

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1992-93 CONTD.

Ministry of Rural Development; Ministry
of Food;
Ministry of Agriculture;
and
Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public
Distribution—CONTD.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN
KUMARAMANGALAM): If the House agrees,
the reply could be at about 2.35 P.M. so that
we could complete the Demands. Of course,
the time allotted is over long ago. But, I would
request that the Minister could be permitted
to reply at about 2.30 PM - 2.40 P.M. We
could pass and consider the votings on the
Demands before the Private Members Busi-
ness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not have any
objection. But, there are three-four hon.
Members.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-
GALAM: You can call them. There is still
time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If they can take only
five minutes each then it is possible. Other-
wise, it will not be possible. Please confine to
five minutes. Shri Birbal.

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Chair-
man Sir, I rise to support the demands for
grants relating to the Ministries of Rural
Development, Food and Agriculture. Five
things are most important for the farmer. The
first is that he should have land, secondly, he
should get seeds of good quality, thirdly, he
should get good quality of fertiliser, fourthly,

there should be proper arrangements of
irrigation and fifthly, this crops should be
protected properly. Today, a lot of people
work with land lords, and they do not have
their own land. The Government should
'make every effort for those people, who are
engaged in farming, as farm hands and there
should be a proper distribution of land among
them. In this way the surplus land should go
to the farm workers and the land less labour,
who work in the fields.

After Independence, the first Prime
Minister Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru paid atten-
tion to the farmers. Huge dams, like Bhakhra
and Pong were constructed. Many dams
were constructed in the country and canals
were dug. The incomplete work of Nehruji
was completed by Indiraji. Indiraji even went
for the nationalization of banks for the farm-
ers. It gave a new life to the farmers through-
out the country. Today, they get every kind of
loans. They get loans for sheep and goats,
cows and buffaloes, camels and oxes and
for carts and tractors. The economic condi-
tion of the farmer has improved but he does
not get proper value of his crops in time. The
Government should pay attention towards it.
Besides, a Krish Vigyan Kendra should be
opened in every district of the country so that
the farmers may get all types of seeds and
plants.

My area, Shri Ganganagar is on the
border of Punjab and Haryana and generally
the farmers complain that they get the ferti-
liser at a much higher price as compared to
the farmers of Punjab and Haryana. The
reason being that no tax and octroi is charged
on fertilisers in Punjab and Haryana, while 6
per cent tax and 1 per cent octroi in Rajast-
han, makes the fertiliser costly per wagon
there. Therefore, the Rajasthan Government
should be asked to abolish tax and octroi on
fertilisers.

Today as compared to the other oil
seeds the price of mustard is very low. It

[Sh. Birbal]

should, at least be Rs. one thousand per quintal. I hope the hon. Minister will pay attention towards it.

I want to say one thing more. There are some Bhakhra canals in my area but the farmers do not get adequate water from these canals since the irrigation officers of Punjab discharge our share of water in the rainy season and after the raining season they do not give water to the farmers. As a result their crops are ruined every year. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Rajasthan Government had constituted one man commission, Moti Ram Committee for providing full water in the Bhakhara Canals. The report recommended that the Bhakhara canals which cross under the Indira canal, should be permanently connected with the Indira canal. Then the farmers drawing water from Bhakhara canals can get full water supply.

Among the major and important demands of the people of my area providing land to the landless people is the most important. The landless people have given representation many items in this connection but only a few families could get land. Rest of the families are still hoping for a piece of land.

They had high hopes after the Narasimha Rao Government came to power. The Rajasthan Government has made some rules for distribution of land. One is, after distributing land to the landless people of the district, the remaining land is allotted to the landless people of other districts of Rajasthan. The Indira Gandhi Canal passes through a big area of Ganganagar district. Large number of displaced persons of the Pong dam were given land, while this land should have been given in proportion to each district from where this canal passes.

Jetsar Farm has been set up in Ganga-

nagar district, which is not only beneficial for Ganganagar district but also for the whole of Rajasthan.

Suratgarh Farm has also been set up in this area, which has spread on thousands of acres of land and which is in the interest of the Rajasthan Government and the Central Government.

The forest department has taken over thousands of acres of land in village Kishanpura which is near Hanumangarh of this district.

This is a border district, where army cantonments and airports have been set up for the defence of the country and large tracts of land have been acquired.

The water of the river Ghaghar flows in this district which has rendered considerable land as follow land.

The ex-servicemen have also been given land in this district. Those who completed bachelors degree in agriculture, have also been given land in this district.

In this way the landless people of this district could not get land due to various reasons. In all the other districts of Rajasthan they can get land in the same proportion.

Therefore, my submission to the Government is that keeping in view the above mentioned things, the Government owned land in Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts should be given to the landless persons of Ganganagar district on priority basis so that this problem can be solved. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIA. ASOKARAJ (Perambalur): Sir, on behalf of my party, the All India Anna

D.M.K. I would like to make a few points, as the time is limited.

Regarding the rural development scheme, the IRDP is an important one because, the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes are getting benefits from it. But I am sorry to point out that the attitude of nationalised banks is very painful and it is rather against the scheme itself. If we go to the villages we will find that the bankers even right from the Branch Manager of a bank up to even the Chairman of a nationalised bank, are behind in the same way. So, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the scheme is implemented with the help of nationalised banks who are not at all working in a proper way.

Secondly, housing is an important thing. In India, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes people are living in huts and many people don't have even housing sites. We are earmarking Rs. 17,000 to Rs. 18,000 per house to construct. What are the norms that we are following? It is because some sites are very strong, but some other sites are having very loose soil. Hence I request the hon. Minister to see personally that when we are building houses, it should be done in a proper manner. The life of inland fishermen is also not good. We should try to improve it. Even though the hon. Minister for Agriculture had replied yesterday, I would like to raise some important points here. The most important is the construction of percolation ponds under JVV scheme. This is a very good scheme, but I am afraid that this scheme is not being worked out properly by the officials. In the villages, we are trying to use the man power of the poor people. Even though the State Government is trying to implement all these schemes with the central assistance, the officials who are working there, do not use man power and they use bulldozers for these purposes. The norm is that 60 per cent of the

work, man power should be used. So, I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to personally see as to what they are actually doing and something should be done for monitoring these works, because man power is not at all used for which this scheme has been drawn. That is why, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, our beloved and respected leader 'Puratchi Thalaivi' Selvi Jayalalitha is saying that the bureaucrats should also be accountable. If any mistake occurs, only the Ministers are answering whether it is in parliament or State Assemblies, whereas the official are escaping very easily. So, the officials, that is, the bureaucrats should also be brought into accountability.

Then, every month Tamil Nadu is being given only 68,000 tonnes of rice and per year we are allotted only 9 lakh tonnes. This is not enough and it should be increased. Similarly, there is no stock of wheat in Tamil Nadu. So, the Government should allot more wheat to Tamil Nadu.

If you see the newspapers, you will come to know that our State Government has taken steps to take back the bogus ration cards and about five lakh cards were taken back. Now, they are implementing the scheme very well. Then, the farm loans waiving scheme announced by the previous Government headed by Shri V.P. Singh is an eye-wash. I will tell you the reason why it is so. The total loan amount waived in Tamil Nadu comes to Rs. 241 crores and the Central Government had to give Rs. 71 crores as the loan component to the State Government. Hence, I request the hon. Minister to give that loan as early as possible. The primary Cooperative Societies which have written off loans under the Agricultural Rural Debt Relief Scheme in 1990, are finding it very difficult to carry on their lending programmes on account of the nonrelease of RS. 71.136 crores by NABARD. The lending programme will be jeopardised.

[Sh. A. Asokaraj]

ardised if the balance amount due to Co-operative Societies is not released. So, I request the hon. Minister to release the amount as early as possible.

The scheme for construction of percolation ponds is very good, but we should try to implement it in a proper manner and man power should be used properly.

I am seeing from 1977 that almost all the people in the rural areas do not have house sites and they do not get protected water supply. The Adi Dravidas, that is, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, they do not have even burial grounds and even if they have burial grounds, they do not have roads to go to the burial grounds. We have not done anything in this regard even after 45 years of independence. So, we should understand the emotions and the feelings of the people at least now.

SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore): Respected Chairman, I am grateful to you for offering me this opportunity to participate in this debate and to articulate my views on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development.

At the very outset, I congratulate the Prime Minister who has launched our nation into a new frontier, the frontier of liberalisation and globalisation with the allowed object of posing a new look on our economy and on our nation. Let the new frontier be the safer place for the suffering millions. That is my wish.

Secondly, development has been re-defined in terms of eradication of poverty, elimination of illiteracy obliteration of unemployment and minimisation of inequality. In India, the rural have-nots amounts to 283.7 millions. It is 32.3 per cent of the total population of India. They have no creature com-

forts. As my learned friend, Shri Ashokaraj has said, they have on food, no shelter, and no clothing. This is indeed precarious.

Rural poor are the Cinderellas of the Socialist republic in this miserable millieu. The allocation for rural development is pathetic pittance. I beseech that the allocation for rural development should be increased. My request is not on charity but on the basis of parity. If poverty is to be alleviated, access to land and employment opportunities are essential. The access to land should be achieved by land reforms. There is a view that land reforms are to be diluted. There are Members who oppose land reforms. I would submit that those who are against land reforms or those who want to dilute land reforms are hide bound conservatives.

The implementation of land reforms is tardy and its impact if minimal. It should be implemented effectively. What are the reasons for the failure? Even the official statement says only two per cent of the total cultivable area of India is declared surplus. It is also stated by the Ministry of Rural Development that this is far fact short of the estimated surplus. What are the reasons? There is absence of commitment on the part of the Administration. There is absence of political will. There is absence of awareness among the rural poor, the intended beneficiaries of the land reform legislation. These maladies are to be remedied.

There is no functional sincerity and vigilant monitoring in the implementation of land reforms. Hence I suggest that the ceiling limit should be reduced.

Secondly, *benami* transactions are to be abolished. Those who are holding *benami* land are to be prosecuted. Those who file false returns are also to be prosecuted.

Regarding the works programme like IRDP and JRY, they are plagued with cor-

ruption, political favouritism and inefficiency.

These maladies are to be eschewed. In the JRY, there are a number of works programmes. We should give priority to those programmes which are absolutely necessary. We should give much importance for housing.

Lastly, I want to submit that development without education is useless. In India there are 50 million children in the age group of 6 to 14 out of school. 50 per cent of these 50 million children are not able to attend schools because of poverty and hence I suggest that residential schools should be started in every group of 10 to 15 villages and census of children of the have nots should be taken. Catch them young and teach them well in the residential schools up to 10+2 level and provide them all creature comforts and teaching materials, medical aid and what not. In a socialistic country, education must be free from primary to Phd level. Impart of them technical education or general education, according to the aptitude of the children. After education, provide jobs to them on priority basis or on the basis of reservation for have nots. In this way, we can achieve the constitutional mandate of universal elementary education and also erodication of poverty. Finally, I conclude my speech by quoting Shrimati Indiraji in the *Algiers Conference of NAM countries*. She said:-

"We must speak for those whose numbers are large but whose voice is mute. Their claim to just share of worldly goods, their right to life of dignity is indisputable and cannot be resisted.

Let justice be done to the have nots though the Heavens should fall.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the country is passing through an economic crisis. Under these circumstances, the Government is shifting organisations from Public Sector to Private Sector and some times from Private Sector to Public Sector. This movement is like the movement of pendulum from one extreme to other but the Government has never thought of bringing these organisations in the cooperative sector. The N.C.C.F, is associated with civil supplies, NAFED is also associated with and so is NABARD. Although all these three channels are three yet no work is being done. My suggestion is that if this trio, NAFED, NCCF and NABARD are joined together then the expenses on these organisations will be reduced. Besides, the interest on the amount given to farmers from NABARD, can be curtailed.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, last year a question was raised in this House and the Agriculture Minister had assured that he was likely to announce the co-operative policy of the Central Government. Now, one year has passed but even then no announcement has been made. My submission is that more work should be allotted to the co-operative sector and there should be a separate Minister incharge of cooperative sector...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): Shri Ramchandran is there.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: He is there, but NCCF is with you which deals with P.D.S. I was saying that all the three organisations should be brought together and the work should be carried in a smooth way. Besides, the co-operative policy must

als be announced at the earliest and it should not be postponed on the pretext that it is a State subject as per the categorisation of subjects' in three lists. But you control the activities of N.C.C.F., NAFED and NABARD. These agencies are controlled by your Ministry and funds are allocated to the agency like NCDC without consulting the State governments. The state governments do not have any control over them. That is why, a specific policy is needed. This policy should be formulated by you. I want to submit only this much.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Harish Narayan Prabhu Zantye to speak. You will have to conclude your speech within five minutes and then the Hon. Minister will reply.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE (Panaji): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I support the Demands for Grants. I will speak only two lines on Agriculture.

Yesterday, after hearing the beautiful speech from our dynamic Agriculture Minister, I have nothing more to say to him. I feel that there should be better co-ordination between the Commerce Minister and the Agriculture Minister.

Sir, I remember that I put a question and I have got the reply to my Starred Question. It was about fresh bananas exported to the Gulf countries for the year 1991-92. Our export was only of the order of Rs. 3 lakh whereas a small country like the Philippines is exporting fresh and dry bananas to the tune of \$/146 millions. That shows how much we are lagging behind. So, I request the hon. Minister to look into this and see how to boost our exports in this regard.

Secondly, I come to JRY. This is a dream of our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi of giving power to the people. This dream, if it is fulfilled properly, we will achieve our goals, the great goal of giving power to the elected people. If it is executed properly, there is nothing like that. He wanted the elected people should come in the execution of the projects and not left to the bureaucrats alone. So, the JRY programme should be handled.

Today, the problems of JRY are many. I would like to give very few suggestions though the time is very short. Actually, I have noted many many things. But I want, in the whole process, the villagers should be taken into confidence. If the JRY has to be successful, the people of that locality should be involved; the labour force should be from that place; the semi-skilled and the skilled workers should be from that place. There should be awareness among the people that the work which is going to take place in the Panchayat will be theirs; they will get the fruits of it. For example, if the carpenters are not available in their locality, if masons are not available in their locality, through the RDA they should be trained in that field before the work begins. We have to see that the carpenters should be there; the masons should be there. So, I want that the JRY should be perfectly implemented through the local people only. Though I do not have time, I have got 12 suggestions to give. They are very important. Anyway, I will write to the Hon. Minister in this regard.

Next, I come to Civil Supplies. This is actually very important. The Fair Price Shops and the Public Distribution System have become a profitable business. This whole system should be properly regulated.

I will give one example because it is very important. Recently, in Goa, a big scandal took place in the public distribution system.

Surprisingly, it has come to the notice that the Government officers in this department from top to bottom, many fair price shop owners and civil supplies inspectors said to be involved in it. So many people have taken anticipatory bail from the court. The investigation is going on.

I come from an area called Bicholi where I came to know that ten truck-loads of foodgrains were going out of Goa everyday. I request the Civil Supplies Minister to kindly look into it and to find out how this has happened and regulate the whole system. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You can write to the Minister.

SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: I request the Minister to look into it so that the very purpose of giving subsidised food to the poor people does not get defeated.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE (Rai-ganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been given very little time. That is why I would like to be very brief. Demands for grants in respect of agriculture, food and rural development, etc. have been placed before the House for discussion. But I would like to ask the reason as to why no work is being done properly.

I think that work can be done properly only when there is a proper policy. All the Budgets presented to the House, after independence, did not have any specific policy in regard to agriculture and rural development. As far as I know no proper policy has been formulated so far. No development can take place without proper policy. If we formulate policies and implement them properly, we

can overcome the problems faced by us today.

The 70 per cent farmers in the country depend on land. The 40 per cent of the people who do not have any land can be settled on it but the ownership of land is concentrated in the hands of a few people. As per the Government, 8 per cent land is surplus, but the Government has actually received only 1.8 per cent surplus land. It is a matter of regret that the Government have not yet distributed even this much surplus land. Nothing has been mentioned or referred to in this Budget in this regard. In this connection, I would like to cite an example of a state which has registered a 34 per cent increase in foodgrains production in Seventh Five Year Plan as compared to Sixth Five Year Plan. The Government can bring about a major change in rural economic policy. This change was due to proper implementation of ceiling laws there.

The Government has not distributed the extra land under the land Reforms Act in a proper manner. More than 50 per cent people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been benefited. There is no such thing as atrocities on Scheduled Castes and tribes in West Bengal which we discuss here quite frequently. There is no discrimination between the high caste and the low caste people there, because a change in economic policy has been brought about there.

The share croppers are not able to get their registered in the records because tillers, zamindars commit atrocities on them. The tillers, zamindars have formed a land army. They are given licences for weapons. They use these weapons against share croppers and poor farmers.

More allocation of funds every year for agriculture or rural development as per the demands does not make the policy. There

must be proper land ceiling in order to bring about effective change in rural development. It is essential to distribute the surplus land properly among the poor and the landless farmers. It is also essential to make arrangement to protect the land belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. To provide protection to share croppers is also necessary.

The daily wage rate of agricultural labourer should be fixed and employment should be available throughout the year.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Hon. Minister to speak now. The Hon. Members may seek clarification after the Minister's speech.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRIKAMALUDDIN AHMED): Sir, thank you very much.

In terms of money, the demand is a very small demand. But in terms of service that this Ministry is giving to the country, I can proudly say that this Ministry is trying to feed the poor people, trying to provide food at affordable price and along with that, it serves the entire consumers of this country. And when I say consumers of the country, I mean the entire population.

Sir, I am grateful to the Members who participated in the debate and gave very valuable suggestions. In fact, the points that have been mentioned here are the very desires that I have been putting before this House, all the time. Before I speak about the Public Distribution System and the Consumer Affairs, I would like to inform the hon.

House about some of the activities which are under the purview of this Ministry. And they are very important services that this Ministry is discharging.

I would like to mention first about the Bureau of Indian Standards. I am sure the entire House will agree with me that in the new industrial environment of the country, the quality and standardisation has become very necessary.

15.00 hrs.

With the liberalisation of the industrial policy the whole thing has been thrown open. If the products are of quality then only can they survive and compete in the international market. It is in this field that the Bureau of Indian Standards is giving a very good service. Apart from the mandatory certification of the products concerning the safety and health of the general masses, it is also doing the certification and standardisation in other industrial products.

The other thing which I would like to mention is about the performance of the Super Bazar. This Super Bazar has completed 26 years of its life. I am happy to say that over the years it has grown in size, involume and in service. I am proud to say that this Super Bazar is doing a business of Rs. 100 crores every year. Since this organisation is basically not a profit making organisation, it is serving the people and at the same time I would say that it is not incurring any loss. Without incurring any loss, the Super Bazar has been providing the commodities to the general public of Delhi, with its 137 branches all over the town.

Especially during the time of scarcity this organisation has been very useful to the poorer people. I would only quote the instance of two commodities. When onion was being sold in the general market at Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 a kilogram, Super Bazar was selling it

for less than Rs. 3 a kilogram. The other thing is wheat flour. The price of wheat flour in the open market was over Rs. 60 and at that time Super Bazar sold the standard wheat flour of 10 kilogram bags for Rs. 48.50 each. The price has been further reduced. It is being sold at Rs. 43 now. This is the type of service the Super Bazar is giving. I can also say that the prices at Super Bazar are definitely much lower than the prices which are available in the other markets. For example, take the case of Khan Market, Jor Bagh or shops at Connaught Place. Definitely the prices in Super Bazar are very cheap and affordable to the general public. It is also selling good and authentic medicines at very very reasonable prices.

Another thing which I would like to submit is that our Ministry is concerned with the Forward Marketing Commissions. As the hon. Members are aware the Forward Marketing has been allowed in the commodities like Gur, Popper, Turmeric, Cotton Seeds, Potatoes and Jute and Jute products. This responsibility, the Ministry is discharging quite satisfactorily.

About co-operatives, which hon. Member Shri Syed Masudul Hossain was just referring to, our effort has been to entrust the maximum amount of work to the co-operatives.

But the problem about co-operatives which we are facing is, since the responsibility of public distribution is with the State Governments, the co-operatives are under the direct control of the State Governments. In some of the States they are doing very well; the co-operatives' role is very exemplary. In certain States, the co-operatives are in total failure. But my effort myself being a co-operator has been to see that the co-operatives get the proper weightage and that they are able to do some work in this field also.

Now, coming to the main responsibilities of this Ministry, I will first submit about the consumer protection. The Hon. Members are aware that the Consumer Protection Act came into force in 1987. I am happy to say that in this very House, during the last two weeks, there has been sufficient reference to the consumer protection. In that connection, I had also submitted to the hon. House that we are now examining the recommendations of the working group which was constituted by the National Consumer Protection Council and the group had been headed by the Civil Supplies Minister of West Bengal. They have given the recommendation; the recommendations have been considered by the Consumer Protection Council. Now, those recommendations have been sent to the Ministry and the Ministry is examining them. We are consulting the different Ministries involved with those recommendations. My effort is to see that this amendment bill comes here in this very Session. But I do not know whether I will be able to do that or not. I can assure the House that definitely we will be able to bring this bill in the next Session.

It is a very big field and the consumer protection has become very necessary particularly for the way the gullible consumer is taken for a ride by unscrupulous traders and the industrialists. The working group has gone into the details in minute details also and they have given some very specific suggestions about the working of the forums, about the working of the redressal machinery and about bringing the entire services and goods under the purview of the Consumer Protection Act. There has been no exemptions as such and the term 'services', even the 'health services' have been recommended to be brought under the purview of this Act. We will have to see as to whether it would be possible to bring those services urban health services, and the rural health services uniformly. We will have to

examine that. I can only, at this stage, say that we are consulting the Health Ministry. So, I would like to assure the hon. Members that the enforcement of Consumer Protection Act has been quite satisfactory. The number of cases that have been decided by the district forums, State Commissions and the National Commission is quite encouraging and I am also happy to say that majority of the cases have been decided and gone judiciously in favour of the consumers. That is one good aspect that I wanted to submit to the hon. House.

Coming to the public Distribution System, I need not say that PDS in this country has been there for more than four decades. It was started with the Second World War with the main object of preventing hoarding and blackmarketing and also to make the commodities available to the people to ensure the availability. It was with that main object it was started and it has passed through different stages. Now, it has taken its roots. It is available for the entire country. All the States are given the commodities specified under the public distribution system, some of the States have taken the full advantage of the public distribution system. The system is very very satisfactory and the general public, particularly the poor masses are getting the full benefit of the system.

In this regard, it will not be out of place to mention that the States of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka are the States who are taking the full advantage of this system. Whatever commodities are allocated to them, they draw the full quantities. When I say this, I am not trying to find fault with the other States. My only submission to you is that you kindly cooperate with me in requesting those States....

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADYAY (Krish-

nagar): There always remains a gap between allocation and supply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can seek clarification after his reply.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: I said, by and large. I used the word 'almost'.

So, now there is a necessity that this system has to be fully enforced in all these States and the benefits, which are envisaged by extending this system, should be available to the people.

Mr. Nitish Kumar mentioned about some report in the Press. It is a typical example of a misleading and misinterpreting write up.

15.12 hrs.

[MR.SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

I would like to prove through this newspaper report that how much damage can be caused and how far people can be misguided by giving misleading reports and headlines. As this report has not been tabled, I will not say much in regard to it. Since Shri Nitishji made a reference to a newspaper report, I consider it necessary to put things in the right perspective. It is very unfortunate that such a report has been published in the Indian Express. It is absolutely incorrect. The report has been released by U.N.I. and the Indian Express has published it. See the headline.

[*English*]

"PDS distributed foodgrains official sanction for adding impurities."

It is as if there is a general permission to adding the impurities.

(Gen.), 1992-93 Ministries of Rural
Development; Food; Agriculture;

[Translation]

This report is a typical example of concocting a story from possibilities. There is reference to impurities in it. 40 per cent impurities are procured for P.D.S. to this extent impurities are allowed in foodgrains. My submission is that no specific instance has been referred to. I understand that many hon. Members like me don't get sufficient time to go through the full report. After reading the whole heading, I realise that it is not true. It refers to the limit of such and such impurities allowed in it.

[English]

It is factually absolutely incorrect. I am denying it. What happens is that sometimes three or four types of wheat are grown by the kisans. Three or four types of paddy are grown. Some are superfine, qualities, some are fine qualities and some are ordinary qualities. So, the kisans would just say; if we can add a little more quantity of the inferior quality in the superior quality, it goes with that.

That sort of thing has been allowed. If an inferior wheat is added to the superior wheat, there is a limit for that. It is not impurity. There has been an Act of the Parliament. Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is there. The rules have been provided. Under the rules, the limits have been fixed. I am only talking of the public distribution grains.

I will come to the procurement side and explain the actual position. Under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, a limit has been fixed, that is, maximum 12 per cent in wheat and six per cent in rice is permissible. In wheat, they have defined the entire permissibility. They have said, "provided that the total foreign matter other than edible grains and damaged grains shall not exceed 12 per cent of the weight." This is for wheat; for rice they have said, "provided that the

total foreign matter other than edible grains and damaged grains shall not exceed six per cent of the wheat."

[Translation]

There is no scope of adding more impurities than this prescribed limit. I request Shri Nitishji to go through the report again, that appeared in The Indian Express. No specific instance has been mentioned in it. There is one thing more relating to procurement.

[English]

There are number of States which are chronically flood hit and cyclone hit.

[Translation]

When floods and cyclones hit and damage the standing crops and there is a change in their colour also. They turn black. The crops are damaged. Moisture increases. Then the Chief Minister of that State and all of us represent to the Minister of Agriculture and request him that this quality of foodgrains is not saleable in the market. We request him to ask the Food Corporation of India to procure foodgrains of this quality.

[English]

When it has to meet that sort of a situation, Food Corporation is permitted to go up to a certain level.

[Translation]

If some grain is discoloured, it is permitted to a certain extent and it can be procured. It is the first stage. It is not that after procurement it is issued for Public Distribution System, as it is. Paddy is procured as paddy and it is issued as rice for the P.D.S. after getting it milled. So the news of impurities which you have read in the newspapers does not carry any weight. About wheat also,

[Sh. Kamaluddin Ahmed]

as I said just now that, there are 3-4 varieties of it, like W-47 and Dhara. There are such varieties of wheat which can be mixed with each other, but all the same a limit has been fixed for this purpose. It is issued to P.D.S. after adhering to that limit.

Sir, I would submit that neither the Food Corporation of India procures without payment nor does P.D.S. take the foodgrains without payment to the FCI. Foodgrains are procured from FCI only after payment to F.C.I. and it is done under a system. There is a provision of rejection also in this system, i.e., the agencies of the States can reject it in case it is found to be sub-standard and F.C.I. does not supply foodgrains direct to any Fair Price Shop. Foodgrains are given to the state Governments through the nominated agencies of the State Governments and it is upto the agencies to reject it in case of foodgrains being sub-standard. So my only submission is that the names of the Members of Parliament mentioned in it are, unfortunately, not the Members of our House, otherwise, I would have told them the whole thing. All the same, I would like to assure you that the present Report is merely a story based on presumption and possibilities alone. The story has appeared in the newspapers only under a journalistic scheme. I have nothing more to say.

As I said earlier, that the system of P.D.S. especially the new P.D.S., which has been launched since 1st January has been made successful by the cooperation extended by the states. While the expected number of the shops to be opened was 11, 194, within 4 months 6907 additional Fair Price shops have been opened and it is a matter of pride that all the States have adopted it. Similarly, additional ration cards, nearly one million additional ration cards, have been issued during this period ending 31st March. I am very much pleased to say that

through the P.D.S., the commodities are reaching the public especially the poor people and it was the hon'ble Prime Minister who launched this scheme. Identification of the deserving classes has been done in a scientific manner and 1700 blocks have been identified by the hon'ble Prime Minister. It was not possible through any other way by which poor people could have been identified and no better efforts other than this system would have been possible. My submission is to extend full support to us to strengthen this scheme. I would not like to mention the names of the states where this scheme is not functioning properly. In this connection I have written letters to the Chief Ministers and many a time Prime Minister has also written letters. Please extend your co-operation to extend this scheme further.

Secondly, Shri Nitish Kumar made a point that people should be advised to consume less quantity of edible oil. Agreed. The affording class, the people of which are overweight, can be advised to do so. But how can we advise the poor people who are lean and lank, for whom there are only sources of protein and nutrition, oil and pulses. On the contrary, we wish to provide maximum quantity of oil to them. The oil which can be made available locally may be made available that way and when there is a need to import it, in that case it may be imported. We have imported oil as well as allotted to the States and letters have also been written to the all States. With all that most of the States have not yet lifted their oil supply. I would not like to mention the names of those states but I am writing letters to them again.

With these words, I would once again say that I accept the suggestions give by the hon. Members about the PDS. Cut Motions have also been given in this regard. I would say that the P.D.S. is very strong in this country, and our efforts are that maximum commodities should be made available to

the public, maximum assistance should be extended to the poor people through the PDS. Therefore, I request the Members, especially the hon. Members from Rajasthan, that they should withdraw their cut motions and co-operate so that we may jointly render better services in the State. We are interested in extending our services.

With these words, I once again express my gratitude to all the hon. Members.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the Cut Motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Rural Development to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of the cut motions may be put separately.

I shall now put all the Cut Motions to vote

of the House.

All the Cut Motions were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth Column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1993, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 69 relating to the Ministry of Rural Development."

The motion was adopted.

*Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 1992-93
 voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on 26th March 1992		Amount of Demands for Grants voted by the House	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital

Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
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Ministry of Rural Development			
69 Ministry of Rural Development	121687,00,000	8,00,000	189122,00,000 542,00,000

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the Cut Motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Food to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of the cut motions may be

put separately.

I shall now put all the Cut Motions to the vote of the House.

463 *Demands for Grants (Gen.), 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food; Agriculture;* APRIL 10, 1992
All the Cut Motions were put and negatived.

and Civil Supplies & Public Distribution 464

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Accounts shown in the fourth Column of the Order Paper be granted

to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1993, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 38 relating to the Ministry of Food."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Food for the year 1992-93 voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on 26th March 1992		Amount of Demands for Grants voted by the House	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ministry of Food					
38 Ministry of Food		44158,00,000	2310,00,000	220791,00,000	11551,00,000

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the Cut Motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of the cut motions may be put separately.

I shall now put all the Cut Motions to the vote of the House.

All the Cut Motions were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceed-

ing the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth Column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1993, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No.1 to 4 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1992-93 voted by
Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on 26th March 1992		Amounts of Demands for Grants voted by the House	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture					
1	Agriculture	35841,00,000	141,00,000	179367,00,000	706,00,000
2.	Offer Services of Deptt. of Agri. & Cooperation	2527,00,000	9343,00,000	10873,00,000	9984,00,000
3.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	6260,00,000	31305,00,000
4.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	4169,00,000	1076,00,000	20932,00,000	5380,00,000

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the Cut Motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of the cut motions may be put separately.

I shall now put all the Cut Motions to the vote of the House.

All the Cut Motions were put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceed-

ing the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth Column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1993, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 9 relating to the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution for the year 1992-93 voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands		Amount of Demands	
		for Grants on Account for Grants voted by		the House	
		voted by the House		the House	
		on 26th March 1992			
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution					
9	Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	175,00,000	26,00,000	875,00,000	131,00,000

SHRI P. C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): If I am permitted, I would like to seek one clarification. There is a provision in the Food Corporation Act to have 6 Directors who are not public men. Altogether there is a provision for 12 Directors. For the past very very many years these six posts have not been filled.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): I am going to appoint them.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Sir, there is a call for strike by the Food Corporation employees who are holding about 95 per cent of the membership.

Now, if they hold an agitation, that will create a different situation. Will the hon. Minister see that they are called for a negotiation so that the matter could be settled? There will be no problem if they are called for negotiation.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: The Government is always keeping an open mind.

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): One clarification from Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed. Some

of us have been advocating for a very long time that the housewives should be associated actively with the Public Distribution System. If you have half a dozen housewives associated with at each of the Public Distribution Shops, it will ensure quality, price and proper distribution.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why not husbands?

SHRI INDERJIT: If you bring in the husbands, you will have problem. If you do as I have suggested it will improve the Public Distribution System to a very large extent.

SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED: Sir, in fact, under the revamped PDS, the Vigilance Committees of the beneficiaries are envisaged and that in each PDS, the woman should also compulsorily be there.

[Translation]

SHRI SONTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Licences were issued to sugar mills much earlier. I hope hon. Minister will very soon decide. Fifty applications from U.P. are pending. I am told that the licenses would be issued with effect

from January and will be issued very soon. I would like that some time limit should be fixed, and an announcement should be made in this regard.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bholpur): Have you faith in them?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA
(Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, very soon "Simhastha Parva" is going to be held in Ujjain. Madhya Pradesh Administration has demanded more quota of foodgrains and sugar for this Parva to serve all the people coming on the occasion. The additional quota may be granted.

15.32/1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILL AND RESOLUTIONS

Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI P.P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 8th April, 1992."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions

presented to the House on the 8th April, 1992."

The motion was adopted.

15.33 hrs.

NATIONAL POPULATION POLICY BILL*

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH
PATIL (Amravati): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a national population policy and for measures to control the population in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a national population policy and for measures to control the population in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH
PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

15.33/1/2 hrs.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Section 7)

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI
(Sikkim): I beg to move for leave to introduce

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2 dated 10.4.1992.