

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA): The hon. member knows that my colleagues and I are discussing this matter with him and other members of this House and the other House. He was present at the meeting only the other day and a number of members suggested that we should have further discussion. We are having another meeting. He knows that.

SHRI SIDDAYYA: In order to get the recommendations of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes implemented, is there any proposal to invest the Commissioner with more powers or is there a proposal to appoint a high-powered committee, so that that committee can get the recommendations implemented?

SHRI ASOKA MEHTA: The hon. member knows that many of his colleagues from this House pointed out that this is a matter which bristles with difficulties and has to be handled very carefully. I do not think I can enlighten him any more than the enlightenment that we got at the meeting last Friday.

श्री श्री० प्र० त्यागी : अनुसूचित जातियों और अनुसूचित आदिम जातियों की सुरक्षा और प्रगति के लिए जो कमिश्नर की नियुक्ति की गई है क्या यह सच है कि उनके पास इतना स्टाफ नहीं है कि वे उनके पास आई हुई शिकायतों की जांच कर सकें ? क्या यह भी सच नहीं है कि वह केवल एक ढोंग मात्र बना कर रह गया है ? यदि सरकार इस बात को अनुभव करती है तो क्या वह उनके लिए पूरे साधन मुहैया करेगी जिससे वह सक्रिय हो सकें और हितकारी मित्र हो सकें ?

श्री अशोक मेहता : कमिश्नर के पास जरूरी स्टाफ है। उसके अलावा डायरेक्टर जनरल आफ वेलफेयर और बैंकवर्ड क्लामिस का जो स्टाफ है वह भी उन के काम में पूरा इस्तेमाल किया जाता है।

## Payment for Food Imports from U.S.A.

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\*129. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:  
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Government have decided to recover the part of the price of food to be exported to India in dollars;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional burden on the balance of payments position specially during the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). Under the PL 480 Agreements signed since June 1967 India pays for about 80 per cent of the food imports in rupees and receives the remaining 20 per cent against a long-term credit repayable in convertible currency. This Credit is repayable in 31 annual instalments beginning ten years after the imports are made.

(c) There will not be any additional burden on the balance of payments position during the current financial year as neither interest payments nor principal repayments are due in the current year.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: So, it appears that there is no new change in what has been going on up till now. He says that 80 per cent is payable in rupees and 20 per cent in convertible currency. I want to know what is the total amount expected to be imported during the current year and what would be the amount of current year's imports to be paid in dollars?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: What will be imported in current year will have to be paid next year and not this year.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: What would be the value of it?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: The value of imports authorised on 20-2-67 as

amended on 24-6-67 will be 24.2 million dollars, for convertible local currency credit. The value of imports authorised against payment by India in rupees would be 87.8 million dollars. The total would be 112 million. Under the PL 480 agreement dated 20-2-67, the value is 135 million dollars. As amended on 12-9-67, the total value is 86.5 million dollars worth, 19 million dollars for convertible local currency credit and 67.5 million in rupees. As amended on 30-12-67 the total value is 250 million dollars worth, 46.9 million dollars worth for convertible local currency credit and 168.6 million in rupees.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Sir, it appears from the statement of the hon. Minister that we have practically mortgaged our country to the United States of America for imported wheat. I would like to know, since according to the Food Minister and also according to the statistics available in our country we have a nice crop this year, whether we are going to reduce the imports and, if so, to what extent?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** There is no question of mortgaging this country at all. I do not know how it has entered the imagination of the hon. Member.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** I said 'mortgaged', not 'sold'.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** It is neither mortgaged nor sold.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Thank you.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU:** We are more sensitive than he is perhaps.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** I am certainly more sensitive than the hon. Member is and . . .

**SHRI RANGA:** The hon. Minister may come to the point now.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** It is very essential because all these abuses are hurled at the country, not at me; it degrades the country and not me. The hon. Member does not bother about that but we have to bother. In this House I cannot allow these re-

marks to pass unnoticed because they are against the dignity of the country. That is why I have to maintain it.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Sir, his anger shows that there is no dignity left because a dignified man is never angry.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** I have absolutely no anger against hon. Members. Why should I have any anger in this?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member's question was by how much the import this year will be less.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** It has been stated last year that it will be less than the last year, much less. It is not yet decided. We do not know how much we will get. I do not think it will exceed seven million tonnes.

**SHRI S. R. DAMANI:** May I know whether in the agreement signed with USA for imports under PL 480 cotton is also included? If it is included, may I know whether Government will consider the question of stopping the import of cotton for the time being because of fall in the price of cotton in the local market?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** These include all the agricultural commodities which we import under those agreements. Whether cotton is actually imported or not depends upon our requirements.

**SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU:** May I know if the hon. Deputy Prime Minister will enlighten the House stating the exact amount that remains in this country in rupees belonging to the USA aid? Secondly, if they want us to pay that on demand, may I know whether we shall be able to pay that amount outright? I gather the Finance Minister once confessed to a person that we cannot pay if they demanded the money at once.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** There is no question of paying at once. As I said, it has to be paid over 40 years

and more and they are in annual instalments.

**SHRI JYOTIMOY BASU:** Could he tell us what is the total amount?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** If all those details are wanted I shall certainly give him but not today.

**श्री जिव चन्द्र झा :** पी० एल० 480 की जो पेमेंट्स होती हैं उसका क्या एक पोर्शन अमरीकन एम्बेसी दिल्ली में इस्तेमाल नहीं करती है और यदि करती है तो क्या सरकार को इस बात का पता है कि इसका सबवॉल्व एक्टिविटीज के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है? क्या इस पैसे की वजह से डिफिसिट फाइनेंसिंग होता है या नहीं होता है?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** There was a seminar held here in which many people came to the conclusion that it does not mean deficit financing. But there will always be some people who will hold a contrary view. I have no quarrel with them, but it is not certainly any deficit financing. A part of it, under the agreement, the payment made in rupees, goes to the American Embassy for its expenditure here. This is what we have agreed to. They spend it for their bona fide purposes. I have absolutely no reason to believe that any of it is spent in any wrong manner.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Sir, on a point of order. On several previous occasions it has been stated in this House....

**MR. SPEAKER:** He can ask that question later on.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Sir, it is a point of order. How can he make a statement like this? An inquiry is being held. Before the results of the inquiry are available, how does he make that statement?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I will give him an opportunity later.

**SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA:** Is it a fact that we are importing tobacco under PL 480?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** Not that I know of.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** The hon. Minister's colleagues, the Home Minister and others, have repeatedly assured us in this House that an inquiry is being held into this question of whether these funds which are at the disposal of the US Embassy are at all being used for political purposes, like elections and so on. We are still awaiting the results of that inquiry. Before that, how does the hon. Deputy Prime Minister make this categorical statement that he has no ground to think that they are being used for any such purposes?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** Because I had replied to a question about this very matter as a result of that inquiry some time ago, and there I have said that this particular inquiry has been made that PL 480 funds have not been used at all for any other purpose.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Are we not entitled to know the results of that inquiry? Where is that inquiry report?

**MR. SPEAKER:** That is a separate question.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA:** May I know how the price of imported wheat under PL 480 compare with the other international prices like that of Australia and other countries? Secondly, for whatever we import under PL 480 freight charges are being paid in dollars which, we understand, are more compared to the freight charges of ships chartered by other shipping lines. What is the percentage of freight charges that we incur on the total cost of imports and whether these freight charges are more compared to that of other shipping lines in the world.

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** If a separate question is asked, I will supply full information.

**SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:** It is reported that there is a bumper crop here this year of 95 million tons. If

so, may I know why our Deputy Prime Minister, during his visit to the United States, has come to an agreement with the Johnson Government for the import of 6 million tons of foodgrains? Though our Food Minister has stated that we expect to import 7 million tons of foodgrains this year, there is a report in the press that due to the Vietnam war and other reasons, America is not in a position to export 7 million tons of wheat to India this year. If we have a bumper crop of 95 million tons, what is the necessity for importing wheat under PL 480? Could we not stop it?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** Since we have to build a buffer stock we have to import some food this year.

**DR. RANEN SEN:** Sometime back Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, who was the Finance Minister, made a statement in this House that the information about the disbursement of the rupee currency held by the American Embassy on account of PL 480 funds could not be known to the Government of India, even though the Finance Minister tried his best to get the information. If that is so, how does the statement made by the present Finance Minister reconcile with the statement made by Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, the old Finance Minister?

**SHRI MORARJI DESAI:** When that statement is not before me, how am I going to speak about it?

**श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त :** श्री माननीय मंत्री ने कहा है कि पी एल-480 का रुपया ठीक तरह से खर्च होता है और उन को इस बारे में पूरा विश्वास है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने इस बारे में कोई एन्वयरी कराई है कि यू० एस० ए० की एम्बेसी का स्टाफ पी एल-480 का रुपया ठीक तरह से खर्च करता है; यदि हाँ, तो वह एन्वयरी किस से कराई है और उस का क्या नतीजा है?

**श्री मोरारजी देसाई :** एन्वयरी किस से और कहाँ कराई है, यह कहना मुनासिब नहीं होगा।

**श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** क्या एन्वयरी कराई है ?

**श्री मोरारजी देसाई :** जरूर कराई है।

#### Rehabilitation of Koyna Earthquake Victims

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- \*131. **SHRI DEORAO PATIL:**  
**SHRI RANDHIR SINGH:**  
**SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:**  
**SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of help rendered by the Central Government towards the permanent rehabilitation of the victims of Koyna earthquake; and

(b) the details of the demand made by the Maharashtra Government and the amount given by the Central Government?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. C. PANT):** (a) The rehabilitation of people affected by natural calamities is primarily the responsibility of the State Government themselves. The Government of India are assisting the Government of Maharashtra towards permanent rehabilitation of the people affected by the Koyna earthquake by way of supply and allocation of certain building materials and financial assistance.

(b) The State Government have estimated the likely expenditure on permanent rehabilitation measures at about Rs. 20 crores against which they have asked for a loan of Rs. 10 crores from the Centre. The expenditure likely to be incurred during the current financial year is about Rs. 3 crores. A loan of Rs. 1 crore has been sanctioned and further assistance will be considered taking into account the progress of actual expenditure.