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**THE**  
**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

269

270

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE  
Wednesday, 28th May, 1952.

The House met at a Quarter Past Eight  
of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri Nityanand Kanungo (Kendra-  
para).

Shri Raj Bahadur (Jaipur-Sawai  
Madhopur).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

FAMILY PLANNING SCHEME

\*227. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the  
Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the  
Family Planning Scheme started by  
the Government of India; and

(b) the number of experts working  
in the field?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari  
Amrit Kaur):** (a) Government have  
sanctioned the establishment of three  
centres: one in the Lady Hardinge  
Medical College, New Delhi; one in  
the Lodi Colony, New Delhi and the  
third at the Ramanagaram Health Unit  
in the Mysore State for conducting  
pilot studies on the use of the 'rhythm  
method' of family planning.

(b) Two women workers from  
America have just arrived in the first  
instance for a period of one year. The  
United Nations Population Division  
has also offered the services of a Demo-  
grapher to assist Dr. C. Chandra-  
sekhar, Director of the U.N. Office of  
Population Studies who is in charge of  
the Ramanagaram Centre.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether  
any other method excepting the  
one that was mentioned here had been  
recommended by some experts from  
England?

55 PSD

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** There are  
other methods, of course; but no sug-  
gestions have been made to me.

**Janab Amjad Ali:** Can the hon.  
Minister tell us what are the chief  
features of this family planning? Does  
it include birth control?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Population  
planning, that is, spacing of families  
and limiting families, naturally comes  
under the term "birth control".

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the hon.  
Minister be pleased to state whether  
there are any birth control clinics run  
by Government anywhere in India, and  
if so, what is their number?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** There are  
none.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** Is the Govern-  
ment aware that this particular rhythm  
method has been declared unsuitable  
by Dr. Marie Stopes?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. We are  
going into opinions.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether  
it is a fact that the Family  
Planning Committee of the W.H.O.  
came to the decision that this parti-  
cular item should be dropped from the  
agenda, and if so, may I know whether  
the Government of India also proposes  
to drop this item?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** No, Sir.

**Shri Nambiar:** May I know to what  
extent the American experts can  
advise us about Indian family planning?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Well, Sir,  
experience anywhere can be utilised  
in any country, according to local  
conditions.

HELP TO FAMINE AREAS IN  
ANDHRA DESA

\*228. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the  
Minister of Food and Agriculture be  
pleased to state:

(a) the extent of Government of  
India's help to the famine areas of  
Andhra Desa; and

(b) the grant given to the Madras Government by the Central Government for relief measures?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). Attention is invited to the Answer to Starred Question No. 32 on 20th May 1952.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether and if so to what extent a special grant has been made to the Madras Government for the relief of famine in Rayalaseema?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I do not have the exact amount, but I may say that the Government of India have agreed to bear 50 per cent. of the expenditure on gruel centres opened in the scarcity areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 48 lakhs.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know what amount has been given as grant from the P.M.'s famine relief fund and to which agency has it been given, viz. the Madras Government or any other private agency?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Regarding the first part of the question, Rs. 373 lakhs and 5 thousand have been given by the Prime Minister from the funds at his disposal for the purpose of general relief. But I am not sure of the agency through which this fund is to be worked.

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Apart from, I think, a grant of Rs. 25,000, the agency has been the Governor of Madras.

**Shri Raghobachari:** Is there any scheme to prevent the recurrence of famine?

**Shri Karmarkar:** This question is about relief of famine.

**Shri Punnoose:** May I know whether the Government have received representations from the Travancore-Cochin Government to the effect that relief measures may be extended to certain coastal areas in that State?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am afraid the question relates to Andhra Desa.

**Mr. Speaker:** Besides, it is outside the scope.

#### RUSSIAN WHEAT (PRICE)

\*229. **Shri Velayudhan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the price of Russian wheat purchased by India;

(b) how the Exchange Value between the Russian Rouble and Indian Rupee was calculated; and

(c) whether there is any agreement between India and Russia on the exchange Value of the respective currencies?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The wheat obtained from Russia last year was against a barter deal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether the rate of exchange between the Indian rupee and the Russian rouble is assessed on the sterling or not?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Our transactions with Russia are through sterling, but I am not aware on the basis of the material available to me at the moment what is the rate of the rupee in terms of the rouble.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** How does the barter deal work out on the basis of rupee rouble exchange?

**Shri Karmarkar:** As the hon. Member will understand, barter deal is on the basis of exchange and the ratio between the rouble and the rupee does not come into the picture. In this instance, Russia supplied us wheat, 100,399 metric tons, in exchange for the following Indian commodities: raw jute 5,000 metric tons; shellac 2,500 metric tons; tea 1,850 metric tons and tobacco 5,500 metric tons. The price of the one was equal to the price of the other.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** How does this compare with the price paid for U.S. wheat?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think this transaction should compare favourably like every other transaction.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether there is any difficulty in the matter of trade transactions because this exchange has not been decided as between the Russian rouble and the Indian rupee?

**Mr. Speaker:** He is proceeding on an assumption.

**Shri Velayudhan:** No, Sir. He said that the exchange has not been decided and it is on that, I am asking the question.