs. 5-6 crore's per annum, which may be compared with Rs. 14 lakhs, the present expenditure on the Civil Supplies Department. An extensive system of procurement and rationing would have a justification if it succeeded in preventing the rise in prices that might otherwise occur. This implies depressing the cultivators' return for the sake of the urban consumer. On this score alone the system may be found to be widely unacceptable."

After carefully examining this question the Committee has recommended that controls must be tightened over the distributive system and that so far as the producer and the consumer are concerned it may be applied to the minimum, only to the extent that it becomes necessary for enforcing controls on the distributive machinery. That has been more or less the policy of the Government of India and I am glad that our policy finds support from this report.

Now, the various measures which we have taken in order to control the distributive machinery are firstly application of credit squeeze, *viz.* the advances made by banks against food-grains. The House is aware that the first order in that connection was issued on the 7th June 1957, and as a result of the experience gained, another order has been issued on the

11th December 1957 by the Reserve Bank of India. The principal features of the first order are, that the margin of money has been increased to 40 per cent, and the amount of fresh advances has been limited to Rs. 50,000, *i.e.*, no fresh advances will be made against rice or wheat and other foodgrains exceeding Rs. 50,000. The latest order requires that the scheduled banks should maintain, in each month commencing from January 1958, the aggregate level of credit against the security of paddy and rice which shall not exceed 75 per cent, of the average of its advances on the last Fridays of the corresponding months in 1957, 1956, and 1955. In the States of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, the directive provides for further tightening up of the credit control; it provides that the advances shall not exceed 60 per cent, of the advances in the corresponding month of 1957 in those States. The results of the credit control have been quite effective. As against a total advance of Rs. 42-52 crores in the month of May, the advances in the middle of November have come down to Rs. 14'81 crores. In this regard, the observations of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee are worthy of consideration. Credit control, while it is important, has only limited effectiveness. At page 79, the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee says:

"If the magnitudes of deficit-financing, together with development expenditure offset partly by foreign aid impose a measure of strain on the economy that makes a certain rise in prices inevitable, then any other measures that may be taken can only modify to some extent the impact of that rise in prices but cannot completely obviate it."

So while credit control measures have proved to be effective, it would be wrong on the part of this House or anyone else to expect spectacular results from the application of those limitations.

Another series of action, that we took, was to create certain zones. The

House is already aware that there are three wheat zones. The Northern zone consists of Punjab, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. The second zone is made up of Uttar Pradesh and the third zone is made up by the three States of Bombay, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. As a result of the creation of these zones, much of the avoidable movement has been eliminated. The experience of previous years has been that while during the harvest season foodgrains, particularly wheat, move from the growing areas to Bombay, in the early part of the year the reverse would take place. As a result of the creation of these zones, that avoidable movement has been eliminated. Further, as a result of the creation of these zones, the prices have also been maintained at a reasonable level and prices in the Punjab and in the western zone consisting of Bombay, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are, in this year, appreciably lower than what they were last year in the corresponding part of the year. Even, so far as I.P. is concerned, though the prices were somewhat higher in the earlier months, the price of wheat in the month of November is about what prevailed last year.

So far as rice is concerned, the House is already aware that Orissa, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Punjab and West Bengal have been created into separate zones. The reasons for creating these zones were different. In some cases these zones were created in order to stop smuggling of rice into Pakistan. So far as Orissa was concerned, this action was taken in order to conserve rice in that State. So far as Punjab is concerned, the ban on the movement is imposed with a view to effectively procure rice in the Punjab. Another very important zone, which was created consisted of the four States of Southern India, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Mysore and Kerala. Initially the prices in Kerala continued to be high, but in the other three States, namely, Madras, Mysore and Andhra, as a result of the creation of this zone,

the prices of rice in the latter part of 1957 were lower than what they were in 1956. This zone is, I think, now getting more and more stabilised and I do hope that with the coming in of the new crop, the zone will be working smoothly and that the undue rise in the price, that was taking place, will be stopped.

This brings me to the question of procurement. There are four surplus regions for rice from where generally, rice used to move to the deficit areas. The first region is Orissa and then there is Punjab. There is also Chhatis-garh Division of Madhya Pradesh and then the coastal areas of Andhra. Besides these, Tanjore also is a surplus area, in Madras. Now, we decided to procure rice and it will be a matter of some comfort to the House to know that although we started this procurement of rice in the lean part of the year, yet the Government of India have been able to procure rice and gram to the tune of about 1,50,000 tons. Of course, gram is less—about 20,000 tons, and the procurement of rice in the three States, Orissa, Punjab and Andhra would be very nearly 1,30,000 to 1,40,000 tons. Government propose to continue the procurement operations in the Punjab and Andhra during the coming year. So far as Orissa is concerned, the House is aware that the Orissa rice crop has been adversely affected by drought and the Government of India has no intention to procure any rice there. Similar is the case of the Chhatisgarh Division of Madhya Pradesh.

The House is aware that after 1953, the machinery for procurement was disbanded and it was not, therefore, quite easy to create this machinery once again. But I can say with a certain amount of confidence that our efforts at procurement have not been too bad. Also for the future, procurement both by the Centre and the State Governments is now under consideration of Government and we will shortly take a decision.

[Shri A. P. Jain.]

Another action which was taken was to delegate the powers to the State Governments for the licensing of the traders and the mills. So far as roller flour mills are concerned, action was taken directly by the Government of India, prescribing for their licensing and for the periodical submission of returns. As a result of our request, seven State Governments *i.e.* West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Madras have either issued orders or they are on the verge of issuing orders for the licensing of these mills, in most of the cases, including the submission of periodical returns. For any food administration, it is necessary that Government must be in possession of the facts as to where the stocks are, how they are moving and how they are being disposed of. I therefore, attach great importance to this licensing order. Nonetheless, in issuing the licensing order, we have taken care to see that too much harassment is not caused to the traders and we have therefore, left out the small traders and in most of the States, persons holding a stock of 500 maunds or less have been exempted and other States have prescribed lower limits on account of special reasons.

The House is aware that we are running a large number of fair price shops and their number at present comes to about 36,000 all over the country. There have been occasional complaints about the working of these fair price shops. But we have taken note of these and we have tightened up and strengthened the inspection and control of these shops. Besides, in the areas, where we are meeting the demands of the major portion of the population, we have adopted the system of issuing, what are known as, identity cards. Here, Sir, I want to take this opportunity of distinguishing the identity cards from the ration cards. An identity card enables a person to secure a certain quantity of wheat and rice or wheat or rice but it does not debar him from obtaining additional quantities from the market

whereas a ration card not only entitles a person to get a certain quantity but it also debars him from getting anything in addition to what is available on the ration cards. The introduction of the identity cards has—I have good reasons to think—led to the diminution in malpractices. Kerala, West Bengal, Assam and Tripura have issued the identity cards and Bihar and Bombay are also issuing these identity cards. I have no doubt, Sir, that with the tightening up of the supervision and control as also with the issue of these identity cards, the malpractices on the fair price shops have disappeared to a considerable extent.

Now, Sir, I come to another subject and that is the question of rice versus wheat. The House is aware that the crop which has been affected by drought is rice. What is the extent of the damage done to the crop and how we propose to meet it is a subject to which I shall come later on. Here, I would like to refer to one aspect of it namely, that while wheat is available in the world market—of course we have to pay for the wheat in terms, sometimes, of foreign exchange and at other times in the form of local currency, all depending under what arrangement we are buying and from what country we are buying—so far as rice is concerned, even apart from the question of foreign exchange, the availability of rice in the world is very-limited. In the first place, the world has generally been short of rice and particularly this year the drought, which affected us, has also affected our neighbouring country Burma. Its crop is shorter by about 25 per cent. Now, there is no possibility of getting any rice in addition to what we can get under our existing arrangement with Burma, namely, that in the year 1958 we can hope to get only about 500,000 tons of rice. Therefore, the problem before us is that with the limited availability of rice, we have to give substitute foodgrains, mostly wheat, in the areas where the shortfall has occurred. Certain steps have already

been taken and they are inescapable because when a commodity is not available, we have to find a substitute. Whereas the Government of India can undertake the responsibility of supplying the foodgrain that is needed yet we are not in a position to supply a particular kind of foodgrain, in particular rice. In Calcutta one seer of rice and one seer of wheat are being issued per adult. It is open to a person to have whole wheat but no more rice than one seer will be given. Similarly, Assam has also linked the issue of rice with the issue of atta varying from 25 per cent, to 50 per cent. Tripura has taken similar action and the State of Bombay has also laid down certain proportions of wheat which have to be compulsorily bought if a person wants to get rice from the fair price shop.

There has been a considerable amount of talk about the smuggling of foodgrains from India to the neighbouring countries. It is true, that the food position in the neighbouring countries is difficult and prices are high and, therefore, there has, in the past, been some smuggling but of late, we have taken effective steps to stop smuggling. For instance, round about Goa, both the States of Mysore and Bombay have created a 'No movement zone' and no movement of foodgrains can take place except under a permit. As a result of this action, I understand, the possibility of smuggling has been greatly minimised. In West Bengal, quite effective action has been taken. 'No movement of foodgrain order' has been issued in the bordering districts. In those areas, no foodgrain can move except under a permit and special pickets have been posted on the border and the patrol staff, both of the police and of the customs, has been strengthened. Besides, from other parts of the country, foodgrains to North Bihar are despatched in the name of the District Magistrate as the consignee and it is he who endorses the railway receipt to the actual buyer. Now, with the issue of the licensing order, we shall be in a position to know who has obtained the rice and

what he has done with it. As a result of these measures, Sir, the possibility of smuggling has been very much minimised. Regarding smuggling, the Asoka Mehta Committee made certain enquiries and their observations are contained on page 41 of their Report. They say, "Prices in neighbouring countries like Pakistan, Goa, Ceylon, etc., have been much higher during this period than in India. There has, therefore, been a temptation to smuggle certain quantities of cereals out of the country. It has not been possible for us to collect any reliable figures about the quantities involved. They may not have been large in 1956-57, but rumours that certain quantities were being smuggled out of the country and were being sold abroad at high prices added to the bullish sentiment in the market." I hope, Sir, that with greater care it will be possible to stop this smuggling even to a greater extent. As a result of these measures, the price position has, to a considerable extent, been brought under control. For instance, take the case of rice. The all-India index number of wholesale price of rice based on 1952-53 as 100, rose progressively from 91 in January 1957 to 111 in August declining almost steadily thereafter to 105 in the first week of November, this year. Thus, it has recorded a decline of 54 per cent. In the case of jawar, the index number which rose from 119 in January, 1957 to 128 in July declined thereafter steadily and has now come down to 108 in the first week of December, recording a decline of 56 per cent. The all-India index for wheat which was 95 in March this year declined steadily to 85 in the first week of December which records a decline of 10.5 per cent. - The prices prevailing today for all foodgrains are generally speaking, the same as in 1952-53.

While these measures have improved the administration of food and have, to an extent, been successful in not only arresting the upward trend in the prices but also in bringing them down, nonetheless there is a very discomforting feature in our country.

[Shri A. P. Jain.] The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee have come to the conclusion that during the next few years the shortfall between our production and our requirements is going to be of the order of two to three million tons per year. Now, Sir, that is very disquieting. No country can go on from year to year depending upon imports from abroad. We, being an agricultural country, should not only depend for our food requirements upon our own agriculture but also for feeding our industries with agricultural produce and also earning foreign exchange from agriculture; and we cannot afford to depend for any length of time on foreign countries.

Now, Sir, I was trying to work **out** certain figures. If the consumption of the foodgrains goes down by one ounce per day, the average available **per** capita being 17 to 18 ounces, the whole of that food deficit can be washed away. If there is an additional production of 5 per cent.—our shortage is not more than 5 per cent—the question of imports can be eliminated. Also we have to think on the lines of saving food. There is quite a bit of wastage, and my Ministry has been in correspondence with the State Governments as to how to limit the wastage in food, and the House would be aware that the State of Bombay has taken the lead. In the city of Bombay and certain other municipal areas they have prescribed two days as non-rice days in public restaurants and eating places. They have **also** laid down that in public feasts, where there are under certain circumstances more than 50 and under other circumstances more than 100 persons, no rice will be served.

Similarly, Sir, quite a lot can be done by taking to substitute food, and In otherwise conserving rice and other foodgrains. That is one line to which we have to apply our thought. **But** the real problem with the country is to produce more. While the Asoka Mehta Committee has drawn a somewhat grim picture, yet it is not an

absolute picture. Hon. Members, if they refer to page 104 of the Report, will find that the Committee has observed, "We have stated in chapter V that a realistic estimate of additional production during the Second Plan period would be **10.3** million tons **or** approximately two-thirds of the Plan target and to achieve even this lower figure would require great effort." They further say, "In saying this we are not advocating a revision of the target of 15" 5 million tons fixed by the Planning Commission. In fact, we believe that if full use is made of all **our** resources, it may still be possible to reach closer to the Plan target than the above estimate." They further go on to examine the achievements of the physical production targets as also of the financial targets under the First Five Year Plan. Now this chart is a very important and revealing chart. They have examined the major irrigation work and they have come to the conclusion that while the financial expenditure targets have been achieved to the extent of 92 per cent, the physical production targets have been achieved only to the extent of 47 per cent. That is, of the total allocations made for the major irrigation works under the First Five Year Plan, the expenditure was 92 per cent., but the area which has received the benefit of irrigation is only 47 per cent. On the other hand, in the case of minor irrigation works, while the expenditure has been 63 per cent, of the allotment under the First Plan, the area which has received the benefit of irrigation is 91 per cent., that is, the expenditure is less but the benefit is more.

Then, Sir, comes Land Reclamation and Development where the expenditure and the physical targets are almost the same. In respect of other items too they are more or less the same. It is on the basis of **our** achievements in the First Five Year Plan that the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee has tried to work out the achievable **targets** under **the Second** Five Year Plan and they have estimated that the major irrigation works will be able to achieve only **50 per**

cent, of the production targets. So far as minor irrigation works are concerned they expect that they will achieve 95 per cent, of the targets. In the case of fertilizers and manure they put it at 80 per cent. Now, Sir, an analysis of these figures will indicate that there is scope for considerable improvement according to the Food-grains Enquiry Committee. It is the policy of my Ministry now to lay greater emphasis on the minor irrigation works where the expenditure is comparatively less but the production targets achieved are comparatively high. While major irrigation works require a lot of building of the distribution channels, levelling of lands and a number of other things, namely, the farmer has to be taught how to convert the dry farming in India into wet farming; in the case of minor irrigation works, as soon as a well or a small tank or a small channel is built, all these difficulties do not come in the way. Minor irrigation works are those works which give results at the lowest cost and almost immediately. Therefore, we have now decided that while we shall make every effort to utilise the irrigation potential, which has been developed by the major irrigation works, we propose to lay the highest emphasis on the minor irrigation works. Even, so far as the major irrigation works are concerned, each of the schemes is being examined with a view to utilise the potential which has been developed and I am glad to say that, for the first time, in the Sambalpur district 1,50,000 acres of land have come under irrigation. The team of the Planning Commission, which visited that district, had a talk with the Chief Engineer and he said that he would make irrigation available for an additional lakh of acres over which the short-term rice could be grown.

SHRI GOPIKBISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA
(Madhya Pradesh): Hiraakud?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Yes, Hiraakud. Similarly, Sir, in the Damodar Valley and in the Mayurakshi area similar

action is being taken and I am confident, Sir, that there is scope for considerable improvement. Our shortfall is only 5 per cent, and there is no reason why with greater efforts we should not be able to make it up. In fact, Sir, at a number of places the Asoka Mehta Committee has made suggestions as to how it could be achieved. While all these efforts are being made there is another aspect which I must bring before the House, and that is the question of fertilizers.

Now fertilizers give almost immediate results. You put a ton of fertilizers in the soil, and the same season you get 2 tons or even three tons of foodgrains. Unfortunately on account of our difficult foreign exchange position our supply of fertilizers has been much short of the demand. This year our supply is short by about 25 per cent. Next year it is going to be short by about 40 per cent. Now, this certainly is going to have an adverse effect on our agricultural production. Now what we propose to do is to lay greater emphasis on green manuring and on preparing compost from night soil. Schemes for all these works have been sent to the State Governments. In some States they are being worked quite nicely, but in quite a number of States enough attention has not been paid. We are trying now to lay greater emphasis on that.

Another scheme, which is full of greater potentialities, is the introduction of the improved seed. Experience has shown that the production can go up immediately by 15 per cent, to 20 per cent, by substituting better quality seed. We have worked out a scheme for having one seed farm of 25 acres with storage, etc. in each of the community development blocks. The scheme was started last year. It did not make much progress last year. There were difficulties in acquiring lands. But this year as a result of the intensive campaign and our constant goadings, the State Governments, it is expected, will put up a much larger number of improved seed farms than

[Shri A. P. Jain.] what it was possible to do last year, I am quite confident that with greater attention and with more effort we can achieve better results.

Now, I come to the immediate problem, that is, the conditions created by drought. The House is aware that no less than five States have been seriously affected by drought—Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Eastern U.P. and Madhya Pradesh.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

AN HON. MEMBER: Assam.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Not so much Assam—in some parts, yes. Now, the area covered is quite extensive and the population affected also is very big. Some assessment has been made by the State Governments about the losses, but that assessment is based mostly on visual inspections. A team of the Planning Commission, on which my Ministry was also represented, has visited most of these States and their conclusions are somewhat at variance with the estimates of the State Governments. This team has estimated the losses to be much less. But this is at best a guess and the estimates of the firm losses can be made only by the second half of January when crop cutting experiments would have been done all over the area. Meanwhile, we all agree that the losses are quite heavy. They may be of the order of 3 million tons; they may be of the order of 4 million tons. And we have been taking steps to meet the situation that will arise on account of the failure of the crop due to drought in this area. During the course of the Question hour, recently I stated that the Government of India and the State Governments have a stock of a little more than a million tons of wheat and rice—three fourths of wheat and one fourth of rice in their godowns. Besides that we have got certain other agreements under which we hope to import about 1.5 million tons. I am referring to the agreement for the import of rice with Burma, for the import of

the balance of wheat under PL 480 and for the import of wheat for our normal requirements as provided under the PL 480 agreement. These fresh imports will come to an aggregate of about 15 million tons. We have made some further arrangements since I gave these figures to the House.

DR. P. C. MITRA (Bihar): For what purpose is this stock?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: For feeding you.

DR. P. C. MITRA: For consumption or what?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Wait, Mr. Mitra. Let him finish.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Now, Sir, we have made arrangements for the import of another six or about seven or eight lakh tons out of the allocations earlier made for cotton, tobacco and milk products. All those allocations have been diverted . . .

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU (Uttar Pradesh): What products the hon. Minister referred to?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: We had allocations for tobacco, cotton and milk products. Allocations for the import of those products have now been diverted to the purchase of wheat and that will give us about 7 to 8 lakh tons of wheat. We have further instructed our people in Canada to negotiate for the purchase of about two lakh tons of wheat, in addition to what we are buying from Canada for our normal requirements.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH (Madras): Will the hon. Minister say . . .

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: Is there anything got from Canada at present?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One at a time.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Under the import scheme how many million tons of wheat and rice and other cereals are being imported every year in this country?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: That is what I am exactly saying.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: The total.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: He can total it up. I will give you the total afterwards. I have said, that we have got one million tons of foodgrains in our stock. Now, under the existing arrangements we are likely to import 1-5 million tons. In addition to that we have already made arrangements for the import of about a million tons. So, altogether one million tons in our stocks and 25 million tons more . . .

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: 1.5 million tons more.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: 2-5 million tons more, because the other thing is in addition to 1.5, about a million tons.

Now, Sir, I might state that I am not at all happy that we should go on importing. We must produce for our consumption. Now, the problem before the country is that either we produce or we perish. We cannot afford to go on importing year after year. This year this is a particular case of drought for which man is not responsible, but even in the normal years we have been living on imports. We have to eliminate those imports. Of course, if there is a calamity that calamity has to be met; but that calamity must be met in various ways, by producing more, by utilising every inch of the available irrigation resources and other resources, by producing substitute crops. Now, something is being done and while the suffering of Bihar has been quite heavy, the loss there has been quite heavy, yet the team of the Planning Commission which visited Bihar has reported that every possible effort has been made to utilise the water. People have been lifting water with swing baskets, with carriers; they have bunded every small rivulet that was available, they have dug *kucha* wells and as a result they have been able to irrigate about three lakh acres of land. The tube wells which had not been irrigating any substantial area previously have

also been utilised and as a result of these efforts, instead of 20,000 acres of land which was being formerly irrigated by tube wells, it has increased to 70,000 acres. Now, people are also trying to grow substitute crops—chickpea, shorter maize. The team has also examined whether any additional minor irrigation schemes can be taken up. They have tried to re-adjust the allocations under the Plan with a view to devote more funds for labour intensive schemes. They have also allocated fresh funds where any labour intensive scheme or a minor irrigation work could be undertaken. The principal difficulty which we are going to face would be that of the purchasing power. The State Government and also the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture are trying their best to develop as many works as possible, works which are labour-intensive and which will provide work for the people.

I know that we are going to pass through a difficult time because this drought is quite of an unprecedented character, almost of the magnitude of what happened in 1950. Yet, I find that there is a little hope and the people have a little confidence in themselves, and they are exerting their best. I would request the hon. Members to view the position of today in the background of the circumstances that had developed on account of forces beyond our control. It is with their united and concerted effort alone that we can overcome a difficult period like this. I am confident that with the arrangements that we have made, with the courage which the people are showing . . .

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR (Uttar Pradesh): And the optimism that the Ministry is showing . . .

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Yes, we must be optimistic. It is better to be optimistic than to be pessimistic. With the greater and greater efforts which the State Government are making, we hope, we shall be able to overcome this difficult period.

[Shri A. P. Jain.]

With these words, Sir, I commend the motion to the House,

SHRI H. N. KUNZRU: There is one point. The Food Minister asked us to express our opinion regarding the important recommendations of the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee. I should like to know what in his opinion are the most important recommendations of the Committee. He himself does not seem to have referred to any of the recommendations or the observations of the Committee except in order to show that the Committee has exonerated the Food Ministry of all blame. Again, I have to give one instance of his failure to do so. He has said nothing about the establishment of a Price Stabilisation Board and, what the Committee calls, the socialisation of the wholesale trade in foodgrains.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The point raised by Dr. Kunzru deserves attention. I did not, particularly, refer to it because all the recommendations are -there, and it is for the hon. Members to express their opinion on those recommendations. The price stabilisation scheme suggested, that is, the buffer stock operations, is one very important thing. Then the socialisation on the part of the trade is a very important thing. But when I refer to procurement—certainly procurement is part of it—it was not necessary for me to draw the attention of the hon. Members to every particular thing. The whole report is there and if I had taken upon myself the task -of referring to each one of the recommendations, perhaps I may have taken the whole day.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

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

There are two amendments.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Sir, I move:

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that the present food policy of the Government has been a complete failure in so far as Government has not taken adequate or proper steps for the production of sufficient food in the country to make India self-supporting but continues to depend on the import of food from outside at considerable cost to the consumer.'"

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR (Bombay): Sir, I move:

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

'and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that suitable measures be taken by the Government to increase food production in the country.'"

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The motion and the amendments are before the House. There are 29 names before me. The hon. Minister will be called upon to reply at 5 o'clock. The hon. Members will please restrict their speeches and allow as many Members as possible to speak.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Business Advisory Committee has suggested that if we want longer time, we may sit through the lunch hour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I was going to suggest. We will sit through the lunch hour. The debate will go on till 5.30. The Minister will be called upon to reply at 5 o'clock.

SHRI P. D. HIMATSINGKA (West Bengal): The hon. Minister said, that there is a short fall of 5 per cent. What is the basis of that statement?

SHRI A. P. JAIN: The short fall is 3 million tons out of 68 million. So it comes to less than 5 per cent.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR (Punjab): Sir, I rise to say a few words on a topic which continues to cause concern, but I do not do so in any spirit of carping criticism. I know how far and often, how very unfair it is for a Union Minister to be held responsible for the sins of omission and commission of the Ministers of States, and when it comes to food and agriculture, there are also always bad harvests and circumstances beyond man's control which further cause harassment to the Minister in charge of this particular portfolio. But the lay mind is certainly puzzled because the food situation has not improved nearly as much as hopes held out for its improvement had led people to expect. In spite of what we were told, were sufficient stocks of grain in the country, more and more Imports have had to be resorted to and, what is more, these seem to be consumed very much quicker than expected. The position is unfortunate, as neither the consumers nor the producers are satisfied, and the targets for self-sufficiency in food also seem to be receding rather than coming nearer.

There seem to be certain anomalies in the position too. It is said that our food production during 1956-57 amounted to 68.5 million tons and that our food requirements work out roughly at 55 million tons, reckoning 16 ounces per day per adult and 12 ounces per day per child under 14 years, or, say, roughly 60 million tons. With production averaging round about 65 million tons and imports averaging 3.5 million tons, why should prices be going up and up? Are the figures given or the claim for production that we are furnished wrong?

A farmer was telling me the other day that if protection to plants from pests and insects were to be extended, the chances of saving foodgrains would yield rich dividends. The loss due to this is said to be pretty considerable; I am told about 20 per cent. I am sorry that the Mehta Committee has paid no attention to this aspect, but I would like to know from the Food Minister whether they are paying any attention to this aspect. Why should

these losses continue? The Mehta Committee recommendations have been, I am sure, read by everybody, and I hope myself that the Government will accept those recommendations, and that by their acceptance there will be all round improvement in the situation. But I confess, as the Minister himself has confessed, that it was depressing to learn from this report that in spite of all efforts to attain self-sufficiency we shall have to import 2 to 3 million tons of food-grains every year for the next five years at an annual cost of Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 crores, which naturally will impose a very heavy burden on our exchange resources.

Sir, the Minister has said that he is not pessimistic as the Mehta Committee is. I can only hope that his optimism will be justified in the years to come. The price stabilisation organisation which has been recommended by the Mehta Committee, I think, is sound provided it works vigilantly. But there again, never can prices be kept down if demand greatly outruns supply. Of course, the task of increasing food production is really the keynote to everything. Now, Sir, any amount of money has been spent in recent years on various schemes for increasing food production. Have they always been successful? Co-operative farming, we are told, is necessary and doubtless it is so. But in terms of sheer financial outlay, co-operative farming is going to be a stupendous undertaking. I personally do not see how anything can be imposed from above at any time with any hope of good results being achieved. Also, our social and agricultural structure throughout the ages has not been based on the principles of a co-operative society or a cooperative system, or whatever we may like to call it, and the people, therefore, have to be led to change their attitude of mind if co-operative farming is ever going to be a success. The landlord system had to go as it has gone everywhere in the modern world in which dynamic changes are taking place all the time, and it is only right

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.] that it should have gone from India. But a good landlord was beloved by his tenants and they looked up to him all the time for advice, for guidance -as also for help in times of distress. These were readily forthcoming. Today, I do not think the farmer has the benefit of that human touch from those who have supplanted the landlords, that is to say, the Government. I have a fear that, with very small holdings, the farmer may be tempted to grow only as much as he needs and thereby, he will not get that impetus to increase food production which is of such vital importance today.

Talking of schemes, the latest Audit Report on the Appropriation Accounts of the Government of Orissa should serve as a warning not to undertake schemes which are infructuous and we have to be very careful when we are limited by finance and everything else, not to launch on schemes which are not going to yield dividends.

I am very happy that minor irrigation projects have been strongly supported by the Mehta Committee and accepted by the Ministry. Many agriculturists complain that payment for irrigation purposes is beyond their means. How can they increase food production if that is so? And I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to this aspect that, where you want to give the farmer incentives to produce, you must subsidise him also or help him, at any rate, to give to the country what the country wants from him.

Then again, it is obvious that production of crops on an intensive basis involves higher costs in providing irrigation, manure, better seeds, more care and labour in the techniques, involved in further production. Now, this applies, for example, to the Japanese method of rice cultivation. The farmer will only go in for such methods, if he can get a proportionately higher return. Surely, this matter requires further probe. Have our Departments always got in their pos-

session information on comparative costs and returns before they recommend special methods to the farmer? The farmers must be given incentives, as I said before, if they are to produce more and I wonder whether we do know how much the increased cost is going to mean to the farmer and whether, if he has to spend, he will get more from what he produces. I know of more than one farmer that have given up the Japanese method of rice cultivation simply because it did not pay them. Well, now, it has got to pay him to go in for methods of production which are going to grow more. Then, have any experiments been made by our Agricultural Department to take up the work of lowering the cost of production by introducing less expensive manures? We must not always rely on fertilisers. I was glad to hear from the Minister that they are now thinking in terms of human manure which is so widely used in China where they have not got fertilisers and which does yield dividends. We must introduce less expensive manures and produce new implements by inventing them and thus save costs on operational techniques. I think, this is a very important point that Gandhiji used to stress all the time and I would like the Ministry to pay more attention to this aspect of the question. May I suggest that the Food Minister have a talk with Mr. Richard Gregg, who is writing for the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and is in Delhi? I believe, he can give useful advice on manures, on implements and everything like that, because he is a farmer after Gandhiji's own heart.

I now come to raise a point—and I am conscious, many orthodox people will perhaps frown on me—complete ban on the slaughter of cattle has been imposed in seven States. In some other areas, the ban existed even from earlier times. In other States, there is a ban on the slaughter of useful cattle only and in Orissa, I believe, no ban at all exists. In the old days, the existence of a ban on cattle slaughter in a few areas did not present any difficulty. Old and useless

cattle used to be pushed into other States for disposal. Now, a complete ban almost everywhere has changed the position considerably for¹ the worse. The number of old and] useless animals has increased enormously and will go on increasing. They are, if I may use a, slang expression "eating our heads off". The Expert Committee on the prevention of slaughter of cattle in India which was .appointed in 1949 has said:

"A complete ban on slaughter of all cattle will tend to increase their number further and jeopardise the well-being of the limited number of few good cattle the country still possesses. It will also result in a real danger of a number of wild cattle increasing and proving a menace to the production of crops. A complete ban on the slaughter of cattle would, therefore, not be in the best interests of the country as it is merely a negative and not a positive approach to the problem."

This is what they have said. Now, the increase in the number of stray and wild cattle, as they prognosticated has been increasing in many parts of the country. The former State of PEPSU, I know, spent a large sum of money annually in rounding up these animals which in many cases had become dangerous.

SHRI GOPIKRISHNA VIJAIVAR-GIYA:
What about monkeys?

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: I agree that we should try to destroy all •animals that destroy our foodgrains 'or go against increased food production.

The Gosamvardhan Enquiry Committee in U.P. in 1955, reported as follows:

"From the information available to the Committee, it appears that during recent times, the number of

of stray and wild cattle has increased enormously in the rural areas as well. In many parts of the States, the menace of wild cattle has become quite serious. And there are consequently requests from a number of districts for the capture of stray and wild animals which are doing enormous damage to crops. This serious problem is affecting agricultural production and progressively assuming unhappy proportions."

Several States have had to be asked now to draw up schemes to deal with the problem and to put these schemes in their Second Five Year Plan. All such schemes are going to cost a great deal of money, because the methods which have been tried out have not been successful nor can they look after what are now veritable hordes. I suggest that this matter should be looked upon in a practical manner and dealt with in a realistic way and wholly divorced from sentiment. It is time for us to give up making slogans and listen more and more to the voice of reason. We dare not continue to be unscientific in a dynamically scientific age. Then, are we doing enough for afforestation and for the prevention of soil erosion in the mountainous regions? I know the mountainous regions fairly well in my part of the world. I have found very often deforestation progressing at a rapid rate and no afforestation, to speak of, to keep pace with this destruction; and soil erosion too is taking a heavy toll from our productive lands.

Finally, Sir, the recommendation of the Mehta Committee in the matter of family planning cannot be ignored. Apart from the efforts already being made, I think social legislation must be resorted to. We cannot afford to go on increasing our population at a rate with which our increased food production cannot keep pace. I feel, that the age of marriage of girls and boys should be raised, and it can be raised. They have done it in China Why can't we do it here? And I am even in favour of taxing the birth 01

[Rajkumari Amrit Kaur.] a third child where two children are already alive. I entirely agree with what the Mehta Committee has said in regard to the controls, also. I would like to see more fair price shops established. I would prefer to have more fair price shops everywhere rather than an increase in the wages of Government employees. We give more money simply because people cannot afford to buy their requirements. But fair price shops should be run honestly, and I would like the Minister to consider the utilisation of voluntary organisations as far as fair price shops are concerned. I believe that we women could help greatly in running these shops where there would be no exploitation of the poor people who could come and get their requirements, rather than giving them a paltry sum of Rs. 5 extra which is going to cost us crores of rupees. I believe that subsidising fair price shops will be a better method of bringing contentment to the people. We all have to put our shoulder to the wheel in what is a matter of vital import to us. Public confidence and co-operation have to be enlisted, and in particular, the co-operation and the enthusiasm of the real tillers of the soil.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Sir, I heard the speech of the Minister of Food very carefully. I saw his fears as well as his optimism. But I found that his optimism had not overrun his fears. He dwelt upon the present position obtaining in the country and he drew a gloomy picture about the prospects of self-sufficiency in food. But, Sir, let me go item by item as to how this picture presented by the Minister is unwarranted and our country can have with optimism, a full self-sufficiency programme in order to tide over the difficulties.

Sir, he referred to the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee. But I may also say a few words regarding the recommendation of the Enquiry Committee. It has said in one place that the rise in prices is mainly due to the

deficit financing of the Government which has put in the hands of the public, money to the extent of Rs. 250 crores, and when this money is put in their hands and when there is a little prospect of imported commodities being gone in for by the public, naturally they would like to spend a little more money, more than what they were spending, on food. So consequently when an overall picture is taken, this increase takes place. That is one reason which the Foodgrains Enquiry Committee has advanced. Then in another place it has been said that yet the carry-over of stocks from the previous year was so large that it continued to push prices in their downward course despite some fall in production. Procurement and rationing had been completely given up by the middle of 1954. That means, up to 1955 there was a downward trend in the prices. There was enough food in this country, and there was no need for rationing. The previous Ministry understood it well and gave up rationing completely in the country. Now up to 1955 we did not have any difficulty. Immediately we are presented, in the year 1957, with this problem of scarcity in the matter of food. Last time, Sir, the food deficit in this country was about 12 per cent, of the total turnover. But now the Minister has said that the deficit has come to only 5 per cent, of the requirements of our country. Sir, during these three or four years, since the previous assessment was made, about two to three lakhs of acres have been brought under the food production. The work in Damodar Valley, the Bhakra-Nangal project and other works is almost complete, and even from the point of view of large-scale cultivation, there are enough acres brought under food cultivation. There is no reason whatsoever to feel that these areas have not produced enough food for the consumption of our country. Now the difficulty arises as to the bureaucracy and their statistics. Naturally, Sir, this Food Department is a

superfluous imposition on the country. You will find, in course of time, that this Department when the self-sufficiency programme is achieved, has no function to perform. They want to create a position by which they must perpetuate themselves. It will result in unemployment among three or four Ministers and the entire hierarchy of the bureaucracy. But they have got different aspects of our country's economy and they can be easily switched on there.

Sir, the one important recommendation, which I would like to read out here, is what the Planning Commission itself has said. Our Minister himself has agreed that the major industry of our country is agriculture, and there is no other industry which can be equated to that industry, and if you want to give a fillip to that industry, it is not the bureaucrats who are sitting in Delhi with their papers, who are going to do that, but it is somebody else. It has been stated here as follows:

"Development cannot progress without responsibility and power. Community development can be real only when the community understands its problems, realises its responsibilities, exercises the necessary powers through its chosen representatives and maintains a constant and intelligent vigilance on local administration. With this objective we recommend an early establishment of statutory elective local bodies and devolution to them of the necessary resources, power and authority."

Therefore, Sir, the Planning Commission's rational and sensible report is what should guide the Government of India in its policies in the matter of food production. When you devolve power to the real agriculturists and when there is an autonomous body created for them to augment their resources of wealth and produce rice and wheat and other cereals, they will begin to have interest, and they will produce not the 5 per cent, deficit

which you have visualised, but 50 per cent, more than the present-day produce, so that instead of being an importing country, you will be able to export rice. Sir, last time, when this debate took place in this House, the Minister said that "We have reached self-sufficiency, and it will be a problem for us to know as to where we will export our food." But what do we find in turn? In turn, we find that again we are faced with these crises and these deficits. This kind of a basic approach on the part of the Government is responsible for the increase of prices in our country. The moment some utterance is made by a Minister, advantage is taken by the racketeers in the food industry of our country, and the food goes up and the prices go up, wholesale as well as retail, and people are not in a position to buy their requirements. I would therefore suggest to these responsible authorities of Delhi to put section 144 on themselves. When they do not open their mouth, the country is safe, the food production goes up. And silently if you adopt the Planning Commission's recommendation, you will see that this country's production is increased. I am happy to note an admission made by our Food Minister. He said that minor irrigations have produced better results. Quite right. But minor irrigations done by whom? By the villagers and those local areas through tanks, wells and other things for which Government helped them through subsidies. There was an urge, and that urge on the part of the villagers, and minor irrigation brought about better results. You cannot say that minor irrigation alone is responsible for this. The work of major irrigation has also produced results and they also have contributed to the production of foodgrains. You say that the deficit of foodgrains have come down from 12 per cent, to 5 per cent. I have the authority of our distinguished Chairman of this House to say that all statistics are false. I am not going by your statistics or by your accounts. What I go by is the present position in the-

[Shri H. D. Rajah.]

country. There are drought-affected areas but these areas can be supplied grains by areas where there are enough grains. Now, our friends from Kerala come to Madras, buy up all the foodgrain there and go back with all that foodgrain, but when we ask them for water, they say, 'No'. I tell them, "You give us water and we will give you foodgrains in return". Madras is a State which is deficient in water, but the lands there are arable, and we can produce double the foodgrains that we now produce. If only our Kerala friends would give us water, they need not go to Andhra or Mysore or any other place for food; we will supply it across the border. There must be a rational approach there and not just say that it is a difficulty between one State and another. It is a question of understanding. I know that my Communist friends are more reasonable than my Congress friends. There is some talk going on between the two Ministries and I am certain that an arrangement will be come to, by which Tamil Nad will get water from Kerala and Kerala will get food from Tamil Nad. In one of the speeches made by Mr. A. P. Jain in the other House, he said that Madras has produced more than 75 per cent. food. It was not a statement based on facts. No doubt after several years of drought in the land, Tamilians have now put their heart and soul into the soil and are producing about 25 per cent. more, and this has given us a satisfactory position. From Andhra we can get enough grains. Your zonal arrangement is good, but the price structure is bad. The price structure as you yourself have admitted, is based upon international prices. Now, we are faced with this chronic problem which is not solved by the Government. From the east coast of Tamil Nad men and rice are smuggled into Ceylon. Ceylon takes the rice and throws back the **men**. They are being recruited illegally to labour in the Ceylon plantations, but rice also is being smuggled along with them. The problem is how to stop

this smuggling. This is again a baffling problem. He referred to the Goa border, but this kind of smuggling also takes place from Tamil Nad. If this smuggling also is stopped, I am quite confident that there would not be much of food problem in that area.

Then, I come to the buffer stock being maintained by the Government. This Foodgrains Enquiry Committee also has referred to this problem. They say, that Government has incurred a loss of Rs. 45 crores by keeping this stock and then releasing it when it is no more useful to the public for consumption, with most of the grains eaten up by moths and worms. This idea of keeping a buffer stock is fundamentally wrong; this purchase from foreign countries thereby incurring a lot of expenditure of our foreign exchange resources is also wrong. You cannot feed a people by mortgaging your house. This country is now being pledged to bring food from outside to feed the people. What would be the fate of a man who mortgages his house to feed himself? If he has no other occupation, and he only does this, in course of ten years that house will be taken away by somebody else, and that man will die. I would suggest a total ban on the import of foodgrains. No nation can live by imports without corresponding exports. This is a point, which we must bear in mind. Of course, your leader, the British people, do it. but they are a vastly industrialised country. They have got many industries and they export their industrial products to other countries and loot those countries by charging them two or three times the real value of the produce, and then import food from outside. Therefore, they have no problem, but you are a primitive, underdeveloped country. Your people have to be economically brought up to a position where their buying capacity will be improved, and you cannot improve their buying capacity by importing food. Agriculture is the only **major industry in**

our country, where, if you only give enough resources, help and strength to the people, they will surely produce not five per cent. more but 50 per cent. more. Then we have got supplementary foods. In India, as Shri Rajagopalachari once said, you have got the problem of the goats. Whenever we want to rear up any plant or trees, these goats come and destroy them, and it is a perpetual menace. No amount of watching helps to protect the trees, because the goats come through the gates, or over the gates, and create a lot of trouble. Therefore, let the people who want to supplement their diet, have recourse to the goats. After all, what are these goats? They are only pre-digested protein. They eat the leaves of trees and herbs and through the goats they come back to the people. People do not eat leaves. The goats are only pre-digested protein and they can be liquidated and form your supplementary diet. Our hon. Minister has suggested a reduction of one ounce in the per capita consumption. For this, I suggest to the hon. Minister not to squander or waste away your resources by importing foodgrains from other countries.

There is another remarkable statement made by the Study Team for Community Development of the Planning Commission. Mr. Jain referred to fertilizers, and referring to fertilizers, the report says—it is a very valuable document:

Some of the Government farms in the country purchase organic manure from outside. This should definitely stopped. Every field should, as far as possible, produce organic manure, if the problem of nitrogen deficiency on over 300 million of acres has to be solved effectively, and it can be done within two years if there is a concerted effort through village panchayats to convert every field into a 'factory' to produce its own requirements of manure without detriment to the prevailing cropping practices."

RSD—4.

We are only depending upon these fertilizers produced in the factory, but green manure is made in the field itself. During the off season period the peasants will sow these green manure seeds, and when the harvest is over, they will sprout up, and in the course of two or three months they will grow, and when the seasonal rains come and water is drawn into the field, they will be ploughed back, and the result is that you get double the quantity of rice which you would get otherwise. This is the efficacy of green manure, which can produce double the quantity of food. The people who wrote this report are practical men. But if the Government do not understand this, the people would be left to their fate. But if they want to increase the food production, this step must be taken so that 300 million acres may have the benefit of green manure in order to augment the supply of food. This Asoka Mehta Committee's Report says a very interesting thing, namely, the socialisation of the food industry. I am not able to understand what is meant by the socialisation of the food industry; whether Government stands committed to that business or whether they have some other ideas. On that the hon. Minister did not enlighten this House. But one thing I can tell you, that the conflicting policy on land and the slogan that the land belongs to the tiller, are creating confusion in the mind of the natural people who are wedded to land and who were making this a major and big industry. Their position is precarious today. I can understand the Government taking over all the land, as Soviet Russia has done and employing modern methods and machinery in order to augment the resources and production. Then there is no private property involved. You pay compensation under the Constitution, or you don't pay anything, but you make yourself responsible to feed the population. When that situation comes, I will have no quarrel, I will have nothing to worry. But in the absence of that, a negative policy, a

[Shri H. D. Rajah.] policy of suspense is creating confusion in the minds of all those who are engaged in this industry. A man owns one hundred acres. There is a ministerial announcement that they are going to put a ceiling on land. Then this man starts thinking, whether it is going to be 5 acres or 10 acres or no acres at all, and he suspends cultivation. He does not contribute to the growth of the food industry. Then there are the interrelations between the peasants and the landlords. They have some sort of a relationship. The peasant comes to the landlord, gets some money and goes and cultivates the land. He takes a share and the landlord also gets a share. But all these things are suspended and the harmony, which was existing, is now being threatened. I am not so much concerned with that relationship as with the difficulties with which we are faced, namely, the production of food for the whole country. If that production was there, by what relationship it was created or brought about, is a matter with which I am not concerned. Therefore, that policy is one which has created an indeterminate position in the country and we are yet to see what we should do.

(Time belt *rings*.)

In another two minutes, Sir, I will finish.

That being the position now, I need not say much about the Community Development organisations and their activities. I would only say now that according to the reports available and the statistics that are there—though I am reluctant to quote them—I have found out that between the years 1946 and 1957, the increase in our food production has come only to 12 million tons. Is this the way in which an industry can grow in this country? I have seen statistics about Russia and I have gone and seen certain other nascent industries developed in other countries in the course of 12 years. But this important

industry in this country, in spite of the fanfare and trumpet of the Ministry of Agriculture and of the Government of India has succeeded only to the extent of producing 12 million tons more. This is a sad commentary upon their efficiency and their important role in this line.

Therefore, we have to re-think the entire problem for construction in a different manner. Those, who are really producing food, not on the files but on the fields, have to do it. The man who goes into the mud knee deep, he alone can understand the problems of food production and not the bureaucrat drawing Rs. 3,000 in the Secretariat at Delhi Thank you, Sir.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee was appointed to go over the whole problem of food production at a time when prices were soaring high and when the financing of our Second Five Year Plan had become difficult. They have presented a report to us it is a scholarly report and a scientific one. They have spared no pains in coming to conclusions which are well worth studying. Just as we were studying differential calculus and integral calculus and spherical trigonometry in our college days, so also this Report will be advantageously studied by students of economics and agriculture. The Government would do well to recommend it to their senior officers to go through this Report. For a lay man it will, however, remain a sealed book. But we are not lay men and we cannot certainly ignore the Report. There are various aspects in the Report which need our urgent attention.

This Committee was composed of experts. As we know, experts always make simple things difficult or complicated. The Government should not feel embarrassed if I make a suggestion that another committee of nonexperts, of tillers—I mean successful

tillers at the soil—should be appointed, to go over the whole question and ask them to solve the problem if they possibly can. In the alternative^ I may make the suggestion that the Government should request the State Governments to have village-wise advisory committees of labourers and farmers who have to solve this problem and who know their difficulties well and also how to overcome them.

Sir, our planning depends on three "Ps" among other things. First is Production; second is Population and the third is Price. Our production is increasing and our population is increasing and the prices are also increasing. The first is welcome. The second is not so welcome and the third is wholly unwelcome. The Foodgrains Enquiry Committee has not said that with production prices will come down. In fact, they have quoted an instance where the prices became less when the production was also less, and the prices went up when the production was more. There is some psychology behind it. But it cannot be quoted as a rule. Agricultural prices are related to general prices, no doubt, but they are related more to their sister prices, I mean the cash-crop prices. Can we bring the cash-crop prices down, that is the question? Our economic machine has become so delicate that with little ups and downs the whole machinery goes out of gear. Economically we are in a fluctuating state of conditions and these fluctuations in food prices cannot be avoided. One remedy which I can suggest for bringing down the prices to some extent is to minimise the number of intermediaries between the consumers and the producers. The co-operative societies and the warehouses are doing it, and they should be asked to pay more attention to that. I do not grudge even the economic or the reasonable prices to the agriculturists. But does the agriculturist really get this price? It is the intermediary who gets it. Our agricultural classes must remember that just as our yield per acre is

the lowest in the world, similarly, our land revenue, or rather the income from our land revenue is the lowest. In China, with the same acreage of ¹ land the yield is double, but the income from land revenue is six or seven times that of ours. While in India it is Rs. 80 crores to Rs. 90 crores, in China it is Rs. 500 crores to Rs. 600 crores. With the increase of production we are not thinking of increasing the land revenue. Is it not an indirect help to the agriculturists? More production and more money is a healthy proposition but more money with less production is harmful to the economy. Let our agriculturists produce more and get more. We need not blame the agriculturists for the rise in prices. The Committee says that there was less production of 'jowar' by 30 lakh tons which brought about this crisis. I may tell you, Sir, that with the additional irrigation facilities that we are making available wheat is going to replace 'jowar' and rice is going to replace wheat and in course of time the coarse food-grains would become less and less.

As regards the population, we cannot help the growth of additional population in the country in spite of the family planning and all that. The death rate is decreasing and it is a healthy sign. We were till now thinking that the addition to our population, per year, was only fifty lakhs. This expert Committee has said that it is not fifty lakhs but is going to be eighty lakhs. If the estimate of this Committee has to be taken as accurate then the additional food supply which we will require to feed this additional population will be 68 lakh tons. If, on the other hand, the increase is taken at 1-5 per cent, then we will require 17 lakh tons less. Taking this and other factors into account, the Committee has come to the conclusion that we will require 79 million tons in 1960-61 whereas our production will only be 75 million tons thus leaving a gap of 4 million tons. They have suggested that we will have to import two to three million tons every year to make up this

[Shri T. R. Deogirikar.] deficit. The framers of the Second Five Year Plan have targetted for an increased production of 1*14 crore tons but the Committee thinks otherwise. Let us take it for granted that the findings of the Committee are more accurate. Even then, the gap between production and consumption is not so much as cannot be bridged over. Our Food Minister has said that he is not in favour of imports. My hon. friend, Mr. Rajah, also has said that imports must be stopped and I think, nobody in this House will differ from this that we must stop these imports immediately. It is just like transfusing an outsider's blood into our own system. How long this transfusion of foreign blood is going to continue in our country, I cannot understand. We can easily make up twenty to thirty lakh tons during the coming four or five years and we can very easily stop this import. We can consume less; we can waste less and probably can produce more. Anyway please excuse us from this inglorious dependence upon foreign countries for the very necessities of life. If possible, prune the Plan and let us go to the year 1950-51 when we had put up all our energies and had decided to overcome the deficit.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: I wish, that were the policy of the Congress Party.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: Sir, the history of our food problem is a history of failures, I may be humbly allowed to say. We are blaming everybody. It is no use blaming the British Government for the legacy which they gave us; it is no use blaming the division of India; it is no use blaming nature for more rains or less rains and it is no use saying that we have got less land for cultivation. We have got to take things as they are and pool all our resources together. When we launched our First Five Year Plan, we decided to make up the deficit and wanted to have one thousand crores as an investment to overcome the food deficit. It must be

admitted that at no time in our history did we concentrate our energies so much as we did on this problem during the last decade. It must also be admitted that we have not succeeded in solving this problem. It may be due to the limitations of the democratic set up; it may be due to the machinery which we have employed for speeding up this production; it may be due to the traditional make up or it may be due to failure on our part to create sufficient enthusiasm amongst the agriculturist classes to produce more but the result is there and, in spite of all these adverse circumstances, our achievements are note-worthy and our policy is not unsound. What did we do and what are we doing to increase the food production? We took certain basic facts into consideration. We said that there are vagaries of nature and that those vagaries of nature could be successfully fought if we stored up rain water, if we impounded it, and if we let it through canals. We undertook major irrigation works, medium and minor irrigation works. We sunk deep wells tube-wells and surface wells and lakes. We did all that and as a result of all these efforts, the area under irrigation did certainly increase. Again, in the Second Five Year Plan, we are going to increase our irrigated land area to the extent of two crore acres. We spent Rs. 660 crores in the First Plan and we are going to spend Rs. 900 crores in the Second Plan. In the First Plan, the total irrigated land that was available for cultivation was 67 million acres out of which we utilised only 40. There may be justification for non-utilisation of this watery wealth but there should be no excuse for this lapse on our part. The utmost that we can hope for is not to allow such lapses to recur. Whatever land is available for cultivation must be brought under cultivation.

The second item that we undertook in the First Five Year Plan was to manufacture fertilisers, green manures, compost manures, etc. The third

item which we undertook was the bringing in of kansas land under cultivation. The activities of the Central Tractor Organisation seem to have slowed down. We adopted the Japanese method of paddy cultivation and much is not heard about it nowadays.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: It is going on still.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: I am glad. The next item, which we undertook, was crop competitions and creating a class of agriculturists who were called '*Krishi Pandits*' and that too has fallen to the background. We wanted to have additional yield from soil conservation, from counter bunding and from the supply of better seeds. Though we are lagging behind as regards land reforms all over the country, our achievements in that direction are also not very unsatisfactory. It is too early to assess the result of this changeover from the land lord to the tiller as well as the results of the '*Bhoodan*' movement. We are not after collectivisation: we are not progressing satisfactorily in co-operatives but the only thing, which we are maintaining every now and then as a special feature of our country, is the Community Development and the N.E.S. Blocks. It must be admitted that some of the Blocks are progressing satisfactorily but the majority of them have become the experimental farms; are manned and managed by moderners who have no roots in the soil. Again there is so much wastage in these Community Projects which i can advantageously be saved.

(*Time bell rings.*)

I want only two or three minutes more, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes].

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR: But the result of these activities taken as a whole is not discouraging. In the last year at the end of First Plan, our food production had increased by -one crore and forty lakhs of tons as

compared to the year 1950-51. We need not be complacent nor should we feel frustrated. In the Second Plan we will have to accelerate our speed, and let us not take the trends of the last five years as indicative or a standard for the future development of this country.

Incidentally, I may make mention of two things only. Sir, we are relying too much on irrigation, but I think, if we rely too much on the results of irrigation, we will be landing ourselves in difficulties. At the time of the *kharif* crops this irrigation water is unnecessary unless the rains fail and the crops begin to wither. Also at the time of the *rabi* crops, since the percentage of land in India under *rabi* crops is much below on total acreage at that time also the irrigation water will be not of much use. Irrigation water is a boon to the agriculturists provided they are given fertilizers and there is development of land.

Then come cash-crops. There is the tendency among the agriculturists to take to cash crops—naturally so—and they give preference to cash-crops than to food crops. It is necessary for the Food Ministry to regulate crop planning from now on. Otherwise there will be excess of cash-crops to the detriment of our food crops. That factor must be kept in mind. I was told that in one district for instance, 80 per cent of the land is being utilised for cash-crops, and the people there rely for their food supplies on outsiders. This is not very desirable.

Then the second item which I want to bring to your notice is as regards the lands that can be brought under cultivation. We know there are vast areas of land in Madhya Pradesh, in Rajasthan and in Uttar Pradesh. We are talking about ceilings we are talking about abolition of zamindari, but what about these lands which are no man's land. I cannot tell you exactly how much acreage will be available for cultivation, but it cannot be less than 8 or 10 crores. If one fifth of

[Shri T. R. Deogirikar.] that acreage is brought under cultivation, I think, our food problem will be solved to a very great extent. We have got man-power, we have got some money; and the machinery is not too bad. But there is one difficulty; there is unwillingness on the part of the landless labourers to shift to areas which are new to them. Some remedy must be found out to get rid of this tendency on the part of the landless labourers, and the Planning Commission can do it. I think this is the most important item. The land is there; nobody is caring for that land, and we are perpetually in shortage of foodgrains. So I make this suggestion. Let us utilise the land, bring it under cultivation, and that way let us try to solve our food problem. Sir, I am again making a suggestion. Come what may, save us from this import mentality. At the time of emergency it may be necessary to bring food from outside, but I don't like the suggestion of this Foodgrains Enquiry Committee giving it as an easy solution, namely, if there is shortage, bring food from outside. This mentality is bad. In cases of emergency we will have to bring food from outside. But that must also be stopped gradually.

Sir, I have done.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Madras): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Planning Commission had fixed an additional production of food during the Second Five Year Plan to the tune of 15 million tons, but on reading the Asoka Mehta Enquiry Committee Report we find that we are not going to achieve even two-thirds of the target in the matter of additional production of food. The Committee says that if one has to achieve this result it needs very great effort.

Sir, as the previous speaker had said, the Committee has recommended the import of 2 to 3 million tons for some years to come. It is really a very unhappy news. Sir, we have been experimenting in the past with various methods as to how to increase

the food production. At one time the slogan was to dig more wells and to give subsidies for the digging of wells. At another time, the slogan was as to how to bring Baore land under cultivation, and we spent more money on tractors and bulldozers. And now the cry is that we must resort to co-operative farming as one of the methods for increased food production. Sir, this is not the time for me to say much about co-operative farming, and if I have the time I shall deal with it towards the end of my speech.

Sir, much was expected out of the major irrigation works, and as the hon. Minister pointed out from the Mehta Committee Report the First Plan expenditure on major irrigation works was 92 per cent, of the target, but the increase in production was only 47 per cent. The expenditure on minor irrigation works was only 63 per cent. of the target, but the increase in production was 91 per cent. So if hundred per cent, would have been spent on these minor irrigation works, I am sure, Sir, the results would have been marvellous. But much emphasis was laid on expenditure on major irrigation works, and the results had been very miserable.

Sir, what we have now to do is, instead of resorting to the import of foodgrains to the tune of 100 to 150 crores of rupees per year, we have to evolve some method by which to increase our production in the shortest possible period. But how best to do it, is the one thing which this House will have to consider seriously. There is no use of criticising the Government or criticising anybody. There is no use of criticising even the State Governments in the matter. But what we have to do is to think seriously as to how to increase food production. Sir we have got enough land in the country. We have got people in the country who are very much experienced in agriculture. But what is it that is lacking in our agriculturists to increase their food production? The

yield should be more per acre. Take for instance, Sir, a country like Japan.

I understand that their production is about 2250 lbs. per acre so far as rice is concerned, whereas in our country the production on an average is only 750 lbs. per acre. In China it is 1550 lbs. per acre; in Egypt 2000 lbs., and in Italy it is 3100 lbs. per acre.

In the Second Five Year Plan, Sir, it is said that 25 per cent, of the additional food production should be achieved by the use of more fertilizers, and 22 per cent, of the additional food production should be achieved by the use of improved seeds.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. B. JOSHI) in the Chair]

Now I shall briefly analyse, Sir, as to what are our achievements in these two respects. In the matter of the increased use of fertilizers we are now astonished to find that the Government of India, instead of either trying to increase their indigenous production or even instead of resorting to more imports of fertilizers into the country, did not do anything either in the matter of an increase in the indigenous production or, in the matter of import of fertilizers.

Sir, I took some pains to analyse the targets fixed till the end of the year 1960-61, in the matter of fertilizers which is 18·6 lakh

2p. M. -tons. In the year 1958-59, the domestic availability is only 5·4 lakh tons as against the total requirement of 12 lakh tons. The shortfall in the year 1958-59 is estimated to be 9·1 lakh tons. The demand for fertilizers, I can safely say, is much more than what the targets are, that had been fixed in the Second Five Year Plan. For instance, the Plan target for 1957-58 is 9·5 lakh tons, but the actual demand is 13·6 lakh tons. For the year 1958-59 the Plan target is 12 lakh tons, but the actual demand is much more than the Plan target. Now, we are faced with a situation under which we have to be satisfied with only our indigenous production

and the availability will be very much less than what the demand is so far as fertilizers are concerned. As the hon. Minister, when he moved the motion, has admitted, it is only by the use of more fertilizers that we can get quick results in the matter of production. It seems to me that if we do not resort to the production of more fertilizers, or if we do not resort to the import of more fertilizers, what will happen is this: What we are aiming at is to increase our production. We are not going to achieve that result at all. It will be something like killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Now, take for instance a country like Japan. I find from the report of the Indian delegation to China on agrarian co-operatives that a country like Japan which has the highest average yield of rice per acre—their report says—"our enquiry showed that on an average 800 pounds of fertilizer was applied to every acre in Japan." The total consumption of chemical fertilizers now exceeds five million tons. This has to be compared with 1·5 million tons in the year 1945 and 3 million tons in the year 1940. Comparable figures for India and China—where cultivated area is fifteen to twenty times larger—are 8 million tons and 18 million tons respectively. We now clearly see how a country like Japan has increased its production of food by using more fertilizers. What it was 3 million tons in the year 1940 is now 5 million tons, in the year 1957, so far as Japan is concerned. Whereas our demand is nearly 18 lakh tons for the year 1960-61 probably the availability will be only half of it, or even much less than that. When that is the case, I wonder how we are going to increase our food production in the country? I am not going to suggest for a moment that we should resort to the import of fertilizers. What I am suggesting is that when we are prepared to import Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 crores worth of foodgrains from foreign countries, could we not afford⁷ to spend about Rs. 5 or Rs. C en foreign exchange in a matter of five years and establish at least a fertilizer

[Shri P. S. Rajagopal Naidu.] factory in our country? I know for certain that a scheme had been drawn up so far as Neiveli Lignite project is concerned, as an integrated scheme to establish a fertilizer factory. Now, I understand that that has been given up. After all, we can get machinery on deferred payment system and if we can spend at the rate of Rs. 1 crore per year by way of foreign exchange we can certainly establish a fertilizer factory in the Neiveli Lignite project. Our Government are not prepared to spend this Rs. 6 crores to establish a fertilizer factory in Neiveli; but on the other hand they are prepared to spend at the rate of Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 crores for the import of food. I am sure the Food and Agriculture Ministry will seriously consider this and prevail upon the Finance Ministry to release that much of foreign exchange to establish a fertilizer factory at Neiveli. Not only in Neiveli—I said that only by way of an example—we can certainly establish half a dozen fertilizer factories. As the Asoka Mehta Committee Report has rightly pointed out somewhere, for every rupee spent on the import of fertilizers, we would save the country nearly three rupees that may have to be spent on import of foodgrains.

Then, Sir, the other method by which we can achieve quick results in the matter of raising food production is resorting to the use of improved and better seeds; and I have already pointed out that 22 per cent, of the additional production is to be achieved through the use of improved seeds. But *let* us analyse the progress that has been achieved in this regard. A beginning was made only last year to have this multiplication and distribution of improved seeds. A paltry sum of Rs. 26-13 lakhs by way of loans and Rs. 40 lakhs by way of subsidies has been sanctioned last year to State Governments for setting up 485 farms all over the country. Now, Sir, my first grievance is, that if in the Second Five Year Plan it is said that 22 per cent, of additional production

is to be achieved by using better seeds, why should not the Government of India spend a much larger amount on improved seeds? And why only a beginning should have been made only last year and why only a paltry sum, a few lakhs of rupees, had been allotted to the various State Governments by way of subsidies and loans? What is the result achieved even then? Madras has opened only 38 seed farms; U.P. 115 seed farms; Bombay has just started preliminary work. Rajasthan has selected the site for 20 farms and other States have not made any beginning at all. If that is the state of affairs, how could we expect increased food production in our country and I am sure this matter has to be viewed very seriously. The State Governments will have to be whipped in this respect by the Central Government. The only complaint that has been made is non-availability of land for the seed farms.

SHRI A. P. JAIN: Delay in acquisition.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: The hon. Minister says that it is delay in acquisition. But I am sure the hon. Minister, a lawyer as he was some time ago, should know that there is a provision in the Land Acquisition Act wherein they have got emergency powers to get at the land even within twenty-four hours. When there is such a provision there in the Land Acquisition Act, I fail to see .

SHRI A. P. JAIN: For public purpose.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: This is for a public purpose. When this is for a public purpose, I do not understand how there can be any delay at all in the matter of acquisition of land for this purpose. And it is for a public purpose.

Then, Sir, I find that not much attention has been paid in the matter of minor irrigation works. Unless more money is spent on minor works, we cannot hope to get the results at

all that we are aiming at. We find, that in certain States, the well subsidies which had been given have been stopped now and we find that not much attention is paid in several States in the matter of deepening of the lakes or the clearing of the silt in the lakes or the clearing of the silt in the supply channels. There are some States where the Government expects the people to do this repair of channels. It is all right if it is a small work. But if the channel is silted up to the brim, you cannot expect the agriculturist to clear the channel on their own accord and it is for the State Governments to see that these things are done.

Then, Sir, I find that in regard to the supply of electric current for the agricultural pump sets, not much preference is shown to the agriculturists. On the other hand, my grievance is that in several States preference is shown to the industrialists and for industries. There are some States like Madras where current is supplied for the agriculturists in the night time* and in the day time the current is shut off for the agriculturists and supplied to the industrialists. I wonder, Sir, how agriculture can be performed in the night time, how water can be taken from the wells and distributed to the lands in the night time.

Then, Sir, there are only two other points which I would just touch and leave them there. What is required now is giving remunerative prices for the agriculturists. Unless remunerative prices are given to the agriculturist there will be no incentive on the part of the agriculturist to grow more food. The harvest season has commenced in the south so far as finer variety of paddy is concerned. Now we are surprised that the Government has not announced its policy of procurement. The Government has not fixed any price, even the minimum price, so far as paddy is concerned. The paddy prices are swinging from one end to the other end in the course of 10 or 15 days. The Mehta Committee has suggested, in respect of

coarse grain, a minimum price of Rs. 9/8 to Rs. 11 per maund. That is a fair price and the agriculturists will certainly be benefited. But why has even that price not been fixed by the Government? What we want is remunerative prices for the agriculturists. Unless remunerative price is offered, there will be no incentive on the part of the agriculturists to grow more food. The minimum prices also should be fixed well in advance, long before the harvest season commences.

Then, Sir, the other point is the uncertainty in the matter of land reforms. Because there is a certain amount of uncertainty, the agriculturist is not prepared to invest any money in the land; he is not prepared to spend money and deepen the wells, he is not prepared to spend money and install pump sets in his land. He does not know what is to happen to his land. Suppose, he has more than 10 acres or 15 acres. He is not in a position to know what is to happen to his land. He is not prepared to invest anything in the land at all. As a result production suffers. This question must be decided one way or the other as early as possible. I am sure this is a very serious matter for the Government of India to consider.

Then, Sir, the other point which I wanted to speak about is co-operative farming, but I will take some other opportunity to deal with that subject.

The other small point which I would like to urge is this. The hon. Minister said that so far as rice distribution is concerned, the whole country is divided into four zones. There is a zone in the south comprising the States of Madras, Mysore, Andhra and Kerala. Sir, this zonal system in my opinion is working great hardship. Madras which is a marginally deficit State has become a hopelessly deficit one because of the introduction of this zonal system. Kerala which is a highly deficit State is now getting, itself enriched at the cost of Madras and Andhra. The Madras Government has been agitating from the very

[Shri P. S. Rajagopal Naidu.] beginning to have this tried on a Government to Government level. But now with the introduction of the zonal system, merchants from Kerala are coming and buying rice in Madras. I have no time to give the figures, but taking into account the population of Kerala the consumption of rice there is something abnormal. God alone knows where this rice goes. Either it is smuggled to Goa or to Ceylon or to some other country. But the fact is that a large amount of rice is either taken away, or drawn from Madras to Kerala.

SHRI N. C. SEKHAR (Kerala): Will you please give figures of the abnormal consumption, which you mention?

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: If the Chair will permit me I will give the figures which he wants, or I shall pass on the figures to him. It is nearly ten times of what Madras consumes.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR (Kerala): We would like to have the figures.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I will pass on the figures. My suggestion is that instead of having all the four States formed into a group, every State should form itself into a group, it should be cordoned off from the other, and the entire thing should be dealt with at Government to Government level

Now, I find that the rice that is allotted to Madras, which is stocked in Madras, has been given away to Kerala, much to the detriment of the people of Madras. Take, for instance, fair price shops. A State like Madras is having only 400 and odd fair price shops, whereas Kerala is having 6,000 and odd.

SHRI PERATH NARAYANAN NAIR: Madras is a marginally deficit State, whereas Kerala is a heavily State. That makes all the nee.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Probably my friend has not heard me

when I had said it in the beginning itself. My suggestion would be to cordon off one State from the other completely and import rice to Kerala, which is a highly deficit State, from surplus States on Government to Government level.

SHRI ABHIMANYU RATH (Orissa): I think the discussion is on the entire all India level.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: I started saying so far as the southern zone is concerned. It is true that the discussion covers the whole of India, but the country is cordoned off into four zones ...

SHRI A. P. JAIN: I never said so.

SHRI P. S. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: ... into four rice zones. (Time bell rings.) I would only suggest that this rice business should be done on Government to Government level and each State should be cordoned off. If Kerala is in need of any foodgrains, they could be drawn at Government level from the surplus State to that State. This is the only suggestion which I would like to make.

श्री ए० बी० कुन्नुम्बु (क०रल) : उप-समाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारी खाद्य स्थिति पिछले साल की अपेक्षा इस साल बहुत बुरी हो गई है। पिछले साल में मैं समझता हूँ, ६७ मिलियन टन उपज हुई है सारे हिन्दुस्तान में। इस साल उपज में बहुत ज्यादा कमी हो गई है। उस का ठीक-ठीक हिसाब मेरे पास नहीं है कि कितनी कमी हुई है। इस से पहले हम ने प्रतीक्षा की थी कि पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना खत्म होने के बाद हिन्दुस्तान की खाद्य स्थिति अच्छी हो जायगी। लेकिन अभी वह आशा निराशा हो गई है। हर साल कई तरह की तकलीफें हमें उठानी पड़ती हैं। एक साल ड्राउट, दूसरे साल बरसात और तीसरे साल कुछ और दूसरी बातें हो जायेंगी। इसलिये इस बारे में हमारे मुद्दाओं को मान कर खाद्य स्थिति को अच्छा करने के लिये इंतजाम

हो जाना चाहिये। अगर आप देखें तो हिन्दुस्तान में अन्दर जितनी उपज होनी चाहिये, जितना धान होना चाहिये उतना पैदा नहीं होता और उससे कम ही पैदा होता है। यही कारण है कि खाद्य के मामले में सारा हिन्दुस्तान डिफिशिट में रहता है। करीब ३०-४० लाख टन अनाज की उपज हमारे यहां कम होती है ऐसा, गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से प्रस्थापन हुआ है। कुल हिन्दुस्तान डिफिशिट एरिया है, लेकिन उसमें केरल का जो स्टेट है वह बड़ा डिफिशिट एरिया है। वहां अगर हम हर एक आदमी को ११ या १२ आउंस खाद्य भी देना तय करे तो वहां कम से कम १४ लाख टन उपज होनी चाहिये। लेकिन केरल में अभी केवल ७ लाख टन उपज होती है। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने केरल के लिये २५ हजार टन खाद्यान्न अगस्त तक हर एक महीने देना निश्चित किया है, लेकिन उससे केरल की कमी पूरी नहीं हो सकती। यही कारण है कि केरल को अपने पड़ोसी स्टेट्स की सरकारों मद्रास और आन्ध्र से खाद्यान्न मंगाता पड़ता है। अगर आंध्र या दूसरी जगहों से २०,००० टन हर एक महीने में केरल में खाद्यान्न आ जाय तो भी पूरा नहीं पड़ेगा। जब से केरल में हमारी सरकार अधिकार में आई है, उसके बाद ५,००० टन उपज उसने तंजीर से खरीदी है। तंजीर और केरल कई सालों से एक ही स्थिति में है। तंजीर का चावल मालाबार के हर घर में इस्तेमाल होता है और ज्यादा तर चावल वहीं जाता है। उसी तरह मालाबार का चावल पोन्नाची में भी जाता है।

श्री पी० एस० राजगोपाल नायडू : मालाबार का चावल गोआ को जाता है।

श्री ए० बी० कुन्हुम्बु : मैं कहता हूं कि पालघाट का चावल पोन्नाची में जाता है, कोयम्बटूर में जाता है और तामिलनाडु में सभी जगह जाता है। मैं इस विषय में कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता था, लेकिन चूंकि हमारे

दोस्त मि० गोपाल नायडू ने इसका जिक्र अपने भाषण में किया है, इसलिये मुझे भी यहां पर इसके बारे में कहना पड़ा है। हमारे दोस्त मि० राजा ने कहा कि अगर केरल वाले मद्रास को पानी देंगे तो मद्रास वाले उसके बदले में उन्हें चावल देंगे। नजनाड जब केरल में था तब तक वहां पर चावल की इतनी कठिनाई नहीं थी, लेकिन जब से वह तामिलनाडु में चला गया है तब से केरल में चावल की समस्या बन गई है। मि० राजा ने कहा कि केरल और मद्रास की सरकारें इस सम्बन्ध में आपस में विचार कर रही हैं और जल्द से जल्द उनके बीच इस सम्बन्ध में कोई समझौता हो जायगा। मुझे आशा है कि अगर केन्द्रीय सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में सहायता देगी तो बहुत अच्छा होगा।

केरल की आबादी एक करोड़ ३५ लाख के करीब है। मद्रास और आन्ध्र उसके पड़ोसी स्टेट्स हैं जहां से उसे हर तरह की मदद की जानी चाहिये। केरल काफी चाय, रबर, जिंजर और कालोमिर्च पैदा करता है। इन चीजों को देश से बाहर भेज कर वह देश के लिए डालर और स्टर्लिंग कमाता है। जिस राज्य के लोग इस तरह से देश के लिये डालर और स्टर्लिंग कमाते हैं उनको क्या आप लोग खाना नहीं देना चाहेंगे? उनको भूखा मारा जा सकता है? जब देश के और राज्यों में जैसे, बम्बई, बंगाल, बिहार और यू० पी० के कुछ हिस्सों में अकाल पड़ता है तो हम लोगों को बहुत दुःख होता है, लेकिन जब हमारे राज्य में इस तरह की स्थिति होती है तो और भी ज्यादा दुःख होता है। इस स्थिति को दूर करने के लिये भारत सरकार को केरल की हर तरह की मदद करनी चाहिये। देश में अनाज की उपज बढ़ाने के बारे में बार बार सरकार की ओर से कहा जाता है। मैं इस सम्बन्ध में डिटेल पूर्वक कुछ भी कहने के लिये तैयार नहीं हूं क्योंकि, मेरे पास ज्यादा

[श्री ए० बी० कुन्हुम्बु]

समय नहीं है। हमारे मिनिस्टर साहब कोई परमिनेन्ट सोल्युशन जानते हैं तो उन्हें देश को इस सम्बन्ध में पूरी जानकारी देनी चाहिये, ताकि हमारा देश अनाज के सम्बन्ध में स्वावलम्बी हो जाय। इस समय देश में ६५ मिलियन एकड़ कल्टीवेटेड लैंड है। उसके अलावा ५४ मिलियन एकड़ लैंड ऐसी है जो कि ड्राई पड़ी है। अगर यह भावना रखे, कि यह लैंड जो अनकल्टीवेटेड है, उसको कल्टीवेट करके उपज बढ़ायेंगे, जब तक हम ऐसा नहीं करेंगे तब तक हमारे देश में उपज नहीं बढ़ सकती है। जब हम तामिलनाडु और आन्ध्र राज्यों में रेल द्वारा सफ़र करते हैं तो हमें दोनों तरफ लहलहाते हुए खेत दिखाई देते हैं। आन्ध्र में १३ लाख एकड़ भूमि में पहले बहुत से काश्तकार खेती करते थे। जब प्रकाशम मंत्रिमंडल था उस समय यह भूमि खेती के लिये देने को आर्डर निकाला था। लेकिन उसके बाद गोपाल रेड्डी के जमाने में यह काम में नहीं लाया गया और कि इन लोगों की हालत खराब हो गई है और वहां की उपज भी कम हो गई है। तो इस तरह की कार्यवाही करके हम किस तरह देश में उपज बढ़ा सकते हैं? तामिलनाडु के बारे में कहा जाता है कि वहां पर ३८ लाख एकड़ लैंड ऐसी पड़ी हुई है, जिस पर खेती की जा सकती है। क्या तामिलनाडु में सभी लोग के हाथ में जमीन है? बिना जमीन वाले आदिमियों को क्यों नहीं जमीन दी जाती? इसी तरह मध्य प्रदेश में क्यों नहीं जमीन दी जाती? आंध्र प्रदेश में क्यों नहीं जमीन दी जाती? इसके बारे में कौन सोचेगा, कौन, फैसला करेगा? यह केन्द्रीय सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि वह इस बारे में आज्ञा दे। लैंड रिफार्म्स ला करके, जिन लोगों के पास इस मुल्क में खेत नहीं हैं उनको, खेत देना चाहिये।

माइनर इर्रिगेशन के बारे में ऐसा आलूम होता है कि पहली पंचवर्षीय योजना

में फायदा हुआ है, क्योंकि जो टारगेट था, करीब करीब उस टारगेट तक आ गये। लेकिन माइनर इर्रिगेशन स्कीम क्यों नहीं अच्छी तरह चलती है, यह फूड मिनिस्टरी की एक रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है। उस रिपोर्ट से ज्यादा हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा ट्यूबवेल निकम्मे हो गये हैं। ट्यूबवेल के निकम्मा होने के कारण भी बहुत है। कैसे ट्यूबवेल इस्तेमाल करना है, किसान के लिये सस्ता और आसानी से पानी देना है, यह इंतजाम करना पड़ेगा। लेकिन यह भी नहीं करते। केरल में मीडियम इर्रिगेशन के बारे में तीन प्रोजेक्ट्स केरल सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार को भेजे हैं। एक पालाकाजी स्कीम है। वह कंप्लीट कर दी गई तो ७५०० एकड़ जमीन सिंच सकती है। उसमें २४८४ एकड़ डबल क्राप लैंड सिंच सकती है। उसी तरह से १३१२ एकड़ सिगिल क्राप लैंड सिंच सकती है। इससे भी ज्यादा ३७०४ एकड़ ड्राई लैंड सिंच सकती है। ११०० एकड़ जमीन में थर्ड क्राप हो सकती है। इससे ३४०० टन चावल हमारे लिये मिल सकता है। इसी तरह से तीसरी एक स्कीम है, कंजीरा-पूजा स्कीम। उसे कंप्लीट करें तो २४००० एकड़ फ़र्टिल क्राप जमीन को सिंच सकते हैं। इसके अलावा १७८१२ एकड़ डबल क्राप लैंड सिंच सकती है, और ६१८३ एकड़ नई डबल क्राप लैंड सिंच सकती है। इसी तरह से ६००० एकड़ थर्ड क्राप लैंड सिंच सकती है। इससे ६००० टन चावल हमें मिल सकता है। इसी तरह पोथंडी स्कीम है। उसमें ४६२५ एकड़ डबल क्राप लैंड सिंच सकती है। १७८८ एकड़ सिगिल क्राप लैंड सिंच सकती है। २४७६ एकड़ ड्राई लैंड सिंच सकती है। इस तरह उस से ३४०० टन चावल ज्यादा हम पैदा कर सकते हैं। इसी तरह केरल में कुटनायर डेवलपमेंट स्कीम है! उसका खर्चा ६ करोड़ रुपया हो जाता है, तो भी उसको कंप्लीट करने से हमारे लिये २ लाख ७५

हजार टन ज्यादा चावल मिलता है। अभी वहां सिंगल क्राप लैंड है, लेकिन इस स्कीम को कंप्लीट करने से २ लाख ७५ हजार टन ज्यादा चावल मिलता है। इसी तरह और कई इरीगेशन स्कीम्स वहां हैं। आप सोचिये कि जितनी वहां कमी है, वह जमीन से ही पैदा हो सकती है। तो केरल स्टेट की यह हालत है। आंध्र अभी सरप्लस स्टेट है। हिन्दुस्तान में दूसरों को खिलाने का मौका उनके लिये है। आंध्र स्टेट की जनता के लिये है। वहां जमीन अभी भी क्राफी है। अगर अच्छी तरह खेती की जाये तो हिन्दुस्तान के ३७ करोड़ आदमियों को खिलाने में तकलीफ नहीं होगी। भाखरा बंगल डैम, दामोदर वैली प्रोजेक्ट, ये सब कंप्लीट होने के बाद हमें तकलीफ नहीं होगी।

इसी बारे में मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। मन्थोर हमारे यहां कितनी होती है? मैं समझता हूँ कि शायद १४ लाख टन मन्थोर होनी चाहिये। अभी कितनी होती है यहां? केवल ५ लाख टन मन्थोर होती है। हमारे लिये ९ लाख टन ज्यादा मन्थोर होनी चाहिये। इस को यहीं पैदा करना है। दूसरे मुल्को से मंगाने में हमारा डालर फना होगा, हमारा फारेन एक्सचेंज फना होगा, हमारा स्टर्लिंग फना होगा। इस के बारे में बहुत काफी हमारे फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर ने कहा कि फोरेन एक्सचेंज बहुत कम है। तो मन्थोर बाहर से नहीं मंगा सकते। यहीं पैदा करना है और उस के लिये फटिलाइजर फैक्ट्री बनाना है। फटिलाइजर फैक्ट्री बनाते हैं तो उस के लिये मशीनरी यहां लाना है और उस के लिये फारेन एक्सचेंज नहीं है। इस तरह जितनी मन्थोर की जरूरत है उस को यहीं पैदा करना है। अगर बाहर से मंगायेगे तो ठीक नहीं होगा, क्योंकि उस से हिन्दुस्तान में और गरीबी और मुमीबत आ जायेगी। इसलिये मैं कहता हूँ कि आन्ध्र में एक फटिलाइजर फैक्ट्री

हो और इसी तरह से हिन्दुस्तान के और भागों में भी हो। सिंदरो फटिलाइजर फैक्ट्री में कितना उत्पादन होता है और क्या क्या होता है उस के बारे में ठीक ठीक कहने के लिये अभी समय नहीं है तो भी मैं इतना जरूर कहूंगा कि सिंदरो फटिलाइजर फैक्ट्री और आलवाई फटिलाइजर फैक्ट्री में जितना उत्पादन होता है वह हिन्दुस्तान की जो डिमांड है उस को पूरा नहीं करता।

श्रीमान्, मैं एक और बात कहना चाहता हूँ जो कि किसानों के खर्च के बारे में है। हमारे किसान पर बहुत डैट रहता है, जो जमीन उस के पास है उस में खेती करने के लिये, बैल लेने के लिये, सीड खरीदने के लिये, या मन्थोर वगैरह चीजें खरीदने के लिये उस के पास पैसा नहीं रहता। तो वह कैसे खेती कर सकता है? नहीं कर सकता। अभी हमारे हिन्दुस्तान के किसान बहुत खर्च में पड़ गये हैं। उन की हालत सुधारने के लिये हमें उन की उपज की ठीक कीमत फिक्स करनी होगी। आज किसान जो उपज पैदा करता है उस के दाम उस को मिट्टी के मोल मिलते हैं। उस की जो अपनी जरूरतें हैं, कपड़ा खरीदना है, सब तरह की चीजें खरीदनी हैं, उन के लिये उस के पास पैसा नहीं है। कहीं पर भी उस के द्वारा पैदा की गई चीजों की कीमतों में फिक्सिटी नहीं है। एक दिन चालीस रुपया होगा तो दूसरे दिन तीस रुपया होगा और तीसरे दिन शायद २५ रुपया हो जायेगा या ३५ रुपये हो जायेगा। फिक्सिटी न होने से किसान लोग बहुत ही डिमोरोलाइज हो जाते हैं और उन को ज्यादा पैदा करने के लिये कोई खुशी नहीं होती, कोई विश्वास नहीं होता। मैं कहता हूँ आजकल एक बैल की कीमत क्या है, इसी तरह से एग्रीकल्चरल इंप्लीमेंट की कीमत क्या है और चीजें जो खेती करने में इस्तेमाल आती हैं, उनकी कीमत क्या है, इन सब बातों को ले कर एक

[श्री ए० बी० कुन्हम्बु]

किसान को कितना खर्चा पड़ता है ? उसके मुताबिक खाद्यान्न का कमत फिक्स करना होगा । इन्फ्लिकेशन आफ कल्टिवेशन, सिफ्रं कहने से कोई फायदा नहीं होगा, उस के लिये किसानों को इमॅटिव भी देना चाहिये ।

(Time bell rings.)

तो मैं ने खाद्य स्थिति को सोल्य करने के लिये, उसका परिहार करने के लिये जो राय दा है उसके बारे में आप सोच विचार करें, ऐसा कह कर मैं बैठ जाता हूँ । धन्यवाद ।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

HAPPENINGS AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE ELECTRIC TRAIN SERVICES AT HOWRAH ON THE 14TH DECEMBER 1957

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): Sir, I rise to make a statement on the happenings at the inauguration of the Electric Train services at Howrah on the 14th of this month, when two persons were unfortunately killed and several were injured.

The police arrangements for the occasion had been settled at various meetings, between the Railway Administration and the West Bengal Police representatives, and necessary personnel were drafted for the purpose by the police authorities.

The General Manager had issued invitations to 3,500 guests out of which about 2,500 arrived and were seated in a portion of the main concourse wh'ch had been cordoned off for the purpose. Five hundred of these were invited to accompany the train and were seated in a special enclosure arranged in the concourse from which they alone could have direct access to the platform, where the special train had been berthed. The train consisted of 11 bogies and 2 electric

engines, one leading and another in rear.

To ensure protection of the special inaugural train which was to leave from platform No. 8, this and platforms Nos. 6, 7 and 9 were closed for the reception and departure of trains for the afternoon and barricades were provided between platforms 9 and 10, 5 and 6, and 1 and 2, to prevent unauthorised persons infiltrating on to platform No. 8.

The Prime Minister was due to arrive at Howrah station at 3.30 p.m. Some time before this a crowd started collecting round the protected area. A portion climbed the barricades or circumvented them through the yard; thus gaining access to the platforms which had been closed. The police and Railway staff on duty tried to clear them, but the crowds soon came back. By the time the Prime Minister left the concourse for the special train, the crowd on all the platforms had increased considerably and had even gathered in large numbers on the tracks.

As the Prime Minister proceeded along platform No. 8 towards the locomotive of the train, some of the crowd climbed over a gate and entered platform No. 8. Their example apparently led others to break the police cordons, climb over the barriers, and rush for the special train. Many of them boarded the train, keeping out the invitees, a majority of whom could not even reach the platform and were left behind along with a number of senior Railway officials. The hon. Minister of Railways was able to reach the locomotive but had difficulty in doing so.

The train started 4 minutes late. As it pulled out slowly, people from both sides jumped on to the footboards. Persistent efforts were made by the Railway staff and Police on the platforms as well as on the train to dissuade the footboard travellers, but as they left, others took their places and the numbers kept on increasing.